



July 30, 2021

Dear Jefferson School District Community:

I'm pleased to announce that the Jefferson School District will be returning to full in-person instruction for the 2021-2022 school year. Students in TK-3 will attend from 8:15 to 2:00 pm and students in 4-8th grades will attend from 8:15 to 3:00 pm. Mondays are minimum days for the District and all students will be released at 1:30 pm. While we are trying to make school as normal as possible, we are still required to follow the Center for Disease Control (CDC), California Department of Public Health (CDPH), San Joaquin Public Health Services (SJCPHS), and CAL/OSHA requirements. We will continue to put numerous health/safety precautions in place to ensure the safety of students, staff, and families. These practices limit the spread of COVID-19 and will make it possible to keep students and staff in school as much as possible. As requirements are being updated on a regular basis, I've compiled a short list explaining the most common questions that parents are asking before the start of the school year. I hope that this information will help put concerns to ease and help you prepare your students for their return to school on August 9, 2021.

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions About Students Returning to JSD Schools

Will my child have to wear a mask all day at school?

- Students and staff are required to properly wear masks indoors at all times regardless of their vaccination status.
- Masks are required for staff and students at all times on school busses
- While highly recommended, students and staff are not required to wear masks outdoors or while eating.
- Persons exempted from wearing a face covering due to a medical condition, must wear a non-restrictive alternative, such as a face shield with a drape on the bottom edge, as long as their condition permits it.
- Students who inadvertently fail to bring a face covering will be provided one when entering the classroom.

Will my child be required to be vaccinated when a vaccine is approved for children under 12 years of age?

- The State of California determines which vaccines are mandatory for school attendance. At this time, we are unaware of any discussions about this becoming a requirement.
- While vaccination is currently an individual choice, the district will continue to provide information on vaccination clinics for those families interested in being vaccinated.

Will my child have recess, physical education, and band?

- Yes, students will have regular recess with their grade level.
- Students will have PE and when outdoors will not be required to wear a mask.
- We are still awaiting guidance from CDPH on band, but at this time students will be able to play instruments outside.

Will breakfast and lunch be served at school?

- Breakfast and lunch will be served at school. This year campuses will open at 8:00 am and breakfast will be served at break time.
- Schools will maximize physical distance as much as possible when moving through the food service line and while eating (especially indoors). Schools will utilize both indoor and outdoor tables to allow for physical distancing.
- Students will sit in the cafeteria or outdoor eating area by class or cohort to limit transmission.
- Staff will promote hand washing or hand sanitizing before and after eating.
- The District has added ventilation systems for all school cafeterias, gyms, and classrooms.

Will visitors be allowed on campus?

- To start the school year, schools will not be allowing visitors or volunteers on campus regardless of vaccination status.

Will students be required to maintain physical distancing all day?

- While CDPH has no minimum physical distancing requirement, JSD plans to maximize physical distancing as much as possible depending on the setting.
- Cohorting can limit the spread of COVID-19

Will students be taught handwashing and respiratory etiquette?

- Staff will teach and reinforce proper handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Staff will teach and reinforce avoiding contact with one's eyes, nose, and mouth, and covering coughs and sneezes among students and staff.
- Everyone will be reminded to wash hands frequently
- If handwashing is not possible, students and staff will use hand sanitizer

Will my child be required to complete a daily health screening or be tested regularly?

- Families will be asked to do a daily home health screening prior to coming to school. If the student is sick they should remain home.
 - People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. Anyone can have mild to severe symptoms. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:
 - Fever or chills
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea

- Students with **symptoms** of COVID-19 infection will not be permitted to return for in-person instruction until they have met the following CDPH criteria to return to school:
 - At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; AND
 - Other symptoms have improved; AND
 - They have a negative test for SARS-CoV-2, OR a healthcare provider has provided documentation that the symptoms are typical of their underlying chronic condition (e.g., allergies or asthma) OR a healthcare provider has confirmed an alternative named diagnosis (e.g., Streptococcal pharyngitis, Coxsackie virus), OR at least 10 days have passed since symptom onset.
- JSD will continue to offer free PCR COVID-19 testing for all students and staff with symptoms. In addition, this year we will be adding rapid testing as well for asymptomatic screening purposes.

My child has been diagnosed with COVID-19. How long will they be out of school?

- The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) recommends a symptom-based strategy to determine the duration of isolation for **people with COVID-19 who are symptomatic**, meaning they have symptoms. Persons with COVID-19 who have symptoms and were instructed to care for themselves at home may discontinue self-isolation under the following conditions:
 - At least 10 days have passed since symptom onset; AND
 - At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; AND
 - Other symptoms have improved
 - The symptoms-based strategy will prevent most, but not all, instances of secondary transmission. Increasing evidence suggests people with mild to moderate COVID-19 remain infectious no longer than 10 days after symptom onset. However, a very limited number of persons with severe illness or who are severely immunocompromised may warrant extending duration of isolation for up to 20 days after symptom onset. Consider consulting with local infectious disease experts when making decisions about discontinuing isolation of persons who are likely to remain infectious longer than 10 days.
- **For persons with COVID-19 who are asymptomatic**, meaning that they have NOT had any symptoms, CDPH recommends that these individuals be instructed to care for themselves at home. They may discontinue isolation under the following conditions:
 - At least 10 days have passed since the date of the first positive COVID-19 diagnostic (federally approved Emergency Use Authorized molecular assay) test. If they develop symptoms, then the strategies for discontinuing isolation for symptomatic persons (see above) should be used.

A student in my child's class tested positive for COVID-19. Is the entire class sent home to quarantine?

- Per CDPH K-12 school guidance, when both parties were wearing a mask in the indoor classroom setting, unvaccinated students who are close contacts (more than 15 minutes over a 24-hour period within 0-6 feet indoors) may undergo a modified 10-day quarantine as follows. They may continue to attend school for in-person instruction if they:
 - Are asymptomatic; AND
 - Continue to appropriately mask, as required; AND
 - Undergo at least twice weekly testing during the 10-day quarantine; AND
 - Continue to quarantine for all extracurricular activities at school, including sports, and activities within the community setting.

Sincerely,
James W. Bridges
Superintendent