



COVID-19 Guidance for K-12 Schools

2021-22 School Year

Name of Local Educational Agency or Equivalent: Rescue Union School District

Number of schools: 7

Enrollment: 3569

Superintendent Name: Jim Shoemake

Email: jshoemake@rescueusd.org

Phone Number: 530-677-4461

Address: 2390 Bass Lake Road

Rescue, CA 95672

County: El Dorado

Type of LEA: Elementary TK-8

Grade Level (check all that apply) x TK x K

x 1st x 2nd x 3rd x 4th x 5th x 6th x 7th x 8th

9th 10th 11th 12th

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) recommends that all local educational agencies (LEAs) post a safety plan, communicating the safety measures in place for 2021-22, on the LEA's website and at schools, and disseminate to families in advance of the start of the school year.

The COVID-19 Safety Plan (CSP) consists of two elements: the **COVID-19 Prevention Program (CPP)**, pursuant to Cal/OSHA requirements, and this **CDPH COVID-19 Guidance for K-12 Schools** with accompanying documents.

Safety Measures for K-12 Schools

Masks/Face Coverings guidance applies to all settings within the District and includes:

- Masks are optional outdoors for all in K-12 school settings.
- K-12 students are required to mask indoors, with exemptions per [CDPH face mask guidance](#). Adults in K-12 school settings are required to mask when sharing indoor spaces with students.
- Persons exempted from wearing a face covering due to a medical condition, must wear a nonrestrictive alternative, such as a face shield with a drape on the bottom edge, as long as their condition permits it.
- The District has developed and implements protocols to provide a face covering to students who inadvertently fail to bring a face covering to school to prevent unnecessary exclusions.
- Consistent with guidance from the 2020-21 school year, the District has developed and implements local protocols to enforce the mask requirements.

- Additionally, the District offers alternative educational opportunities for students who are excluded because they will not wear a face covering. Note: Public schools should be aware of the requirements in AB 130 to offer independent study programs for the 2021-22 school year.
- Continued reminders to students and staff:
 - teaching and reinforcing use of face coverings, or in limited instances, face shields with drapes
 - not to touch the face covering and to wash their hands frequently
 - providing information to all staff and families in the school community on proper use, removal, and washing of cloth face coverings
 - appropriate time to remove a face covering or face shield while indoors only for meals, snacks, naptime, or when it needs to be replaced.
- Applying face covering policies on school buses and any vehicle affiliated with the District used to transport students, staff, or teachers to and/or from a school site
- In limited situations where a face covering cannot be used for pedagogical or developmental reasons, (e.g., communicating or assisting young children or those with special needs) a face shield with a drape (per CDPH guidelines) can be used instead of a face covering while in the classroom as long as the wearer maintains physical distance from others. Staff must return to wearing a face covering in accordance with the second point above when sharing indoor spaces with students.

Physical Distancing

Recent evidence indicates that in-person instruction can occur safely without minimum physical distancing requirements when other mitigation strategies (e.g., masking) are implemented. This is consistent with [CDC K-12 School Guidance](#).

Ventilation

See Section (E) Ventilation Systems in Part 1: Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Program (CPP) for information about the optimization of ventilation in indoor spaces.

Recommendations for staying home when sick and getting tested

- a. The District follows the strategy for Staying Home when Sick and Getting Tested from the [CDC](#).
- b. Getting tested for COVID-19 when symptoms are [consistent with COVID-19](#) will help with rapid contact tracing and prevent possible spread at schools.
- c. Staff members and students with symptoms of COVID-19 infection are not to return for in-person instruction until they have met CDPH criteria to return to school for those with symptoms:
 - i. At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; and
 - ii. Other symptoms have improved; and
 - iii. 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.

Screening testing recommendations

In addition to recommendations for symptomatic and response testing, the District recommends asymptomatic testing in accordance with Public Health recommendations. The District informs staff and families on how they can obtain asymptomatic surveillance testing at County Public Health locations. For Staff, see in Part 1: Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Program (CPP) for information about the COVID-19 testing policies, availability, and resources. Staff have access to no-cost testing during their working hours (schedule arranged with Supervisor).

Case reporting, contact tracing, and investigation

Per AB 86 (2021) and California Code Title 17, section 2500, the District is required to report COVID-19 cases to the local public health department. The District has a COVID-19 liaison to assist the local health department with contact tracing and investigation.

Quarantine for vaccinated close contacts

For those staff members who are vaccinated, the District follows the CalOSHA guidance [Staff Isolation and Quarantine Guidelines](#) regarding quarantine.

For students, the District follows the CDPH guidance.

Symptom-free students who have completed the primary series of COVID-19 vaccine OR were previously infected with SARS-CoV-2 within the last 90 days do not need to quarantine if they have had close contact with someone with COVID. Testing recommended Day 5 from last exposure.

Quarantine for unvaccinated students for exposures when both parties were wearing a mask as required in indoor K-12 settings

- Schools will use CDPH's [Group-Tracing Approach](#) to Students Exposed to COVID-19 in a K-12 Setting.
 - Schools will send exposure letters to "groups" of exposed students (e.g. classmates, teammates, cohorts, etc.).
 - Students remain in school and should get tested within 3-5 days after last exposure

Quarantine for unvaccinated [close contacts](#) who were not wearing masks or for whom the infected individual was not wearing a mask during the indoor exposure

- Schools will use CDPH's [Group-Tracing Approach](#) to Students Exposed to COVID-19 in a K-12 Setting.
 - Schools will send exposure letters to "groups" of exposed students (e.g. classmates, teammates, cohorts, etc.).
 - Students remain in school and should get tested within 3-5 days after last exposure

Isolation

For both vaccinated and unvaccinated persons, follow the CDPH [Isolation Guidance](#) for those diagnosed with COVID-19.

Hand Hygiene

The District:

- teaches and reinforces washing hands, avoiding contact with one's eyes, nose, and mouth, and covering coughs and sneezes among students and staff.
- promotes hand washing throughout the day, especially before and after eating, after using the toilet, and after handling garbage, or removing gloves.
- ensures adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors, including soap, tissues, no-touch trash cans, face coverings, and hand sanitizers with at least 60 percent ethyl alcohol for staff and children who can safely use hand sanitizer.

Cleaning

CDPH states that, in general, cleaning once a day is usually enough to sufficiently remove potential virus that may be on surfaces. Disinfecting (using disinfectants on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency COVID-19 list) removes any remaining germs on surfaces, which further reduces any risk of spreading infection.

- If a facility has had a sick person with COVID-19 within the last 24 hours, the District will clean AND disinfect the spaces occupied by that person during that time.

Food Service

The District:

- will maximize physical distance as much as possible while eating (especially indoors) and will arrange for eating outdoors as much as feasible.
- cleans frequently touched surfaces. Surfaces that come in contact with food will be washed, rinsed, and sanitized as needed throughout the day and daily.

Given very low risk of transmission from surfaces and shared objects, there is no need to limit food service approaches to single use items and packaged meals.

Vaccination verification

The District maintains any record of vaccination as confidential medical records.

For staff: As explained by the [Department of Fair Employment and Housing, Employment-Information-on-COVID-19-FAQ_ENG.pdf](#) because the reasons that any given employee or applicant is not vaccinated may or may not be related to disability or religious creed, simply asking employees or applicants for proof of vaccination is not a disability-related inquiry, religious creed-related inquiry, or a medical examination, employers may wish to instruct their employees or applicants to omit any medical information from such documentation.

- Acceptable options for proof of vaccination include:
 - Employees provide proof of vaccination (vaccine card, image of vaccine card or health care

- document showing vaccination status) and the District maintains a copy.
- Employees provide proof of vaccination. The District maintains a record of the employees who presented proof, but not the vaccine record itself.

For students:

- Acceptable options for proof of vaccination include:
 - Parent/Guardian provide proof of vaccination (vaccine card, image of vaccine card or health care document showing vaccination status) and the District maintains a copy.

Additional considerations or other populations

1. Disabilities or other health care needs- When implementing this guidance, the District will:

- carefully consider how to address the legal requirements related to provision of a free appropriate public education and requirements to reasonably accommodate disabilities, which continue to apply.
- refer to the CDC K-12 guidance section on “Disabilities or other health care needs” for additional recommendations.

2. Visitor recommendations- the District will:

- review their rules for visitors and family engagement activities.
- limit nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations to those fully vaccinated, particularly in areas where there is moderate-to-high COVID-19 community transmission.
 - Those that are not fully vaccinated must participate to weekly COVID-19 testing
 - Weekly testing in-lieu of vaccination will only be optional should the District have capacity to support such testing
- ensure direct service providers are either fully vaccinated or participate in weekly COVID-19 testing to comply with school policies.
- continue to emphasize the importance of staying home when sick. Anyone, including visitors, who have symptoms of infectious illness, such as flu or COVID-19, should stay home and seek testing and care.

Continued Strategies

Screening for symptoms: All entering District property are to self-screen daily prior to arrival on a campus or worksite. Signs indicating no entry for those who are experiencing symptoms are posted at sites. The self-screening guidance applies to all settings within the District. The District

- provides a list of screening questions for daily review at home
- actively encourages staff and students who are sick or who have recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19 to stay home
- maintains policies that encourage sick staff and students to stay at home without fear of reprisal, and ensure staff, students, and students’ families are aware of these policies
- will isolate students or staff exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 at school (fever of 100.4 degrees or higher, cough, difficulty breathing, or other COVID-19 symptoms) immediately in a private area until they can leave school or be picked up by a parent or guardian. Ill students and staff will be recommended to be tested for

COVID-19 as soon as possible.

- instruct Staff who observe students exhibiting signs or symptoms of COVID-19 to coordinate with the front office to support students who are less able to self-monitor or less likely to self-report

Identification and Tracing of Contacts: The District handles contact tracing, maintenance and submission of information to the local health department, and notification of exposed persons as described in Part 1: Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Program (CPP). School sites and local public health contact the District personnel listed here.

COVID-19 Case Management Contact Information

| | | | |
|-------------------|--|--|--|
| Human Resources | Certificated: Karen Shudy Classified: Virginia Tahmahkera | Karen: 672-4816 Virginia: 672-4815 | Karen: kshudy@my.rescueusd.org Virginia: vtahmahkera@my.rescueusd.org |
| Health Services | District Nurse | Morgan Butler: 530-350-0974 Cell Bree Harris: 530.363.7159 cell | Morgan Butler: mbutler@my.rescueusd.org Bree Harris: bharris@my.rescueusd.org |
| Business Services | Risk Manager | Lisa Donaldson: 530-672-4803 | Lisa Donaldson: ldonaldson@my.rescueusd.org |

Transportation: The District includes provisions for:

- opening windows on school buses when transporting students, as feasible
- Adhering to face covering/masks guidelines on buses

Staff Training and Family Education: The District communicates COVID-19 policies, procedures, and hazard information:

The District communicates COVID-19 policies, procedures, and hazard information:

- in the COVID-19 Prevention Program plan, posted online
- in the COVID-19 Prevention Program plan, available upon request at each site
- in the Written Worksite Specific Plans (WWSP) reviewed with staff at each site
- in staff training and/or meetings
- in meetings attended by staff and community
- via email to staff and parents/caregivers
- via text messages to staff and parents/caregivers
- with posted signage at all sites

- via staff and community surveys
- COVID-related messages archived on the District website: rescueusd.org/covid-19information
- translated documents
- on the COVID-19 Dashboard and information at: rescueusd.org/covid_quarantine_numbers

Identification and Reporting of Cases: At all times, reporting of confirmed positive and suspected cases in students and staff will be consistent with reporting requirements.

District staff (Site Administrator and/or Health Services staff) verify COVID-19 case status by phone. The District handles:

- contact tracing
- maintenance and submission of information to the local health department
- Exclusion of positive cases and persons exposed to positive cases
- notification of exposed persons

Communication Plans: The Superintendent or designee communicates with students, staff, and parents about cases and exposures at the school, consistent with privacy requirements such as FERPA and HIPAA.

To ensure our community is provided with the most recent and accurate information, the updated number of verified COVID-19 positive cases and numbers of students and staff on quarantine will be published on the District COVID-19 Dashboard. Verified cases are individuals with a lab-confirmed positive test that have submitted to District staff.

Important Note: the District does not wait to notify close contacts upon an initial report of a positive case. However, official verification is confirmed before listing the case on this dashboard. This could result in a delay of cases appearing on this dashboard or a discrepancy between the number of notifications received and the actual number of verified cases.

****Some students and/or classes may be quarantined as a precautionary measure while waiting for official verification****

Any staff or student with on-site presence is asked to quarantine if they live with, or have come into close contact with, a COVID positive individual.

NOTE: Individuals who are COVID positive (person A) are in isolation, not on campus or site, and not double-counted as a quarantined individual.

It is also important to note that:

- All reported numbers on the Dashboard are current as of Friday of each week
- Following the weekly Friday numbers report, subsequently reported numbers will be included in the upcoming week's update.

Numbers reported will include only staff and students who have had a presence at a District school or worksite. Positive cases for students and staff who are enrolled in our LTIS (Long Term Independent Study) Program will not be included in the Dashboard.

For more information on the District's COVID Communication Protocols, please click [here](#).

The District communicates COVID-19 policies, procedures, and hazard information:

- in the COVID-19 Prevention Program plan, posted online
- in the COVID-19 Prevention Program plan, available upon request at each site
- in the Written Worksite Specific Plans (WWSP) reviewed with staff at each site
- in staff training and/or meetings
- in meetings attended by staff and community
- via email to staff and parents/caregivers
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