
Back to School During a Pandemic 2021-2022 Frequently Asked Questions

Our objective to return to in-person instruction and ensure a successful start to the school year with the goal of keeping schools open, is reliant on us continuing to adhere to State/County health guidelines with comprehensive health, safety and sanitation protocols in place. Although some of our activities will be modified at the start of the school year, we will continue to monitor and update our school operations as conditions change and partner with our families and community to provide high-quality educational, social emotional and food/nutritional programs and services. The following are documents we are using in guiding our work and a collection of frequently asked questions (FAQs) we receive from our community that we want to share with you. These documents and FAQs will be updated as necessary and available on our website.

TK-12 Safe Return to School Guidance and Requirements Notices

- July 23, 2021: [EGUSD COVID-19 Safety Plan Revision for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction](#)
 - July 28, 2021: [CDPH Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings](#)
 - July 29, 2021: [Sacramento County Public Health Order on Universal Masking Indoors](#)
 - August 2, 2021: [COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2021-22 School Year](#)
 - August 5, 2021: [Parent Notification of EGUSD Independent Study Program Option](#)
 - August 11, 2021: [CDPH Health Order Vaccination Verification for Workers in TK-12 Schools](#)
 - August 16, 2021: [Governor Newsom Takes Action to Support California's Hospitals and Schools Amid Delta Variant Impacts - Executive Order N-12-21](#)
 - September 1, 2021: [Updated CDPH K-12 Guidance for 2021-2022 School Year | Updated FAQ](#)
 - October 1, 2021: [California Becomes First State in Nation to Announce COVID-19 Vaccine to List of Required School Vaccinations](#)
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Keeping Everyone Safe and Schools Open

Educational Programming

Are Elk Grove Unified schools offering in-person instruction to all students? Yes. In-person instruction is available at every school within EGUSD.

Can I choose to enroll my child in the EGUSD Independent Study Program? Yes. You have the right to request a pupil-parent-educator conference to learn about the program and to determine if the [EGUSD Independent Study Program](#) will be a positive alternative instructional option for your child.

What are the updated health and safety recommendations for athletics and extracurricular activities?

The current education guidance requiring all individuals (adults and students) to wear a mask indoors at a TK-12 school, regardless of vaccination status, does apply to extracurricular activities, including sports and sporting events sponsored by TK-12 schools. Parents can view the [California Interscholastic Federation Press Release](#) to learn more. The requirements and recommendations in the updated guidance for extracurricular activities and all activities that occur on a school site, whether or not they occur during school hours, including, but not limited to band, chorus, and clubs states that for the playing of musical instruments that cannot be done with a face covering (e.g., wind instruments); or when wearing a mask during play poses a choking hazard, at least one of the following options is required:

- Conduct these activities outdoors;
- Use modified face coverings and bell coverings when playing wind and brass instruments, and maintain 6 feet of physical distancing;

- Perform at least weekly screening testing with either PCR testing (1:1 or pooled PCR) or antigen testing of all individuals, including those who are fully vaccinated.

Will there be preemptive testing for athletics? Yes. According to recommendations from the California Department of Public Health ([Updated Testing Guidance, June 16, 2021](#)) non-vaccinated individuals competing in high risk sports should receive pre-emptive testing. Beginning the week of August 23, 2021, EGUSD Fall sport athletes competing in Football and Water Polo will need to test if they do not show proof of vaccinated status. This testing will be conducted at sites, similar to the testing all EGUSD athletes performed in the Spring of 2021.

What modifications are being made at schools for activities beginning in September 2021?

EGUSD District and school administrators and staff recognize the importance of extracurricular and social/recreational activities. They are essential for the development of the whole child. All of the District’s schools are creatively planning and implementing in-person activities whenever possible and creatively developing drive-through and virtual opportunities. As always, strict adherence to State and County health and safety and sanitation guidelines are priority planning considerations. This includes face coverings and all appropriate personal protective equipment, sanitation stations, and maximizing social distancing and stable cohorts to the greatest extent possible.

Principals meet regularly to share ideas, and to collectively generate ideas to offer as many in-person options as possible with the goal of providing as close to a pre-COVID experience as possible.

Elementary and Secondary Education are offering a wide variety of co-curricular and extracurricular activities at all sites. Specific activities vary by school site. Examples of elementary and secondary school activities are noted below:

Elementary School Extracurricular Activities

In-Person	Virtual and Drive-Through (current and upcoming)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Student Leadership ● Equity Outreach ● National Elementary Honor Society ● Mentor Programs ● Running Club ● Garden Club ● Art Club ● Media Club ● Coding Club ● Music and Band Programs ● Outdoor volleyball/basketball clinics ● Cheerleading ● Capitol Region Engineering, Science and Technology ● Robotics ● Yearbook ● Field Day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Zoom Dances ● Virtual Movie Night ● Virtual Trivia Night ● Virtual Assemblies ● Fall Harvest Drive-Through ● Trunk or Treat ● Winter Season Celebrations ● Creative Writing Workshop ● Virtual Scavenger Hunt ● Virtual Art Night

Secondary School Extracurricular Activities

Traditional activities such as Homecoming and Senior activities are important to students, staff, families, and school culture. Sites are working to modify large scale events like rallies, to allow for activities on a smaller scale, rather than the traditional rallies where up to over 2,000 students and staff gathered for the event. Dances, such as night dances in stadiums, are still not allowed.

<p>Fall Athletics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Football ● Men’s and Women’s Water Polo ● Cross County ● Women’s Volleyball ● Women’s Golf ● Women’s Tennis ● Cheer <p>Homecoming Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Powderpuff games ● Lunchtime activities ● Float decorating contests ● Modified Parades 	<p>School Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Various Club Activities at Sites ● Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Activities ● Other lunchtime activities ● Renaissance ● Movie Nights ● Senior Activities ● Visual and Performing Arts ● Band events and competitions ● Choir events and competitions ● Dance events and competitions ● Theater events
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Health and Safety

Is there a HOTLINE parents can call to ask COVID-19 related questions?

Yes. A statewide COVID-19 hotline is available at (833) 422-4255 for parents to call with questions about COVID-19. The call center is open 7 days a week (Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. PST / Saturday - Sunday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. PST)

Are schools requiring students to update their immunizations? Yes. A student’s immunization records must be updated to be at school.

Are schools accepting student proof of vaccination for COVID-19? Yes. Parents may bring or email their student’s proof of vaccination for COVID-19 to the school and the school nurse will make note of it.

Will the COVID-19 vaccine be required for staff? Yes. We are preparing for compliance with the [CDPH Health Order](#) from August 11th that requires all TK-12 public schools to verify and track the vaccination status of all paid and unpaid workers.

Will the COVID-19 vaccine be required for students? Not at this time. We highly recommend that students 12+ get vaccinated against COVID-19 to avoid serious illness and to stop the spread of the virus.

Will my child and adults have to wear a mask at school? Yes. 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. Masks are strongly recommended outdoors in K-12 school settings, but not required.

Are there masking exemptions? Yes. Exemptions for universal masking are noted in the [EGUSD COVID-19 Safety Plan](#).

Will physical distancing still be recommended? Yes. We will highly encourage distancing to the greatest extent possible. While there is no minimum distancing requirement, distancing will be an added preventative measure, especially during lunch, recesses and breaks.

Will mitigation strategies continue to be encouraged and promoted? Yes. We will continue to encourage that all who are eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine get vaccinated, wear masks indoors and outdoors in our public school settings, use distancing to the greatest extent possible, especially when one is ill and maintain healthy hand hygiene.

COVID-19 Exposure Protocols

When there is a positive COVID-19 case in a classroom at a school site, will parents be notified? Yes. Parents of the students in the classroom will receive an exposure notification and parents of students who are identified as a close contact will be contacted directly. Parents can reference the [EGUSD COVID-19 Safety Plan](#) on Contact Tracing and Notifications.

Should parents home screen students daily before sending their child to school? Yes. If your child has a fever or is showing COVID-19 like symptoms, students should not come to school and parents are encouraged to contact their healthcare provider and contact your school. Please reference the [EGUSD COVID-19 Safety Plan](#) for Health Screening information.

If a child/staff has new COVID-19 like symptoms (not chronic), should they stay home? Yes. Please contact the school and either contact a health care provider to receive an alternative diagnosis of symptoms or get tested for COVID-19.

When can a child/staff return to school after experiencing COVID-19 like symptoms? In consultation with the Sacramento County Health Officer, if students or staff are symptomatic and test negative with a rapid antigen test, it could be a false negative, therefore, SCPH states that they must follow up with a PCR test to confirm the negative rapid test results. Students and staff must then remain at home until they receive a negative PCR test result.

Do symptomatic students/staff have an alternative different from testing for COVID-19? Yes. They may receive an alternative diagnosis from a health care provider and may return to school if at least 24 hours have passed since fever and symptoms have improved significantly.

Should parents go to the Emergency Room to get tested quickly? Emergency rooms **do not** provide COVID-19 testing unless a person has a medical need for emergency evaluation. It is recommended that parents call their child's pediatrician first to discuss their child's symptoms. [More information can be found here from CDPH on COVID-19 Symptoms](#).

Is EGUSD offering COVID-19 testing? Yes. Limited to symptomatic staff and students on campus or a close contact to a positive case on campus, each school site is equipped with BinaxNOW rapid COVID-19 testing. Should these individuals receive a negative rapid antigen test result, they will still be asked to stay home until they receive a negative PCR COVID-19 test to confirm the negative rapid test result or an alternative diagnosis from a health care provider.

Can parents monitor positive COVID-cases and quarantining at schools? Yes. The public has access to our [COVID-19 Dashboard](#) and answers to frequently asked questions about the dashboard are also available there.

Are there community testing sites parents and students can go to instead of the school? Absolutely. Here is a comprehensive list of [Sacramento County Symptom Screening Mobile Testing Sites](#). Furthermore, a District team is working on a plan and logistics to avail COVID-19 PCR and antigen testing in regionally designated and secure locations throughout EGUSD.

Will quarantined student absences be excused? Yes. Students who are in at-home quarantine or reported as ill will receive an excused absence.

Food and Nutritional Services

Will food services be available and safe at school? Yes. Students will be able to eat breakfast and lunch on campus. We will maximize physical distance as much as possible while eating (especially indoors) and will make arrangements for eating outdoors as much as feasible. Students in elementary schools will be eating lunch with their own classrooms and there will be no mixing of classrooms at the tables. ([EGUSD COVID-19 Safety Plan](#))

Cleaning and Sanitation

Will school buildings, classrooms and offices be cleaned and disinfected with COVID-19 protocols? Yes. Daily cleaning and disinfecting COVID-19 protocols will be followed. Please reference the [EGUSD COVID-19 Safety Plan](#).

Transportation

Will non-mandated bus service areas resume offering services? Yes. The District is pleased to provide transportation services for the 2021-2022 school year similar to pre-pandemic service levels. Proper face coverings will continue to be required of all passengers and staff on buses. Previous masking exemptions per [CDPH face mask guidance](#) will still be honored.

Where can parents find information about EGUSD transportation services? All general education bus stops have been posted online on the Transportation website and coordination with families regarding bus stop locations and schedules occur when the bus passes are completed. Our scheduling department is working on processing bus passes daily via phone, walk in or online for applicable service areas. Our scheduling team is calling all special needs bus riders to coordinate schedules and pick up and drop off times with families. If your student resides in a transportation service area and you are interested in receiving transportation please visit our [Transportation Department's webpage](#) for additional information including contact information

Will parents be notified about bus arrivals? Yes. Parents are highly encouraged to sign up for the [Hear Comes the Bus \(HCTB\) App](#).

Is the HCTB App online and available on GooglePlay and/or iPhone? Yes. Here Comes The Bus is an easy-to-use website and app that enables parents to see the location of their child's school bus on a smartphone, tablet or personal computer. With **Here Comes the Bus** you can:

- View the real-time location of your child's bus
- Access the app from your smartphone, tablet or computer
- Receive push notifications or email alerts
- Send your child to the bus stop at just the right time, every time.

Registration information specific to EGUSD for Here Comes The Bus can be found at the EGUSD Bus Pass Application information page: <http://blogs.egusd.net/transportation/about/bus-pass-application/>

Will students be able to go on off-site in-person field trips and/or camps? No, not at this time. Virtual field trips may be available.

Visitors and Volunteers

Will visitors and volunteers be allowed on campus and will the school facilities be open to outside users? No, not at this time.