



## Covid FAQ

### SYMPTOMS

- **What do I do if my student develops symptoms/is sick?**

*If at home your child is experiencing symptoms known to be potential signs of Covid-19 (regardless of age or vaccination status), please keep your child at home and email the school nurse, your student's teacher, and your child's division director. In order to return to school, your student must have a negative PCR Covid test result, be at home for 24 hours, be fever-free for 24 hours without medication, and their symptoms must be improving.*

### VACCINATIONS

- **Will my student's teacher be vaccinated?**

*As of the 2021-2022 school year, SDFAS policy requires vaccination against Covid-19 for all on-campus faculty, staff, administrators, substitute teachers, third party contracted employees, volunteers and any other adult providing services to our students. This is of course subject to legally required exemptions, as is the case for any type of immunization.*

- **Can the school tell me if my child's teacher is vaccinated?**

*No. Employees have a State of California legally protected right to privacy for all matters related to an employee's health or health records, Covid status, travel status, or other types of personal information.*

- **Is the Covid vaccine mandated for students?**

*At this time no; however, we will continue to reassess based on FDA approvals, recommendations, as well as the case rates within our School, County and State.*



## MASKING

- **Does my student need to wear a mask?**

*Until further notice, masks are required indoors and outdoors for all students regardless of vaccination status.*

- **Do staff need to wear masks?**

*Masks are required indoors for all staff regardless of vaccination status. Masks are optional outdoors if social distancing requirements are met. N95 masks will be required for all unvaccinated staff members (if any) as an added layer of protection.*

- **Do vaccinated parents have to wear a mask during drop-off or pick-up?**

*Yes. And this includes in the parking lot, at the gates to the school and anywhere else on school grounds.*

- **Are parents allowed on campus?**

*No, unless they are approved volunteers and PCR tested weekly. The exception is made only for PK parents dropping off children at the classroom door during drop-off time in the morning.*

## DISTANCING

- **Will the school be requiring 6 feet distance at all times?**

*Distancing in school settings at 6 feet is no longer mandated (as per CDPH and County). The school's current policy is to reinforce throughout each day for students and adults the routine precaution of physical distancing to the degree feasible and with an expectation this 6 feet be the rule unless the activity at hand makes this impossible (e.g. physical education, sports, or some other kind of academic or social-emotional campus activity). and at distances as feasible within the particular context of any given space, and notably when eating or drinking at all times. In K-8, teachers will always remain 6 feet-distanced from*



*students. In PK, teachers will remain vigilantly masked and practice distancing to the degree possible and without jeopardizing student well-being (given the very young age of PK students).*

## TESTING

- **How often is testing occurring at SDFAS?**

*All students and all staff, regardless of vaccination status, are tested weekly.*

- **What is the turnaround time for pooled testing?**

*Helix/Ginkgo pooled testing turn around is typically within 24hrs, but guaranteed in 48hrs. We started using this service in May 2021. So far results have always come back the morning of the day following testing.*

- **What is pool testing? How accurate is it?**

*Pooling—sometimes referred to as pool testing or pooled testing—means combining the same type of specimen from several people within a designated group (multiple different PCR swabs) and conducting one Covid PCR 'NAAT' laboratory test on the combined pool of specimens to detect SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.*

*If a pooled test result is negative then all the specimens can be presumed negative with the single test. In other words, all of the people who provided specimens can be assumed to test negative for SARS-CoV-2 infection and no additional testing is necessary.*

*If the pooled test result is positive, each of the specimens in the pool will need to be tested individually to determine which specimen(s) is (are) positive.*

*The advantages of pooling include conserving testing reagents and resources, reducing the amount of time required to test large numbers of specimens (increasing throughput), and lowering the overall cost of testing.*

*Pooled PCR covid testing can be accurate, given a low incidence rate in the community and if using limited sizes to pooled testing groups.*

- **Will the school be using rapid antigen or some other means of rapid testing?**



*At this time the school is not using rapid antigen testing. With that said, this area is being actively researched as a potential adjunct to the much more sensitive and accurate pooled PCR testing. Although they are known to have a decreased accuracy in comparison to PCR, and would certainly never at this time be considered as a substitute for PCR testing of any kind, the potential use of a rapid additive test in certain situations - such as travel or on the day prior to return from breaks - may prove to be useful in the future.*

## **COHORTS**

- **What is a cohort? What are the cohorts this year?**

*Cohorts are stable student groups that should not mix with students of other cohorts in an attempt to decrease the chance of a large outbreak should a student contract Covid. Cohorts this year are PK0 grade level, PK1 grade level, PK2 grade level, K grade level, 1st grade, 2nd grade, grades 3-5 and grades 6-8.*

- **Why are cohorts larger than last year?**

*The choice to expand the cohorts this year is a decision that takes into account the School's desire to offer its full program as essential for mission delivery, including after school programs, study hall, clubs, sports, and extended care. Should the Covid rates in our School and in the county continue to rise despite our risk mitigation efforts, the School remains open to re-examination of our approach.*

## **QUARANTINE**

- **If my student is exposed to someone with Covid, how long do they have to quarantine?**

*This is dependent on your student's vaccination status, age, and whether the exposure happened masked or unmasked -- see applicable below:*

*I am a vaccinated student or staff member:*

- *No quarantine needed if you are asymptomatic*



## **SDFAS** SAN DIEGO FRENCH ★ AMERICAN SCHOOL

- *Test day 3-5*
- *Requirement to follow all recommended non-pharmaceutical interventions (e.g., wearing at all times indoors and outdoors, hand washing, avoiding crowds) through Day 14 from last known exposure*
- *If you develop COVID symptoms within 14 days of close contact, inform the School Nurse as you must be COVID tested immediately*
- *Unvaccinated siblings (of any age): same as above. Vaccinated siblings exempt from quarantine and testing*

*I am an unvaccinated staff member (if any):*

- *Quarantine for 10 days (returned on day 11)*
- *Test on or after day 5*
- *Requirement to follow all recommended non-pharmaceutical interventions (e.g., wearing at all times indoors and outdoors, hand washing, avoiding crowds) through Day 14 from last known exposure*
- *If COVID symptoms occur during quarantine or 14 days following exposure, inform the School Nurse as you must be COVID tested immediately*
- *Staff children (of any age): same as above. Vaccinated siblings exempt from quarantine and testing*

*I am an unvaccinated PK student:*

- *Quarantine for 14 days (return on day 15). Shortening quarantine through negative Covid testing is not possible (per CDPH and County)*
- *Test on or after day 11 (per SDFAS)*
- *Requirement to follow all recommended non-pharmaceutical interventions (e.g., wearing at all times indoors and outdoors, hand washing, avoiding crowds) through Day 14 from last known exposure*
- *If COVID symptoms occur during quarantine, inform the School Nurse as you must be COVID tested immediately*
- *Unvaccinated siblings (of any age): Quarantine for 7 days with testing on or after day 6 and return on day 8. Please note unvaccinated siblings are not defined as close by CDPH or County. As an added layer of risk mitigation, SDFAS policy requires siblings (PK and K-8) to follow this guideline. Vaccinated siblings exempt from quarantine and testing*

*I am an unvaccinated K-8 student or member of staff and the exposure happened indoors or outdoors with all persons masked. (Quarantine is NOT required. You may*



*continue to attend SDFAS on campus if you are asymptomatic and you adhere to the below requirements)*

- *You wear a mask at all times indoors and outdoors*
- *You and your siblings undergo twice-weekly COVID testing for 10-days*
- *You will not be able to attend extracurricular activities at school (study hall, extended care, after school activities, clubs, etc.) for 10 days*
- *Requirement to follow all recommended non-pharmaceutical interventions (e.g., wearing at all times indoors and outdoors, hand washing, avoiding crowds) through Day 14 from last known exposure*
- *If COVID symptoms occur during quarantine or 14 days following exposure, inform the School Nurse as you must be COVID tested immediately*

*I am an unvaccinated K-8 student who was not wearing a mask when exposed and/or the Covid positive person was not wearing a mask.*

- *Quarantine for 7 days before returning to SDFAS on day 8.*
- *Test on or after day 6*
- *Requirement to follow all recommended non-pharmaceutical interventions (e.g., wearing at all times indoors and outdoors, hand washing, avoiding crowds) through Day 14 from last known exposure*
- *If COVID symptoms occur during quarantine or 14 days following exposure, inform the School Nurse as you must be COVID tested immediately*
- *Unvaccinated siblings (of any age): same as above. Vaccinated siblings exempt from quarantine and testing*

## **TRAVEL POLICY**

- **What is the school's travel policy?**

*Unvaccinated: As per CDC/CDPH, SDFAS strongly recommends a 7-day quarantine post non-local travel. While not enforced by SDFAS, it does remain our strong recommendation and it is the school's preference that you do so. If you choose to forego the 7-day post-travel quarantine, your student (regardless of vaccination status) will need*



*to be tested after they return to San Diego, and the school will need to see a negative test result prior to their return to campus*

*Vaccinated: There is no post-travel quarantine recommendation for vaccinated persons. However, regardless of vaccination status, students/staff will need to get tested after they return to San Diego, and a negative result must be shared with the School prior to their return to campus.*

## **SCHOOL CLOSURE**

- **Are there circumstances under which the whole school would move to distance learning? What are those?**

*Yes, however this occurrence is very unlikely and would occur only if there were to be a severe schoolwide Covid breakout yielding an above County-permissible threshold percentage of Covid positive cases within the on-campus population. All school closure was not anticipated to occur last year and it did not. Of course, it is possible that individual classes or cohorts be required to close for quarantine if ever positive Covid cases are confirmed.*

- **If the school moves to distance learning, can I get a refund?**

*No. The school offers, as it has since March 2019, an alternative means of mission delivery via distance programming.*