



**Forest Charter School Safe Reopening Plan
2021-22 School Year
Charter Council Approved August 11, 2021 (updated October 12, 2021)**

Introduction and Overview

The following School Plan for Safe Reopening is a collaboration between the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Center for Disease Control (CDC), California Department of Education (CDE), The Nevada County Public Health Department, and the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools (NCSoS) to create a comprehensive plan to get students back to school safely.

As we prepare to resume in-person instruction, we will ensure plans are in place for students who may need to isolate or quarantine, as well as students who are medically fragile or who have a household member who is medically fragile. Because the data regarding the impact of school reopening on COVID-19 transmission dynamics remains incomplete, we will continue to learn and revise our guidance accordingly.

Safety Measures

Common public health strategies to reduce the risk of disease transmission in schools and other community settings include: (1) minimizing the number of people who come into contact with each other, (2) maximizing the physical distance between people, (3) reducing the time that people spend in close proximity to others, and (4) measures to minimize dispersion of droplets and aerosols (e.g., using face coverings and covering coughs and sneezes). Because the relative contribution of each of these measures in reducing the spread of COVID-19 is not yet clear, public health experts have generally recommended that they be used collectively where possible.

Below are the safety measures and controls that FCS is putting in place to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

1. **Face Masks:** Students are required to wear a mask indoors, with exemptions per CDPH face mask guidance.
 - Parents/guardians, students, and visitors must wear masks when indoors on campus regardless of vaccination status. Face masks are currently optional outside, however, the FCS administration can change this rule at any time to require masks outside.
 - Examples of acceptable face masks include:
 - Cloth Mask
 - Must properly fit over nose and mouth
 - Be made of multiple layers of tightly woven fabric (should block light when held up to a light source)
 - Preferably have a nose wire
 - ***Should not*** have gaps around the sides, have valves or vents or other openings, or be made of thin fabric that doesn't block light
 - Disposable Mask (also referred to as surgical or medical procedure masks)
 - N95 or KN95 masks
 - FCS will ***not*** allow coverings including, but not limited to, gaiters, bandanas, face shields (without an acceptable mask underneath), and mesh fabric masks
 - FCS staff must wear a mask when meeting with parents/guardians, students, visitors, or other staff while inside on campus, regardless of vaccination status.
 - FCS will provide a face mask to students, staff, and visitors who inadvertently fail to bring one to school.
 - If students refuse to wear a mask, they will be sent to an administrator who will work with the student and parent/guardian regarding masking requirements.
 - Persons with approved medical exemptions 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. Contact msimmons@forestcharter.com with any questions about medical exemptions.
2. **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. We will create as much physical distancing in classrooms as practicable with a goal of 3' distance between workstations/desks.
3. **Ventilation:** FCS has installed MERV-13 air filters at our Nevada City and Truckee learning centers. Additionally, we have established ventilation system cleaning protocols to ensure proper ventilation. At our Foresthill learning center, where installing MERV-13 filters was not possible, we purchased portable HEPA air purifiers for each classroom.

We will encourage as much outside teaching time as practicable, and when inside and weather and air quality permissible, we will encourage open doors and windows to allow additional air flow.

4. **Health Screening:** All students, staff, and visitors will be asked to conduct an at-home self-symptom screening prior to arriving on campus each day. If they cannot conduct the self-screening at home, we will provide a symptom questionnaire at each learning center. Additionally, staff will be trained to conduct visual screening by knowing the common symptoms of COVID-19.

FCS will post signage throughout the campus instructing students, staff, and visitors not to enter campus if they have any COVID-19 symptoms. COVID-19 symptoms include fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, recent loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.

Students or staff with any identified COVID-19 symptoms and/or a temperature of 100.4 or higher will be sent home immediately until testing and/or medical evaluation has been conducted.

FCS will provide reminders on screening requirements throughout the year.

5. **Hand Washing:** FCS will teach proper hand washing time and frequency. We have provided hand washing stations in or near all classrooms and will provide enough time to make sure we meet the CDPH handwashing frequency guidance. Fragrance free hand sanitizer (with a minimum of 60 percent alcohol) is available in all classrooms and workstations (although frequent handwashing is more effective than hand sanitizer).
6. **Cleaning:** FCS has hired professional cleaners to do frequent cleaning and disinfecting at all learning centers. We provide our janitorial staff with the proper cleaning supplies (from the US EPA COVID-19 approved list) to remove any remaining germs on surfaces, which will further reduce the risk of spreading infection.

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

7. **Food:**
 - Maximize physical distance as much as possible while eating (especially indoors). FCS will utilize additional spaces for mealtime seating such as classrooms, outdoor tables, or the gymnasium can help facilitate distancing.
 - Clean frequently touched surfaces. Surfaces that come in contact with food will be washed, rinsed, and sanitized before and after meals.
8. **Field Trips:** FCS will pre-approve all requested Field Trips to make sure they can be compliant with all current health and safety guidelines. Guidance from CDPH is forthcoming, and these requirements may change.
 - FCS will encourage outdoor Field Trips when possible.

- All FCS students, staff, and chaperones will be required to wear masks indoors, even if the Field Trip venue does not require them.
 - Only approved chaperones will be allowed on FCS Field Trips.
 - Students can only drive in their own car with their household members to and from Field Trips.
9. **School Events:** Assemblies, meetings, and other gatherings will be permitted to the extent allowed under any applicable requirements for gatherings occurring in the community. We will utilize Zoom or the outdoors as much as possible for all school events, and will limit attendance to students and staff, or those participating in a presentation (no visitors). Masks will be required for all indoor school events.
10. **Recommendations for staying home when sick and getting tested:** FCS will follow the protocol for staying home when sick and getting tested from CDPH. FCS will advise staff and students with symptoms of COVID-19 infection not to return for in-person instruction until they have met CDPH criteria to return to school for those with symptoms:
- 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.

Per AB 86 (2021) and California Code Title 17, section 2500, schools are required to report COVID-19 cases to the local public health department. Forest Charter School has a COVID-19 liaison to assist the local health department with contact tracing and investigations.

11. **Quarantine recommendations for vaccinated close contacts:** For those who are vaccinated, FCS will follow the CDPH Fully Vaccinated People Guidance regarding quarantine.
12. **Quarantine recommendations for unvaccinated students for exposures** when both parties were wearing a mask, as required in K-12 indoor settings. These are adapted from the CDC K-12 guidance and CDC definition of a close contact.

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;
- Continue to appropriately mask, as required;
- Undergo at least twice weekly testing during the 10-day quarantine;

- Continue to quarantine for all extracurricular activities at school, including sports, and activities within the community setting.

13. **Quarantine recommendations for unvaccinated close contacts** who were not wearing masks or for whom the infected individual was not wearing a mask during the indoor exposure; or unvaccinated students as described above.

For these contacts, those who remain asymptomatic, meaning they have NOT had any symptoms, may discontinue self-quarantine under the following conditions:

- Quarantine can end after Day 10 from the date of last exposure without testing; OR
- Quarantine can end after Day 7 if a diagnostic specimen is collected after Day 5 from the date of last exposure and tests negative.

To discontinue quarantine before 14 days following last known exposure, asymptomatic close contacts must:

- Continue daily self-monitoring for symptoms through Day 14 from last known exposure; AND
- Follow all recommended non-pharmaceutical interventions (e.g., wearing a mask when around others, hand washing, avoiding crowds) through Day 14 from last known exposure.

If any symptoms develop during this 14-day period, the exposed person must immediately isolate, get tested and contact their healthcare provider with any questions regarding their care.

14. **Isolation recommendations:** For both vaccinated and unvaccinated persons, Forest Charter will follow the CDPH Isolation Guidance for those diagnosed with COVID-19.

COVID-19 Testing and Reporting

Testing: Forest Charter School will follow all CDPH and health department guidance on when to recommend testing, protocols for quarantine, and return to school.

Community Testing Sites

Testing is available for anyone, whether or not you have insurance. **You must pre-register and schedule an appointment at <https://www.lhi.care/covidtesting> or call 1-888-634-1123.**

For assistance scheduling a COVID-19 test, contact 211 Connecting Point at 1-833-DIAL211 to speak to a local call specialist.

LHI Testing Locations (please note, there are many other places to get tested including urgent care centers, primary care offices, and retail facilities):

Western Nevada County

231 Colfax Avenue, Grass Valley, CA 95945 (formerly Summer Thymes)

Eastern Nevada County

10990 Donner Pass Rd., Truckee, CA 96161

Roseville (closest LHI facility to Auburn)

1960 Johnson Ranch Rd., Roseville, CA 95661

According to The Nevada County Public Health Department, tests can also still be conducted by doctor's offices too, but you do not need your physician's approval to be tested at the OptumServe site. Call your primary care physician before physically going to the doctor.

Guidelines for a Healthy Workplace

- Practice physical distancing whenever possible.
- Face masks are required per the CDPH guidelines
- Observe boundary lines and floor signs
- When practicable, do not share computers or other equipment (phones, desks, pens, etc.)
- Wipe down computer keyboard and other hard, regularly touched surfaces with disinfectant wipes frequently
- Maintain clutter free surfaces
- Do not use shared dishes and utensils – provide your own dishes or use paper products
- When possible, do not bring food that requires heating in a microwave

First aid & hygiene

- Wash hands with soap and water frequently and thoroughly
- Use respiratory etiquette (cover cough and sneeze)
- Use designated restrooms
- Wash hands or use hand sanitizer before and after using the bathroom.
- Stay home if sick or exposure to COVID-19 is confirmed

Common Areas (e.g. Kitchen, Classrooms, & Copiers)

- Maintain physical distancing when possible
- Use hand sanitizer before and after use of copiers, fax, postage machine and other equipment
- Do not use shared dishes and utensils stored in kitchen area – provide your own dishes or use paper products

Business Office

- Only business office staff are allowed in the business office, unless you are picking up your mail. Only one person in the copy/mail room/office at a time
- Only business office staff may use the office bathroom
- No congregating in the office. Please call or IM staff if you have a question or need something instead of going to their work space
- If you need to check out a cume file, email Tita and she will put it in your box - do not take the file off campus, and please return it to the office the same day