

Additional Considerations for the Use of Cloth Face Coverings Among K12 Students

CDC [recommends](#) that people, including teachers, staff, and students, wear cloth face coverings in public settings as able when around people who live outside of their household, especially when other [social distancing](#) measures are difficult to maintain.

The following table contains examples of some, **but not all**, situations schools might encounter.

Possible Student Scenario	Cloth Face Coverings Recommended	Cloth Face Coverings May Be Considered	Additional Considerations
Students are seated less than 6 feet apart while riding a bus or while carpooling	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cloth face coverings should always be worn by bus and carpool drivers as able*
Students are less than 6 feet apart while entering or exiting school (e.g., carpool drop off/pick up) or while transitioning to/from other activities	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider having staff monitor students during transitions to encourage correct use and distribute cloth face coverings as needed. Teachers and staff should wash or sanitize hands (using a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol) before and after helping a student put on or adjust a cloth face covering.
Students are seated at least 6 feet apart in the classroom		✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adaptations and alternatives should be considered whenever possible to increase the feasibility of wearing a cloth face covering or to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spreading.
Students are seated less than 6 feet apart in the classroom, or are engaging in learning stations or circle time that require close contact	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools may consider keeping students in “cohorts.” Cohorts are groups of students that do not mix with other cohorts/groups of students throughout the school day. Adaptations and alternatives should be considered whenever possible to increase the feasibility of wearing a cloth face covering or to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spreading.
Students are less than 6 feet apart while transitioning between classes or to other activities during the school day	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools may consider staggering classroom transition times and allow only one-way pathways/hallways. Adaptations and alternatives should be considered whenever possible to increase the feasibility of wearing a cloth face covering or to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spreading.



Possible Student Scenario	Cloth Face Coverings Recommended	Cloth Face Coverings May Be Considered	Additional Considerations
Students are at recess or in physical education class.		✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vigorous exercise in a confined space (e.g., indoors) may contribute to transmission of COVID-19 and should be limited. Social distancing helps protect students at recess or in physical education class. Consider conducting activities in an area with greater ventilation or air exchange (e.g., outdoors). See CDC's guidance on youth sports for more information. Adaptations and alternatives should be considered whenever possible to increase the feasibility of wearing a cloth face covering or to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spreading.
Students are in band, choir, or music class.		✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When students are not singing or playing an instrument that requires the use of their mouth, they should wear a cloth face covering in music class (unless class is outdoors and distance can be maintained). Social distancing helps protect students in music class. While students are singing or playing an instrument, use visual cues to keep them at least 6 feet apart. If it's safe and weather permits, consider moving class outdoors where air circulation is better than indoors and maintain at least 6 feet distance between students.
Students are at least 6 feet apart during mealtimes in a common area.		✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cloth face coverings are recommended when transitioning to and from mealtimes if outside of the classroom. Schools may be able to stagger mealtimes to ensure 6 feet distance between students in a cafeteria or lunchroom. Schools can serve meals in classrooms if students are able to maintain 6 feet of distance between one another in the classroom. Consider allowing students to eat meals outside, if weather permits.
Students participating in an assembly or event that requires close contact.	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large assemblies of students should be discontinued, unless necessary. When necessary, consider having the assemblies outdoors, plan for social distancing, and encourage use of cloth face coverings according to CDC guidance. Cloth face coverings should be worn by teachers and staff at all times* and are especially important at times when social distancing is difficult to maintain.
Student has severe asthma or breathing problems.		✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cloth face coverings should NOT be worn by children under the age of 2 or anyone who has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance. Administrators and/or teachers should consult with parents, caregivers, or guardians about strategies to protect these students and those around them. Adaptations and alternatives should be considered whenever possible to increase the feasibility of wearing a cloth face covering or to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spreading.

Possible Student Scenario	Cloth Face Coverings Recommended	Cloth Face Coverings May Be Considered	Additional Considerations
Student is deaf or hard of hearing, or relies on lip reading to communicate		✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear face coverings may be considered for teachers or staff who interact with students who are deaf and hard of hearing. • Face shields are not considered clear face coverings. • It is not known if face shields provide any benefit as source control to protect others from the spray of respiratory particles. CDC does not recommend use of face shields for normal everyday activities or as a substitute for cloth face coverings. Some people may choose to use a face shield when sustained close contact with other people is expected. If face shields are used without a mask, they should wrap around the sides of the wearer's face and extend to below the chin.
Student has a disability, childhood mental health conditions, sensory concern/tactile sensitivity.	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administrators and/or teachers should consult with parents, caregivers, or guardians about strategies to protect these students and those around them. • Adaptations and alternatives should be considered whenever possible to increase the feasibility of wearing a cloth face covering or to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spreading.
Student is receiving one-on-one services or instruction.	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students and service providers should wear a face covering as much as possible during service delivery.* • Administrators and/or teachers should consult with parents, caregivers, or guardians about strategies to protect these students and those around them. • Adaptations and alternatives should be considered whenever possible to increase the feasibility of wearing a cloth face covering or to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spreading. • Cloth face coverings should be worn by teachers and staff at all times* and are especially important at times when social distancing is difficult to maintain. • Students and service providers may need additional protective equipment depending on the individual characteristics of the student. See CDC's Guidance for Direct Service Providers for additional information.

* CDC recognizes that wearing cloth face coverings may not be possible in every situation or for some people. In some situations, wearing a cloth face covering may exacerbate a physical or mental health condition, lead to a medical emergency, or introduce significant safety concerns. Adaptations and alternatives should be considered whenever possible to increase the feasibility of wearing a cloth face covering or to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spreading if it is not possible to wear one. [Learn more.](#)



When student or staff has COVID-like symptoms on campus:

Sedona Oak Creek Unified School District will follow CDC guidelines when a student or staff member exhibits COVID-like symptoms while at school.

- **Parents must pre-screen their children for COVID-like symptoms before they leave home.** Students presenting COVID-like symptoms should stay home until they are symptom-free without medication for a minimum of 24 hours. Staff with COVID-like symptoms should remain home until they are symptom-free without medication for a minimum of 72 hours.

Symptoms include (but are not limited to):

- Fever (100.4°F or above) 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

- ✓ **Once at school, if a student or staff member presents symptoms, they should immediately see the school nurse or site COVID-19 Coordinator for screening.**
The school nurse or site COVID-19 Coordinator will isolate the individual with symptoms until they can be sent home. Students and staff that leave school with symptoms must remain home until they are symptom free without medication for a minimum of 72 hours. (Students and staff returning to school after illness must first report to the school nurse or site COVID-19 Coordinator for screening.)
- ✓ **Student or staff member presenting symptoms will be sent home immediately to self-quarantine.**
- ✓ **The school nurse or site COVID-19 Coordinator will investigate/interview the individual and/or parent by telephone or virtual meeting to.**
The following questions will be asked:
 - a. Have you been diagnosed with COVID-19?
 - b. Do you have symptoms of COVID-19 [Fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, or sore

throat]? If yes, for how long? [Limit questions to COVID-19 and not other health conditions.]

c. Have you been in close contact with an individual diagnosed, exposed to or who has symptoms of COVID-19?

d. Who at the school/district have you had close contact with in the last two weeks?

e. What school/district sites have you been to within the past two weeks?

f. Have you had any physical contact with anyone else affiliated with the school/district (e.g., students, parents, etc.) in the last two weeks?

g. Have you had any physical contact with products that were distributed to school/district constituents (e.g., lunches, learning packets, etc.) in the last two weeks?

✓ **Assess possible exposure.**

Assess who may have been in contact with the individual and which school/district sites may need to be sanitized or temporarily closed.

✓ **Determine who may need to receive notice of potential COVID-19 exposure.**

Notifications must not disclose any personally identifiable information about the individual unless a FERPA exception applies.

Notification Basics

1. The notice must not contain personally identifying information;
2. The notice should only include non-identifying information that is relevant to allow those with potential exposure to self-monitor and self-quarantine;
3. Only provide the notice to “appropriate parties;”
4. District may inform appropriate health officials as long as it complies with applicable privacy laws;
5. The notification should include information about the district sites frequented by the individual during the incubation period and while exhibiting symptoms;
6. The notification should include information on what the district is doing in regard to industrial hygiene, including whether the site will be closed and for how long; and
7. The notification should encourage those individuals that may have been exposed to COVID-19 to self-monitor for symptoms and to self-quarantine if appropriate.

✓ **Information collected by the school nurse or site COVID-19 Coordinator will be maintained in a confidential health file to be held in a secure location.**

When there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 on campus (student or staff):

Any school in any community might need to implement short-term closure procedures regardless of community spread **if an infected person has been in a school building**. If this happens, Sedona Oak Creek Unified School District will follow CDC recommendations regardless of the level of community spread:

✓ **Coordinate with local health officials.**

Once learning of a COVID-19 case in someone who has been in the school, the COVID-19 site coordinator will immediately notify Yavapai County Community Health Services. These officials will help administrators determine a course of action for the school.

✓ **Dismiss students and most staff for 2-5 days.**

This initial short-term dismissal allows time for the local health officials to gain a better understanding of the COVID-19 situation impacting the school. This allows the local health officials to help the school determine appropriate next steps, including whether an extended dismissal duration is needed to stop or slow further spread of COVID-19.

- Local health officials' recommendations for the scope (e.g., a single school, multiple schools, the full district) and duration of school dismissals will be made on a case-by-case basis using the most up-to-date information about COVID-19 and the specific cases in the community.

- During school dismissals, also cancel extracurricular group activities, school-based afterschool programs, and large events (e.g., assemblies, spirit nights, field trips, and sporting events).

- Discourage staff, students, and their families from gathering or socializing anywhere. This includes group childcare arrangements, as well as gathering at places like a friend's house, a favorite restaurant, or the local shopping centers.

✓ **Communicate with staff, parents, and students.**

Coordinate with local health officials to communicate dismissal decisions and the possible COVID-19 exposure.

- This communication to the school community will align with the communication plan in the school's emergency operations plan.

- This plan will include messages to counter potential stigma and discrimination.

- In such a circumstance, it is critical to maintain confidentiality of the student or staff member as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act.

✓ **Clean and disinfect thoroughly.**

- Close off areas used by the individuals with COVID-19 and wait as long as practical before beginning cleaning and disinfection to minimize potential for exposure to respiratory droplets.

Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area. If possible, wait up to 24 hours before beginning cleaning and disinfection.

- Cleaning staff will clean and disinfect all areas (e.g., offices, bathrooms, and common areas) used by the ill persons, focusing especially on frequently touched surfaces.
- If surfaces are dirty, they will be cleaned using a detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.

✓ **Make decisions about extending the school dismissal.**

Temporarily dismissing K-12 schools is a strategy to stop or slow the further spread of COVID-19 in communities.

✓ **School administrators will work in close collaboration and coordination with local health officials to make dismissal and large event cancellation decisions.**

Temporarily dismissing K-12 schools is a strategy to stop or slow the further spread of COVID-19 in communities. Schools are not expected to make decisions about dismissal or canceling events on their own. School dismissals and event cancellations may be extended if advised by local health officials. The nature of these actions (e.g., geographic scope, duration) may change as the local outbreak situation evolves.

- During school dismissals (after cleaning and disinfection), schools may stay open for staff members (unless ill) while students stay home. Keeping facilities open: a) allows teachers to develop and deliver lessons and materials remotely, thus maintaining continuity of teaching and learning; and b) allows other staff members to continue to provide services and help with additional response efforts. Decisions on which, if any, staff should be allowed in the school should be made in collaboration with local health officials.

- Administrators will seek guidance from local health officials to determine when students and staff should return to schools and what additional steps are needed for the school community. In addition, students and staff who are well but are taking care of or share a home with someone with a case of COVID-19 should follow instructions from local health officials to determine when to return to school.

✓ **Implement strategies to continue education and related supports for students.**

- Ensure continuity of education.
- Ensure continuity of meal programs.
- Consider alternatives for providing essential medical and social services for students.