

TK-12 Schools Guidance

School Year 21-22

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

SF DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

8.2.2021

Safe Return to School

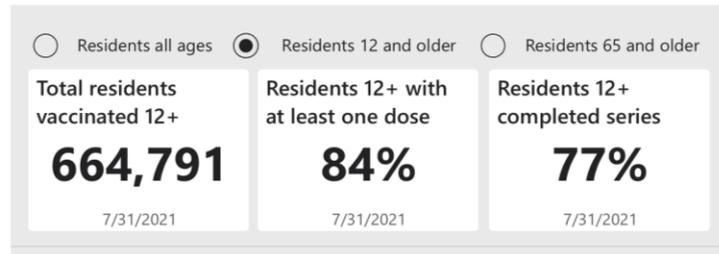
- Schools are a safe place to learn, play, and make friends
 - Risk of transmission is low in schools when safety measures are in place
 - Last school year, only 7 cases of in-school transmission among 48,000 students and staff
 - All other cases reported at school were from community transmission
 - No verified outbreaks in SFUSD last year or in camps and learning hubs this summer
- There are more benefits to going back to school than staying home, including:
 - Academic learning
 - Physical and mental health
 - Social and emotional development



Vaccinations

- Vaccines are one of the most effective ways to decrease risk of COVID-19
- Vaccinated adults and teenagers help protect younger children who cannot get vaccinated yet
- Research shows that current vaccines are highly effective in preventing infections and death, even against Delta
 - Vaccinated people 10 times less likely to be hospitalized
- Good news is that 77% of eligible SF population is fully vaccinated, including teenagers in middle and high school
- Call 628-652-2700 or visit sf.gov/get-vaccinated to book appointment for free vaccination

COVID-19 vaccinations



Wear face coverings indoors

- Face masks are required indoors but not outdoors
 - All adults and students must wear face masks indoors at school, regardless if they are vaccinated or not
 - Wearing face masks indoors prevents spread of virus
 - Face masks are not required outdoors because of natural ventilation
- Persons exempted from wearing face coverings must wear non-restrictive alternative such as face shield with drape
- Schools should develop and implement protocols to enforce wearing face coverings



Ventilation

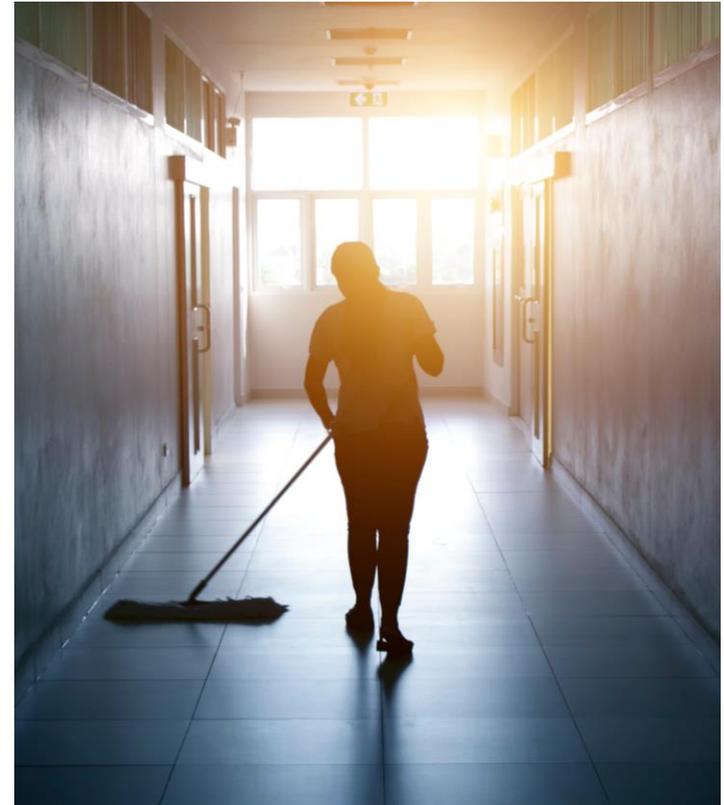
- Schools should use outdoor spaces as much as possible
- When indoors, schools should:
 - Open windows
 - Improve HVAC systems
 - Use portable air cleaners



- **SFDPH reviews ventilation systems at all school buildings, including SFUSD, before the SF Health Officer gives approval to reopen**
- In event of wildfire or poor air quality, schools should prioritize keeping healthy air quality indoors
 - Schools can stay open
 - Schools can close windows but should maximize other safety measures – portable air cleaners, increased hand washing, etc

When to Follow Pre-COVID Protocols

- Cleaning and Disinfection - unless there is a COVID-19 case
 - Cleaning once a day is usually enough because COVID-19 does not spread through surfaces
 - Disinfection is only required in areas where there was a confirmed COVID-19 case
- With vaccines, indoor masking requirements, and other safety measures:
 - Physical distancing is no longer required
 - Cohorting is not required



Meals and Snacks

- Eat outdoors when space and weather allow
- Space unvaccinated students out when eating
- Food service can resume
 - Schools should clean frequently touched surfaces for meals
 - Surfaces that come in contact with food should be washed, rinsed, and sanitized before and after meals
- Meals do not need to be individually plated or bagged
- Wash hands before and after meals and snacks
- Consider wearing masks between bites and sips



Wash hands or use hand sanitizer

- Students and staff should wash hands or use hand sanitizer often, especially before/after eating and after using the bathroom
- Schools and parents/caregivers should teach and reinforce washing hands, covering coughs/sneezes and not touching eyes, nose and mouth



Stay home when sick

- If your child has any of the following symptoms, **do not send them to school**
 - Fever 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

What to do when someone is sick at school

- Staff who become sick at work must notify supervisor and leave work
- Schools should send sick students home
 - Students who are waiting to be picked up should be in designated isolation area
- Contact your doctor
- Get tested as soon as possible



Testing

- Greater access to testing through home test kits and health care providers
- SFDPH recommends testing for:
 - People with symptoms of COVID-19 even if they are vaccinated
 - People who are considered close contacts to someone with COVID-19 and:
 - not fully vaccinated or
 - have not have COVID-19 in last 3 months
- SFDPH does not recommend testing for:
 - Staff and students without COVID-19 symptoms or known exposures
 - Staff or students who have had COVID-19 in last 3 months

Find out about your COVID-19 testing options

Get tested in SF

If you feel sick, get tested right away, even if you're vaccinated. If you are unvaccinated and have a known exposure but no symptoms, get tested on or after day 6.

If you have health insurance, schedule a test with your doctor. If you have symptoms or a known exposure, your healthcare provider is required by law to get you a test.

[Map of free & paid sites](#)



SFDPH remains involved

- SFDPH actively working with SFUSD to set up vaccine sites at SFUSD schools for Fall 2021
- Dedicated, trained staff to respond to any possible cases or exposures at schools
- Dedicated, trained staff conducting case investigation and contact tracing at schools
- Maintains schools guidance and resources at the following link:

<https://www.sfdcp.org/infectious-diseases-a-to-z/coronavirus-2019-novel-coronavirus/schools>

Thank you.

Any questions?

You can reach us at Schools-ChildcareSites@sfdph.org