



Meira Academy Reopening Guide

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Introduction

This guide is founded on the criteria and protocols issued by the California Department of Public Health which is based on scientific research and available epidemiological data on COVID 19.

The safety of teachers and students is of utmost importance and is at the center of our decision-making. The requirements and recommendations in this reopening guide are intended to significantly reduce the risk that other students and staff will be exposed to COVID-19.

As of the writing of this guide (9/23/20), our county is in the red tier and is allowed to reopen for in-person instruction. Decisions about any school closure after reopening will be made in consultation with the local health office.

We are in direct communication with the Santa Clara County Office of Education and Department of Health and are keeping up to date with all new protocols and guidance. We understand that this document may need to be updated in the future.

Because the prevalence of COVID 19 in our community can change quickly in a short period of time, we will be flexible in our instruction and will be prepared to switch from in-person to remote learning with little notice. We will also provide the option of distance learning for students and teachers who choose, or are required, to isolate.

PREVENTION

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
4. Measures to minimize the dispersion of droplets and aerosols (e.g. use of appropriate face coverings)

It is recommended by public health experts that these measures be used collectively where possible.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING

Signage will be posted to remind all about physical distancing, wearing masks, and washing and sanitizing hands frequently.

Emergency drills will be performed while practicing physical distance to ensure that, to the extent feasible during such an event, there will still be the necessary physical distancing.

Only necessary visitors will be allowed on campus.

Arrival and Dismissal

Drop-off will be at the JCC front entrance, just beyond the security booth at the roundabout. Students should proceed to the check in desk located at the bottom of the stairs. A JCC employee will ask each student screening questions and will take her temperature. They will then be given a sticker with that day's date and be allowed to enter the JCC. No student or staff member will be allowed into the school building without a sticker.

Pick up will be in this same location at the roundabout.

Classroom Settings

To reduce the transmission of disease, desks will be placed at least six feet apart and teacher's desks will be separated from the students desks by at least six feet or more. We will be setting up home rooms for each grade to allow for as much of a stable seating arrangement as possible.

When at all possible, activities will be held outdoors and some instruction may take place outdoors as well. Extra curricular activities will be held outdoors.

Physical distance will be maintained at all times during instructional time as well as outside of class time.

We will increase ventilation by keeping doors ajar when possible. The JCC's HVAC system filters the air and meets current standards.

Students' desks will all be facing the same direction and not facing each other.

Desks and chairs will be wiped down between use.

Students will be given their own rolling cart in which to keep their belongings. We will not be using cubbies or lockers this year.

Non-instruction time

Students are encouraged to eat lunch outside in the JCC plaza and will have the option to eat in their home room if needed. There will not be any student lounge set up.

PE will take place outdoors barring bad weather.

Hygiene Measures

Face coverings that cover both the nose and mouth are required at all times, including arrival and departure, and in and outside of classrooms. Face shields are not recommended as a replacement for face covering given concerns over their ability to minimize droplet spread to others.

The importance of a mask is critical in preventing the spread of disease to others. The spread is minimized when a higher percentage of people wear masks.

We will have disposable face coverings available should a student or staff member need to replace their own.

Hand washing is expected upon arrival and throughout the day. Soap and hand sanitizer will be available throughout the building.

Cleaning and Maintenance

The JCC is responsible for the cleaning and sanitizing of our building. They use electro-magnetic spray to disinfect our space daily. In addition, we will be wiping down surfaces in between classes and before and after lunch.

Travel and Large Gatherings

In the event that a student travels by air, they will be required to isolate for 14 days before returning to campus. During this time, students will join classes remotely via Zoom.

Students are encouraged not to attend large gatherings when social distancing protocols are not followed; eg. weddings etc. Please be in touch with the school administration prior to attending such an event to create a plan for returning to school.

COVID testing and reporting

In the event that a student or staff member exhibits symptoms

Symptomatic students or staff members should get a COVID 19 test and isolate while waiting for test results. Alternatively, they can contact their physician for a medical note that provides an alternate explanation for the symptoms and reasons for not ordering COVID -19 testing.

If a student or staff member displays symptoms but tests negative, they should remain home for at least 24 hours from the time they are symptom free.

If the test comes back positive, they should isolate for at least 10 days and at least 24 hours after symptoms have resolved.

Should a student or staff member develop symptoms during the school day they will be isolated until they can be transported home. Please make sure that your phone is nearby in the case that we do have to call you.

In the event of exposure to a confirmed COVID-19 case

In the event that a student or staff member comes into close contact with a confirmed case of COVID -19, they should quarantine immediately and get tested as soon as possible.

If they **develop symptoms** and test **positive**- they should quarantine for 10 days and at least 24 hours after symptoms have resolved.

If they **develop symptoms** and test **negative**- they should quarantine for 14 days from last exposure.

If they **do not have symptoms** and test **positive**- they should quarantine for 10 days

If they **do not have symptoms** and test **negative**-they should quarantine for 14 days from last exposure.

Please notify the office right away if :

a student or staff member tests positive for COVID -19

A close contact tested positive

Documentation of negative test results must be provided to school administration.

In the event of a confirmed COVID -19 case

In the event that a student or staff member tests positive for COVID -19, the school will close and all students and staff will remain in quarantine for 14 days.

Returning to campus after testing

Positive tests results

1. Symptomatic individuals who test positive for COVID 19 can return at least 10 days after symptoms first appeared and at least 24 hours with no fever and resolution of other symptoms.
2. Asymptomatic individuals who test positive for COVID 19 can return 10 days after their positive test result.

Negative test results

If a student or staff member is asymptomatic after exposure to someone with a positive COVID-19 test and have themselves tested negative at least 7 days after exposure, they should stay home for 14 days from date of last exposure. If a close contact continues to be exposed to a case during isolation (e.g household member) quarantine ends 14 days after the case's isolation period ends .