

Junction Elementary School District

Clay Ross, Superintendent

Christopher Nelson, Principal

Junction School

9087 Deschutes Rd.

Palo Cedro, CA 96073

Phone: (530) 547-3276

Fax: (530) 547-4080

www.junctionesd.net



Board Members:

Clint Snyder

Hope Bjerke

Ken Parisot

Kelly Lindblom

Kristen Knott

Background

This document aims to inform California's K-12 schools of COVID-19 testing strategies for the 2022-2023 school year. It is intended to support planning processes for safe in-person learning, as disease management is an essential priority to maintain student well-being and development.

Testing Framework:

Testing for COVID-19 remains an essential tool to decrease transmission, keep students and staff safe, and keep schools open for in-person instruction while mitigating the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please refer to the [COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K–12 Schools to Support Safe In-Person Learning, 2022–2023 School Year](#) for more specific information on when and who to test in a school setting. This information is being incorporated into this framework by reference.

Getting Tested for COVID-19:

Testing remains a key mitigation layer to detect and curb transmission of COVID-19. Schools are encouraged to ensure access to COVID-19 testing for students and staff, particularly for vulnerable communities. Schools should review support and resources offered by the [California COVID-19 Testing Task Force](#), as well as those available through healthcare insurers, local, and federal sources.

1. Recommended Actions:

a. CDPH recommends that antigen tests be considered the primary option for detecting COVID-19 in schools, compared to PCR tests. For more information, see the [Testing Framework for K–12 Schools](#).

b. Due to the increased travel and social interactions that often occurs during school-breaks, it is recommended that students and staff get tested for COVID-19 prior to returning to school following major breaks (e.g., summer, winter, spring).

c. Additional testing recommendations are referenced in relevant sections below.

Managing Individuals with Symptoms:

Recommended Actions:

a. K-12 schools are encouraged to develop standard criteria for managing students who develop symptoms of infectious diseases, including COVID-19. In most situations, any student who develops new, unexplained symptoms should not return to campus until it is clear that symptoms are mild and improving or are due to a non-infectious cause (e.g., allergies). This includes waiting until 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications.

b. Additionally, if [symptoms](#) are concerning for COVID-19, it is strongly recommended that students wear a mask and get tested immediately. Students should also follow [CDPH recommendations](#) for retesting and/or isolating if results are positive.

Managing Students Diagnosed with COVID-19:

Prompt management of students with COVID-19 can prevent further spread and, in some cases, allow for early treatment.

1. Recommended Action:

a. Students diagnosed with COVID-19 should follow recommendations listed in [Table 1 \(Persons with COVID-19\)](#) of CDPH's guidance for the general public, including staying home for at least 5 days and wearing a well-fitting mask around others for a total of 10 days, especially in indoor settings.

Managing Students Exposed to COVID-19:

Prompt notification to students and families regarding exposure to infectious diseases, including COVID-19, can allow for rapid testing, early treatment, and prevention of further spread.

1. Recommended Actions:

a. It is recommended that families notify schools if their child has COVID-19 and was on school grounds during their [infectious period](#), and that schools in turn notify students who spent more than a cumulative total of 15 minutes (within a 24-hour time period) in a shared indoor airspace (e.g., classroom) with someone with COVID-19 during their infectious period.

b. In lieu of individual exposure notifications, schools should consider providing a general notification to the entire school community during times of elevated [community transmission](#) of COVID-19. This communication can alert all to the increased potential of being exposed to COVID-19 due to a rise in cases among school and community members, and remind all to monitor for symptoms and get tested.

c. All students with known exposure to persons with COVID-19 should follow recommendations listed in [Table 2 \(Asymptomatic Persons Who are Exposed to Someone with COVID-19\)](#) of CDPH's guidance for the general public. If they remain without symptoms, students may continue to take part in all aspects of K–12

Junction Elementary School District

Clay Ross, Superintendent

Christopher Nelson, Principal

Junction School

9087 Deschutes Rd.

Palo Cedro, CA 96073

Phone: (530) 547-3276

Fax: (530) 547-4080

www.junctionesd.net



Board Members:

Clint Snyder

Hope Bjerke

Ken Parisot

Kelly Lindblom

Kristen Knott

schooling including sports and extracurricular activities. As recommended in [Table 2](#), they should wear a well-fitting mask around others for a total of 10 days and get tested 3–5 days after last exposure.

The following are recommended practices for California districts, schools, and county offices of education:

- **Identify** a COVID Testing Point of Contact to facilitate communication and coordination with the CA Testing Task Force along with other relevant agencies or organizations that oversee school operations.
- **Review and reference current testing recommendations provided in the [CDPH K-12 School COVID Guidance](#) and any additional recommendations or requirements provided by the Local Health Jurisdiction.**
- **Maintain situational awareness of the [testing resources and programs offered by the CA Testing Task Force](#) and monitor availability of pre-positioned testing resources housed with a County Office of Education or Local Health Jurisdiction for rapid distribution to schools.**
- **Monitor the [CDC's COVID Community Data Tracker](#) as a method of identifying when to increase or reestablish school testing operations.**
- **Communicate any questions, concerns, or additional operational testing resources/needs to the CA Testing Task Force at schooltesting@cdph.ca.gov**

These updates and anticipated changes are based on current scientific knowledge and anticipated trends. The framework is subject to change. As noted in the [SMARTER plan](#), COVID-19 trends can shift rapidly and California's response to conditions in schools must remain nimble, adaptive, and responsive to dynamic challenges to keep students and staff safe.

Preliminary Testing Framework for K-12 Schools for the 2022–2023 School Year originally published on May 27, 2022.