



August 20, 2021

Dear Village School Families,

Re: Health and Safety Standards and Instruction Model for 2021-22

We hope you all have had a relaxing and enjoyable summer! We have been appreciating the cooler weather this past week and we are looking forward to the opportunity to reconnect with your family soon.

In the coming week, we will be sending out our welcome packet. Before this arrives, we want to tell you more about our plans to maintain a safe environment for families and children at our site. We are excited to welcome students back to school soon, and feel confident in the strong measures we are taking to create a safe, nurturing, and healthy school environment for students. Our Health and Safety Committee met earlier this week and updated our comprehensive safety plan. You will notice that in many areas we exceed the minimum mitigation standards set for Oregon schools by the Oregon Department of Education as listed in the recent version of [Ready Schools Safe Learners](#). We believe it is more important to “start strong”, such as wearing masks during recess time, and then ease the safety standards as conditions change.

**Masks:** The CDC and research indicates that masks are one of the best tools to minimize the spread of Covid-19 in any of its forms. As long as the Covid case loads are high in Lane County, we will require students and families to wear masks on campus, including outdoors. Teachers may hold structured, supervised and safely distanced outdoor activities to allow for students to take off their masks. We understand this departs from our summer program, where we allowed masks-off outdoors. However, the Covid Delta variant has changed conditions significantly in the last few weeks.

All Staff are required to wear a mask both indoors and outdoors when students are on campus. We made a local decision for staff to wear masks outdoors which exceeds the OAR requirements.

Masking requirements for schools were adopted by the state and detailed in [OAR 333-019-1015](#). A second later adoption relates to use of masks in public spaces and is also explained in [OAR 333-019-1015](#)

**Ventilation:** As we did last Spring, we are following the recommendations of the Harvard Healthy Buildings Team, which calls for 4-6 changes of air per hour. This means that our indoor air quality is very close to outdoor air. All indoor spaces in our school will reach this high standard for ventilation and filtration at all times when students are present. We will achieve this either with open windows and an exhaust fan, or with windows closed and air purifiers at top settings. Information about the Harvard study can be found [here](#).

**Cohorting:** We are going to maintain cohorts. The goal is to minimize the chance for outbreaks and to enhance contact tracing if necessary.

**Contact Tracing:** We will continue to maintain contact tracing logs for all people who spend more than 10 minutes at our site.

**Distancing:** Per CDC guidance, students will maintain 3 foot distancing. Teachers and staff will maintain at least 3 foot distance from students.

**Hand Washing:** Students will be required to perform frequent hand washing or sanitizing throughout the day, such as upon arrival to school, before and after recess, snack, meals, and as needed.

**Meals and Snacks:** Students will eat outside and be spaced 3-6 feet apart. Students will perform hand cleansing with sanitizer or soap and water before and after eating. If students must eat indoors due to smoky conditions or inclement weather, the exhaust fans and/or HEPA air purifiers will be used.

**Isolation and quarantine:** There is a separate isolation area for students and staff if they display Covid-like symptoms while at school. We will work closely with Lane County Public Health to assist staff and students to quarantine at home for the prescribed amount of time. Our isolation area on campus is separate from the first aid station in our office.

**Vaccinations:** The research provided by the Oregon Health Authority and CDC indicates that the best mitigation against the spread of the Covid virus is for all eligible people to become fully vaccinated. 100% of our full-time staff are currently vaccinated. 95% of our part-time staff are vaccinated. Any staff who are not yet fully vaccinated will be tested for Covid weekly. All staff will be fully vaccinated by October 18, 2021 or 6 weeks after FDA approval of the vaccines, whichever comes last, per Governor Brown's order. News coverage about requirement for school staff to be vaccinated [here](#)

**Testing for Covid:** Testing adds an important layer of prevention, particularly in areas with substantial to high community transmission levels. One form of test is a BinaxNOW Covid-19 Ag CARD. We have 40 of these on hand to use only with students (with parent permission) and staff that display Covid-like symptoms while at school. Learn more about Covid-19 Testing in



Oregon's K-12 schools [here](#). There is another form of testing we encourage staff and families to know about and take advantage of. A weekly screening for Covid is an excellent way to catch asymptomatic cases quickly and keep our school and the greater community healthy and safe. A program is available through the University of Oregon. This is a high-quality PCR saliva test. You can learn more about the UO screening program [here](#). We are exploring other options to make testing for Covid easier for our families and staff to access.

**Screening Questions:** Teachers will explicitly check in with students as they enter the classroom or after they take their seats (or with the parents of young children). All students with symptoms of Covid or another communicable disease will be required to stay home. Please see Covid-19 Exclusion Summary Guidance for K-12 Schools [here](#)

**Drop-off and Pick-up:** All persons over the age of two entering our campus must wear a properly fitting mask that meets our mask policy. This includes all outdoor and indoor spaces on campus. Masks must cover the mouth and nose and fit securely around the sides of the face. Please, no scarves, bandanas, neck gaiters, vented masks, or face shields worn without a mask. Cloth masks must contain at least two layers of fabric. Parents may not linger on campus. Please leave immediately and socialize with friends and colleagues off campus. After dismissal the playground is closed for free-play until further notice.

**Tardy Students:** Children arriving late are required to sign in at the office and get a tardy slip before entering their classroom.

**Volunteers:** We are requiring that on-site volunteers wear masks and provide proof of vaccination. Volunteer support is extremely limited and highly controlled this year.

**Cleaning:** Staff will be cleaning high-touch surfaces regularly, using asthma-friendly, non-toxic cleaners approved by OHA.

**Instructional Model:** We embrace the governor's orders that schools offer a normal schedule of classes, 5 days a week. Our teaching staff look forward to providing a safe and nurturing experience for children with strong health and safety measures. Delivering a full onsite program requires a significant commitment of staff resources. Last Spring, teaching half-days onsite, 4 days a week, provided time for our teaching staff to serve students learning from home. In contrast, a full, onsite program leaves us with limited staff resources for comprehensive distance learning. At this time we are unable to provide a *comprehensive* remote learning program; however, we are continuing to assess our resources and may be able to provide a modified remote learning program for medically vulnerable families. Medically vulnerable families

interested in remote learning should call the office to make an appointment to meet with an administrator.

**Students required to quarantine:** If a student is required to quarantine, teaching staff will support remote learning on a temporary basis for that student.

**Meeting:** There will be a Zoom meeting to talk about our health and safety measures and instructional model, programs, mitigation measures and to answer questions, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm, August 26, 2021. Please email your questions and concerns ahead of time to [office@eugenevillageschool.org](mailto:office@eugenevillageschool.org). The meeting will be recorded for those that are unable to attend.

We look forward to seeing you all. Please let us know if you have any questions.

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