

Board Policy #:
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HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY FOR COVID-19

It is the policy of The Cottonwood School (“Charter School”) to take all reasonable measures to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus disease (“COVID-19”) among students and staff. In accordance with this policy, the Charter School is temporarily implementing health and safety measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 as the Charter School resumes in-person instruction. This policy recognizes that these measures are each designed to provide some protection against COVID-19. While there may be times when one measure may not be feasible, implementing alternative measures can provide backup layers of safety. This Policy includes both mandatory measures (using terms “shall” or “will”) as well as recommended measures intended to guide decisions in light of practical limitations.

This Policy is based on guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control (“CDC”), the California Department of Education (“CDE”), the California Department of Public Health (“CDPH”), and the public health officials of the counties served by the Charter School. The Governor and each county public health official is vested with the authority to impose health and safety standards, which may vary by locality in response to different local conditions. The Charter School will, as necessary, consult with their county health officer, or designated staff, who are best positioned to monitor and provide advice on local conditions to individually determine whether more or less stringent measures are necessary to align with the applicable public health orders. The Charter School will fully cooperate with county public health officials regarding the screening, monitoring, and documentation that will be required to permit careful scrutiny of health outcomes associated with the return to in-person instruction on Charter School campuses. To the extent any mandatory public health guidance is revised to materially conflict with this Policy, the Charter School will follow such guidance and not this Policy.

This Policy constitutes the COVID-19 Infection Control Plan for the Charter School. The following staff member is designated as the COVID-19 Compliance Officer and shall be responsible for implementing this Policy:

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In addition to in-person instruction for grades 9-12, the Charter School will also offer independent study as an alternative to in-person instruction. Independent study will remain available for students for whom in-person instruction poses a heightened risk of infection.

1. Limited Access to Campus. As school campuses open for fully in-person instruction in the 2021-22 school year, California public health authorities have relaxed restrictions on access to school campuses; however, the ongoing threat of COVID-19 and the public health orders in effect necessitate that the following precautions be maintained:

- The Charter School may limit nonessential visitors’ access to the Charter School campus and may limit the number of students and staff with whom they come into contact, based on, among other factors, the current levels of community transmission, the vaccination status of any such visitor, and the relative importance of the visit’s purpose.
- The Charter School will exclude from campus any employee, student, parent, caregiver or visitor who refuses to take or does not pass any Wellness and Temperature Screening requested by the Charter School. All

visitors to a Charter School Campus must wear a face mask while inside any Charter School building, vehicle, or other enclosed space. Visitors may wear a face shield with a drape along the bottom if they are unable to wear a mask due to a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability, or if they are hearing impaired, or communicating with a person who is hearing impaired, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication.

- Signage shall be posted at all public entrances to the Charter School warning visitors not to enter if they have COVID-19 symptoms.
- Students and employees who are well but who have a household member that has been diagnosed with COVID-19 are directed to notify the COVID-19 Compliance Officer, who will consult with other Charter School staff to determine whether the student or staff member can continue coming to school with a modified quarantine in light of current guidance and this Policy.
- Per Cal/OSHA requirements, the Charter School shall exclude staff members who have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or who have had a close contact with a positive COVID-19 case and are not fully vaccinated against COVID-19.
- To the extent that non-parent visitors are required to enter the Charter School Campus, the School will take the following precautions:
 - Non-parental visitors will be allowed on campus via appointment only.
 - Non-parental visitors must pre-register in a visitor's log, which includes the visitor's name, email address, and phone number.
 - Non-parental visitors will only be allowed to enter specific areas to conduct their business.

2. COVID-19 Compliance Officer. State and local health orders require that schools designate a liaison (school Nurse) to be responsible for receiving and sharing information on COVID-19 policies, positive cases, and exposures. The Charter School shall comply with these requirements by implementing the following measures:

- The Charter School will designate a "COVID-19 Compliance Officer," to act as a liaison between the local county public health department and the Charter School, in the event of a COVID-19 cluster or outbreak at the Charter School. The name and contact information for the Charter School's COVID-19 Compliance Officer is referenced above on pages one and two of this policy.
- The COVID-19 Compliance Officer shall monitor the prevalence of symptoms and illnesses among students and staff on campus to help isolate them promptly, as needed.
- The COVID-19 Compliance Officer shall be the point of contact responsible for sharing information on positive cases and exposures to relevant state and local health departments, as detailed in the Exposure Management Plan section of this Policy.

3. Wellness Checks and Temperature Screening. While no longer required to do so by public health guidance, the Charter School may employ temperature and symptom screening checks as necessary throughout the school year. Regardless of vaccination status or recent testing results, all students and staff may be required to submit to symptom screening questioning and/or a no-touch thermometer temperature screening at the discretion of the COVID-19 Compliance Officer or a designee thereof. Any student or staff member who refuses to submit to symptom screening questioning or a temperature check may be excluded from campus. All staff conducting these screening will do so discreetly and will keep the results and all health information shared or revealed as confidential as possible. The COVID-19 Compliance Officer shall routinely conduct passive observation of the student body and staff to detect the prevalence of symptoms of COVID-19 to the greatest degree feasible.

4. COVID-19 Testing and Reporting. Testing, in conjunction with vaccination, face masking, and other safety protocols, is a key factor in preventing COVID-19 infection. In keeping with the recommendations and requirements of state and local health departments, the Charter School shall implement the following testing and reporting procedures:

- When testing students or employees for COVID-19, the Charter School will use Polymerase Chain Reaction ("PCR") testing.

- Testing will be applied on symptomatic¹, response², and asymptomatic³ bases, in accordance with local public health requirements and instructions.
- The Charter School's COVID-19 Compliance Officer must be made aware of all positive student and staff test results and shall report those results to local public health officials as required by law.
- Per Cal/OSHA Emergency Temporary Standards, the Charter School will provide testing at no cost to employees during paid time for:
 - Symptomatic unvaccinated employees, regardless of whether there is a known exposure,
 - Unvaccinated employees after an exposure,
 - Vaccinated employees after an exposure if they develop symptoms,
 - Unvaccinated employees in an outbreak (three or more employee cases), or
 - All employees in a major outbreak (20 or more employee cases).
- Additional levels of employee and student COVID-19 testing may be implemented in response to local disease trends, an outbreak, where required by Cal/OSHA regulations, or where otherwise required by law or public health guidance. The Charter School reserves the right to require employees to undergo additional frequencies of COVID-19 testing, consistent with applicable authority and directives from public health authorities as well as the School's authorizer, regardless of an employee's COVID-19 vaccination status.
- Consistent with Cal/OSHA regulations and applicable law, the School must impose different health and safety requirements depending on an employee's COVID-19 vaccination status. Cal/OSHA defines an individual as fully vaccinated when 'the employer has documented that the person received, at least 14 days prior, either the second dose in a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine series or a single-dose COVID-19 vaccine. Vaccines must be FDA approved; have an emergency use authorization from the FDA; or, for persons fully vaccinated outside the United States, be listed for emergency use by the World Health Organization (WHO).'" As a result, to forego any potential COVID-19 health and safety restrictions, such as exclusion/quarantine periods, some COVID-19 testing and other directives, employees must provide the Charter School with proof of COVID-19 vaccination that meets CDPH standards. Employees who are either unvaccinated or who decline to provide the Charter School with proof of COVID-19 vaccination will be considered unvaccinated, and must comply with all health and safety directives, as stated in this Policy.
- For staff and student-wide testing, all staff and students shall be tested, excepting any staff and students who have no contact with others and do not report to campus. The Charter School will provide testing at its campus, or will have staff get tested at any local testing site or by their health insurance provider, which must cover the cost.
- The Charter School's COVID-19 Compliance Officer must be made aware of the student and staff test results and report those results to local public health officials.
- Student consent for testing:
 - For Charter School Students aged 12 and under, the Charter School will require parental consent for COVID-19 testing.
 - Pursuant to California Family Code Section §6926 and CDPH guidance, Charter School Students aged 13 to 17 may consent to COVID-19 testing on their own.
 - Charter School students aged 18 and older do not need parental consent for COVID-19 testing.
- Staff and students at the Charter School who refuse to participate in the Charter School's COVID-19 testing program or to report the test results to the Charter School will not be allowed to return to in-person instruction or otherwise enter the Charter School Campus. Both the testing and the reporting are required under applicable public health guidance and legal authority.

¹ Symptomatic testing "is used for individuals with symptoms of COVID-19, either at home or at school."

² Response testing "is used to identify positive individuals once a case has been identified in a given stable group. Response-based testing can be provided for symptomatic individuals or for asymptomatic individuals with known or suspected exposure to an individual infected with SARS-CoV-2."

³ Asymptomatic testing is "used for surveillance, usually at a cadence of every 2 weeks or less frequently, to understand whether schools have higher or lower rates of COVID19 rates than the community, to guide decisions about safety for schools and school administrators, and to inform LHDs about district level in-school rates. Asymptomatic testing can also be used for screening, usually at a higher cadence (weekly or twice weekly) than surveillance testing, to identify asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic cases, in order to exclude cases that might otherwise contribute to in-school transmission."

- Consistent with applicable law, the Charter School will consider accommodations from mandatory testing for medical reasons and any other lawfully recognized reason. Employees or students and/or parents/guardians who wish to request an accommodation for themselves or their child can contact the Charter School. The Charter School cannot guarantee the availability of either remote work or in-person instruction as an accommodation and will process all requests for accommodation consistent with policies and applicable law.
- The Charter School must maintain confidentiality of test results, other than reporting the results to local public health officials. All medical information about any employee must be stored separately from the employee's personnel file in order to limit access to this confidential information. The Charter School should have a separate confidential medical file for each employee where the Charter School can store all of that employee's medical information. Medical information includes COVID-19 test results, an employee's statement via any symptom screening that they have symptoms or COVID-19, medical certifications showing the employee needs time off due to COVID-19, etc. For students, the Charter School will take similar precautions to safeguard the students' privacy and confidentiality, consistent with FERPA and all relevant legal requirements.
- Visitors to the Charter School campus are highly encouraged to undergo COVID-19 testing prior to entering the Charter School campus.
- In the event of a positive test result of a student or family member:
 - The Charter School requires that parents/guardians notify school administration immediately if the student tested positive for COVID-19 or if one of their household members or non-household close contacts tested positive for COVID-19.
 - Upon receiving notification that staff or a student has tested positive for COVID-19 or been in close contact with a COVID-19 case, the Charter School will take the actions detailed in the Exposure Management Policy section below.
- Vendors
 - All vendors' employees who regularly enter the Charter School Campus must comply with this entire Policy, including any and all COVID-19 testing and screening requirements.
 - For the purposes of this Policy, vendors include but are not limited to the Charter School's contracted partners who provide limited and specialized services on Charter School campuses.
 - Consistent with this Policy, any vendor's employee who either refuses to test for COVID-19 or refuses to provide COVID-19 testing results will be excluded from the Charter School campus, to protect the health and safety of all Charter School students, employees, and the community. Similarly, any vendor's employee who screens or tests positive for COVID-19 prior to campus entry must follow all protocol in this Policy, including but not limited to temporary campus exclusion, COVID-19 testing, and any other protocol required by public health guidance. Vendor's employees who test negative must still follow all protocol in this Policy, and consistent with public health guidance.

5. Exposure Management Policy. Preventing and minimizing the spread of COVID-19 within the Charter School community requires a sound policy for managing exposure to infected individuals. The Charter School will follow the exposure management provisions of the "COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2021-22 School Year" promulgated by the California Department of Public Health. In the event the protocol is updated so that it materially conflicts with the measures laid out in this Policy, the Charter School will follow the updated protocol; otherwise, the following measures shall be followed:

- Per AB 86 and California Code Title 17, section 2500, schools are required to report COVID-19 cases to the local public health department. The COVID-19 Compliance Officer shall report every positive COVID-19 case to the appropriate county authority.
- Potential Exposure: In the event of notice of potential exposure,⁴ with regards to its employees, the Charter School will follow all steps set forth in its Injury and Illness Prevention Program COVID-19 Addendum.
- In the event of a suspected COVID-19 case:

⁴ Notice of potential exposure means any of the following: (a) notification from a public health official or licensed medical provider that an employee was exposed to a qualifying individual at the worksite; (b) notification from an employee, or their emergency contact, that the employee is a qualifying individual; (c) notification through the Charter School's testing protocol that the employee is a qualifying individual; or (d) notification from a subcontracted employer that a qualifying

- The Charter School will identify isolation rooms and/or outdoor areas to separate anyone who exhibits COVID-19 symptoms.
- Any students or staff exhibiting symptoms should immediately be required to wear a surgical grade face covering (unless exempted from face-coverings) and wait in a separate isolation area until they can be transported home or to a healthcare facility, as soon as practicable. For serious illness, call 9-1-1 without delay.
- In the event of one or more confirmed COVID-19 case(s) the Charter School will follow the CDPH and local public health guidance, including implementation of the following practices:
 - The Charter School's COVID-19 Compliance Officer will instruct the student or staff member who tested positive to follow all current home isolation instructions provided by the California Department of Public Health or local public health department.
 - The Charter School's COVID-19 Compliance Officer will provide notifications to the local public health department of any known case of COVID-19 among any student or employee who was present on a Charter School campus within the 14 days preceding COVID-19 symptoms, or 10 days before a positive test result.
 - The notification to the local public health department must include:
 - 1) The full name, address, telephone number, and date of birth of the individual who tested positive;
 - 2) The date the individual tested positive, the school(s) at which the individual was present on-site within the 10 days preceding the positive test, and the date the individual was last on-site at any relevant school(s); and
 - 3) The full name, address, and telephone number of the person making the report.
 - The Charter School will notify all staff and families in the school community of any positive COVID-19 case while maintaining confidentiality as required by state and federal laws.
 - The Charter School will close off areas used by any sick person and not use them before cleaning and disinfection.
 - The Charter School will investigate the COVID-19 illness and exposures and determine if any work-related factors could have contributed to risk of infection.
 - Update protocols as needed to prevent further cases in accordance with CDPH Guidelines ("Responding to COVID-19 in the Workplace").
 - The Charter School will implement communication plans for exposure at school and potential school closures in the event of an outbreak or other necessary circumstances, to include outreach to students, parents, teachers, staff, and the community.
 - The Charter School will provide information to staff regarding labor laws, California Supplemental Paid Sick Leave, emergency paid sick leave and extended family and medical leave pursuant to the FFCRA, information regarding Disability Insurance, Paid Family Leave and Unemployment Insurance, as applicable to schools.
 - The Charter School will maintain regular communications with the local public health department. Recommend testing for all students and employees in close contact with the confirmed COVID-19 case, consistent with recommendations from the CDPH and local public health departments.
 - If the school site must be closed for in-person instruction, develop a contingency plan for continuity of education using independent study. Independent study shall include all of the following:
 - Confirmation or provision of access for all students to connectivity and devices adequate to participate in the educational program and complete assigned work;
 - Content aligned to grade-level standards that is provided at a level of quality and intellectual challenge substantially equivalent to in-person instruction;
 - Academic and other supports designed to address the needs of students who are not performing at grade level, or need support in other areas, such as English learners, students with exceptional needs, students in foster care or experiencing homelessness, and students requiring mental health supports;
 - Special education, related services, and any other services required by a student's individualized education program, with accommodations necessary to ensure that

individual was on the school site. (Labor Code § 6409.6, subd. (d)(3).)

individualized education program can be executed in an independent study learning environment;

- Designated and integrated instruction in English language development for English learners, including assessment of English language proficiency, support to access curriculum, the ability to reclassify as fully English proficient, and, as applicable, support for dual language learning;
- Providing synchronous instruction as required by law.
 - “Synchronous instruction” means classroom-style instruction or designated small group or one-on-one instruction delivered in person, or in the form of internet or telephonic communications, and involving live two-way communication between the teacher and pupil. Synchronous instruction shall be provided by the teacher of record for that pupil pursuant to Section 51747.5.
 - For TK/K-3 opportunities must occur daily.
 - For 4-8 opportunities must occur weekly along with daily live interaction.
 - For 9-12 opportunities must occur weekly.
 - Can be classroom style, designated small group, or one-on-one.
 - The “teacher of record for that pupil” pursuant to Section 51747.5 is the assigned supervising teacher who must be an employee. There is not more than one supervising teacher.
- Documenting each pupil’s participation in synchronous instruction.
- Continuing to provide school meals.
 - The Charter School will provide guidance to parents, teachers and staff reminding them of the importance of community physical distancing measures while a school is closed, including discouraging students or staff from gathering elsewhere.
 - If the COVID-19 case was present on the Charter School campus, the individual must be excluded from campus for at least 10 days from COVID-19 symptom onset, or if asymptomatic, 10 days from the date the specimen was collected for the positive COVID-19 test.
- In the event of a cluster (three or more cases within 14 days), the Charter School will contact local county public health officials, as necessary, and work closely with such officials to determine whether the cluster is an outbreak, requiring outbreak response.
- In the event of an outbreak or cluster at a Charter School:
 - The COVID-19 COVID-19 Compliance Officer will work closely with local county public health officials, timely provide all required information, and otherwise comply with all CDPH and local guidance regarding outbreaks.
 - The Charter School will notify students, families, employees, and stakeholders that the Charter School and local public health department are investigating a cluster and/or outbreak. The notice will encourage all stakeholders to follow public health recommendations.
 - The Charter School will additionally notify all stakeholders if the school is to be closed for 14 days due to widespread and/or ongoing transmission of COVID-19 at the school or in the general community.
 - The Charter School will identify absenteeism among those in affected classes and coordinate with the local health department to contact these absentees to screen for symptoms of COVID-19 if they were exposed to a case during the case’s infectious period.
 - The Charter School will limit visitors to the affected Charter School campus, except for those that are essential to the Charter School’s mission. Law Enforcement Personnel (Sheriff and Police), Fire, Medical, Emergency, or government employees who are responding to, working at, or inspecting the facility will be allowed to access the Charter School campus.
 - The Charter School will discontinue all non-essential in-person group activities at the Charter School Campus during the outbreak.
- Close Contacts and Quarantine
 - A “Close Contact” means spending more than fifteen minutes over a 24 hour period within 6 feet of an infected person or, in Los Angeles County, having had unprotected contact with the infected person’s body fluids and/or secretions of a person with confirmed COVID-19 (e.g., being coughed or sneezed on, sharing utensils or saliva, or providing care without using appropriate protective equipment).

- “Fully vaccinated” refers to those who have received either a single dose vaccine or the second dose of a two-dose vaccine over two weeks ago.
- *Quarantine rules for fully vaccinated students.* Fully vaccinated students who come into close contact indoors with an individual who tests positive for COVID-19 may continue to attend school and do not need to quarantine so long as the student does not display symptoms of COVID-19. It is still recommended that these students get tested.
- *Quarantine rules for unvaccinated students.*
 - Unvaccinated students who come into close contact indoors with an individual who tests positive for COVID-19 while both parties were wearing masks, may continue to attend school during a modified 10-day quarantine, so long as they i) do not show symptoms of COVID-19, ii) continue to appropriately mask, iii) undergo at least twice weekly testing during the ten day quarantine, and iv) continue to quarantine from all extracurricular activities including sports and activities within the community setting.
 - Unvaccinated students who come into close contact indoors with an individual who tests positive for COVID-19 while either the student or infected individual was not wearing a mask, must quarantine away from school until i) ten days following the date of last exposure, or ii) seven days after the date of last exposure if a COVID-19 test performed after the fifth day is negative. This applies only if the student i) remains asymptomatic, ii) continues daily self-monitoring for symptoms for 14 days from exposure, and iii) continues wearing a mask, avoiding crowds, and washing hands for 14 days from exposure.
 - If any symptoms develop during the 14-day period after exposure, the exposed person must immediately isolate, get tested and contact their healthcare provider with any questions regarding their care.
- For individuals who test positive for COVID-19:
 - Checking for false positives:
 - If an individual (student or staff) receives a positive test result, the COVID-19 Compliance Officer will contact the individual to conduct an interview and confirm whether he or she has symptoms consistent with COVID-19.
 - All students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 and are determined to be asymptomatic will be strongly encouraged to re-test within 48 hours of the initial positive sample collection.
 - If the confirmatory test is negative the COVID-19 Compliance Officer will alert the local public health department to the false positive and will release the individual from isolation and will alert all close contacts that they may cease quarantining.
 - If the confirmatory test is positive, the individual shall continue to isolate and all close contacts shall continue to quarantine.
 - Persons with COVID-19 who have symptoms may discontinue [self-isolation](#) under the following conditions:
 - At least 10 days have passed since symptom onset; AND
 - At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; AND
 - Other symptoms have improved
 - Persons with COVID-19 who are **asymptomatic** may discontinue isolation under the following conditions:
 - At least 10 days have passed since the date of the first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test. If they develop symptoms, then the strategies for discontinuing isolation for symptomatic persons (see above) should be used.
 - The Charter School will comply with Cal/OSHA regulations regarding when employees may return to work after exposure.
 - Employees who have tested positive for COVID-19 or have close contact exposure, and are not symptomatic, may return to work once 10 days have passed since the last known close contact.
 - Employees who have tested positive for COVID-19 or have close contact exposure, and are symptomatic, may not return to work until:

- At least 24 hours have passed since a fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher has resolved without the use of fever-reducing medications; and
- COVID-19 symptoms have improved; and
- At least 10 days have passed since COVID-19 symptoms first appeared.

Subsequent School Closure Criteria:

- Charter School campuses that are open for in-person instruction may subsequently and temporarily close for in-person instruction as determined by and in consultation with the local health department
- After closure, the Charter School may reopen after 14 days, cleaning, disinfection, conclusion of a public health investigation, and local health department consultation.

6. Sanitizing/hygiene materials and practices:

- The Charter School will develop plans and routines to ensure that students and staff wash or sanitize hands frequently, including upon arrival to campus, after using the restroom, after playing outside and returning to the classroom, before and after eating, and after coughing or sneezing.
- Staff will teach and reinforce proper handwashing technique, avoiding contact with one's eyes, nose, and mouth, using a tissue to wipe the nose, and covering coughs and sneezes.
- The Charter School shall make soap, tissues, no-touch trashcans, face coverings, water and paper towels or dryers for hand washing available. Students and staff should wash their hands for 20 seconds with soap, rubbing thoroughly after application. Soap products marketed as "antimicrobial" are not necessary or recommended.
- If handwashing stations near classrooms are not practicable, and to facilitate use by students and staff as needed, the Charter School shall make available fragrance-free alcohol-based hand sanitizer that is at least sixty percent (60%) ethyl alcohol. (Note: frequent handwashing is more effective than the use of hand sanitizers). This hand sanitizer will be made available to both students and staff at all strategic locations throughout the Charter School Campus.
- The Charter School will not use hand sanitizer with isopropyl alcohol as the main ingredient.
- Children under age 9 should only use hand sanitizer under adult supervision. Call Poison Control if consumed: 1-800-222-1222.
- Children under age 9 should only use hand sanitizer under adult supervision. Hand sanitizer will also not be left out in the open in classrooms for students under the age of 9.
- The Charter School shall place posters conspicuously that encourage hand hygiene to help stop the spread of COVID-19.
- Employees should visit the CDC's coughing and sneezing etiquette and clean hands webpage for more information.

7. Routine cleaning and disinfecting: The Charter School will maintain a high level of cleanliness throughout the year to help reduce the risk of exposure to and spread of COVID-19 at the school site. In general, cleaning once a day is usually enough to sufficiently remove potential virus that may be on surfaces. Disinfecting (using disinfectants on the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency COVID-19](#) list) removes any remaining germs on surfaces, which further reduces any risk of spreading infection.

- Custodial staff will perform routine and thorough cleaning once per day, and when students are not present. When cleaning, the space will be aired out before children arrive.
- Routine cleaning practices include, but are not limited to:
 - Using everyday janitorial cleaning supplies and disinfectants for surfaces as floors, tables, desks, counters, sinks, toilets, and other hard-surfaced furniture and equipment;
 - Dusting hard surfaces;
 - Damp wiping of hard surfaces to ensure they are free of debris;
 - Wet mopping of floors;
 - Vacuuming carpets and mats.
- The Charter School will clean and disinfect areas commonly visited by staff no less than once per day during operating hours and implement a schedule for such cleaning and disinfecting. These areas include, but are not limited to: Break rooms, restrooms, lobbies, classrooms, laboratories, nurse's office, counseling and student support areas, staff offices, and cafeterias.
- The Charter School will clean high touch areas in staff breakrooms at least once per day.

- Cleaning and Disinfection after a Confirmed Case on Campus:
 - If an individual confirmed to have COVID-19 was on campus, the Charter School will complete enhanced cleaning and disinfection procedures in the spaces occupied by the confirmed COVID-19 case.
 - Employees completing this cleaning must wear a mask and gloves at all times and will refer to Material Safety Data Sheets or follow the instructions on the chemical labels.
 - When disinfecting, the Charter School will use an EPA-registered disinfectant that is approved for emerging pathogens.
 - Custodians will focus on immediate areas occupied by the confirmed COVID-19 case.
 - Custodians will clean and disinfect:
 - All non-porous surfaces in the ill occupant's space/office, as well as on shared equipment (like tablets, touch screens, keyboards, remote controls) in bathrooms and shared spaces used by the ill person. Cleaning and disinfection will also focus on high-touch surfaces (e.g. desk, table, hard backed chair, doorknob, light switch, handle, computer, keyboard, mouse, telephones).
 - On porous surfaces (e.g., carpets, chairs) in the confirmed COVID-19 case's space or office, custodians will remove visible contamination, clean with appropriate cleaners, and disinfect with a liquid/spray indicated for use on the material.
 - The space(s) where the confirmed COVID-19 case was present may be reoccupied once these cleaning and disinfection procedures have been completed.
- The Charter School will ensure proper ventilation during all cleaning and disinfecting. Staff are encouraged to introduce fresh outdoor air as much as possible, by opening windows where practicable.
- The Charter School will comply with [CDPH Guidance on Ventilation of Indoor Environments and Ventilation and Filtration to Reduce Long-Range Airborne Transmission of COVID-19 and Other Respiratory Infections: Considerations for Reopened Schools](#) to the greatest extent practicable for each facility.
- All frequently touched surfaces in the workplace, such as chairs, desks, tables, keyboards, telephones, handrails, light switches, sink handles, restroom surfaces and door handles, will be routinely cleaned.
- Students and employees are discouraged from sharing desks, computers, books, phones, pens, art supplies, or other work tools and equipment, including playground equipment, when possible.
- Staff will be trained as appropriate in the chemical hazards, manufacturer's directions, and Cal/OSHA requirements for safe and correct application of cleaning and disinfectant agents in accordance with the Healthy Schools Act guidance from the California Department of Pesticide Regulation and Cal/OSHA.
- When choosing disinfecting products, the Charter School will use those approved for use against COVID-19 on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)- approved list "N" and require staff to follow product instructions.
 - To reduce the risk of asthma and other health effects related to disinfecting, the Charter School will select disinfectant products on list N with asthma-safer ingredients (hydrogen peroxide, citric acid or lactic acid) as recommended by the US EPA Design for Environment program.
 - The Charter School will avoid products that contain peroxyacetic (peracetic) acid, sodium hypochlorite (bleach) or quaternary ammonium compounds, which can cause asthma.
 - Staff shall follow label directions for appropriate dilution rates and contact times.
 - The Charter School will establish a cleaning and disinfecting schedule in order to avoid both under- and over-use of cleaning products.
- Subject to available resources, disposable disinfecting wipes shall be made available so that employees can wipe down commonly used surfaces (e.g., doorknobs, keyboards, remote controls, desks, other work tools and equipment) before each use. Disinfectant wipes and sprays will be kept away from students.

8. Facility measures: Where feasible, the Charter School will incorporate CDE guidance for maintaining a healthy facility, to include some or all of the following:

- Maintenance staff will ensure that ventilation systems and fans operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible by opening windows and doors and other methods.
- Windows and doors should not be opened if doing so poses a safety or health risk by exacerbating seasonal allergies or asthma symptoms.

- The Charter School will consider alternatives, such as increased central air filtration (targeted filter rating of at least MERV 13) if opening windows poses a safety or health risk to persons using the facility.
- Maintenance staff will ensure that all water systems and features (e.g., drinking fountains) are safe to use after a prolonged facility shutdown to minimize the risk of Legionnaires' disease and other diseases associated with water.
- Consider installing additional temporary handwashing stations at all school entrances and near classrooms to minimize movement and congregation in bathrooms.
- Consider installing privacy boards or clear screens to increase and enforce separation between staff and students.

9. Physical distancing: The Charter School will incorporate CDPH and CDE guidance with respect to physical distancing between students on campus as much as is feasible, including maximizing physical distance as much as possible while eating (especially indoors), using additional spaces outside of the cafeteria for mealtime seating such as classrooms or the gymnasium can help facilitate distancing, and arrange for eating outdoors as much as feasible. If physical distancing requirements change pursuant to updated orders or guidance from public health officials, the Charter School will follow the public health guidance.

10. Use of Face Coverings: The Charter School will follow CDPH, CDE, and CDC guidance and state and local health orders on the use of face coverings. All staff are encouraged to review the CDPH and CDC guidance on cloth face coverings; face coverings must be used in accordance with CDPH Guidance and this Policy unless a person is subject to exemption. If public health guidance and order change from what is prescribed below, the Charter School shall follow the public health guidance.

- All students must wear a cloth face mask when indoors at any Charter School building, vehicle, or other enclosed space, unless exempted from doing so pursuant to the accommodation procedures laid out in this Policy.
- All adults in K-12 school setting, including all teachers, staff, parents, visitors, and outside workers, must wear a cloth mask when in any indoor space shared with students or other staff.
- Face masks are required without regard to vaccination status.
- Face masks are optional when outside.
- Proper use of cloth face coverings will be strictly enforced. The Charter School will exclude from campus anyone who refuses to wear a face mask if not exempted pursuant to this Policy. Students excluded from campus for refusing to wear a mask without a valid exemption will be provided alternative educational opportunities to the greatest extent possible.
- Face masks and face shields may be removed for meals, snacks, naptime, showers, or outdoor recreation, or when needing to be replaced. When any type of face covering is temporarily removed, it should be placed in a clean paper bag (marked with the student's name and date) until it needs to be put on again.
- The Charter School will provide face coverings for students and staff who lose their face coverings or forget to bring them to school.
- Employees are expected to teach and reinforce proper use of face coverings, and in limited circumstances, face shields.
- The Charter School will post signs regarding the need for, proper use, removal, and washing of face coverings and shall educate students, particularly younger elementary school students, on the rationale and proper use of face coverings.
- When pedagogically necessary, Teachers may use clear plastic face shields with an appropriate seal (cloth covering extending from the bottom edge of the shield and tucked into the shirt collar) in certain limited situations in the classroom to enable students to see their faces and avoid potential barriers to phonological instruction as long as the wearer maintains physical distance from others to the extent practicable. Staff must return to wearing a face covering outside of the classroom, unless otherwise exempted.
- The Charter School will evaluate any student or employee's request for accommodation from the Charter School's facial covering policy/requirement pursuant to the Charter School's Employee Handbook and applicable law for all lawfully recognized accommodations. Students or employees requesting an accommodation from the facial covering policy/requirement must provide appropriate documentation and contact human resources.
- Accommodations for students:

- Pursuant to CDPH Guidance on the use of face masks, individuals with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a mask are to be accommodated with an exemption from mask wearing. This includes those who are hearing impaired as well as those who communicate with the hearing impaired.
- If a student cannot wear a mask due to a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability, he or she should wear the next most effective alternative that can be tolerated, such as a transparent face shield with a cloth draping sealing the bottom.
- Parents/guardians who believe their student may need an accommodation from the Charter School's facial covering policy and requirement should contact the Charter School principal.
- Upon receipt of appropriate documentation, the Charter School will evaluate requests for accommodation and determine what, if any accommodations the Charter School can provide.
- For special education/504 students:
 - Appropriate determinations will be made during IEP team meetings.
 - When considering potential accommodations, SPED/504 teams will use the following criteria:
 - 1) Does the student have a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a face covering. This includes persons with a medical condition for whom wearing a face covering could obstruct breathing or who are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance and
 - 2) When deciding if students with certain disabilities should wear a mask, determine if they can:
 - Use a mask correctly,
 - Avoid frequent touching of the mask and their face,
 - Limit sucking, drooling, and excess saliva on the mask, and
 - Remove the mask without assistance.
- Students exempted from wearing a mask or face shield are strongly encouraged to be vaccinated against COVID-19. If a student is exempt from wearing any type of face covering and is not vaccinated, the Charter School shall implement physical distancing and other isolation measures to the greatest degree feasible.

11. Use of Gloves and Personal Protective Equipment: The Charter School is no longer required by emergency public health orders to require the use of gloves and personal protective equipment. Any employee or student who wishes to wear gloves and/or personal protective equipment beyond the required facial coverings may do so, provided that they dispose of them safely and appropriately and do not wear gloves or personal protective equipment of a type or in a manner that interferes with their ability to perform their duties. Upon request, the Charter School will provide gloves and a medical grade mask to any employee dealing with sick children or providing instruction to any students with a face mask exemption.

12. Support for Students at Increased Risk of Becoming Infected or Unrecognized Illness. Pursuant to state and local health guidance, the Charter School has developed the following measures to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 to vulnerable student groups:

- The COVID-19 Compliance Officer will review student health plans, including 504 Plans, to identify students who may need additional accommodations to minimize potential exposure.
- The COVID-19 Compliance Officer or designee will develop a process for engaging families for potentially unknown concerns that may need to be accommodated.
- The Charter School will identify additional preparations for classroom and non-classroom environments as needed to ensure the safety of students at increased risk of becoming infected or having unrecognized illness. Persons who might be at increased risk of becoming infected or having unrecognized illness include the following:
 - Individuals who have limited mobility or require prolonged and close contact with others, such as direct support providers and family members;
 - Individuals who have trouble understanding information or practicing preventive measures, such as hand washing and physical distancing; and
 - Individuals who may not be able to communicate symptoms of illness.

- The Charter School is prepared for opening to provide Free Access to Public Education (“FAPE”) in the least restrictive environment (“LRE”) for each student. All students with disabilities will receive services according to their IEP. In accordance with IDEA, it is critical to reinforce the understanding that students receiving special education services, or 504 accommodations are general education students first. Balancing the educational needs with the health and well-being of students and staff is our top priority.
- Every child and adolescent with a disability is entitled to FAPE and is entitled to special education services based on their individualized education program (IEP). The Charter School continuously review and problem solve to balance safety and service needs. In order to provide the required level of safety, systems, processes and service delivery models have been reviewed. Adherence to social distancing guidelines will be followed as feasible except for instances when the services outlined in a specific IEP call for closer proximity. This will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. For example, additional provision of PPE supplies to staff (gloves, gowns, face shields and Plexiglas dividers) who are required to deliver hand-over-hand instruction or hygiene service needs for students.
- Evaluations and Timelines:
 - All IDEA/ADA compliance timelines will be followed on schedule and in accordance with IDEA/ADA regulations. IEP Team meetings and 504 meetings that were missed due to the March school facility closures will be rescheduled and conducted as soon as possible, if not already conducted. All IEP team meetings and 504 meetings will be conducted virtually until the use of school facilities return to normal operations.
- Services:
 - The IDEA allows for flexibility in determining how to meet the individualized needs of students receiving special education services. State guidelines for the delivery of special education and related services will be implemented while protecting the health and safety of students as well as the individuals providing the services.
 - If a student is unable to access their education in person due to medical or other circumstances, including the inability to wear a face covering, alternative means of delivering these services will be provided.
 - The Charter School will provide appropriate protective equipment relative to the responsibilities of all Support Service Staff and disability needs.
 - All Staff and students will receive training on the appropriate use of PPE and healthy hygiene practices that are proven to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.
- The Charter School will identify additional preparations for classroom and non-classroom environments as needed to ensure the safety of students at increased risk of becoming infected or having unrecognized illness. Persons who might be at increased risk of becoming infected or having unrecognized illness include the following:
 - Individuals who have limited mobility or require prolonged and close contact with others, such as direct support providers and family members;
 - Individuals who have trouble understanding information or practicing preventive measures, such as hand washing and physical distancing; and
 - Individuals who may not be able to communicate symptoms of illness.

13. COVID-19 Vaccination Policy. The Charter School has adopted the following COVID-19 employee vaccination policy (“Vaccination Policy”). The purpose of this Vaccination Policy is to protect the health, safety, and well-being of all Charter School employees, students, families, and stakeholders to the maximum extent possible, and to facilitate a safe and meaningful return to in-person instruction. The Charter School drafted this policy in compliance with all applicable federal and state laws, including guidance from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (“EEOC”), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”), the California Department of Public Health (“CDPH”), and local health authorities. If public health orders and guidance are updated so as to materially conflict with the measures provided below, the Charter School will follow the updated guidance and not this policy, to the extent contradicted.

- Pursuant to the order of the California Department of Public Health, The Charter School requires all employees to receive a COVID-19 vaccination or to undergo weekly testing for COVID-19.
- Employees who choose to get vaccinated should do so outside of working hours. Employees who demonstrate they are unable to get vaccinated outside working hours may use either COVID-19 Supplemental Paid Sick Leave or accrued sick leave for time spent attending a COVID-19 vaccination

appointment. In such cases, employees must consult with their supervisors regarding the best time to be excused to receive the vaccine and are responsible for arranging coverage during their absence to get vaccinated, if applicable.

- Employees who wish to forego weekly COVID-19 testing must provide the Charter School with proof of vaccination that satisfies the California Department of Public Health's "Guidance for Vaccine Records Guidelines & Standards," which specifies that only the following may be used as proof of vaccination:
 - COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card (issued by the Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control & Prevention or WHO Yellow Card) which includes name of person vaccinated, type of vaccine provided and date last dose administered); OR
 - a photo of a Vaccination Record Card as a separate document; OR
 - a photo of the client's Vaccination Record Card stored on a phone or electronic device; OR
 - documentation of COVID-19 vaccination from a health care provider; OR
 - digital record that includes a QR code that when scanned by a SMART Health Card reader displays to the reader client name, date of birth, vaccine dates and vaccine type; OR
 - documentation of vaccination from other contracted employers who follow these vaccination records guidelines and standards.
- The Charter School will establish a method for tracking verification of employee vaccination status. Records of vaccination status will be made available upon request to the local health jurisdiction for purposes of case investigation.
- Employees who do not have a record of full vaccination on file with the Charter School will be required to undergo weekly using a PCR or antigen test that has Emergency Use Authorization by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration or is operating per the Laboratory Developed Test requirements by the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.
- Unvaccinated employees are not exempted from the testing requirement even if they have a medical contraindication to vaccination. Previous history of and recovery from COVID-19 does not exempt employees from weekly testing.
- The Charter School will establish a method for tracking weekly diagnostic testing results and will report any positive results to local public health departments.
- Employees who experience symptoms related to a COVID-19 vaccine that prevent the employee from being able to work or telework may be entitled to COVID-19 Supplemental Paid Sick Leave.
- The Charter School will not discriminate, harass, or retaliate against any employee for receiving the COVID-19 vaccine or for electing not to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.
- Employee with any questions regarding the Charter School's Vaccination Policy may contact Human Resources Department at HR@cottonwoodk12.org.

14. Communications to the Charter School Community: The Charter School will keep families, staff, and the community informed, engaged, and in touch as the new school year begins, by implementing the following communications measures:

- The Charter School will engage with families and staff to develop strategies to prepare and respond to the COVID-19 emergency, including guidelines for families about when to keep students home from school and other topics.
- Communications will include a process for engaging families for potentially unknown concerns that may need to be accommodated.
- Prior to the start of the school year, the Charter School will communicate to staff, students, and parents about new, COVID-19-related protocols, including:
 - Proper use, removal and washing of face coverings.
 - How COVID-19 is spread.
 - COVID-19 specific symptom identification.
 - Preventing the spread of COVID-19 if you are sick, including the importance of not coming to work if staff members have symptoms, or if they or someone they live with has been diagnosed with COVID-19, including pertinent isolation and quarantine policies.
 - Local community testing sites and options for obtaining COVID-19 testing from private medical providers, including any testing arranged by the Charter School.
 - Guidelines for employees regarding COVID-19 specific symptom identification and when to seek medical attention.

- Guidelines for families about when to keep students home from school.
- Systems for self-reporting symptoms.
- Criteria and plan to close schools again for physical attendance of students.
- Changes in Charter School extracurricular, academic, and meal programs to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- Contact information at the Charter School for students who may have been exposed to COVID-19.
- Charter School contact information if a student has COVID-19 symptoms or may have been exposed to COVID-19.
- The Charter School will provide information to parents and guardians regarding this Policy and related guidance, along with the safety measures that will be in place in indoor and outdoor settings with which parents and guardians must comply.
- This Policy will be posted at all public entrances to the Charter School campus.
- The Charter School will develop a communications plan for implementation if the school has a positive COVID-19 case in accordance with CDPH and CDE guidelines.

The Executive Director is authorized to implement changes or additions to this policy in order to ensure compliance or consistency with new or revised orders or guidance from local, county, state or federal authorities (“Agencies”), to take any and all actions consistent with orders and guidance from the Agencies that is not specifically addressed by this policy, and to ensure compliance with the Charter School’s charter petition. The Executive Director shall provide the Board with regular updates as to actions taken pursuant to this section.
