



Arizona School for the Arts

COVID-19 School Mitigation Plan

Revised September 26, 2022

In connection with offering in-person instruction and in an effort to minimize risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic in the school environment, Arizona School for the Arts (the “School”) has adopted this mitigation plan (“Plan”), following consideration of K-12 school mitigation strategies and recommendations as outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”), the Arizona Department of Health Services, and the Maricopa County Department of Public Health.¹ This Plan may be revised by the School administration as necessary to reflect the most current public health standards and community COVID-19 spread information, without the need for Governing Board approval of the revised Plan.

Introduction

The mitigation measures contained within this Plan recognize that it is impossible to completely eliminate risks that COVID-19 – or any other communicable disease – will be transmitted within the school environment. As such, this Plan does not guarantee against potential transmission of COVID-19 in the School. Rather, it reflects the School’s continued commitment to, and reasonable efforts aimed at, maintaining a safe and healthy educational environment, despite risks acknowledged by the CDC and other health experts.

The School will determine which of the strategies set forth below are appropriate and will be implemented when the School is operating in a traditional model (students on-campus physically), a hybrid model (some students on-campus physically and others distance learning), and a virtual model, as may be required or allowed by law or regulatory order. Because community spread levels will change and intermittent emergency school closures are possible, the appropriate strategies will also change from time-to-time during the school year.

The School also recognizes that A.R.S. § 15-342.05, which is effective as of September 29, 2021, establishes prohibitions on certain face mask and vaccination policies and requirements. The School’s Plan will comply with the statutory requirements.

Designated COVID-19 Point of Contact

The School’s designated point of contact for COVID-19 related concerns, including reporting positive test results or COVID-19 symptoms, is:

Jenny Kelly; attendance@goasa.org; (602) 257-1444 x1125

¹ The CDC guidance is currently found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>. The Maricopa County Department of Public Health guidance is current found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/contact-tracing/contact-tracing-plan/appendix.html#contact>.

Proactive Mitigation Strategies

As applicable, and except as otherwise directed by or after consultation with local health officials, the School will implement the following proactive mitigation strategies in attempting to minimize the spread of COVID-19:

- A. *Staying Home when Appropriate.* The School will encourage or require employees and students to stay home when they: (a) feel sick, (b) have tested positive for COVID-19 or are showing COVID-19 symptoms, or (c) have recently had “close contact”^{*} with a person with COVID-19, including any household member. Students or staff members who become sick at school or are identified as having had close contact with a person with COVID-19 will be promptly isolated from other students and sent home as soon as possible. The School will encourage students/families to notify School’s designated COVID-19 Point of Contact if the student or a household member has COVID-19 symptoms. Staff members must notify the School’s designated COVID-19 Point of Contact if they or a household member have COVID-19 symptoms. The School will also instruct employees to watch for signs of possible student illness during the school day.

^{*}The CDC has modified the definition of “close contact” to exclude students who are within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student, if the students were consistently and correctly wearing well-fitting face masks.² Isolation and quarantine requirements are discussed in more detail below.

- B. *Hand Hygiene.* The School will encourage and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or as appropriate, use of hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol after bathroom use, before and after recess, and at other appropriate times during the day. The School will support healthy hygiene behaviors by providing adequate supplies, including soap and hand sanitizer.
- C. *Respiratory Etiquette.* The School will encourage staff and students to cover coughs and sneezes and follow hand-hygiene protocols immediately thereafter.
- D. *Face Coverings.* The School has adopted an optional face covering policy for students and employees while on-campus, indoors, and during school hours, and the policy complies with A.R.S. § 15-342.05. Exceptions are outlined in the policy.
- E. *Cleaning and Disinfection.* The School will clean frequently touched surfaces (e.g., playground equipment, door handles, sink handles, drinking fountains) at least daily. The School will follow cleaning and disinfection best practices and procedures, to the extent possible.
- F. *Ventilation.* The School will ensure that building ventilation systems operate properly, to ensure circulation of outdoor air as much as possible. Activities, including lunches, may take place outdoors, if possible.
- G. *Social Distancing.* The School will encourage staff and students to maintain social distancing (at least three to six feet apart), when feasible, and will endeavor to employ other separation measures when maintaining six feet of distance is not feasible. Such efforts may include modified room layouts (e.g., spacing of desks; facing desk in same direction), physical barriers/guides (e.g., partitions in bathrooms, closing every other stall/sink, placing floor markings for social distancing), closing or staggering use of communal spaces (e.g., limiting use of, or as appropriate, closing access to playground equipment), and/or adjustments to bus seating and loading procedures, if applicable.

² The exception is discussed at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/contact-tracing/contact-tracing-plan/appendix.html#contact>.

- H. *Absenteeism*. The School will monitor absenteeism patterns among both students and staff and will identify and plan for alternative coverage with respect to critical job functions and positions. The School may alert local health officials about large increases in student and staff absenteeism, particularly if absences appear to be due to respiratory illnesses.
- I. *Food Service*. The School will minimize transmission risk in food service by taking steps such as: encouraging students to bring their own meals as feasible; serving pre-packaged meals (rather than buffet style); and using disposable food service items (e.g., utensils, dishes). If the traditional space in which lunch takes place cannot be modified to account for social distancing for all students, some or all students may be required to eat in other locations or at staggered lunch times.
- J. *Visitors*. The School will limit nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations as possible – especially with individuals who are not from the local geographic area (e.g., community, town, city, county). At certain times, parents may not be allowed to volunteer in classrooms or allowed on campus except for the front office. All visitors will have the option to wear face masks, as outlined in the School face covering policy and allowed by A.R.S. § 15-342.05.
- K. *Gatherings and Meetings*. The School will endeavor to pursue virtual group events, gatherings, or meetings, if possible. Where in-person gatherings or meetings are held, the School will limit group size and will promote social distancing of at least 3 feet between people, as reasonably feasible. Parent-teacher conferences may be held remotely, depending on community health indicators at the time. Some gatherings and meetings may be held outdoors, if possible.
- L. *Field Trips and Assemblies*. The School will pursue virtual activities and events in lieu of field trips, student assemblies, special performances, school-wide meetings, and spirit nights, as possible and when circumstances require.
- M. *Co-Curricular and Extracurricular Activities*. The School will consider limiting or cancelling participation in co-curricular and extracurricular activities where social distancing is not feasible. The School may obtain the input of parents, students and interested employees prior to making decisions regarding the continuation of certain extracurricular activities.
- N. *Drop-Off and Pick-Up*. In addition to potential staggered pick-up and drop-off times, the School may implement additional requirements related to student drop-off and pick-up to alleviate any congestion during these times, including requiring parents to stay in their cars and creating specific locations for students to wait for pick-up at the end of the school day.

Reactive Mitigation Strategies

When a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, the School will communicate with and follow the guidance of local health officials in making decisions regarding appropriate reactive mitigation measures, including the extent to which School operations should be temporarily restricted or closed, in whole or in part, and if so, for how long.

- A. *School Notification of Positive Test*. The School will encourage staff and students/families to notify School's designated COVID-19 Point of Contact regarding any positive test result for COVID-19 with respect to any student, staff member or household member.

- B. *Coordination with Local Health Officials.* Upon learning of a positive COVID-19 test result in someone who has been in the School, the School will promptly seek guidance from local health officials to determine an appropriate course of action in light of the circumstances. Certain individuals may be required to isolate (those who have contracted COVID-19) or quarantine (those who have been in close contact with someone who has contracted COVID-19), as directed in consultation with local health officials or in compliance with their guidance.
- C. If an outbreak* of COVID-19 occurs at the School, the School will notify the local health department using any required or suggested notification method.
 - * An “outbreak” is defined by the CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/contact-tracing/contact-tracing-plan/appendix.html#contact>.
- D. *Communication with Staff, Parents, and Students.* Consistent with privacy requirements, including those of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (“FERPA”), and in consultation with local health officials, the School will provide notification to appropriate staff and parents regarding confirmed COVID-19 cases in the School.

Re-Entry Mitigation Strategies

When a student or staff member has been required to stay home from school: (a) following a positive test for COVID-19; (b) after showing symptoms of COVID-19; or (c) after recent close contact with a person with COVID-19, the School will permit such individuals to return to School for in-person instruction upon compliance with CDC and local health official guidelines.

Compliance with Applicable Guidance

If any part of this Plan conflicts with applicable local, county, state law, regulation, or public health guidance, the School will comply with the applicable law, regulation, or public health guidance.