Welcome Back!
Return to School Guiding Principles
Health & Safety Strategy & Approach
Updated Health & Safety Guidelines
Vaccination Policy
Additional Resources
We are so excited to be back on campus in the new school year! Our plan for August is to start the year providing in-person instruction 5-days per week at every school and grade level, for every student. This plan aligns with the current state and public health guidelines for the fall.

Throughout the pandemic, we have been guided by data and best practices, grounded in health and safety, and responsive to the needs and perspectives of our school communities.

We believe that an in-person educational experience is best for students as long as it is safe to do so. We are following all guidelines in order to continue to provide a safe environment to maximize the benefits of being in person. We know everyone worked really hard last year during our hybrid time and are excited to solely focus our efforts on an in-person approach. Moving forward, we will not offer distance learning as we did this past school year.

In the rare case that your student is unable to attend school in-person due to personal health complications, please contact your school leader to discuss eligibility for an independent learning program for your child.

Our number one priority remains the safety of our students and team members in order to provide a joyful academic experience. We look forward to strengthening our connections, trust and community for your children. I know we will continue to learn and grow together. We cannot wait to see you all in August!
What are you most excited about coming back to school?

"Finally being with all of my friends again!"
- 4TH GRADE KIPPSSTER

"Playing during recess with my classmates"
- 5TH GRADE KIPPSTER

"Being in the classroom with my favorite teachers"
- 7TH GRADE KIPPSTER

"Going to a new school for the first time!"
- KINDER KIPPSSTER
The health and safety of our school community will always be our first priority. KIPP SoCal is committed to maintaining the highest standards of safety across all schools, adhering to even more restrictive policies than what is currently recommended by health officials.

**Guiding Principles**

- Prioritize the physical & emotional safety of our students, families, and team members through robust safety protocols in place across all of our campuses.

- Reflect and meet our schools’ & communities’ unique needs.

- Align with public health officials’ requirements, recommendations, and best practices based on the latest scientific research.

- Remain flexible enough to change in response to new conditions.
Multi-layered Strategy

KIPP SoCal has a layered strategy in place to protect our students, families, and team members. No single strategy is 100% effective on its own. However, when we combine multiple approaches, those strategies work together to maximize our overall level of protection against COVID-19.

We use the Swiss cheese metaphor to illustrate this concept. Each intervention strategy is a layer of Swiss cheese. On their own, each intervention layer has holes. However, collectively, these layers help us improve our success at minimizing the spread.

**Personal Responsibilities**

- Physical distance, stay home if sick
- Hand hygiene, cough etiquette
- If crowded, limit your time
- Avoid touching your face
- Mask

**Shared Responsibilities**

- Ventilation, outdoors, air filtration
- Quarantine and isolation
- Fast & sensitive testing & tracing
- Government messaging & financial support
- Vaccines
Multi-layered Approach

At KIPP SoCal, we have multiple layers of strategies in place for both students and team members. These strategies can be grouped into three categories - monitoring, prevention, and response - based on the role they play in preventing the spread of COVID-19 at our schools.

**MONITORING**
- Identifying & Isolating COVID-19 Cases Early
  - At-home and on-campus health and exposure screening.
  - COVID-19 screening testing.

**PREVENTION**
- Reducing Risk of On-Campus COVID-19 Transmission
  - Vaccines, Masks, Physical Distancing
  - Ventilation Improvements
  - Health Hygiene Practices
  - Routine Cleaning & Disinfection

**RESPONSE**
- Limiting Potential Impact of COVID-19 Cases
  - Stable Groups/Cohorts
  - Protocols for suspected and confirmed cases.
# Updated Health & Safety Guidelines

## HEALTH SCREENING
We'll continue to screen students, team members, & visitors for COVID-19 & known exposure to help us ensure that individuals stay home when they are feeling unwell & reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission. Based on scientific evidence, we will no longer require temperature checks upon arrival unless student, team member or visitor indicate they are feeling unwell.

## HEALTH & HYGIENE PRACTICES
We will continue to encourage hand washing thoroughly throughout the day and the use of touch-less hand sanitizer (dispensers in all classrooms & throughout buildings), when hand washing is not available.

## FACE COVERINGS
All individuals on KIPP SoCal campuses (indoors or outdoors) are required to wear a mask at all times.

Under conditions when masks can be removed, we require schools to maximize physical distance between unmasked individuals.

## PHYSICAL DISTANCE
Guidelines vary based on setting and whether or not other mitigation measures are in place. We will always maximize physical distance to the greatest extent possible. We emphasize physical distancing when masks cannot be worn, either indoors or outdoors (e.g. eating/drinking).

## DAILY CLEANING & DISINFECTION
Thorough daily and weekly cleaning of high touch surfaces, high touch and trafficked areas will continue at all schools.

## FACILITY MODIFICATIONS
- All schools ventilation systems have been upgraded to MERV-13 air filters.
- Plexiglass dividers will remain in place in front offices, and bathrooms.
- Touch-less fixtures, sanitization stations, and classroom supply kits are installed and present across all schools.

## PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT
- All school facilities will continue to have PPE and health & hygiene inventory on campus: soap, sanitizer, wipes, masks, gloves, and other critical items on hand.

## COVID-19 RESPONSE
All schools have in place clear systems and procedures to handle both suspected & confirmed cases, including contact tracing.
# Updated Health & Safety Protocols

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mask Protocols</th>
<th>Classrooms Capacity</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Team members &amp; students required to wear disposable, 3-ply medical mask at all times (both indoors &amp; outdoors). These disposable masks must be thrown away after each use.</td>
<td>Classrooms will be configured to maximize physical distance between students. Based on updated guidelines from public health officials, KIPP SoCal teachers can interact with multiple instructional stable groups/cohorts. Students can rotate classrooms, or teachers can rotate classrooms to support multiple cohorts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Masks should cover both mouth &amp; nose and fit snugly against your student’s face (no gaps).</td>
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<tr>
<td>- All students will be given a box of disposable masks, if a student arrives to school without face covering, or with one that does not fit properly, a disposable mask will be provided for use in school.</td>
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<th>Meals</th>
<th>Shared Materials</th>
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<td>KIPP SoCal schools will maximize the use of outdoor space and increase physical distance between students during meals because students cannot wear masks while eating or drinking. Schools are also staggering meal periods, utilizing multiple locations on campus, and continuing &quot;grab &amp; go&quot; style meal service in certain situations, including on school days with early dismissal.</td>
<td>Public health officials have revised their K-12 guidance to reflect clear evidence that COVID-19 is primarily transmitted via aerosols and respiratory droplets and not via surfaces. As a result, KIPP SoCal students can share most supplies and materials within their instructional stable group/cohort.</td>
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<th>Hallways &amp; Restrooms</th>
<th>Specials, Recess &amp; PE</th>
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<td>Students must wear masks and maximize physical distance during transitions and during restroom breaks. Schools should continue to designate paths of travel (ideally one-way) in order to avoid congregation, congestion, and intermingling of different instructional stable groups/cohorts.</td>
<td>During recess/outdoors, while no physical distancing is required, masks must be worn at all times.</td>
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<td>If masks are removed (e.g. eating/drinking, speech therapy, band or choir) either indoors or outdoors, schools will utilize outdoor space and maximize physical distance for any activities where students cannot wear a mask.</td>
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<th>Health Rooms</th>
<th>Visitor Policy</th>
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<td>Students who begin to show symptoms of COVID-19 during the school day will be separated from others immediately, will wait in a safe and welcoming “health room” until picked up; parent/guardian will be contacted for immediate pick up of the student.</td>
<td>Our in-person visitor policy will continue to be limited. Visitors must comply with all health &amp; safety protocols when on campus. Virtual visits will continue to be an option utilized for parent meetings with teachers and admin.</td>
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AT HOME HEALTH SCREENING

_Students & Team Members_

- Students and team members must self-monitor daily.
- Do not come to school if you have symptoms of COVID-19 or if you’ve had close contact with someone who has COVID-19 or has tested positive.
- If student has tested positive for COVID-19, has been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, or is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, parent/guardian/caretaker must report it immediately to the school office.

ON CAMPUS HEALTH SCREENING

_Students, Team Members & Visitors_

- All schools will conduct daily health screenings that will include:
  - Symptom & exposure questionnaire
  - Sign in/sign out procedures (for contact tracing)

COVID-19 SCREENING TESTING

_Students & Team Members_

- KIPP SoCal will continue to offer weekly screening testing, free of charge, to both students and team members.
- Vaccinated individuals (showing no symptoms) or individuals who have recovered from COVID-19 within the past 3 months (showing no symptoms) do not need to participate in COVID-19 screening testing.

COVID-19 SUSPECTED/CONFIRMED CASES

_Students & Team Members_

- If a student or team member tests positive for COVID-19, KIPP SoCal will notify all close contacts and advise on next steps, which could include follow-up COVID-19 testing and/or an at home quarantine for up to 10 days.
- Areas of the school that were used by the individual who tested positive for COVID-19 will be temporarily closed.
Vaccination is the leading public health strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Protects You: Vaccinated individuals are at significantly lower risk of symptomatic illness, severe infection, hospitalization, and death due to COVID-19.
- Protects Others: Including individuals in our communities who aren’t or can’t be vaccinated.
- Vaccinated individuals are less likely to develop an asymptomatic infection or transmit COVID-19.
- Vaccines also provide strong protection against emerging strains of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, including the Delta variant.

While we recognize and honor personal preferences and needs, we strongly encourage all eligible KIPP SoCal team members, students, families, and caregivers to get vaccinated.

- COVID-19 vaccines are FREE of charge for everyone, regardless of immigration status or healthcare coverage. To make a vaccine appointment or learn more about COVID-19 vaccines:
  - All Counties: Visit myturn.ca.gov or call 1-833-422-4255
  - Los Angeles County: Visit publichealth.lacounty.gov or call 1-833-540-0473
  - San Diego County: Visit sandiegocounty.gov or call 1-833-422-4255
Get vaccinated.
Protects you and others.

Keep your child home.
If they're sick or exposed.

Mask up!
Make sure your child wears a fitted mask daily.

Get tested.
Participate in regular COVID-19 testing.

Stay connected.
Parent Portal. Contact Info. kippsocal.org
Los Angeles County Department of Health Reopening Protocols for K-12 Schools
http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/docs/protocols/Reopening_K12Schools.pdf

California Safe Schools for All Hub:
https://schools.covid19.ca.gov/

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health COVID-19 Information:
http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/index.htm