



Exceptional Education for Dyslexic Children

**Athena Academy
Covid Safety Plan
August 2021**

Safe Return to School Plan 2021-2022

The health and safety of our students and our staff during this on-going COVID-19 pandemic remains our absolute top priority.

We had a very successful return to school in January 2021 and we are fully prepared to hold safe in person classes this new school year.

We know that the optimal educational environment for our students is one in which they are able to interact face to face with their teachers, and participate in learning and social interactions with their peers.

We recognise that this continues to be a time of elevated anxiety for many of our students, families, and staff members . Our plans have been made with the utmost consideration for both the physical and mental health of our community, and in regular consultation with our county health department.

Santa Clara's Public Health Department recommends layers of protections to reduce the spread of COVID which include vaccination, testing, masking, ventilation, quarantine, and limits on non-essential visitors. We have adopted all of these recommendations.

As the state of the pandemic evolves in Santa Clara county we will continue to be vigilant in maintaining communication with the health dept and keeping up with all new requirements and recommendations for the health and safety of our community. We will remain nimble and ready to modify our plan and procedures as required.

Donna Mburi, Interim Head of School

Athena Academy on site Safety Team: Joanne Mutch, Pam Crain and Donna Mburi



VACCINATION

The state urges schools to emphasize vaccination as a way to help reduce infection rates; we expect all eligible individuals to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

TESTING AND QUARANTINE

All staff and students, regardless of vaccination status, will have PCR tests weekly on Tuesdays on campus.

If a positive result is found in any of the pools further testing will be done to identify the positive individual(s).

If the in school testing appointment is missed, the individual will need to be tested elsewhere and provide a negative test result.

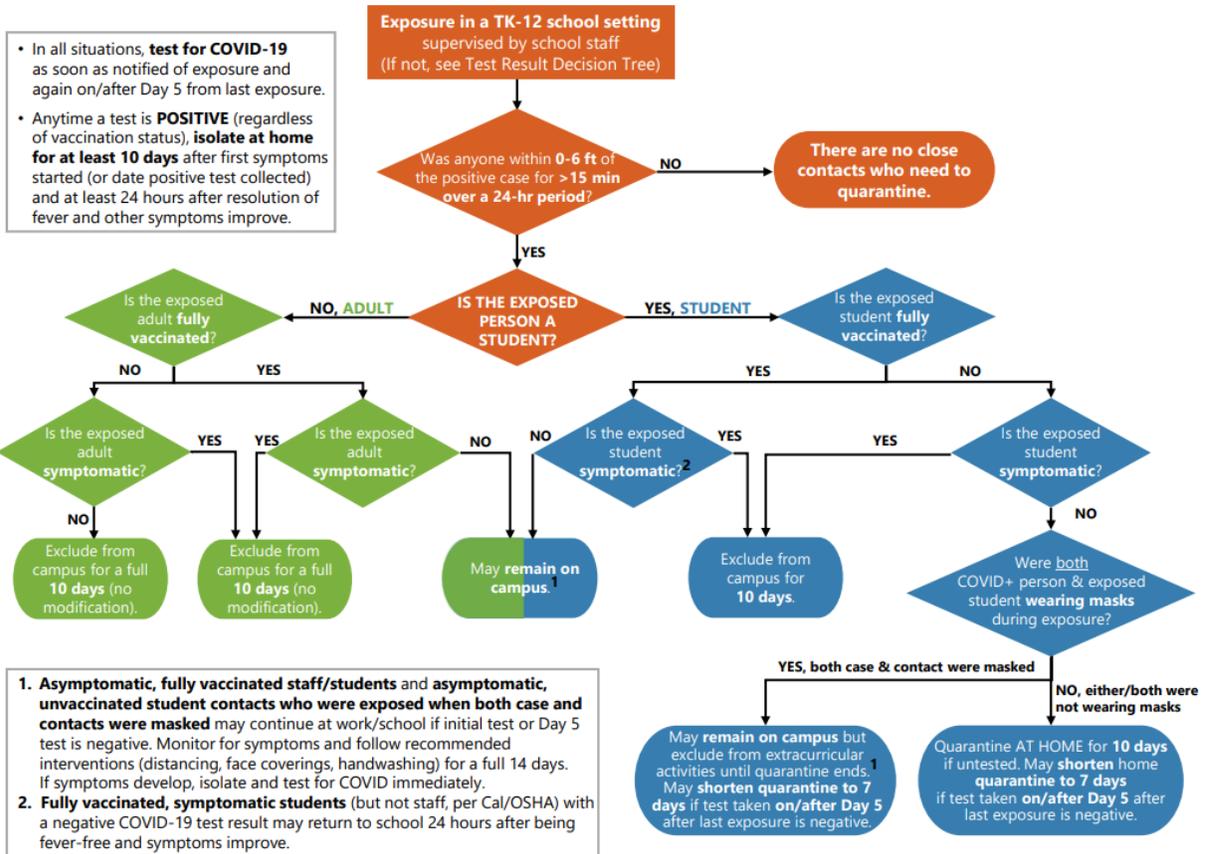
Cadence of testing will be reassessed at regular intervals.

Athena Academy will require families and staff to complete and attest to a negative PCR test result via the schools Attestation Form after all vacations and extended school holidays. This PCR test should be completed within 72 hours of the return to school.

We are adhering to the California Department of Public Health quarantine guidelines for K–12 schools.

The chart below details the policies and procedures for exposure and quarantine.

2021-2022 Quarantine Decision Tree for TK-12 School-Based Exposures



8.25.2021

TRAVEL

Per [state and CDC guidelines](#), travel is discouraged until persons are fully vaccinated.

Whether your travel is domestic or international, we expect that you will follow [CDC travel guidelines](#) for testing, masking, and quarantine:

- Delay travel until you're fully vaccinated
- If you're not fully vaccinated, but choose to travel, get tested before and after
- No matter your vaccination status, wear a mask indoors while on public transportation or in a transportation hub
- Wearing a mask outdoors while traveling is no longer required, but still recommended for unvaccinated individuals

FIRST MONTH OF SCHOOL

Athena Academy will not have parents on campus for the first month of school. There will be no school gatherings during that time.

Parent meetings will be held over the phone or over Google Hangout, including Back to School Night.

We anticipate and hope that conditions will change such that beginning on October 1, 2021, we will be able to invite vaccinated parents and volunteers to our school. Protocols will be updated accordingly.

SAFETY MEASURES

1. SICK OR ABSENT CHILD

- a. If your child needs to miss school for any reason please complete the absence form on our [homepage](#). We are asking you to answer:
 - i. Your child's name
 - ii. Why is your child going to be absent
 - iii. If due to illness, what symptoms is your child experiencing and when did they start
 - iv. Has your student been close to anyone who has tested positive for Covid in the previous 2 weeks
- b. The more information that you can provide for us the better we can respond to ensure the overall health and safety of the community.

2. DROP OFF AND PICK UP PROCEDURES

Drop off procedure:

Campus opens for students at 8:15 am. Pick-up starts at 3:25 pm.

- Students will be dropped off in front of the school and will enter through the main gate.
- Parents will remain in their vehicles at all times. Students will remain in the vehicle until staff verify health status.
- A masked staff member will approach the vehicle and go through a health screening questionnaire with the parent or caregiver prior to the student exiting the vehicle.
- The questionnaire is based on the health screening questions recommended by the Santa Clara County Public Health Department asking whether the child has been diagnosed with COVID-19, lives in the same household or had close contact with someone who in the past 10 - 14 days has been in isolation for COVID-19 or had a test confirming they have COVID-19, and whether they have experienced any COVID-19 symptoms (fever or chills, cough, loss of taste or smell, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle aches, headache, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea) within the past 3 days. If the answer to any of these questions is **YES, students** will be sent home and directed to seek medical care and testing.
- A log will be kept of the daily health screen
- All occupants of the vehicle will wear face coverings during the health screening and throughout the drop off process.

- Once health screening is complete and all answers to questions are **NO**, the student will exit the vehicle and enter campus.

Note - Parents/guardians will be encouraged to review the health screening questions PRIOR to commuting to campus and stay home and seek medical attention and screening if any of the answers are YES.

Students who arrive without a supervising adult:

A number of our students arrive by foot, public transportation or bicycle. These students will remain at the gate until a staff member has reviewed the health screening questions with them. These students will ensure that their face covering is in place before entering the parking lot. Any student who arrives by public transport must wear a face covering at all times while in transit.

Pick-up procedure:

- All students will wear a face covering when exiting campus.
- Parent or caregiver will remain in their vehicle and all occupants of the vehicle will wear a face covering during pick up.

Late or Early Pick-up:

If a student needs to be dropped off or picked up outside of the designated times, the parent or caregiver will communicate this with School Manager, Pam Crain.

Upon arrival for a late dropoff parent or caregiver will call the school office and alert administration to their arrival. An administrator will meet the vehicle and go through the aforementioned procedures. All safety procedures remain the same.

Upon arrival for an early pickup parent or caregiver will call the school office and alert administration to their arrival. Students will be escorted to vehicles using the aforementioned safety procedures.

NOTE - Parents and caregivers will not be able to enter campus during drop-off or pick-up times for the first month of school.

3. FACE COVERINGS

- All students are required to wear face coverings while arriving and departing from school campus and at all times while anywhere on campus, including restrooms except when eating, drinking, or engaging in physical activity requiring heaving exertion.
- All staff are required to wear face coverings at all time while on campus, except while eating and drinking
- A student experiencing difficulty wearing their face covering will be encouraged to take an outdoor break on their own and remove their face covering
- Students will bring their own face coverings from home. Please wash and/or replace daily.
- Students will be taught the reason for and proper use of a face covering.
- Students will not share or swap face coverings.
- The school will maintain a supply of non-medical masks in the event that a student or member of staff needs a replacement during the day.

- Masks with valves and bandanas are not acceptable. If a student arrives with a valved mask or bandana we will provide a surgical mask if another option is not available for the student.

4. HAND HYGIENE

EVERY PERSON UPON ENTERING CAMPUS WILL HAND SANITIZE.

- Students will be taught how to properly perform hand hygiene
- Signage will be posted in restrooms displaying proper techniques, and throughout campus reminding students and staff to wash their hands.
- Students will be reminded throughout the day to avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth, and to cough and sneeze into their elbows.
- Hand sanitizing dispensers are located at every classroom door and hand hygiene is performed upon every entry into the classroom by students and staff.

5. CLASSROOM SETTINGS

- Class groupings will be as small as possible at all times.
- PE will be held outdoors whenever possible with a maximum of 18 students. When PE needs to be held indoors, minimal exertion activities will take place in the auditorium where students can be distanced.
- Signage is posted at each classroom door to remind students and staff of safety protocols
- Teachers may use clear masks when instructing students in order to support the students' language based learning challenges.
- Teachers and staff will always have on a face covering when inside the classrooms
- All students will be issued their own laptop
- When possible, windows and doors will be left open to increase ventilation, and HEPA air filters are in each classroom. Air filters will be changed according to manufacturer's recommendations.
- Seating will be arranged to maximize distance between students and wherever possible avoid students sitting directly facing one another.
- Outdoor shade tents have been set up to allow for periodic outdoor class time.
- In the event of poor air quality (AQI above 101), classroom doors and windows will be closed and portable air filters will be used.

6. PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPECIALIST CLASSES

- PE classes take place outside with equipment cleaned between classes
 - On rainy days, PE is held in our auditorium and distanced/individual activities such as yoga are focused on
- Specialist classes, such as music, art, drama will not include aerosol generating activities.

7. RECESS AND LUNCH BREAKS

- Students will take breaks, eat snacks/lunch outdoors whenever possible.
- Students will not be required to wear face coverings while eating, drinking, or engaging in heaving physical exertion.
- Hand hygiene will be performed prior to and after snack and lunch breaks.
- Students will bring their own water bottles which can be filled at a designated touchless water fountain.

- Hot Lunch will be provided by My Green Lunch. My Green Lunch follows strict food service, cleaning, and sanitizing requirements as mandated by the Santa Clara County Health Department.
- All lunches, including sides and snacks, will be separately packed and labeled with the student's name.
- Families may opt into My Green Lunch's hot lunch delivery system - their protocols are available on their website.

8. CLEANING AND DISINFECTING

- A cleaning service will come in each night to clean and disinfect classrooms, administration offices and bathrooms
- All rooms have disinfectant wipes. Teachers will sanitize desks and high touch areas throughout the day

