

Excalibur Schools Mitigation Plan 2020-2021

Avalon Elementary

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) recommend that reopening decisions be driven by the current prevalence of COVID-19 in the community. (Please review ADE's [Roadmap for Reopening Schools](#), page 30, for more information.) The protocols that follow do not address whether a district should reopen, but instead include recommendations for mitigating risk once the decision to reopen has been made. The protocols are based on CDC "step" guidelines—specifically, Steps 2 and 3. Step 2 protocols, which include enhanced social distancing measures, should be followed until guidance from Arizona officials indicates that a transition to Step 3 protocols is appropriate.

Normal procedures for students who qualify for homebound or chronic ill services will be followed, as will normal procedures for employee requests for reasonable accommodation due to disability.

STAFFING ASSIGNMENTS

The school administration will coordinate all messages to students, parents, staff, and the community regarding reopening, possible closure, and other COVID-19-related information. The school will ensure that posters with messaging on hand-washing and covering of coughs and sneezes are located throughout, along with posters at entrances reminding individuals not to enter if sick.

The school site administrator or designee will coordinate social distancing protocols, including ensuring that student and staff schedules, as well as facility set-up, allow for implementation of the protocols.

The school will coordinate implementation of cleaning protocols, including ensuring that sufficient cleaning supplies are available to janitorial staff and, as appropriate, students and staff.

A site administrator, the school health associate, or other designee will coordinate and implement the protocols set forth in the **Protocols: Employees** section of this document for screening of staff. That individual will be responsible for:

- Communicating any reported case of COVID-19 among the school population to Administration.
- Informing the site supervisor if absences of students and staff on any given day are above average or if there appears to be a cluster of respiratory-related illnesses.

The Special Education Coordinator will coordinate with site-based case managers to ensure that the needs of special education students and students with special needs are being met in the context of implementation of these safety protocols.

TRAINING AND COMMUNICATION

Training

Prior to students returning to campus, all staff will be trained on implementation of these protocols. Training will include proper use of PPE and supplies; cleaning and disinfecting; and other measures.

Communication

Prior to students returning to campus, parents will be sent a copy (or directed to review a copy on the district or school website) of the portions of these protocols that relate to students and visitors. As part of this process, the district will send communication to all parents that outlines the symptoms for which parents must screen each morning, as well as the expectation that students will not be sent to school or placed on the bus if they are exhibiting any symptoms. The district will require a signed acknowledgement from parents and staff regarding these protocols.

The school has a person designated to be the COVID-19 point of contact. This person will be responsible for answering parent questions regarding implementation of COVID-19 protocols.

The COVID-19 Point of Contact: Stacey Kaldahl

Procedures and communication regarding COVID-19 exposure is found in the final section of this document.

PROTOCOLS: STUDENTS

Protocols are established based on CDC Guidelines along with any federal, state, or local orders. These practices are put in place as part of a general scale-up of operations.

Face Coverings

Note that in addition to cloth face coverings, FDA approved surgical masks may also be used. Also, washing/sanitizing hands should be done before and after putting on and taking off a mask.

The School will require universal masking. Students will be required to wear a cloth, or surgical face mask, or face shield, subject of the health condition exception stated below.* Students will not be required to wear face coverings when eating or drinking.

**Any student who has difficulty breathing or who is incapable of physically removing the face masks on his/her own will not wear face masks, and alternate methods of protection will be discussed by parents and staff.*

Students may bring their own cloth face covering or surgical mask to and from school. Schools will also have a supply of face coverings available to provide to students who do not have their own and for students who arrive without a face mask.

It is understandable that some students may require time to adjust to wearing face masks. Staff will use their professional judgement to assist a student having difficulty transitioning to wearing a face mask during the day.

Note: Cloth face coverings are designed to protect other individuals rather than the individual wearing the covering. Accordingly, the greater number of students wearing cloth face coverings, the greater the overall transmission mitigation that will be achieved. Plastic face shields, which provide protection for the wearer, will not be required, but will be permitted.

BEFORE SCHOOL ARRIVAL

The CDC provides a 'self-check' to help individuals make a decision and seek appropriate medical care. The self-checker can be used for children and found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

At Home- Daily Health Screenings and Reporting

Students must not come to school if they exhibit any of the following symptoms:

- fever of 100.4 degrees or higher, or chills;
- shortness of breath or difficulty breathing;
- muscle aches;
- sore throat;
- headache;
- fatigue;
- congestion or runny nose;
- cough;
- vomiting;
- diarrhea; or

• new loss of taste or smell. **This list may not include all possible symptoms. The CDC will continue to update this list as more is learned about COVID-19. A student with a runny nose or congestion due to allergies **should not** be kept at home.*

The school will inform parents via registration documents, on the school website, and via email reminders that they should screen students for the above symptoms each morning, should self-report symptoms, and must keep students at home if any symptoms are present or have a

household member who has contracted COVID-19. Students will have the opportunity to make up work missed due to symptoms of COVID-19 if they are unable to attend through online access.

For the health and safety of other students and of teachers and staff, parents/families are required to conduct daily health screenings prior to sending their children to school. Students who are ill or have a household member with COVID-19 should not come to school.

If a parent believes their child has been exposed to COVID-19 but has not been tested or experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, they must inform their school principal and health aide for further guidance.

Note: Schools will not give out attendance awards for the duration of the COVID-19 health crisis.

On the bus

Students will stand together, at the bus stop, while still observing social distancing guidelines. Signage will be posted on the exterior of the bus which communicates to parents which symptoms may be seen with COVID-19 and that students exhibiting symptoms should not enter the bus. Parents are encouraged to accompany children at bus stops to ensure distancing is maintained.

If a bus driver observes a student exhibiting visible symptoms,¹ the following steps will be taken:

- The driver will notify school staff that a potentially symptomatic student is arriving and should see the school health assistant.
- The driver will ensure that the student is socially distanced.

If a student has a chronic condition such as allergies or asthma, parents should inform staff of that condition. If staff has been so informed, students with symptoms of runny nose or cough should be permitted to ride the bus.

¹ Visible symptoms include runny nose, cough, shortness of breath, or vomiting.

Bus Seating

The school will transport those who rely on busing services and will spread out riders as much as possible to create distancing given bus capacity. Drivers, aides, and students will be required to wear a face mask.

- All students will be required to hand sanitize prior to boarding the bus and wear a mask for the duration of the route.
- The bus driver will instruct students to load the bus from the back to front to avoid students passing one another. When unloading, they will unload from front to back.
- The driver will instruct students to sit one person to a seat, unless they are riding with a family member.
- The driver will keep the seat immediately behind them unoccupied, if possible.
- Students will sit next to the window which will increase social distancing.
- Bus windows will be slightly open during routes.
- The front seat, passenger side, will be reserved for students who may display symptoms.

Transportation will follow the same face covering guidelines outlined for all students and staff. If students are not wearing a face covering when entering the bus, then one will be provided for them.

Additional Bus Information

Bus drivers or custodial staff will disinfect the buses at a minimum:

1. Right before starting a route to pick up students
2. Right after the morning and afternoon routes 15 minutes will be scheduled between schools/routes to allow for disinfecting buses.

Students riding the bus will be dismissed up to 15 minutes ahead of their classmates and buses will depart before the remaining students are dismissed.

To assist in the prevention of potential spread, The school will not offer field trips. When events resume, the school will transport students to events following the same guidance above.

SCHOOL ARRIVAL

Upon arrival at school, each student will proceed directly to the student's homeroom or first period classroom.

A staff member will visually check each student prior to students entering the school or classroom. Any student with visible symptoms of a change in congestion or runny nose not

related to allergies, cough, shortness of breath, or vomiting, will be taken to the health office. Parents may be contacted for pick-up with the following exceptions:

- If the student has a runny nose and the nurse/health aide observes that there are no other symptoms, the nurse/health aide will contact the parent to inquire as to whether the student has had any other symptoms or there have been any COVID-19 exposures in the home. If not, the student may return to class.
- If the student has health information on file that confirms a diagnosis of asthma or other respiratory condition and the nurse/health aide observes that there are no other symptoms, the nurse/health aide will contact the parent to inquire as to whether the student has had any other symptoms or there have been any COVID-19 exposures in the home. If not, the student may return to class.

Drop-Off/Pick-Up Procedures

Students will be dropped off and picked up from school **without parents getting out of the car, with very limited exception** and with expressed permission from a site administrator that is provided for good cause. If a parent has prior permission to get out of the car during drop-off/pick-up, the student's arrival/dismissal to/from school may have assigned times different than the majority of students. If the parent walks a student to school, the parent will not be allowed to enter the school or grounds and must drop off the student outside of the school campus. If parent's families ride a bike to school with student bike riders, parents will not be allowed to enter the school grounds and must drop off the student outside of the campus.

Enhanced Social Distancing

Basic social distancing practices

Staff members will educate and remind students regularly to maintain at least 6 feet of distance between individuals at all times possible.

Primary students will remain with the same groupings and the same staff throughout the day. Schedules for students will be created to allow the same groupings of students to remain with each other, as much as possible.

Classroom Layout All classrooms will attempt to physically distance desks and tables as far apart as feasible.

Hallways and Walkways Hallways and walkways will be marked to direct students to stay on one side of the hallway for each direction of travel.

Playgrounds Physical activity continues to be a vital part of a student's school day. Teachers will require students to wash/disinfect their hands before and after recess and masks will be required. If playground equipment is used, cleaning of equipment will be aligned to CDC recommendations.

Cafeterias and Other Areas During Lunch Schools will use the cafeteria and possibly eat in the classrooms. Because masks cannot be worn while eating, students must eat within a 20-minute timeframe.* (active eating time- once the student has begun to eat) and proper physical distancing is more important than ever. Students will be prohibited from sharing lunch items with each other and, unless there is prior administrative permission, outside food cannot be delivered to the school.

**From the CDC: "Data are insufficient to precisely define the duration of time that constitutes a prolonged exposure. Recommendations vary on the length of time of exposure. Brief interactions are less likely to result in transmission."*

When eating in the classroom or cafeteria, students with food allergies may need appropriate accommodations. These may include, for example, taking the student to another location, such as a school conference room or the multipurpose room, with one friend (so long as social distancing can be maintained in the alternate location).

When eating in the cafeteria, increased safety measures will include the following:

- Marking tables indicating where students may sit.
- Assign students to a specific seat with a minimum of 3 feet between marked seats.
- Limit cafeteria seating to the number of assigned seats.
- If students line up for lunch service, only one class per serving line will line up at a time, and place markings on the floor to indicate where students should stand to maintain social distancing. Alternatively, serve food to each student at their assigned seat.
- Prohibit students from sharing lunch items with one another.

Bathrooms Students to enter bathrooms in groups no larger than the number of stalls/urinals in the bathroom, and will be required to wear masks at all times. Posters reminding students of proper handwashing techniques will be displayed.

Front offices Front office personnel will wear face coverings at all times and signage directing visitors to maintain distancing will be posted.

Hand Washing

All students and staff will wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol at the following times:

- upon arrival at school (use hand sanitizer if there is no sink in the classroom),
- after being outside for physical activity,
- before and after lunch,
- prior to leaving school for home,
- after sneezing, coughing, or blowing nose, and
- Prior to and after removing and putting on a face mask.

Student Belongings/Materials

Sharing of technology devices, school supplies and belonging among students will be very limited and only if it is absolutely necessary. If equipment or supplies must be shared by students, staff will clean the item after each use. Parents should also clean student belongings before/after school. Students will be permitted to carry a backpack with only teacher-directed items.

Trips and Activities

Field trips will be canceled. Teachers may use virtual learning opportunities (such as virtual tours of museums) to enhance students' educational experiences.

School-wide assemblies may not be held with students assembled in the same physical location. As an alternative, if feasible, hold school-wide assemblies virtually, with student groups remaining in their classrooms.

Large-scale school events such as "Back to School Night" or fall carnivals will be cancelled or reconfigured in order to maintain social distancing. Small-scale activities like parent-teacher conferences may take place over the phone or other electronic means.

Other extracurricular activities will be cancelled unless the activity can be conducted in compliance with the protocols in this document. To assist in the prevention of potential spread, Wilson will not offer field trips.

Specialized Classes

Some classes, such as music and PE, may require alternative lesson plans to limit contact and the sharing of supplies, and to reduce the spread of respiratory droplets. Face masks must be worn at all times.

Visitors and Volunteers

The school will limit nonessential visitors and volunteers at school except for the safety and well-being of students. Parents will report to the front office and not go beyond unless it is for safety or well-being of their child and must follow all safety protocols including physically distancing, as feasible, and wearing a face covering.

STUDENT REPORTING PROCEDURES FOR COVID-19 SYMPTOMS OR A POSITIVE TEST

The CDC's, State and County Health Departments' procedures for reporting COVID-19 symptoms or COVID-19 positive tests change periodically. The following procedures may be updated and employees, parents and families will be notified of major changes to reporting.

If a student becomes sick with COVID-19 symptoms or reports a positive COVID-19 test, the procedures listed below should be followed:

1. Immediately report the situation ONLY to:
 - a. If a student: School Principal or Health assistant

Confidentiality must be maintained to the greatest extent possible.

2. If a student develops COVID-19 symptoms at school, separate the student from all other students and staff, with the exception of one staff member to supervise the student. Have this staff member wear PPE or a cloth face covering and maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from the student at all times, unless there is an emergency.
3. Immediately notify a parent or emergency contact to pick up the student, and call 911 if the student appears to be in medical distress.
4. Areas that were exposed to the symptomatic employee or student for a prolonged period of time will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected per CDC guidelines. Depending on the situation, the areas of exposure may need to be closed for a 24 hour period.
5. The Principal will determine whether other individuals (employees or students) may have been exposed to the symptomatic student (within 6 feet and for a prolonged period of time, typically longer than 15 minutes). The Principal will notify the Executive Director. Parents

will be notified. The notification will recommend that exposed individuals monitor their health closely, contact their health care provider if possible, and if symptoms develop, self-quarantine.

6. Students who have developed COVID-19 symptoms or had a positive COVID-19 test may not return to the school site until they have met the CDC or State/County Health department's guidelines at that moment. Because guidelines in this area change regularly, describing the steps that will be taken would not be prudent.

PROTOCOLS: EMPLOYEES

Face Coverings

The School will require universal face coverings. Employees will be required to wear a cloth or surgical face mask, or face shield. Staff members are required to universally face cover during interaction with students or other staff unless they cannot do so for health reasons. In these cases, have employees notify their supervisor and discuss strategies for reducing employee interactions with students or staff and other options for maintaining safety protocols. Employees will contact the principal or their direct supervisor to request a reasonable accommodation and begin the interactive process if they cannot safely wear a face covering.

Unless a health condition prevents it, janitorial staff to wear face coverings and/or other personal protective equipment (as available and appropriate) while cleaning and disinfecting the schools and district facilities. Universal face covering, will be required for employees and subject to the health condition exception stated below.* Employees will not be required to wear face coverings when eating or drinking.

*Any employee who has difficulty breathing or who is incapable of physically removing the face masks on his/her own will not wear face masks, and alternate methods of protection will be discussed, including the use of a face shield.

Employees may bring their own cloth or surgical face mask to and from school. The school will have a supply of face masks available to provide employees who do not have their own and for employees who arrive without a face mask. The school will also provide face shields and gloves, as requested.

Note: Wearing cloth face coverings does not replace the need to maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet whenever possible. Accordingly, the greater number of employees wearing face masks, the greater the overall transmission mitigation that will be achieved. Plastic face shields will not be required, but are permitted.

Exposure Assessment and PPE

Prior to allowing employees to report to work, administration, in conjunction with relevant supervisors, will assess each position to determine whether PPE is necessary for specific positions in order to limit the spread of COVID-19.

Daily Screening

Prior to employees returning to campus, they will be sent a copy (or directed to review a copy on the district or school website) of this plan. As part of this process, the School will send communication to all employees that outlines the symptoms for which employees must screen each morning, as well as the expectation that employees will not report to work if they are exhibiting symptoms. The school will require, as part of the employee orientation and on a quarterly basis, a documented acknowledgement from employees regarding these protocols and agreeing to screen themselves before reporting to work.

The CDC provides a “self-check” to help individuals make a decision and seek appropriate medical care. The self-checker can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

Employees will not be allowed to work onsite if they exhibit any of the following symptoms:

- fever of 100.4 degrees or higher, or chills;
- shortness of breath or difficulty breathing;
- muscle aches;
- sore throat;
- headache;
- fatigue;
- congestion or runny nose;
- cough;
- vomiting;
- diarrhea; or
- new loss of taste or smell.

Additionally: An employee will take his/her temperature, if feasible, at home and assess whether or not she/her is experiencing any of the stated COVID-19 symptoms prior to arriving at work. When the employee arrives at work, the employee’s temperature will be taken and the employee will confirm they do not have any of the symptoms listed above. The confirmation will be documented and maintained in a document that is created and maintained by the school. These records will be confidential and held by the administration.

Employees are required to report to the administration if they or a person who resides with them, have tested positive for COVID-19. If an employee believes that they have been exposed to COVID-19 but have not been tested or experienced any symptoms, they must seek guidance from the administration.

Hand Washing

Employees are required to wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol at the following times:

- upon arrival at school (use hand sanitizer if there is no sink in the classroom),
- after being outside for physical activity,
- before and after lunch,
- prior to leaving school for home,
- after sneezing, coughing, or blowing nose, and
- Prior to and after removing and putting on a face mask.

Enhanced Social Distancing

Employees are required to maintain a distance of at least 6 feet between individuals at all times, unless this is not physically possible or, for a student's or other person's safety. If a situation arises that requires a staff member to touch a student or another staff member (for instance, if a student requires toileting help, is having a physical emergency, or requires a two-person restraint), the staff member will resume physical distancing as soon as safely possible, wash their hands, and disinfect any surfaces they touched.

School and District Visitors

The school will limit nonessential visitors except for the safety and well-being of students and staff. Staff will limit their visits and meetings outside of their work location or classroom. Meetings outside of the work location or classroom will be held using face coverings and physical distancing measures, or virtually, as feasible. Staff visitors will report to the front office, not go beyond unless it is absolutely necessary and must follow all safety protocols.

PROTOCOLS: CLEANING AND DISINFECTING

Protocols are established based on CDC Guidelines along with any federal, state or local orders. These practices are put in place as part of a general scale-up of operations.

Cleaning will be maintained to the greatest extent possible. Custodial schedules will be adjusted to place focus on cleaning routinely throughout the day. An EPA-registered hospital grade cleaner and disinfectant will be used daily on frequently touched surfaces in work areas, such as door handles, sink handles, drinking fountains, desks and learning tools. Additionally, all staff will be provided with cleaner to be used as needed in between classes, at workstations and in common areas. The playground, sports equipment, and any other shared items (if they are being used) will be cleaned between uses by teachers and/or custodial staff utilizing school-provided approved cleaning products.

REPORTING PROCEDURES FOR COVID-19 SYMPTOMS OR A POSITIVE TEST

The CDC's, State and County Health Departments' procedures for reporting COVID-19 symptoms or COVID-19 positive tests change periodically. The following procedures may be updated and employees, parents and families will be notified of major changes to reporting.

If a person becomes sick with COVID-19 symptoms or reports a positive COVID-19 test, the procedures listed below should be followed:

1. Immediately report the situation ONLY to:

- a. If a student: School Principal or Nurse
- b. If an employee: Supervisor and administrator

Confidentiality must be maintained to the greatest extent possible.

2. If an employee develops COVID-19 symptoms at work, separate the employee from all other students, staff, or visitors, then make arrangements to send the employee home in a safe manner. If the employee is able to self-transport, have the employee leave the site. If the employee is not able to safely self-transport, contact a family member, friend, or other method of transport to get the employee home or to a health care provider. If the employee appears to be in medical distress, call 911.

3. If a student develops COVID-19 symptoms at school, separate the student from all other students and staff, with the exception of one staff member to supervise the student. Have this staff member wear PPE or a face covering and maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from the student at all times, unless there is an emergency. Immediately notify a parent or emergency contact to pick up the student, and call 911 if the student appears to be in medical distress.

5. Areas that were exposed to the symptomatic employee or student for a prolonged period of time will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected per CDC guidelines. Depending on the situation, the areas of exposure may need to be closed for a 24 hour period.

6. The administration will determine whether other employees may have been exposed to the symptomatic individual (within 6 feet and for a prolonged period of time (typically longer than 15 minutes). If it is determined that those who were potentially exposed should be notified, the notification will recommend that exposed individuals monitor their health closely, contact their health care provider if possible, and if symptoms develop, self-quarantine.

7. Employees or students who have developed COVID-19 symptoms or had a positive COVID-19 test may not return to the site until they have met the CDC or State/County Health department's guidelines at that moment. Because guidelines in this area change regularly, describing the steps that will be taken would not be prudent.