

CFSD 2021-2022 Mitigation Plan Q & A



Question: Are Masks Required This Year?

Answer: On June 30, the Governor signed HB2989, which prohibits public schools from mandating masks during school hours and on school property. As a result, whether a child wears a mask in school is a decision that is left to our CFSD families.

We welcome and encourage masks. Per the CDC, “Masks should be worn indoors by all individuals (age 2 and older) who are not fully vaccinated. Consistent and correct mask use by people who are not fully vaccinated is especially important indoors and in crowded settings, when physical distancing cannot be maintained.” The CDC suggests that no masks are necessary outdoors for all students, regardless of their age.

Question: Will CFSD be offering remote learning again this year?

Answer: It’s well-documented that students need to be able to learn together in a classroom. They must have constant, direct physical contact with learning materials, teachers, and each other. Of course, students get much more than academics at school. They also learn social and emotional skills, get healthy meals and exercise, and have access to special services. Due to our district's size, we cannot justify the reassignment of teachers to exclusive remote-learning positions. And Arizona continues to fund remote learners at less than 100%.

Question: Will physical distancing measures be in place?

Answer: Getting all students back to full in-person instruction while also physical distancing is a challenge. We will do our best. For your information, the CDC states, “Students benefit from in-person learning, and safely returning to in-person instruction in the fall 2021 is a priority.” The CDC’s updated guidance highlights the importance of in-person learning and states that schools where not everyone is fully vaccinated should implement physical distancing to the extent possible within their structure, but should not exclude students from in-person learning to keep a minimum distance requirement.

Question: Will there be events and gatherings this year on campus?

Answer: The State of Arizona has fully lifted indoor and outdoor gathering limits. Lifting these limits does not change the process for case investigation or contact tracing, or subsequent isolation or quarantine guidance that may result. Regardless, CFSD school events and gatherings require site approval.

Question: How will the food service program run this year?

Answer: Food service will return to pre-COVID-19 guidelines, per the Pima County Health Department's COVID Recommendations for K-12 Schools for 2021/2022 School Year, (July 2021). There are no restrictions on food preparation (outside of general PCHD food handling guidelines and safety), cafeteria service, paying for/scanning lunch cards, staff eating areas/breakrooms, staff potlucks, and high school lunches.

While the grab-and-go style of meal is going away, free meals are continuing this year. The USDA has extended its free student meal program through June 2022. Free meals will consist of a choice of hot entrees and a choice of fruit or vegetables. Both of these items must be on the student's tray in order for the meal to qualify for reimbursement, so servers will make sure each student has both an entree and a side when they pass through the register. In addition, students may help themselves to unlimited free pre-packaged items from the salad bar. Other food items (like chips and soft drinks) are not eligible for reimbursement, and those items will be charged to lunch cards as usual.

Question: Will my child have to isolate or quarantine?

Answer: Please refer to our [CFSD Isolation Decision Matrix](#)

Question: Are vaccinated and unvaccinated staff & students treated differently?

Answer: We follow the guidance from the Pima County Health Department (PCHD), and that guidance varies depending on whether someone is vaccinated.

- *For quarantine:* Vaccinated staff and students do not need to quarantine. Anyone who is unvaccinated is subject to quarantine.
- *For isolation:* Anyone who is symptomatic must isolate.

Question: I'm concerned about my child missing school. How can I reduce the number of school days my child misses?

Answer:

- For vaccinated students: Because vaccinated students do not have to quarantine, they have a reduced risk of missing school.
- For all students: Rapid (or point-of-care) tests are diagnostic tests performed at many pharmacies, health care providers, and other locations in our area. They provide results within minutes rather than hours. To schedule an appointment at a rapid testing facility, search online for *Rapid COVID-19 Testing Near Me*. In the event of symptoms or exposure, a negative test result may reduce a student's risk of missing school.

Question: Should I send my kids to school if I suspect they might have COVID-19?

Answer: Check in with your child each morning for signs of illness. If your child has a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher, they should not go to school. Make sure your child does not have a sore throat or other signs of illness, like a cough, diarrhea, severe headache, vomiting, or body aches.

If your child has had close contact with someone who has COVID-19, they should not go to school. Follow the CFSD Isolation Decision Matrix on what to do when someone has known exposure. Notify your school administrator, as well.

Question: Will the school be supporting the social and emotional well-being of our children?

Answer: Each school has staff to support the social and emotional well-being of students, and they will work with our teachers on strategies and a referral process to provide support to those students in need of social and emotional support.

Question: Are students and staff members required to get the COVID-19 vaccine?

Answer: In HB2989, public schools are prohibited from requiring that a student or staff member receives a COVID-19 vaccine to participate in in-person instruction. In May, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) released the following statement related to COVID-19 vaccine in children and adolescents: "The AAP recommends COVID-19 vaccination for all children and adolescents 12 years of age and older who do not have contraindications using a COVID-19 vaccine authorized for use for their age."

Children under the age of 12 are not eligible for vaccination at this time.

Question: Do parents have to sign the COVID-19 waiver again this year?

Answer: CFSD is not requiring the COVID-19 waiver from parents this year.

Question: Will students be washing and sanitizing their hands?

Answer: Students are expected to practice proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette at school. Schools will provide adequate hand washing/hand sanitizing supplies.

Question: Will the school and classrooms be cleaned and disinfected?

Answer: CFSD will follow the same cleaning and disinfecting protocols that were implemented in the 2020-2021 school year.