

3/23 COVID Update: Orange Tier, Testing Requirements, Safety Updates

Hello CDS Families,

Please make note of several important changes to COVID guidance detailed in this message, effective immediately unless otherwise noted. These changes come in response to the declining COVID cases in San Francisco as well as what new data/research can tell us about transmission risk in schools.

School Day Safety Guidelines

- *Staff testing is no longer required every two weeks.* In Orange or Yellow Tier, proactive testing is not required; testing is only necessary if a community member has symptoms or has been exposed to a COVID case and is not fully vaccinated.
- *Student desks must now be a minimum of 3 feet apart* - 6 feet is no longer required.
- *The use of plastic barriers between students is no longer required*, but may be used as works for each classroom.
- *Routine disinfection is no longer required*, but students should continue to wash their hands regularly, especially before and after using shared equipment/supplies. Routine Covid-related disinfection measures around the facilities will be phased out at Spring Break.
- *Wind instruments and singing are now allowed outdoors*, with masks (while not performing), 6-foot distance between students, and a cap of 25 students at a time.
- *Temperature checks will no longer be performed at student drop off.* Temp checks have not been required, but we have continued as an added preventative measure. However, data shows them to be unreliable for detecting COVID-19 illness. We will continue to use our symptom screening questions during drop off.

Extracurricular Limits

- *Students can now participate in up to 2 extracurricular cohorts that are not school-related.* For example, a student may play on a rec soccer team and join a drama club. This also applies to aftercare! If your student is participating in Butterflies, aftercare, or sibling pick up, they are now able to simultaneously play a sport, join a club, or take lessons in person. Please ensure that your participation continues to follow the health and safety guidelines.
- *This does NOT apply to students who participate in indoor contact sports such as basketball, hockey, etc.* See [here](#) for a full list of indoor moderate/high contact sports.

Preparing for Orange Tier

In addition to the changes above, the City of San Francisco officially dropped down to Orange Tier today, meaning a host of new activities are allowed on a community level, including the increased capacity for indoor dining, shopping, services, etc. As noted above, we are not required to perform COVID tests every two weeks in Orange Tier.

We can thank our collective hard work and sacrifices for this, as well as the massive push for vaccinations that has brought us to about 16% of the state population being fully vaccinated.

As health officials continue to caution, however, we are not yet out of the woods. For example, Dr. Fauci predicts we will still need to wear masks into 2022, and city officials want San Franciscans to remember that it is our preventative measures that have kept our COVID rates down in comparison to other densely populated areas. Let's not forget we're still in this, but also in it together. Let's keep our masks on and our heads up!