

**Saddleback Valley**  
Unified School District



## **2021-22 COVID-19 School Reopening Plan/ Families & Communities Handbook**

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## Welcome Back

Saddleback Valley Unified School District is happy to welcome students, families, and employees back to the 2021-22 school year! We are so excited to open school with all students on campus for in-person learning. The health and safety of SVUSD students, staff, and the community is of the highest priority to the District. The District continues to follow the guidance issued by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and Orange County Health Care Agency (OCHCA). The information in this handbook reflects current guidance and will be updated as the situation evolves. We wish everyone a wonderful school year.

## School Site Protocols

### Masks

While outside, masks are optional at all school sites.

Masks are required indoors at all times in SVUSD schools for all students, staff, and visitors. Fully vaccinated employees who completed the District self-attestation may remove their mask indoors when students are not present. Masks are to be secured to the head with ties or straps and cover the nose and mouth.

Students with a medical or mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a face covering the parent should work with the site administration or student's case carrier regarding the waiver process.

All students and staff in need of a mask will be provided with one.

### **Face shields do not qualify as face coverings.**

All visitors must wear a mask at all times while indoors on any SVUSD campus or facility. Visitors who refuse to wear a mask will not be allowed to access campus and must arrange for a meeting via alternate methods such as phone or video conference.

For additional information on masks and how to wear a mask please see:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>

Similar to the 2020-21 school year, schools will implement protocols to enforce the mask requirements. Students unwilling to wear a mask will be offered enrollment in Saddleback Valley USD Virtual Academy.



## Classroom Setup

To enable all students to return to in-person full-time learning, SVUSD is utilizing multiple layered COVID-19 prevention strategies. These strategies include:

- Masks required indoors to enable in-person instruction without minimum physical distancing requirements
- HVAC systems are maintained and filters replaced on a regular schedule
- Air purification systems in classrooms, MPRs, offices, libraries, labs, and other campus locations
- Hand hygiene practices in place, including hand washing and hand sanitation stations around campus
- Water bottle fill stations
- Campuses disinfected nightly
- Contact tracing program in place
- Daily symptom self-check

## Entering and Leaving Classrooms

Students should place their mask on prior to entering the classroom or building and may remove the mask once they exit the classroom or building.

## Hand Hygiene

Students should practice healthy hand hygiene throughout the day. Hand sanitizer is available in every classroom, office space, and throughout campuses for students to use. The large majority of elementary classrooms are equipped with sinks for handwashing. At all secondary schools and some elementary schools, outdoor hand washing stations provide additional wash stations. Washing hands, especially before and after eating and using the restroom will be encouraged.

## Meetings

With the current guidelines, schools may hold meetings in person. Recognizing the value and success of virtual meetings last year to increase stakeholder participation, schools are exploring opportunities where offering a virtual component to the meeting is feasible.

In-person meetings held indoors require participants to wear a mask. Fully vaccinated employees who completed the District self-attestation may remove their mask. If students are present, masks must be worn at all times. Meetings held outdoors do not require masks.

All visitors are required to wear a mask indoors at all times.

## Drop-off and Pick-up

To limit the spread of COVID-19, school campuses are limiting visitors. To assist in limiting visitors to campus, elementary sites are creating pick up/drop-off areas. Parents and guardians may drop off and pick up their children in these areas. The areas will be open 10 minutes prior to the start and end of school and we ask everyone to leave the areas 10 minutes after the start or end of school.



While we recognize that this is very different from previous years, it is incredibly important to please follow this rule. By limiting campus visitors, we seek to limit the possible spread of COVID-19 on school campuses. Please talk with your child ahead of time so they are aware that they will need to walk to class by themselves. Faculty will be placed throughout campus to make sure students safely get to their classroom.

Parents should be prepared to drop off or pick up their child from the car access area or at an entry/exit gate. Each school will develop and share protocols regarding parking and student drop off and pickup.

## **PE Class, Lockers, and Backpack Hooks**

Locker rooms are open and students will dress out for P.E. at the secondary level. Masks are required to be worn at all times in the locker room.

At the elementary level, backpack hooks outside the classroom will be utilized this year.

## **Lunch and Food Service**

Similar to last year, free breakfasts and lunches are available to all students at all SVUSD campuses. Service for SVUSD Virtual Academy students will be communicated prior to the start of school. Service at each school includes a choice of entrees, fruits, vegetables, milk or juice and more.

Physical distancing will be utilized as much as possible while students are eating. Students will eat outdoors unless weather prohibits, and additional outdoor eating areas will be utilized when available.

## **Cleaning**

Protocols developed during the 2020-21 school year for cleaning and disinfection at school sites will continue. This includes nightly spraying with disinfectant, frequent cleaning of touch points, and restroom cleanings.

## **Safety**

### **Visitors on Campus**

Per California Department of Public Health, to limit the spread of COVID-19, visitors, volunteers, and activities with external groups or organizations will be limited as the school year begins. Schools are creating pick up/drop-off areas for parents to drop off students or wait for them at dismissal. Parents and guardians are not permitted to walk children to their classroom or wait on campus for students to be dismissed. Parents should be prepared to drop off or pick up their child from the car access area or at an entry/exit gate.



All visitors and volunteers to campus must wear a mask at all times indoors. When arriving for meetings, all visitors must check in at the main office to complete the Raptor Visitor Management protocol.

## Health Information

### Self Check and Symptoms

All students and staff are required to complete a daily COVID-19 self-check before arriving at an SVUSD site.

The CDC website hosts a student [COVID-19 symptom self-check](#).

Temperature checks will not be performed at the school site.

Individuals with symptoms of COVID-19 should not return to in-person instruction until the CDPH criteria to return to school is met. That criteria includes:

- At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; and
- Other symptoms have improved; and
  - They provide a negative COVID-19 test **or**
  - a healthcare provider provides documentation of an alternate named diagnosis **or**
  - a healthcare provider provides documentation that their symptoms are typical of an underlying chronic condition **or**
  - At least 10 days have passed since symptom onset

### Contact Tracing and Investigations

The District will continue to investigate positive cases and perform contact tracing. Cases will be reported to the Orange County Health Care Agency as required. If your student tests positive or is a close contact to an individual with COVID-19 please notify your school administrator and keep your child home. A District nurse will contact you for further information and provide guidance on a return to school.



## Quarantine Guidelines

<b>Vaccinated</b>	
Close Contact	Asymptomatic no quarantine, but monitor symptoms for 10 days
Positive	10 day quarantine
<b>Unvaccinated</b>	
Close Contact with both individuals wearing masks	<p>Asymptomatic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Monitor symptoms for 10 days, if symptoms appear quarantine</li> <li>● Attend school if no symptoms (no activities or extracurriculars permitted) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Twice weekly testing required</li> <li>○ May not participate in afterschool activities or activities without a mask (ie. PE)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	<p>Symptomatic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 14 day quarantine</li> </ul>
Close Contact where masks were not worn	<p>Asymptomatic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Monitor symptoms for 10 days</li> <li>● 10 day quarantine</li> <li>● 7 day quarantine with negative test on day 6 or 7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Self monitor through day 14</li> <li>○ Wear mask, frequent hand-washing, avoid large crowds (ie. assembly, lunch, PE, recess)</li> </ul> </li> <li>● If symptoms appear, isolate and evaluate for new return date</li> </ul>
Positive	10 day quarantine

## Technology

### Student Chromebooks

Students will continue to use the chromebook they checked out last year. If your child is new to the District or was using their own device last year, and is in grade 3 and above, they may check out a device for use this year. Each school will utilize their local protocols to check devices out to students.



## Home Internet Access

For families in need of home Internet that qualify, [Cox](#) and [AT&T](#) are participating in the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program that provides \$50 off monthly service. Information can be found at the links above.

## Saddleport and Aeries Parent Portal Access

Students can access Saddleport at: <https://portal.svusd.org>. Using the Aeries parent portal students and families may check assignments, grades, and update information. The portal is available at: <https://familyportal.svusd.org>

## Transportation

Masks are required on all District transportation for students, staff, and drivers. Masks are available for individuals without one.

Cleaning protocols inline with CDC recommendations will be followed for all buses.

With masks and cleaning protocols in place, spacing is not required on buses.

