

September 15, 2021

Dear Staff, Students, Parents/Guardians and Community Members,

We are very excited to begin our 2021-2022 School Year! It has been a challenging three weeks with the Caldor Fire evacuations. We are so thankful for our community, first responders, and fire fighters that came from locally and far and wide. We are also anxious to get this school year started, see our students and our colleagues, and begin what is going to be a fantastic school year!

COVID-19 continues to be a virus of great concern, the common DELTA variant is easily transmissible and we are committed to putting in place all of the prevention practices that will keep our children in school and our schools open.

The State of California has released requirements for student masking in indoor classrooms for all school programs during the 2021/2022 school year. CDPH continuously updates their guidance (the most current guidance updated on September 9, 2021) and you may follow this [LINK](#) to read all of the updates. LTUSD will continue to adapt and modify their requirements accordingly.

At this time LTUSD will follow these policies and procedures for all students and staff:

- Masks are required for ALL students and staff indoors regardless of vaccination status and should be worn over the nose and mouth at all times.
- Masks are optional (though encouraged) outdoors (students will be able to take breaks from wearing their masks when outside).
- Students and staff who forget their masks will be provided with one
- Students who do not wish to wear a mask, will not be allowed to participate in indoor on campus instruction during the 2021-2022 school year
- Staff and students who exhibit symptoms of illness are immediately sent home and asked to isolate with their family, contact their primary health care provider, and get a Covid test.
- Staff and students who test positive are immediately notified by the testing agency and then asked to report to their school nurse so that the school can begin the work of contact-tracing anyone the student or staff was in close contact with.
- Require students and staff to stay home and recommend getting tested if they are displaying any of the following symptoms:
 - Fever or chills
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea
 - Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
 - New confusion
 - Inability to wake or stay awake
- Advise staff members and students with symptoms of COVID-19 infection not to return for in-person instruction until they have met CDPH criteria to return to school. Please contact your school nurse for guidance if you are having any symptoms of COVID-19:

LTUSD NURSE STAFF

Bijou Community School & Early Childhood Programs @ AI Tahoe	Melanie Tavasieff	530-543-2337 x 1321
Tahoe Valley Elementary	Karla Peterson	530-543-2350 x 1636
Sierra House Elementary	Ryan Cates	530-543-2327 x 1551
Lake Tahoe Environmental Science Magnet & Elevated Digital Learning Academy (Elementary)	Lindsay Smith	530-543-2371 x 1452
South Tahoe Middle School & Elevated Digital Learning Academy (Middle)	Connie Alcamo	530-541-6404 x 1792
South Tahoe High School & Elevated Digital Learning Academy (High)	Fred Buttrick	530-541-4111 x 1833

It is critical that our students, staff and community adhere to the health and safety guidelines established for mitigating the spread of COVID-19. With the recent displacement and movement of families due to evacuation, it is extremely important to remain home if you have ANY signs or symptoms of illness and contact your school nurse. Remember, getting vaccinated, wearing a mask, and washing hands frequently are the most effective ways to prevent spread of the virus.

Thank you for your support as we begin the return to the 2021/2022 school year!! We are all so excited to see our students!

[Your Guide to Masks - CDC](#)

[California Department of Public Health \(CDPH\) Guidelines for Schools](#)

[Center for Disease Control \(CDC\) - Guidance for schools](#)

[American Academy of Pediatrics - Recommendations for Schools](#)

[The Science Behind Safely Reopening Schools](#)

Sincerely,

LTUSD Health Services Dept.