

August 18, 2022

Re: Updated COVID-19 Response Letter from 07/28/22

Dear Nevada County Superintendents and School Leaders:

We at Nevada County Public Health look forward to supporting you to provide a safe, in person learning environment this school year. While restrictive measures have relaxed significantly from last year, COVID-19 appears here to stay, and there are actions which can be taken to mitigate the spread of the disease in the school environment.

As you are aware, <u>AB86</u> required COVID-19 case reporting by K-12 schools. This requirement within AB86 sunset June 30, 2022. After this date, Nevada County Public Health will no longer require individual COVID-19 case reporting from K-12 schools. However, reporting to Nevada County Public Health is still expected when there is evidence of escalating COVID-19 situations/outbreaks, including but not limited to when more than 10% of the student population, or when 3 or more students *and/or staff* in a cohort such as a classroom, club or sports team, are absent *with COVID-19 within a 14-day period*. This timely reporting will allow Nevada County Public Health to continue to provide the necessary consultation and assistance for COVID-19 disease control and to reduce the risk of further transmission and outbreaks.

High-quality, well-fitting masks remain a highly effective, inexpensive tool to protect oneself and mitigate transmission of COVID-19 and other respiratory pathogens. Students and staff should follow California Department of Public Health guidance for the general public as well as masking guidance for specific situations such as when having symptoms, being infected or exposed. Schools are responsible for developing and implementing protocols to provide masks to students who inadvertently fail to bring a face covering to school when needed, or simply desire to use one.

A summary of COVID-19 guidance documents for schools from the California Department of Public Health are listed below:

<u>CA Covid-19 School Readiness Hub</u> <u>K–12 Guidance 2022–23 School Year (ca.gov)</u> <u>Outbreak Definition and Reporting Guidance (ca.gov)</u>

Preliminary Testing Framework for K-12 Schools for the 2022-2023 School Year (ca.gov)

We would also like to call your attention to the following CA laws/regulations that remain in effect:

- K-12 schools should refer to California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 17, <u>§2500</u> and <u>§2508</u> for reporting guidance. Note that 17 CCR §2500 has been temporarily modified by the <u>State Public Health Officer Order of February 10th, 2022</u>.
- 2. 2. As workplaces, schools are subject to COVID-19 workplace outbreak reporting requirements stipulated in <u>AB 685</u> and <u>Cal/OSHA Emergency Temporary Standards</u>.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

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