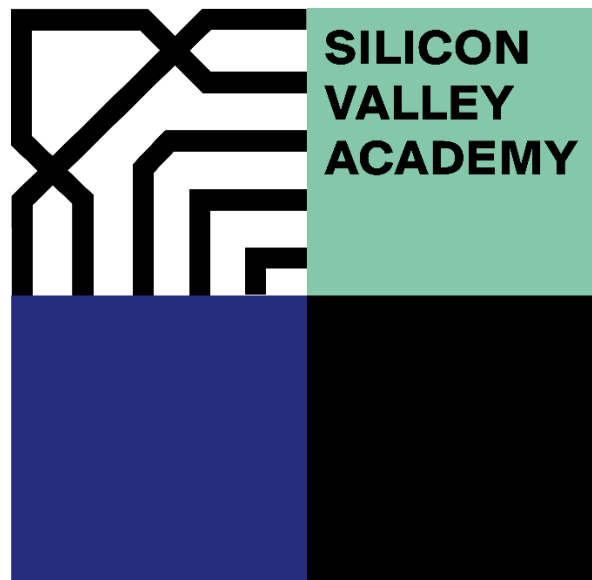# Silicon Valley Academy

Reopening Plan

2021-2022

COVID-19

Prevention, Monitoring, and Response

Per directives provided by the

California Department of Public Health

Santa Clara County Public Health Department

Santa Clara County Department of Education

California Department of Social Services: Child Care Licensing

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INTRODUCTION

Silicon Valley Academy's COVID-19 Reopening Plan is based upon guidance set forth by the California Department of Public Health, the Santa Clara County Department of Health, the Santa Clara County Department of Education, and the California Department of Social Services: Child Care Licensing. Due to the nature and ever-changing conditions around COVID-19, this is a living document and will be updated as needed to reflect the most current information and guidelines.

COMMUNICATION

Silicon Valley Academy will keep parents informed of any relevant changes to COVID-19 guidelines and reopening plans. SVA has put in place a COVID-19 Designee for the school. The COVID-19 designee is responsible to attend regular designee meetings with the Santa Clara County Department of Public Health and Department of Education, ensure proper procedure is followed by the school, update staff members and families to the newest guidelines, and report to the Public Health Department any known cases per AB 86 (2021) and California Code Title 17, section 2500.

Principal Mona Nezzar is SVA's COVID-19 Designee.
- mnezzar@svamail.com
- (408) 243-9333

Vice Principal Lina Arab is SVA's backup COVID-19 Designee.
- larab@svamail.com
- (408) 243-9333

Any concerns or questions should be directed to SVA's principal/ COVID-19 designee or its vice principal/ backup COVID-19 designee.

PREKINDERGARTEN

SVA offers in-person learning for all Prekindergarten students. Parents may enroll their child in either the full-day (8:30am-3:00pm) option or the half-day (8:30am-11:30am) option.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

SVA offers full-time in-person learning for all KG-5th grade students.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

SVA offers full-time in-person learning for all 6th-8th grade students.

RECORD KEEPING

SVA will maintain records and daily attendance of personnel and participants.

SVA will track and document incidents of possible exposure.

All records required to be maintained will be kept for a minimum of 1 month to allow the Santa Clara County Public Health Department to conduct case investigation and contact tracing in the event that a COVID-19 case or close contact is identified in connection with the Program.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING

As per the CDPH COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2021-22 School Year released on July 12, 2021, in-person instruction can occur safely without minimum physical distancing requirements when other mitigation strategies (e.g., masking) are implemented. This is consistent with CDC K-12 School Guidance. As a result, there will be no minimum physical distancing in the classroom setting.

FACE COVERING

As per the CDPH COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2021-22 School Year released on July 12, 2021, the following are the mask requirements in a school setting:

- Masks are optional outdoors for all in PreK-12 school settings.
- All PreK-12 students are required to mask indoors, with exemptions per CDPH face mask guidance regardless of vaccination status.
- All adults in PreK-12 school settings are required to mask when sharing indoor spaces with students regardless of vaccination status.
- Persons exempted from wearing a face covering due to a medical condition, must wear a non-restrictive alternative, such as a face shield with a drape on the bottom edge, as long as their condition permits it.
- SVA will provide a face covering to students, personnel, and visitors who inadvertently fail to bring a face covering to school.
- In limited situations where a face covering cannot be used for pedagogical or developmental reasons, (e.g., communicating or assisting young children or those with special needs) a face shield with a drape (per CDPH guidelines) can be used instead of a face covering while in the classroom as long as the wearer maintains physical distance from others. Staff must return to wearing a face covering outside of the classroom.
- Children should not wear face coverings while sleeping.
- Childcare providers and licensees must ensure the use of face coverings does not cause children to overheat in hot weather.
- CDPH will continue to assess conditions on an ongoing basis, and will determine no later than November 1, 2021, whether to update mask requirements or recommendations.

SVA has posted signage in high visibility areas to remind students and staff of (1) when and where face coverings are required and (2) appropriate use of face coverings.

SVA will communicate with all staff and families regarding expectations for use of face coverings at school and how to wash face coverings.

SVA will educate students, particularly younger students, on the rationale and proper use of face coverings.

Best Mask Practices

- Make sure your mask fits snugly against your face.
    - gaps can let air with respiratory droplets leak in and out around the edges of the mask.
- Pick a mask with layers to keep your respiratory droplets in and others' out.
    - A mask with layers will stop more respiratory droplets getting inside your mask or escaping from your mask if you are sick.
- Choose a mask with a nose wire.
    - A nose wire is a metal strip along the top of the mask.
    - Nose wires prevent air from leaking out of the top of the mask.
    - Bend the nose wire over your nose to fit close to your face.
- Use a mask fitter or brace.
    - Use a mask fitter or brace over a disposable mask or a cloth mask to prevent air from leaking around the edges of the mask.
- Check that it fits snugly over your nose, mouth, and chin.
    - Check for gaps by cupping your hands around the outside edges of the mask.
    - Make sure no air is flowing from the area near your eyes or from the sides of the mask.
    - If the mask has a good fit, you will feel warm air come through the front of the mask and may be able to see the mask material move in and out with each breath.
- Add layers of material.
    - 2 ways to layer:
        - Use a cloth mask that has multiple layers of fabric.
        - Wear a disposable mask underneath a cloth mask.
            - The cloth mask should push the edges of the disposable mask against your face.
- Make sure you can see and breathe easily.
- Knot and tuck ear loops of a 3-ply mask.
    - Knot the ear loops of a 3-ply face mask where they join the edge of the mask.
    - Fold and tuck the unneeded material under the edges.
- Do not combine two disposable masks.

- o Disposable masks are not designed to fit tightly and wearing more than one will not improve fit.
- Do not combine a KN95 mask with any other mask.
  - o Only use one KN95 mask at a time.

Children & Adults

- All adults picking up or dropping off students must wear face coverings.
- Anyone over the age of 2 must wear a face covering at all times.
- All visitors must wear face coverings at all times.

Exemptions

- Face coverings shall not be required for
  - o children under 2 years of age.
  - o anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the covering without assistance.
  - o students with special needs who are unable to tolerate a face covering.
  - o any individual who a healthcare professional has advised should not wear a face covering because they have a medical condition that would make wearing a face covering dangerous.
  - o anyone during the time that they are eating, drinking, or addressing another biological need that requires the removal of a face covering.
  - o communication by or with someone who is hearing impaired.
  - o when engaged in activities during which wearing a face covering may pose a danger.

VENTILATION

SVA will increase ventilation by increasing outdoor air circulation (e.g., by opening any operable windows and/or doors), unless doing so would pose a health or safety risk to individuals using the facility (e.g., allowing in pollen or smoke or exacerbating asthma symptoms).

SNACK & LUNCH

SVA will maximize physical distance as much as possible while eating (especially indoors) and arrange for eating outdoors as much as feasible.

Students will practice proper handwashing before and after eating.

PreK snacks will be provided in individual portions and delivered by staff wearing gloves.

Students and staff are not allowed to share each other's food.

SVA staff will clean frequently touched surfaces. Surfaces that come in contact with food will be washed, rinsed, and sanitized before and after meals.

LIMITATIONS ON VISITORS & EVENTS

SVA will limit nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations with people who are not fully vaccinated, particularly when there is moderate-to-high COVID-19 community transmission.

Anyone, including visitors, who have symptoms of infectious illness, such as flu or COVID-19, must stay home and seek testing and care.

HYGIENE, CLEANING, & OTHER MEASURES

SVA has posted signage in high visibility areas to remind students and staff of proper techniques for handwashing and covering of coughs and sneezes and other prevention measures.

SVA will teach and reinforce washing hands, avoiding contact with one's eyes, nose, and mouth, and covering coughs and sneezes among students and staff.

SVA will promote hand washing throughout the day, especially before and after eating, after using the toilet, and after handling garbage, or removing gloves.

SVA will ensure adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors, including soap, tissues, no-touch trashcans, face coverings, and hand sanitizers with at least 60 percent ethyl alcohol for staff and children who can safely use hand sanitizer.

According to CDPH guidance, in general, cleaning once a day is usually enough to sufficiently remove potential virus that may be on surfaces. Disinfecting (using disinfectants on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency COVID-19 list) removes any remaining germs on surfaces, which further reduces any risk of spreading infection.

If SVA has a sick person with COVID-19 within the last 24 hours, SVA will clean AND disinfect the spaces occupied by that person during that time.

SVA staff will be using cleaning products approved for use against COVID-19 on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-approved list "N" and follow product instructions. All cleaning products will be kept out of children's reach.

HEALTH SCREENINGS

SVA has posted signs at all entrances instructing students, personnel, and all others not to enter the facility if they have any COVID-19 symptoms.

- COVID-19 symptoms include fever of 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit or more, chills, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, confusion, recent loss of taste or smell, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.

SVA will not allow entry to any staff, student, parent, or visitor if they are a confirmed COVID-19 case or have any COVID-19 symptom.

SVA personnel will also conduct visual wellness checks upon arrival and will continue to monitor students throughout the day for any changes.

SVA has identified an isolation room as well as an outdoor area to separate anyone who exhibits COVID-19 symptoms.

Any student or personnel exhibiting symptoms will immediately be required to wear a face covering (if not wearing one already) and wait in the isolation room/area until they can be transported home or to a healthcare facility, as soon as practicable. For serious illness, 9-1-1 will be called without delay.

COVID-19 TESTING, REPORTING, & RESPONSE

Symptomatic Individuals

SVA requires students and personnel to get tested as soon as possible after they develop one or more COVID-19 symptom.

Staff members and students with symptoms of COVID-19 infection may not return for in-person instruction until they have met CDPH criteria to return to school:

- At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; and

- Other symptoms have improved; and

- They have a negative test for SARS-CoV-2, OR a healthcare provider has provided documentation that the symptoms are typical of their underlying chronic condition (e.g., allergies or asthma) OR a healthcare provider has confirmed an alternative named diagnosis (e.g., Streptococcal pharyngitis, Coxsackie virus), OR at least 10 days have passed since symptom onset.

Case Reporting, Contact Tracing, and Investigation

Per AB 86 (2021) and California Code Title 17, section 2500, schools are required to report COVID-19 cases to the local public health department.

Schools must have a COVID-19 liaison to assist the local health department with contact tracing and investigation.

Principal Mona Nezzar is SVA's COVID-19 designee/liaison and Vice Principal Lina Arab is SVA's COVID-19 backup designee.

Childcare centers are required to report epidemic outbreaks to the CDSS Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD) through their local Regional Office as required pursuant to Title 22, CCR section 101212(d).

Quarantine Recommendations for Vaccinated Close Contacts

Those who are vaccinated are to follow the CDPH Fully Vaccinated People Guidance regarding quarantine.

Anyone who has completed their COVID-19 vaccination and has been a close contact to someone with COVID-19 does not need to quarantine if they meet ALL the conditions listed below.

- Are fully vaccinated
    - this means 2 or more weeks have passed after the person has received the second dose in a 2-dose vaccine series, or 2 or more weeks have passed after the person has received one dose of a single-dose vaccine
- Do not have symptoms of COVID-19 since the current exposure
    - if the person has COVID-19 symptoms, they must isolate and get tested immediately

Anyone who does not meet the above criteria should continue to follow current County quarantine guidance after exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.

Quarantine Recommendations for Unvaccinated Students for Exposures When Both Parties Were Wearing a Mask

When both parties were wearing a mask in the indoor classroom setting, unvaccinated students who are close contacts (more than 15 minutes over a 24-hour period within 0-6 feet indoors) may undergo a modified 10-day quarantine as follows. They may continue to attend school for in-person instruction if they:

- are asymptomatic;
- continue to appropriately mask, as required;
- undergo at least twice weekly testing during the 10-day quarantine; and
- continue to quarantine for all extracurricular activities at school, including sports, and activities within the community setting.

Quarantine Recommendations for Unvaccinated Close Contacts Who Were Not Wearing Masks or For Whom the Infected Individual Was Not Wearing a Mask During the Indoor Exposure; or Unvaccinated Students as described previously.

For these contacts who remain asymptomatic, meaning they have NOT had any symptoms, they may discontinue self-quarantine under the following conditions:

- Quarantine can end after Day 10 from the date of last exposure without testing; OR

- Quarantine can end after Day 7 if a diagnostic specimen is collected after Day 5 from the date of last exposure and tests negative.

- To discontinue quarantine before 14 days following last known exposure, asymptomatic close contacts must:

  o continue daily self-monitoring for symptoms through Day 14 from last known exposure; AND

  o follow all recommended non-pharmaceutical interventions (e.g., wearing a mask when around others, hand washing, avoiding crowds) through Day 14 from last known exposure.

- If any symptoms develop during this 14-day period, the exposed person must immediately isolate, get tested and contact their healthcare provider with any questions regarding their care.

Isolation Recommendations

For both vaccinated and unvaccinated persons, follow the CDPH Isolation Guidance for those diagnosed with COVID-19: https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Guidance-on-Isolation-and-Quarantine-for-COVID-19-Contact-Tracing.aspx.

VACCINATION

The CDC has strongly encouraged vaccination as one of the most important tools to end the COVID-19 pandemic. The vaccine is free to all. No insurance is required. The vaccine is available to everyone age 12 and up—regardless of immigration or insurance status. Stay healthy, protect others, and help us end the pandemic. Find a walk-in clinic or make an appointment today by going to https://myturn.ca.gov/.

SVA REOPENING STATUS REPORTING

In accordance with the January 14, 2021 CDPH Guidance for COVID-19 School Reopening Status Reporting Order, beginning January 25, 2021, SVA must complete surveys bi-monthly for the California Department of Public Health until the directive is modified or rescinded.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Please visit the County Public Health Department's website at www.sccgov.org/coronavirus for up-to-date information regarding the coronavirus and schools.

For specific questions related to school operations, please send your emails the Santa Clara County of Education: schools@eoc.sccgov.org.

For additional information and resources for schools, please see:

- CDPH COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2021-22 School Year
- CDPH Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings
- American Academy of Pediatrics COVID-19 Guidance for Safe Schools
- CDPH K-12 school-based COVID-19 testing strategies for school year 2021-22
- State of California Safe Schools for All Hub
- CDC Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools
- CDPH Guidance for Child Care Providers and Programs