

Oak Valley Union Elementary School

2021 Safe Return to In Person Instruction

Based on COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2021-22 School Year as of July 12, 2021 and updates on September 1, 2021



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Teaching & Learning on Campus

Recent evidence indicates that in-person instruction can occur safely without minimum physical distancing requirements when other mitigation strategies (e.g., masking, hand washing and sanitizing) are fully implemented. This is consistent with [CDC K-12 School Guidance](#). Students will return to a regular school schedule five days a week starting August 11, 2021. Parents and guardians of enrolled pupils have the option to enroll their children in in-person instruction or independent study for the 2021-2022 school year. Parents who chose to keep their student from returning to in person learning will need to complete requirements for independent study. Independent study is for the purpose of COVID mitigation and will only be offered for the 2021-2022 school year.

Independent Study

Independent Study Definitions:

Short Term: 1-14 days.

Long Term: 15 days or more

Asynchronous Instruction: Independent work

Live interaction: interaction between the pupil and the teacher, aide or other personnel and may include peers; this interaction may be in person, by internet or phone.

Synchronous instruction: classroom-style instruction, or small group, or one-on-one instruction delivered in person or by internet or phone and involving two-way communication between the pupil and teacher.

Short Term Independent Study

A student may be assigned to Short Term Independent Study, 1-14 days, when it appears to be the best interest of the student, is needed while on quarantine from COVID19, or is COVID19 positive. Short term independent study may also be requested by the parent depending on the situation. Such an assignment requires a signed contract between the school, parents, and pupils. To fulfill the Short Term Independent Study contract, all coursework must be completed and turned in to the office within two days of returning to back to school. Short Term Independent Study has to be approved by the Superintendent and can be denied if the request does not follow board policy.

Long Term Independent Study

Long term independent study, more than 15 days, may be used for any student if parents feel that their child needs to be home due to fears of COVID19. Long term independent study is intended to be for the duration of the full school year unless there are extenuating circumstances or if the student does not meet the requirements to remain in the independent study program (outlined below).

To enroll in Independent Study for the 2021-2022 school year, there must be a master agreement in place for each pupil. The agreement must be signed by the pupil's parent, legal guardian, or caregiver. For pupils with exceptional needs, the pupil's individualized education program (IEP) must specifically provide for independent study before the pupil can begin participating.

If you wish to have your pupil return to in-person instruction during the school year, you may provide notice to the school and your pupil will be returned to in person instruction no later than five instructional days after we receive the notice. To ensure student success in the long-term Independent Study program, parents and/or guardians must be active participants during both synchronous and asynchronous learning.

When any student fails to actively participate in their education, or has unsatisfactory attendance (this includes but is not limited to three consecutive absences, or excessive absences or tardies within the school year), or misses two live interactions without valid reasons or prior approval, an evaluation by administration and/or the teacher shall be conducted to determine whether the student should be allowed to continue in Independent Study. A written record of the findings of any evaluation conducted pursuant to this policy shall be maintained in the student's permanent record.

Satisfactory educational progress will be based on formalized projects, assignments, pre/post tests, local assessment data, and/or active participation in their education. The student must complete and turn in quality work to the best of their abilities. If the student fails to show progress or growth in required learning concepts or coursework completion, the student will have violated this agreement and must have a parent contact. This may lead to a conference with the teacher or administration and/or removal from the program.

The Independent Study option is to be substantially equivalent in quality and intellectual challenge of in person instruction. The minimum daily time requirement for each student is required based on their grade level. For transitional kindergarten through 3rd grade, there will be opportunities for daily synchronous instruction. For grades 4 through 8, there will be opportunities for both daily live interaction and at least weekly synchronous instruction. The teacher will provide synchronous and asynchronous work for each student to meet the minimum time requirement. The teacher may require more than the minimum amount of time. The requirements are as follows:

TK-K	180 minutes
1st-3rd	230 minutes
4th-8th	240 minutes

In addition, the teacher may require that students enrolled in the long-term independent study program attend in-person periodically. These in-person sessions may include but are not limited to assessments, interventions, engagement, and social emotional services.

Students participating in the long-term independent study program will not have the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities including but not limited to sports, dances, spelling bee, etc.

Independent Study Tiered Re-Engagement Plan

TIER 1

When any student fails to actively participate in their education, or has unsatisfactory attendance (this includes but is not limited to three unexcused absences or tardies within the school year), or misses two live interactions without valid reasons within a week.

Re-engagement Strategies:

- Parent is contacted by phone or in-person for an evaluation of continued enrollment, which is placed in student's permanent record for three years
- Assist with connectivity issues, technology needs, and navigating online platform
- Review independent study expectations and contract
- Offer assistance with barriers causing a lack of engagement including outreach to school and community agencies for access or counseling support

TIER 2

When any student continues to fail to actively participate in their education, or has unsatisfactory attendance (this includes but is not limited to 6 unexcused absences or tardies within the school year), or continues to miss two live in-person sessions without valid reasons.

Re-engagement Strategies:

- Continue offering assistance with connectivity issues, technology needs, and navigating Independent Study curriculum.
- Phone call or meeting with parents to review Independent Study expectations, contract, and evaluate whether student should continue in Independent Study
- Student may be required to participate in additional synchronous instruction
- Close monitoring of student participation including parent notification within one day of the student's lack of participation or absence
- Continue to offer assistance with barriers causing a lack of engagement including outreach to school and community agencies for access or counseling support

- Referral to School Counselor, Family Social Worker, School Psychologist, Resource Teacher, and/or District Nurse

TIER 3

When any student continues to fail to actively participate in their education, or has unsatisfactory attendance (this includes but is not limited to 9 absences, or excessive tardies within the school year), or additional missed live interactions without valid reasons or prior approval.

Re-engagement Strategies:

- Parent meeting with administration either by video conference, phone or in person to discuss concerns regarding attendance and educational progress
- Administration, school psychologist, resource teacher, and/or counselor may conduct a Home Visit
- Referral to appropriate community service agencies
- Student may be transitioned to in-person instruction in no later than five instructional days with collaboration between administrators and family
- May result in a Student Attendance Review Board (SARB) meeting

Bell Schedule

Instructional Day 2021 – 2022

Kindergarten

(120)	8:30-10:30	Literacy Block: Guided Reading, Writing, ELA core
(15)	10:30-10:45	Recess
(20)	10:45-11:05	Literacy Block Continued
(50)	11:05-11:55	Lunch
(40)	11:55-12:35	Math Centers
(40)	12:35-1:20	Walk To Success
		1. ELD instruction (2 teachers)
		2. Enrichment (1 teacher)

3. Intervention (Intervention Team)

- (10) 1:20-1:30 Recess
- (30) 1:30-2:00 Sci/Hist (Flexible time, alternating)

Total Instructional Minutes: 250

1st/2nd

- (120) 8:30-10:30 Literacy Block: Guided Reading, Writing, ELA core
- (15) 10:30-10:45 Recess
- (40) 10:45-11:25 Walk To Success
 - 1. ELD instruction (2 teachers)
 - 2. Enrichment (1 teacher)
 - 3. Intervention (Intervention Team)
- (50) 11:25-12:15 Lunch
- (40) 12:15-12:55 Prep
 - Art, Ag, PE, STEM, Music
 - Intervention Time for Tier 2 and 3 w/classroom aide
- (65) 12:55-2:00 Math Block
- (15) 2:00-2:15 Recess
- (60) 2:15-3:15 Sci/Hist Block (alternating)

Total Instructional Minutes: 325

3rd-5th

- (120) 8:30-10:30 Literacy Block: Literacy Circles, Writing, ELA core
- (15) 10:30-10:45 Recess
- (40) 10:45-11:25 Prep
 - Art, Ag, PE, STEM, Music, Makerspace, Mindfulness
 - Intervention Time for Tier 2 and 3 w/classroom aide
- (40) 11:25-12:05 Walk To Success
 - 1. ELD instruction (2 teachers)
 - 2. Enrichment (1 teacher)
 - 3. Intervention (Intervention Team)
- (50) 12:05-12:55 Lunch
- (65) 12:55-2:00 Math Block

- (15) 2:00-2:15 Brain Break
- (60) 2:15-3:15 Sci/Hist Block (alternating)

Total Instructional Minutes: 325

6th-8th

Period 1	(40)	8:30-9:10	WTS
			1. Intervention students w/Intervention team
			a. Far Below students
			2. ELD w/Mustin
			3. Barthelemy/Willey/Pena (Math)
			Docanto/Orosco/Fonseca (Literacy)
			a. Below/At/Above
			b. Fluidity between content and levels
			every 6 weeks
Period 2	(45)	9:10-9:55	Core 1
Period 3	(45)	9:55-10:40	Core 2
Break	(15)	10:40-10:55	
Period 4	(45)	10:55-11:40	Core 3
Period 5	(45)	11:40-12:25	Core 4
Lunch	(50)	12:25-1:15	
Period 6	(40)	1:15-1:55	Elective/PE
			1. Prep
			2. 6th PE non-athletes
Period 7	(40)	1:55-2:35	Elective/PE
			1. Prep
			2. 6-8 PE non-athletes
Period 8	(40)	2:35-3:15	Elective/PE
			1. Prep
			2. Sports PE 7/8th
			3. IEP support

Total Instructional Minutes: 340

Safety Measures for Oak Valley UESD

The following guidelines and procedures have been developed to ensure the safety of all students and staff when on campus.

Masks

- Masks are optional outdoors for all school settings.
- All K-12 students are required to mask indoors, with exemptions per [CDPH face mask guidance](#). Adults in K-12 school settings are required to mask when sharing indoor spaces with students.

- Masks will be required on all school busses and vehicles.
- 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.
- Masks will be provided for students who forget to bring one or do not have a facemask. Extra masks are located on all school busses, school vehicles, in classrooms and the main office on campus.
- 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.

Physical Distancing

Recent evidence indicates that 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](#).

Outdoor Play

Students will be permitted to use all play structures on campus. Students are expected to adhere to all existing rules for playground use.

School-Based Extracurricular Activities

The requirements and recommendations apply to all extracurricular activities that are operated or supervised by schools, and all activities that occur on a school site, whether or not they occur during school hours, including, but not limited to, sports, band, chorus, and clubs. Masks are required for all persons while playing all indoor sports, unless wearing a mask during play has been determined to pose a choking hazard by a well-recognized health authority, such as the American Academy of Pediatrics.^[1]

For (1) the playing of musical instruments that cannot be done with a face covering (e.g., wind instruments); or (2) when wearing a mask during play poses a choking hazard, at least one of the following options is required:

- a. Conduct these activities outdoors;
- b. Use modified face coverings and bell coverings when playing wind and brass instruments, and maintain 6 feet of physical distancing;
- c. Perform at least weekly screening testing with either PCR testing (1:1 or pooled PCR) or antigen testing of all individuals, including those who are fully vaccinated.

Hand Hygiene

- OVUESD will teach and reinforce washing hands, avoiding contact with one's eyes, nose, and mouth, and covering coughs and sneezes among students and staff.
- Promote hand washing throughout the day, especially before and after eating, after using the toilet, and after handling garbage, or removing gloves. Students and staff should wash their hands for 20 seconds with soap, rubbing thoroughly after application, and use paper towels (or single use cloth towels) to dry hands thoroughly.
- Staff should model, practice, and monitor proper handwashing.
- OVUESD will ensure adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors, including soap, tissues, face coverings, and hand sanitizers.
- Hand sanitizer will be placed inside each classroom entry door.
- Free standing hand sanitizing stations are being positioned around the campus for easy access.

GENERAL DISINFECTION MEASURES

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.

Category	Area	Frequency
Workspaces	Classrooms, Offices, tables , desks	At the end of each day
Appliances	Exterior surfaces of refrigerators, microwaves, coffee machines	Daily
Electronic Equipment	Copier machines, TV's, Telephones	At the end of each day via general disinfecting
General Used Objects	Handles, light switches, sinks, restrooms	Daily or more often as needed
Common Areas	Cafeteria, Library, Meeting rooms, etc.	At the end of each use/day as appropriate
Technology	Chromebooks, laptops, etc.	Once per week (unshared devices)

Cleaning of Rooms

- Door handles, light switches, faucet handles etc. will be wiped down and sanitized by custodial staff daily.
- Toilets and sinks will be washed and sanitized at various times throughout the day as needed by the custodial staff. A schedule for daily bathroom cleaning will be kept for each bathroom.

Ventilation

In order to provide high-efficiency filtration and sufficient clean air delivery the district updated their HVAC filters to eliminate added contaminants. (Dust, Pollen, Smog, & Bacteria) OVUESD installed Ionizers to all our HVAC units as an added way to help with indoor air quality.

Recommendations for staying home when sick and getting tested

- Follow the strategy for Staying Home when Sick and Getting Tested from the [CDC](#).
- Getting tested for COVID-19 when symptoms are [consistent with COVID-19](#) will help with rapid contact tracing and prevent possible spread at schools.
- Staff members and students with symptoms of COVID-19 infection are not to return for in-person instruction until they have met CDPH criteria to return to school for those with symptoms:
- At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; and
 - ii. Other symptoms have improved; and
 - iii. 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, Cocksackie virus), OR at least 10 days have passed since symptom onset.

Case reporting, contact tracing and investigation

The Superintendent, Heather Pilgrim, will immediately notify the Tulare County Public Health Liaison. Superintendent, Heather Pilgrim, and the Health Aide are the contact tracers for Oak Valley Union Elementary School and will conduct all the contact tracing in consultation with TCHHSA.

Quarantine recommendations for vaccinated close contacts

- For those who are vaccinated, OVUESD will follow the [CDPH Fully Vaccinated People Guidance](#) regarding quarantine.

Quarantine recommendations for unvaccinated students for exposures when both parties were wearing a mask, as required in K-12 indoor settings. These are adapted from the [CDC K-12 guidance](#) and [CDC definition of a close contact](#).

- 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:
 - i. Are asymptomatic;
 - ii. Continue to appropriately mask, as required;
 - iii. Undergo at least twice weekly testing during the 10-day quarantine; and

iv. 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 above.

- For these contacts, those who remain asymptomatic, meaning they have NOT had any symptoms, may discontinue self-quarantine under the following conditions:
 - i. Quarantine can end after Day 10 from the date of last exposure without testing; OR
 - ii. 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:
 - i. Continue daily self-monitoring for symptoms through Day 14 from last known exposure; AND ii. 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.

Food Service Recommendations

- Given very low risk of transmission from surfaces and shared objects, there is no need to limit food service approaches to single use items and packaged meals.
- OVUESD will clean frequently touched surfaces. Surfaces that come in contact with food should be washed, rinsed, and sanitized before and after meals.
- Meal service is supervised by designated staff/ instructional aides.

Updates

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. This plan will be updated every six months as needed.