

Acton Academy Concord Covid Safety Plan

Let's make it a safe and joyful school year.

We have masks if you forget one!

Thanks to Brightworks Montessori for this thorough safety plan that we were able to update and make ours.

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Introduction

Dear Acton Academy Concord Community,

Last summer we prepared for a school year unlike any other. At the beginning of the school year, our whole community signed a pledge to protect those around us—especially those who are most vulnerable—by doing our part to limit the spread of Covid-19. It is through our communal effort that we made it through last year with ZERO Covid cases amongst our students, guides, guests, and families! This is a feat and something to be proud of! I want to thank every single one of you for being so conscientious. It was your constant vigilance that allowed us to come together and create joyful moments of learning and connection during a truly challenging year.

As we prepare for this school year we are equipped with so much more understanding of this virus and what it means to operate a school safely. Though the spread of the delta variant demands caution, guidance from the CDC, CADPH, and SFDPH, recommends a full return to in-person learning and has provided updated guidelines on how to do so safely. We know that our community will come together yet again to protect each other's health during this school year by following public health recommendations.

In the AAC Covid-19 Safety Plan you will find an in-depth explanation that includes information about vaccination, our Covid mitigation strategies, and a response plan should there be a Covid exposure in the studio. Here is a brief summary of the most relevant points:

Vaccination

At this point in the pandemic, the best way for us to protect ourselves and each other from severe infection is to get vaccinated. Vaccinated adults and teenagers help protect younger children who are not yet eligible. We will be requiring staff to be fully vaccinated and encouraging all eligible students to be vaccinated as well.

Health and Safety Strategies

Our most important strategies for mitigating the risk of covid infection while at school will be staying home when sick, wearing masks indoors, good ventilation, regular hand washing, and cleaning. We will no longer be keeping strict cohorts, social distancing, or conducting daily health screenings. Students and staff will only be tested for covid if they have a known exposure or if Covid is suspected.

Vaccination

At this point in the pandemic, the best way for us to protect ourselves and each other from severe infection is to get vaccinated. Vaccinated adults and teenagers help protect younger children who are not yet eligible. We will be requiring all staff to be fully vaccinated. Exemptions are not being accepted at this time.

We strongly encourage eligible students to be vaccinated.

During this time we will be limiting visitors and volunteers on campus. We will also be requiring proof of vaccination from students and staff. Should we have exposure in the school, the vaccination status of students and staff will help us act quickly in determining what kind of quarantine each individual will need to undergo. You will find more information about quarantine in our Covid-19 exposure-response plan below. This Student-specific information will not be shared beyond a limited administrative group and only as needed. We respect your family's need for privacy on health-related matters.

Health and Safety



Over the past year, scientists, public health officials, and school leaders have learned a lot about what risk mitigation strategies have been most effective in reducing the spread of Covid-19. The CDC, California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Contra Costa County, and San Francisco Department of Public Health have released updated guidelines for how to operate safely. These organizations are prioritizing strategies like masking, ventilation, and staying home when sick, and letting go of strategies like social distancing and cohorting. **These recommendations may change as the community spread evolves, and AAC reserves the right to change this document as needed;** we will continue to update the community as these changes arise.

Masks Indoors and Outdoors

Face masks continue to be one of the most effective ways of stopping the spread of Covid-19. When worn over the mouth and nose, they keep the infection from spreading by capturing droplets before they travel through the air. Wearing a facemask indoors reduces the need for social distancing. At AAC:

- Everyone is required to be masked when indoors unless they are using the LaunchPad room alone. This includes people who have been vaccinated.
- Face masks will be required outdoors during surges in cases; which we will actively monitor and adjust along with the Public Health Systems.
- Please invest in your own high-quality, comfortable masks. We will have a supply of face masks for those who forget to bring their own or have one that may not demonstrate adequate protection (ie. too loose, too thin, falling down, etc.).
- Eating and other activities that require people to take down their masks will be done outside as much as possible.
- When eating inside is necessary, doors and windows will be open and the HEPA air filter will be on. Eagles will also be required to social distance (6' or more) while actively eating or drinking.
- When we have all Eagles inside for lunch, we may eat and drink in shifts so as to lessen exposure.
- When there are no students at school, staff may follow Cal/OSHA masking guidelines and public health mandates.

Stay Home If You Are Sick

Symptom Checks



We will no longer require daily temperature/health screenings. Instead, we will be relying upon community members to know the symptoms of covid and stay home and get tested if they are sick. These symptoms include but are not limited to:

- Fever (100.4 and higher) 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

If a guide or student is sick they should notify Jana Pappas, Head of School (headofschool@actonconcord.org), and get tested immediately. If a student is at school, with symptoms Students and staff will not be allowed back until symptoms have improved and they have a negative covid test. Proof of clearance can be one of the following:

- Provide Jana Pappas with a medically performed negative Covid test result.
- written clearance from a medical doctor
- 10-day quarantine from the last day of symptoms

If staff or students have a positive test, see the Covid-19 exposure-response plan below.



Travel

For staff and students who are not fully vaccinated, we encourage them to follow CDC guidelines which ask travelers to “get tested with a viral test 3-5 days after travel AND stay home and self-quarantine for a full 7 days after travel.” Fully vaccinated students and staff do not need to quarantine post-travel but are asked to get tested 3-5 days post-travel.

Testing

AAC will be recommending testing as needed when there are symptoms, possible exposures, or travel.

Wash Hands

Washing hands has always been a good strategy in maintaining a healthy environment. To promote this good practice we will:

- Teach good handwashing techniques; cover coughs and sneezes; and avoid touching eyes, mouth, and nose.
- Encourage hand washing before and after eating, and after going to the bathroom.
- Several hand sanitizing stations will be available throughout the school.



Cleaning and Disinfection

Because surfaces are not a significant route for Covid-19 transmission we will return to daily cleanings, and only disinfect after a confirmed Covid-19 case in the school.

Cleaning After A Symptomatic Or Infected Person Has Been On The School Campus

In the event, a student or staff member has been on the school campus and exhibits symptoms of Covid-19 or tests positive for Covid-19 AAC will close all areas of the campus the infected individual used or visited. The school will use disinfectant to sanitize all areas exposed to the individual. We will open windows and use fans to increase outdoor air circulation in the areas to be cleaned. The school will prohibit anyone from entering the areas until after they have been cleaned and disinfected.

Ventilation

Good outside airflow is one of our best strategies for reducing the spread of Covid-19. By diluting and filtering out respiratory droplets good ventilation limits the spread of the virus. To promote good ventilation AAC will:

- Keep windows open to allow airflow when air quality allows.
- When possible, prop doors open to promote a cross breeze.
- Have a portable HEPA air filter in the studio.
- Use fans to increase airflow.
- Use outdoor spaces as much as possible.

Outdoor Learning For Elementary School

During times of elevated community transmission, the elementary Eagles will be spending more of their time outdoors. Because of the Delta surge, AAC the elementary studio is figuring out the logistics of meeting the majority of our time outdoors for all of September. We will continue to evaluate whether to extend outdoor learning into October and November. Air Quality Safety Plan In the event of smoke from a fire impacting the air quality, AAC will closely monitor weather patterns and the Air Quality Index (AQI), using PurpleAir and the outside sensor closest to our school. Since the measures we would take to protect our students from air quality in the “Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups” category, such as closing windows and doors and playing inside, could increase the spread of Covid-19, we will close the school when the AQI is above 151 ppm.

EPA Designation	API	AAC Action Plan
Good	0-50	Studios open for in-person
Moderate	51-100	AAC is in person and closely monitoring AQI, hepa filters are on.
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	101-150	AAC windows are closed and portable hepa filters are on. Social distancing is in place. Possibility for closure depending on community spread of Covid-19.
Unhealthy and Above	151 and up	AAC is closed depending on community spread of Covid-19



Transportation

Staff and students have many different ways of getting to school. Vehicles are small enclosed spaces so a higher risk for transmission. Here is some guidance for how to mitigate the risks of riding in vehicles

Carpools

- Have a stable group of people that you carpool with.
- Have masks on, windows open, and fan on high set to outdoors.

Field Trips

- Restrictions on field trips have been lifted! Groups can go to indoor and outdoor locations and ride on public transportation. We will be following all the above guidelines wherever we go by keeping masked and maintaining good hand hygiene.

THE AAC PLEDGE

As a member of the Acton Academy Concord Community, it's my duty to protect those around me—especially those who are more vulnerable—by acting responsibly at all times. I will do my part to limit the spread of Covid-19 by making my own health and safety, and that of others, a priority. I understand that I must adopt behaviors that advance our collective ability to reduce the transmission of Covid-19. I agree to abide by all policies, procedures, and orders related to Covid-19 implemented by the city, county, state, and the school.

Response Plan: Covid-19 Exposure

Over the past year, in response to new science and vaccines, the CDC and local Departments of Public Health have shifted some of the guidelines for quarantine. These new guidelines are summarized in this [SFDPH guide for Suspected and Confirmed Cases](#). Simply put, if a covid exposure happens, **vaccinated children and adults do not need to quarantine** though they do need to get tested 3-5 days after exposure and be monitored for symptoms, unvaccinated adults and children are required to quarantine, though it has become more nuanced for students. Here are some of the most notable changes for unvaccinated quarantines:

- **School-Wide Quarantine**
 - **For all Vaccinated and Unvaccinated Staff and Students** - If an outbreak occurs, AAC reserves the right to close the school for up to 14 days and require negative PCR tests before any and all returning staff and students.
- **Standard Quarantine**
 - **For Unvaccinated Adults** – All unvaccinated adults must undergo a 10-day standard quarantine
 - **For Unvaccinated Students**, if one of the parties was unmasked during exposure, the close contact should be quarantined from all activities for 10 days (this can be shortened to 7 days if PCR testing was conducted after day 5 and is negative). Monitoring of symptoms should continue for 14 days total regardless of the timing of return to school.
- **Modified Quarantine**
 - **For Unvaccinated Children**-Students in K-12 schools who are not fully vaccinated for Covid-19 and have close contact in an indoor classroom setting at school can leave quarantine to attend school if both the student and the infected person were wearing face masks for the duration of their exposure and all of the following criteria are met:
 - They remain asymptomatic
 - Continue to wear a face mask while at school
 - Undergo twice-weekly Covid testing with negative results; PCR testing is recommended but antigen testing is acceptable
 - Avoid all out of classroom activities including extracurricular activities and out of school programs.
- **Outdoor Exposures**
 - Children and youth who have close contact with a person with C-19 outdoors at the school are only required to quarantine if they are unvaccinated, and the close contact occurs.
EITHER:
 - during a high-contact sport/dance OR
 - while stationary and unmasked (e.g., while eating a meal or singing)

**** Please Note, at-home tests are not accepted (per County Health) tests must be conducted at a qualified testing site****

Resources

SF and CCC Local Guidelines

San Francisco Department of Public Health, [Reopening TK-12 Schools Preliminary Guidance for School Year 2021-2022](#)

San Francisco Department of Public Health, [Quick Guide for Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19 For Schools](#)

San Francisco Department of Public Health, [For Parents and Guardians: COVID-19 Health Checks at Child](#)

San Francisco Department of Public Health, [Covid-19 Variants: What you need to know](#)

Contra Costa County Department of Public Health, [Data Dashboard](#)

Contra Costa Health Services, [Back to School FAQ's](#)

CA State Guidelines

California Department of Public Health, [COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2021-22 Year](#)

California Department of Education, [COVID-19 Prevention](#)

Federal & National Guidelines

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [Symptoms of Covid-19](#)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [Guidance for Covid Prevention in K-12 Schools](#)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Science Brief: [Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in K-12 Schools](#)

American Academy of Pediatrics, [Recommendations for Opening Schools 2021-22](#)