

# **PALO VERDE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT INJURY AND ILLNESS PREVENTION PROGRAM COVID-19 ADDENDUM**

## **Purpose**

California employers are required to establish and implement an Injury and Illness Prevention Program (IIPP) to protect employees from all worksite hazards, including infectious diseases.

Cal/OSHA's regulations require protection for workers exposed to airborne infectious diseases such as the 2019 novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19). This interim guidance provides employers and workers with information for preventing exposure to the coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2), the virus that causes COVID-19. Employers and employees should review their own health and safety procedures as well as the recommendations and standards detailed below to ensure workers are protected.

It is the policy of the Palo Verde Unified School District to ensure a safe and healthy environment for employees, staff, and students. Communicable and infectious diseases such as COVID-19 are minimized by providing prevention, education, identification through examination, surveillance, immunization, treatment and follow-up, isolation, and reporting.

Due to the widespread of COVID-19 in the community, Palo Verde Unified School District has implemented the following infection control measures, including applicable and relevant recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and our state and local guidelines.

## **Introduction**

### **What is COVID-19?**

On February 11, 2020, the World Health Organization announced an official name for the disease that is causing the 2019 novel coronavirus outbreak first identified in Wuhan, China. The new name of this disease is Coronavirus Disease 2019, abbreviated as COVID-19. In COVID-19, 'CO' stands for 'corona,' 'VI' for 'virus,' and 'D' for disease. Formerly, this disease was referred to as "2019 novel coronavirus" or "2019-nCoV". There are many types of human coronaviruses including some that commonly cause mild upper-respiratory tract illnesses. COVID-19 is a new disease caused by a new coronavirus that has not previously been seen in humans. There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19.

## **What are the Symptoms of COVID-19?**

Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fever
- Chills
- Muscle pain
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell

## **Procedures to Help Prevent the Spread of COVID-19**

### **Protect Yourself**

Older adults and people who have severe underlying medical conditions like heart or lung disease or diabetes seem to be at higher risk for developing serious complications from COVID-19 illness.

### **How Does It Spread?**

The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus.

- The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person.
- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks.
- Through respiratory droplets that can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.

Some recent studies have suggested that COVID-19 may be spread by people who are not showing symptoms.

Germs can spread from other people or surfaces when:

- Touching eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Prepare or eat food and drinks with unwashed hands.
- Touch a contaminated surface or objects.
- Blowing nose, coughing, or sneezing into hands and then touching other people's hands or common objects.

## **Hand Hygiene**

To prevent the spread of respiratory infections from one person to the next, frequent hand washing is recommended.

Hand hygiene procedures include the use of alcohol-based hand rubs and hand washing with soap and water. Washing hands with soap and water is one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of germs. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer (containing at least 60% ethanol alcohol).

Properly hand wash with soap and water by:

- Wet hands first with water.
- Apply soap to hands.
- Rub hands vigorously for at least 20 seconds, covering all surfaces of hands and fingers.
- Rinse hands with water and dry thoroughly with paper towel.
- Use paper towel to turn off water faucet.

Alcohol-based hand rub is an ideal method for decontaminating hands, except when hands are visibly soiled (e.g., dirt, blood, body fluids), and may not remove harmful chemicals from hands like pesticides and heavy metals, in which case soap and water should be used. Hand hygiene stations should be strategically placed to ensure easy access.

Using Alcohol-based Hand Rub (follow manufacturer's directions):

- Dispense the recommended volume of product.
- Apply product to the palm of one hand, and
- Rub hands together, covering all surfaces of hands and fingers until they are dry (no rinsing is required). This should take around 20 seconds.

Hand washing facilities will be maintained to provide adequate supply of hand washing soap and paper towels.

## **Coughing and Sneezing Etiquette**

Covering coughs and sneezes and keeping hands clean can help prevent the spread of serious respiratory illnesses.

To help stop the spread of germs:

- Cover mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing.
- Throw used tissues in the trash.
- If a tissue is not available, cough or sneeze into the elbow – not in hands.
- Immediately wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean hands with a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% ethanol alcohol.

## **Avoid Close Contact – Distancing**

Physical distancing is an effective method that can help stop or slow the spread of an infectious disease by limiting the contact between people. For COVID-19, the recommended distance is at least 6 feet. To help prevent the spread of respiratory disease, employees should avoid close contact with people outside their household or those who are sick within their household.

Each site will have a plan in place to ensure social distancing at their location. The plan will include, but is not limited to the following:

- Implementing flexible work hours by rotating or staggering shifts to limit the number of employees on site at the same time.
- Increasing physical space between employees by modifying the workspace.
- Avoiding shared workspaces (desks, offices, and cubicles) and work items (phones, computers, other work tools, and equipment) when possible. If they must be shared, following the Cleaning and Disinfecting the Building and Facility Guidelines to clean and disinfect shared workspaces and work items before and after use.
- Increasing physical space between employees and public by offering drive-through service or physical barriers such as partitions.
- Using signs, tape marks, or other visual cues on the floor, placed 6 feet apart, to indicate where to stand when physical barriers are not possible.
- Close or limit access to common areas where employees are likely to congregate and interact.
- Delivering services and holding meetings remotely by phone, video, or Internet.
- Limiting any unnecessary travel with passenger(s) from one site to another in work vehicles and personal employee vehicles.
- Eliminating all non-essential and non-related services, such as entertainment activities.
- Using videoconferencing or teleconferencing when possible for work-related meetings and gatherings.
- Canceling, adjusting, or postponing large work-related meetings or gatherings that can only occur in-person in accordance with state and local regulations and guidance.
- When videoconferencing or teleconferencing is not possible, holding meetings in open, well-ventilated spaces continuing to maintain a distance of 6 feet apart and wear cloth face coverings.

Employees will also be asked to practice social distancing outdoors including, but not limited to the following:

- When working in sports fields, playgrounds, assembly areas, and/or other outdoor areas.
- Before starting the work shift.
- After the work shift.
- Coming and going from vehicles.
- Entering, working, and exiting physical buildings or other structures.
- During breaks and lunch periods.

## **Cloth Face Coverings**

Unless otherwise directed by your supervisor, all employees should cover their mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others and follow any state, county, or local mandates/guidelines.

- You could spread COVID-19 to others even if you do not feel sick.
- Everyone should wear a [cloth face cover](#).
  - Cloth face coverings should not be placed on anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.
- The cloth face cover is meant to protect other people in case you are infected.
- Do NOT use a face mask meant for a healthcare worker.

Continue to keep at least 6 feet between yourself and others. The cloth face cover is not considered personal protective equipment. It is not a substitute for social distancing but when used in conjunction, it may help prevent infected persons without symptoms from unknowingly spreading the disease.

## **If an Employee is Sick**

Employees will be asked to monitor their health each day and are asked to notify their supervisor before their scheduled shift and prior to arriving at the site, if they have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 or they have a temperature of 100.4 or more, tiredness, chills, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, cough, or muscle pain.

If an employee is not feeling well and is exhibiting symptoms that may be attributed to COVID-19, such as acute respiratory symptoms or a fever, Palo Verde Unified School District will:

- Immediately send employees with acute respiratory illness symptoms home or to medical care as soon as possible.
- Actively encourage sick employees to stay home.
- If an employee goes home because they are sick, follow the cleaning and disinfecting the building and facility guidelines to disinfect the area/room/office where the person worked, the tools and equipment they used prior to use by others.
- Employees who are well but who have a sick family member at home with COVID-19 should notify their supervisor and follow CDC-recommended precautions.
- Ensure employees who are out sick with fever or acute respiratory symptoms do not return to work until both of the following occur:
  - At least 3 full days pass with no fever (without the use of fever-reducing medications) and improvement in respiratory symptoms.
  - At least 10 full days pass since symptoms first appeared.
- Ensure employees who return to work following an illness promptly report any recurrence of symptoms.

## **Personal Protective Equipment**

While engineering and administrative controls are considered more effective in minimizing exposure to COVID-19, PPE may also be needed to prevent certain exposures. While correctly using PPE can help prevent some exposures, it should not take the place of other prevention strategies. Examples of PPE include: gloves, goggles, face shields, face masks, and respiratory protection, when appropriate. During an outbreak of an infectious disease, such as COVID-19, recommendations for PPE specific to occupations or job tasks may change depending on geographic location, updated risk assessments for workers, and information on PPE effectiveness in preventing the spread of COVID-19.

The District will conduct a hazard assessment to determine if hazards are present in the workplace that necessitate the use of PPE. If the District identifies COVID-19 as a workplace hazard, it will select and provide exposed employees with properly fitting PPE that will effectively protect employees. The District will stress hand hygiene before and after handling all PPE.

## **Washing Facilities**

Notify your supervisor if any washing facilities do not have an adequate supply of suitable cleansing agents, water, and single-use towels or blowers.

## **Cleaning and Disinfecting**

Palo Verde Unified School District will establish routine schedules to clean and disinfect common surfaces and objects in the workplace. This includes, but is not limited to, classroom technology devices, containers, counters, tables, desks, chairs, benches, door handles, knobs, drinking fountains, refrigerators, vending machines, portable restroom and bathroom surfaces, automobiles and buses – inside and out, and trash cans.

The process of disinfecting includes providing disinfecting products that are EPA approved for use against the virus that causes COVID-19 and following the manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products (e.g., safety requirements, PPE, concentration, contact time).

Coronaviruses on surfaces and objects naturally die within hours to days. Warmer temperatures and exposure to sunlight will reduce the time the virus survives on surfaces and objects. Normal routine cleaning with soap and water removes germs and dirt from surfaces. It lowers the risk of spreading COVID-19 infection.

Disinfectants kill germs on surfaces after cleaning, that can further lower the risk of spreading infection. Employees will need to follow the District's approved disinfecting products and procedures when using disinfectants. Disinfecting procedures include:

- Some surfaces only need to be cleaned with soap and water. For example, surfaces and objects that are not frequently touched should be cleaned and do not require additional disinfection.

- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily and shared workspaces and work items before and after use.
- Store and use disinfectants in a responsible and appropriate manner according to the label.
- Keep all disinfectants out of the reach of children. Disinfectants should typically not be applied on items used by children, especially any items that children might put in their mouths. Many disinfectants are toxic when swallowed.
- Do not overuse or stockpile disinfectants or other supplies.
- Always wear gloves appropriate for the chemicals being used when you are cleaning and disinfecting. Additional personal protective equipment (PPE) may be needed based on setting and product.
- Areas unoccupied for 7 or more days need only routine cleaning.
- Outdoor areas generally require normal routine cleaning and do not require disinfection.

### **Electronics**

For electronics, such as tablets, touch screens, keyboards, remote controls, and ATM machines:

- Consider putting a wipeable cover on electronics.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions for cleaning and disinfecting.
- If no guidance, use alcohol-based wipes or sprays containing at least 70% alcohol. Dry surface thoroughly.

### **Cleaning and Disinfecting Building or Facility if Someone is Sick:**

- Close off areas used by the sick person.
- Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area.
  - Wait 24 hours before you clean or disinfect.
  - If 24 hours is not feasible, wait as long as possible.
- Clean and disinfect all areas used by the sick person, such as offices, bathrooms, common areas, shared electronic equipment like tablets, touch screens, keyboards, and remote controls.
- Always wash immediately after removing gloves and after contact with a sick person.
- If more than 7 days since the sick person visited or used the facility, additional cleaning and disinfection is not necessary.
- Continue routine cleaning and disinfection

### **Employee Training**

Palo Verde Unified School District will provide regular training for employees on the following topics:

- What is COVID-19 and how is it spread.
- Signs and symptoms of COVID-19.
- When to seek medical attention if not feeling well.

- Prevention of the spread of COVID-19 if you are sick.
- Physical and social distancing guidelines.
- Importance of washing hands with soap and water or use of hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.
- Reminders and methods to avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Coughing and sneezing etiquette.
- Safely using cleansers and disinfectants.

### **Compliance**

This addendum will be reviewed regularly and according to federal, state, and local requirements. These guidelines and written addendum are subject to change as information is received and the situation evolves.