



## **Safe Return to In-Person Instruction (UPDATED)**

To be FCALV GBOD Approved

In accordance with the requirements of the U.S. Department of Education's [interim final rule](#) regarding the American Rescue Plan Act and Nevada Department of Education (NDE) [Guidance Memo #21-02](#), Founders Classical Academy of Las Vegas (FCALV) was required to create and submit to NDE Plans for a Safe Return to In-Person Instruction. This FCALV plan is posted on the school's website and revisited every six months. To the extent that the existing plan as well as any reopening plans established by FCALV meet the expectations established through Emergency Directive 052, the plan may be updated and repurposed for submission to local health authorities.

### **CDC Mitigation Strategies**

#### **Universal Masking and Face Coverings:**

FCALV willingly supports and complies with the Emergency Directives of state governments and local agencies. Unless compelled by a Nevada Emergency Directive or at the direction of the SPCSA or school's governing board of directors, FCALV promotes the "choice" of students, employees, and visitors whether to wear face coverings on campus both indoors and outdoors, when non Covid-19 confirmed or non-symptomatic.

In the event of future universal outbreak, FCALV will comply with any state directive or our local educational agency guidance to return to universal masking as a universal, layered prevention strategy.

FCALV will require face coverings for all students, employees, and visitors for five additional days after the five days of isolation or quarantine.

FCALV acknowledges and shares with its community the CDC's position that consistent and correct face covering protocols [protect others as well as themselves](#). Consistent and [correct mask use](#) is especially important indoors and in crowded settings, when physical distancing cannot be maintained.

- **Indoors:** CDC recommends indoor masking for all individuals ages 2 years and older, including students, teachers, staff, and visitors, regardless of vaccination status.
- **Outdoors:** In general, people do not need to wear masks when outdoors. CDC recommends that people who are not fully vaccinated wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings or during activities that involve sustained close contact with other people. Fully vaccinated people might choose to wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings, especially if they or someone in their household is immunocompromised.

\*Exceptions can be made for the following categories of people:

- A person who [cannot wear a mask, or cannot safely wear a mask](#), because of a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.). Discuss the possibility of [reasonable accommodation](#) with workers who are unable to wear or have difficulty wearing certain types of masks because of a disability.
- A person for whom wearing a mask would create a risk to workplace health, safety, or job duty as determined by the relevant workplace safety guidelines or federal regulations.



\*Masks should meet one of the following criteria:

- [CDC mask recommendations](#)
- [NIOSH Workplace Performance and Workplace Performance Plus masks](#)

### **Screening and Testing:**

FCALV supports screening testing to identify infected people, including those with or without symptoms (or before development of symptoms) who may be contagious, so that measures can be taken to prevent further transmission. Screening testing can help promptly identify and isolate cases, initiate [quarantine](#), and identify clusters to help reduce the risk to in-person education.

FCALV will utilize screening testing in a way that ensures the ability to maintain confidentiality of results and protect student, teacher, and staff privacy. Consistent with state legal requirements and [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act \(FERPA\)](#), FCALV will obtain parental consent for minor students for screening testing.

FCALV will offer and utilize screening testing to help evaluate and adjust prevention strategies and provide added protection for the school community who 1) demonstrate Covid-19 symptoms, 2) indicate a possible Covid-19 symptomatic person in the household, and 3) participate in sports, extracurricular activities, and other activities with elevated risk (such as activities that involve singing or shouting, band participation, and vigorous exercise that could lead to forceful or increased exhalation).

At a minimum, FCALV will offer screening testing to students who have not been fully vaccinated when community transmission is at moderate, substantial, or high levels upon request with rapidly (within 24 hours) report results.

FCALV will offer screening testing to all employees upon request with rapidly (within 24 hours) report results.

### **Promoting Vaccination:**

FCALV will promote Covid-19 vaccination by:

- Encouraging its community to visit [vaccines.gov](#) to find out where teachers, staff, students, and their families can get vaccinated against COVID-19 in the community and promote COVID-19 vaccination locations near schools.
- Encouraging teachers, staff, and families, including extended family members that have frequent contact with students, to get vaccinated as soon as they can.
- Adapting [key messages](#) to help families, teachers, and staff become more confident about the vaccine by using the language, tone, and format that fits the needs of the community and is responsive to concerns.
- Offering flexible, supportive sick leave options (e.g., paid sick leave) for employees to get vaccinated or who have [side effects](#) after vaccination.
- Promoting vaccination information for parents and guardians, siblings who are eligible for vaccines, and other household members as part of kindergarten transition and enrollment in summer activities for families entering the school system.
- Providing students and families flexible options for excused absences to receive a COVID-19 vaccination and for possible side effects after vaccination.
- Working with local partners to offer [COVID-19 vaccination](#) for eligible students and eligible family members during pre-sport/extracurricular activity summer physicals.



### **Physical Distancing and Charting**

FCALV implements physical distancing to the extent possible within our structures but does not exclude students from in-person learning to keep a minimum distance requirement. FCALV supports, when possible, at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms with other prevention strategies, such as screening testing, cohorting, improved ventilation, handwashing and covering coughs and sneezes, staying home when sick with symptoms of infectious illness including COVID-19, and regular cleaning to help reduce transmission risk.

FCALV uses some cohorting (grade level classroom and courses) to limit the number of students, teachers, and staff who regularly encounter each other, especially when it is challenging to maintain physical distancing, such as among young children, and particularly in areas of moderate-to-high transmission levels.

### **Ventilation, Cleaning and Disinfecting:**

FCALV agrees that improving ventilation is an important COVID-19 prevention strategy that can reduce the number of virus particles in the air. Along with [other preventive strategies](#), including wearing a [well-fitting mask](#), bringing fresh outdoor air into a building helps keep virus particles from concentrating inside. FCALV will open multiple doors and windows (taking into consideration any safety concerns), using child-safe fans to increase the effectiveness of open windows, and making changes to the HVAC or air filtration systems.

FCALV uses ventilation equipment, actions to improve ventilation, and other ventilation considerations referred to in:

- [CDC's Ventilation in Schools and Child Care Programs](#)
- [CDC's Ventilation in Buildings webpage](#)
- [CDC's Ventilation FAQs](#)
- [CDC's Improving Ventilation in Your Home](#)

FCALV supports cleaning once a day as the CDC acknowledges it is usually sufficient to 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.

FCALV utilizes information on cleaning facilities regularly, when to clean more frequently or disinfect, cleaning a facility when someone is sick, safe storage of cleaning and disinfecting products, and considerations for protecting workers who clean facilities from the CDC's [Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility](#).

If FCALV has a sick person or someone who tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 24 hours, the school will immediately clean and disinfect the space.

### **Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette:**

FCALV agrees and promotes that its community should practice handwashing and [respiratory etiquette](#) (covering coughs and sneezes) to keep from getting and spreading infectious illnesses including COVID-19. FCALV monitors and reinforces these behaviors and provide adequate handwashing supplies.



To that end, FCALV teaches and reinforces [handwashing](#) with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and reminds its community in the facility [to wash hands frequently](#) and assist young children with handwashing. (If handwashing is not possible, use hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol [for teachers, staff, and older students who can safely use hand sanitizer]). Hand sanitizers are stored up, away, and out of sight of young children and should be used only with adult supervision for children under 6 years of age.

### **Staff / Student Self-Assessment – Home Isolation and Testing**

FCALV supports and advises students, teachers, and staff who have symptoms of infectious illness, such as [influenza](#) (flu) or [COVID-19](#), to stay home and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care, regardless of vaccination status. Staying home when sick with COVID-19 is essential to keep COVID-19 infections out of schools and prevent spread to others.

FCALV supports the CDC recommendation to end isolation based on timing after symptom onset or positive test result (if asymptomatic). For more information, visit [Overview of COVID-19 Isolation for K-12 Schools](#).

FCALV students, employees, and visitors with COVID-19 should stay home and [isolate](#) away from other people for at least 5 full calendar days (day 0 is the first day of symptoms or the day of the positive viral test for asymptomatic persons). FCALV students, employees, and visitors should wear a well-fitting mask when around others at home and in public for an additional 5 calendar days. FCALV students, employees, and visitors who have symptoms can end isolation after 5 full calendar days only if they are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and if other symptoms have improved. FCALV students, employees, and visitors should continue to wear a well-fitting mask around others at home and in public for 5 additional calendar days.

FCALV has flexible, non-punitive, and supportive paid sick leave policies and practices that encourage sick employees to stay home without fear of retaliation, loss of pay, or loss of employment level and provide excused absences for students who are sick.

If a student becomes sick at school, FCALV utilizes the [Responding to COVID-19 Cases in K-12 Schools: Resources for School Administrators](#). FCALV will either use its screening testing program with parent permission or request parent have the students testing to facilitate COVID-19 diagnosis and inform the need for quarantine of close contacts and isolation.

FCALV educates students, employees, and visitors about when they should [stay home](#) and when they can return to school immediately upon acknowledgment. FCALV directs the public to keep children home if they are showing signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and get them promptly tested and notify the school if they test positive.

\*NOTE: Per CDC order, face coverings must be worn by all people while on public transportation, including **school buses**. However, FCALV offers no school transportation service.



## Covid-19 Testing Program, Response, and Reporting

### **Testing Program:**

FCALV supports screening testing to identify infected people, including those with or without symptoms (or before development of symptoms) who may be contagious, so that measures can be taken to prevent further transmission. Screening testing can help promptly identify and isolate cases, initiate [quarantine](#), and identify clusters to help reduce the risk to in-person education.

FCALV will utilize screening testing in a way that ensures the ability to maintain confidentiality of results and protect student, teacher, and staff privacy. Consistent with state legal requirements and [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act \(FERPA\)](#), FCALV will obtain parental consent for minor students and assent/consent for students themselves.

FCALV will offer and utilize screening testing to help evaluate and adjust prevention strategies and provide added protection for the school community who 1) demonstrate Covid -19 symptoms, 2) indicate a possible Covid-19 symptomatic person in the household, and 3) participate in sports, extracurricular activities, and other activities with elevated risk (such as activities that involve singing or shouting, band participation, and vigorous exercise that could lead to forceful or increased exhalation).

At a minimum, FCALV will offer screening testing to students who have not been fully vaccinated when community transmission is at moderate, substantial, or high levels upon request with rapidly (within 24 hours) report results.

FCALV will offer screening testing to all employees who have not been fully vaccinated upon request with rapidly (within 24 hours) report results.

### **Response and Reporting:**

FCALV will work closely with their local health agencies when establishing on-site testing so that their performance of CLIA-waived or FDA-authorized point-of-care tests for SARS-CoV-2 is done in accordance with regulations and should work closely with local counsel to ensure the reporting of test results is done in accordance with applicable privacy laws and regulations.

Students, employees, and the public are requested to report new diagnoses of COVID-19 to schools and public health authorities to facilitate contact tracing and communication planning for cases and outbreaks.

FCALV school administrators will notify teachers, staff, families, and emergency contacts or legal guardians immediately of any case of COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality in accordance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 ([HIPAA](#)), the Americans with Disabilities Act ([ADA](#)), the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ([FERPA](#)) and other applicable laws and regulations. Notifications must be accessible for all students, teachers, and staff, including those with disabilities or limited English proficiency (for example, through use of interpreters or translated materials).

FCALV will report all known positive Covid-19 cases directly to the designated local health agencies (within the same day if possible) after notification that someone in the school has tested positive.



FCALV will continue to [collaborate with state and local health departments](#), to the extent allowable by privacy laws and other applicable laws, to confidentially provide information about people diagnosed with or exposed to COVID-19, allowing identification of students, teachers, and staff with positive COVID-19 test results should [isolate](#), and which [close contacts](#) should [quarantine](#).

People who had close contact with someone with COVID-19 should follow [CDC recommendations](#) to protect themselves and others. Recommendations for close contacts to [quarantine](#) and get tested will vary depending on vaccination status and prior COVID-19 diagnosis within the past 90 days. People who have come into close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 should follow the recommendations outlined on the [COVID-19 Quarantine and Isolation](#) webpage.

To allow time for students to catch up with the [latest recommendations](#) and to minimize disruption to in-person learning, FCALV will forgo quarantine for students ages 12-17 years who completed their [primary vaccine series](#) but have not yet received all [eligible boosters](#).

All those in close contact should wear a [well-fitting mask](#) around others and watch for [COVID-19 symptoms](#) for 10 days from the date of their last close contact with someone with COVID-19 (the date of last close contact is considered day 0). They should also [get tested](#) at least 5 days after having close contact with someone with COVID-19 unless they had confirmed COVID-19 in the last 90 days and subsequently recovered. Those who test positive or develop COVID-19 symptoms should follow recommendations for [isolation](#). (See the added exception in the [close contact](#) definition for the exclusion of students in the K-12 indoor classroom who are within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student with masking.)

FCALV will, to the extent allowable by applicable privacy laws, report new diagnoses of COVID-19 to their state or local health agency as soon as they are informed. FCALV will notify, to the extent allowable by applicable privacy laws, teachers, staff, and families of students who were close contacts as soon as possible (within the same day if possible) after they are notified that someone in the school has tested positive. See the Department of Education's [Protecting Student Privacy FERPA and the Coronavirus Disease 2019](#) for more information.

## Detecting School-Wide Outbreaks

FCALV is a small, single-site, K-12 charter school. FCALV defines [outbreak](#) as <10% Covid-19 Positive cases in a single classroom or grade level as measured FCALV's weekly *Covid-19 Tracking Sheet* (by Grade Level and Classroom), updated that last day of each week and assessed each weekend.

If an outbreak is identified, parents/guardians will be notified via email on the specific grade level and/or classroom of an outbreak declaration by FCALV.

Upon declaration, the identified specific grade level and/or classroom will be immediately placed on synchronous instruction for no less than five continuous school days. Upon return, unvaccinated students will be required to wear a face covering for an additional five continuous school days.

The outbreak will be monitored by the Health Office and school principal to identify trends and ensure reporting to the local health agencies.

The outbreak will close upon the grade level and/or classroom demonstration at Covid-19 Positive rate of >3%.