

COVID-19 Mitigation Plan Odyssey Charter School 2021-2022

1. How the district or school will address Centers for Disease Control (CDC) mitigation strategies:

- **Consistent and Correct Use of Face Coverings for Students, Staff, and Visitors while in School Buildings or on School Campus**
 - Pursuant to Directive 052, Odyssey Charter School will not require use of face coverings within the school setting, unless Odyssey is experiencing an outbreak of COVID-19. Because COVID-19 continues, students and employees can make the individual choice to continue masking. All staff and students will withhold judgment and be respectful of each other's personal mask choices.
 - Odyssey does not provide transportation for students to or from school, so there is not a required bus mask policy.
 - Should Odyssey Charter School experience a COVID-19 outbreak, all staff and students will be required to follow Odyssey's universal mask protocols formerly in place. The change in mask policy will be communicated to staff, students, and families following Odyssey's established methods of communication (email, instructional platform, website, phone message, Odyssey's social media platforms). Odyssey's former mask policy is as follows:
 - All Odyssey students and employees must wear an approved face covering that covers the face from the bridge of the nose to snugly under the chin at all times while inside the school, including inside restrooms, all buildings, and/or while engaged in OCS activities. Face coverings must be worn in all public areas, even if another person is not present. This would include walking in halls, front lobbies, break room/kitchen, restrooms, cubicles, etc. Compliance with these expectations is not optional.
 - The CDC says that well-fitting N95 masks offer "the highest level of protection" against COVID-19, providing much better coverage than cloth and standard surgical masks. Odyssey encourages you to wear N95 or KN95 masks rather than cloth masks. Face coverings must completely cover the nose and mouth.
 - For purposes of this protocol, approved face coverings include cloth face masks, surgical masks, N95 or KN95, or masks with filters that cover the face from the bridge of the nose to snugly under the chin. Face coverings with exhalation vents, those that are open at the top or bottom (such as bandanas, gaiters, or clear plastic face shields without an approved face covering underneath), or those that do not cover the face from the bridge of the nose to under the chin may not be worn.
 - Face coverings must comply with all applicable OCS policies, regulations, and dress codes pertaining to student and employee attire.
 - If the Southern Nevada Health Department (SNHD) determines that a school-wide outbreak of COVID-19 is occurring and is not being adequately mitigated by Odyssey, the SNHD may require the mandatory and immediate use of universal face coverings for all students and staff in the affected school building(s) and any additional mitigation measures deemed necessary by

the SNHD for Odyssey. In such an event, the face covering requirement and any other mitigation measures remain in effect until the local health authority determines that the outbreak is closed.

- **Masking for shortened isolation and quarantine**

- WHO NEEDS TO QUARANTINE:

- People who have come into close contact with someone with COVID-19 and are in one of the following groups need to quarantine:
 - People who are ages 18 and older and completed the primary series of recommended vaccine, but have not received a recommended booster shot when eligible.
 - People who are 18 years and older who received the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine (completing the primary series) over 2 months ago and have not received a recommended booster shot
 - People who are not vaccinated or have not completed a primary vaccine series.
- Quarantine starts the day of last known contact to a positive individual (day 0) and lasts for five days. For example, if the last known exposure was Friday (day 0), the student or staff could return to school after five days, or on Thursday (day 6) if no symptoms have developed. Upon return, the student or staff must wear a well-fitting mask for a minimum of five additional days.
- Based on Guidance from the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Odyssey Staff and Students are not eligible for a Test to Stay program because Odyssey has not adopted a universal masking program.

- WHO DOES NOT NEED TO QUARANTINE:

- People who have come into close contact with someone with COVID-19 and are in one of the following groups do not need to quarantine:
 - Age 18 or older and have received all recommended vaccine doses, including boosters and additional primary shots for some immunocompromised people.
 - Students 12-17 years old who have completed their primary vaccine series but have not yet received all eligible boosters. This is to allow time for students to catch up with the latest recommendations and to minimize disruption to in-person learning.
 - Age 5-11 years and completed the primary series of COVID-19 vaccines.
 - Anyone who has had confirmed COVID-19 within the last 90 days (who tested positive using a viral test, meaning a positive PCR or an antigen test. Antibody tests do not count).
 - Based on Guidance from the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Odyssey Staff and Students are not eligible for a Test to Stay program because Odyssey has not adopted a universal masking program.
 - All students and staff exposures that are exempt from quarantine, must wear a mask around others for 10 days. PCR or rapid test on day 5 is recommended.

- Isolation Procedures (for those that test positive for COVID-19)
 - Any individual who tests positive for COVID-19, regardless of whether they are symptomatic and regardless of whether they are vaccinated or boosted, must isolate at home for a minimum of 5 days. If they are asymptomatic or have resolving symptoms after 5 days, they can discontinue isolation but must continue to wear a well-fitting mask around others for 5 additional days. If students or staff are unable or unwilling to wear a mask when around others after day 5, they should continue to isolate for a full 10 days.

- SYMPTOMATIC PERSONS THAT HAVE NOT TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19:
 - The following are guidelines for when a student or staff member can return to school for situations that may arise if it is not possible to do a COVID-19 test OR there is a negative lab result:
 - A person that is symptomatic and is not able to take a COVID-19 test can return to school if:
 - At least 24 hours have passed without a fever (measured temperature of 100.0 F or greater) and without the use of fever reducing medications and an improvement of other symptoms. AND
 - At least 5 days have passed since the individual first displayed symptoms of COVID-19 AND
 - At least 5 days of well-fitted masking should be employed following recovery defined by the above scenarios.
 - A person that is symptomatic and has a different lab-confirmed diagnosis (e.g., RSV, flu, other) with either a negative COVID-19 test or COVID-19 testing was not performed can return to school if:
 - They follow protocol for their diagnosed illness (if applicable) AND
 - At least 24 hours have passed without a fever (measured temperature of 100.0 F or greater) and without the use of fever reducing medications and an improvement of other symptoms.

- **Vaccination Promotion**

- The Director of Human Resources has provided communication to staff regarding when and where vaccinations for COVID-19 are available. (eg. when initial and booster shots became available to those in education)

- **Physical Distancing**

- Social distancing, also called “physical distancing,” means keeping space between yourself and other people outside of your home. To practice social or physical distancing:
- Staff stay at least six feet (about two arms’ length) from other staff.
- A distance of at least 6 feet is recommended between students and teachers/staff
- Do not gather in large groups and avoid close contact with other people (close contact is being within six feet of another person for 15 cumulative minutes of exposure over a 24-hour period).
- Stay out of crowded places.

- In the classroom, all students will be separated from each other by at least three (3) feet in all directions.
- Odyssey will utilize smaller class sizes.
- Staff will take breaks and eat lunch observing social distancing. Staff will eat lunch primarily at their individual workstations or outside. Chairs will be removed in the breakroom and rearranged, so they are six feet apart.

- **Cohorting**
 - Odyssey will minimize student transitions from one classroom to another and exposure to multiple teachers.
 - Students will not move from class to class. Rather, teachers will rotate into classes. Students will stay with the same cohort of other students during their duration on campus.
 - Teachers will stay in the classrooms assigned, interacting with only their staff and student cohort, as much as is possible.

- **Ventilation**
 - All thermostats for air/heat must be set with the Fan ON at all times instead of being set to Auto. Please do not change this setting, and if you see it has been changed, please set it back. The Fan ON increases air circulation in the building and is important for respiratory health.
 - All air filters have been upgraded to Merv 8 and are changed on the recommended schedule.
 - Additional air quality systems (HEPA air filters) have been added to all classrooms, offices, and public areas. HEPA air filters are changed on the recommended schedule.
 - Odyssey is in the process of upgrading our central air handling units.

- **Cleaning and Disinfecting**
 - After every class, staff will sanitize each computer, keyboard, mouse, counter space and chair. In addition, they will sanitize all common touch-points, such as computer printers and doorknobs.
 - Staff will ask students to wipe their own computer, keyboard, mouse, counter space, and chair with provided sanitizing wipes at the beginning of class and to sanitize their hands.
 - After every class session (a.m. and p.m.), student restrooms will be fully sanitized.
 - If a student or staff member has symptoms of illness, the classroom will have enhanced sanitization protocols.
 - Students will not share materials, pencils, or headphones. Disposable headphones are provided as needed.
 - If calculators or science equipment are required, staff will sanitize the items prior to use by any other student.

- **Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette**

- Handwashing and the use of alcohol-based hand sanitizers help to prevent infections and reduce the number of viable pathogens on the hands. Access to handwashing supplies is essential. These supplies include soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer), paper towels, tissues, and no-touch trash cans.
- Handwashing is the single most effective infection control intervention (CDC).
- Hand hygiene is performed by washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using hand sanitizer with 60-95 percent alcohol content until the product dries. If hands are visibly soiled, use soap and water.
- Staff members will perform hand hygiene frequently, including:
 - Before and after site check-in procedures.
 - Before and after contact with any student.
 - After contact with potentially infectious material.
 - Before putting on and after removing personal protective equipment (PPE), including gloves, to remove any pathogens that might have been transferred to bare hands during the removal process.
 - When handwashing stations are not readily available, the use of hand sanitizer should be encouraged. Students and staff will be encouraged to wash hands/use hand sanitizer often, such as:
 - After coughing, sneezing, or blowing nose.
 - After using the restroom.
 - Before eating or preparing food.
 - Before and after touching face.
 - Prior to classroom entry.
 - Before putting on and after removing gloves.
 - After touching frequently touched areas (e.g., doorknobs, handrails, shared computers).
- All staff and students should practice respiratory etiquette (covering coughs and sneezes) to keep from getting and spreading infectious illnesses, including COVID-19.
- If a student is exhibiting symptoms during class time (ie. coughing in class, stuffy nose/congestion), staff will call the Health Office immediately (ext 6524 or 6515).

- **Employees Monitor Health**

- A *Health Check* has been developed and required for all employees to complete at the start of their work shift. This includes answering a Self-Screener, taking your own temperature, and recording these activities on a sign-in sheet.

- **Temperature** - All staff must take their temperature when entering their building. There will be a station to take your temperature at each of the front lobbies with a sheet to log your temperature and the following instructions:
 - Sanitize the handle and activator of the thermometer with alcohol wipe
 - Point the thermometer to the middle of your forehead, about one (1) inch from your skin, and pull the activator
 - Read the temperature on the thermometer
 - Log your name, date, time, and check the temperature box indicating if your temperature is above or below 100.0
 - If your temperature is over 100.0, immediately return to your car and call Stephanie Han at her extension, 702-257-0578, ext. 7282 or at 702-622-9600
- **Self-Screener** - The instruction sheet will also have questions that we would like all staff to ask themselves before reporting to work:
 - Do I have a new cough that I cannot attribute to another health condition?
 - Do I have new shortness of breath that I cannot attribute to another health condition?
 - Do you have any of the following symptoms: Fever (100.0°F or higher), chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell?
 - Have you come into close contact (within 6 feet) with someone who has a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis in the past 14 days?
 - If you answer YES to any of these questions, please return to your car and call Stephanie Han. 702-257-0578, ext. 7282 or 702-622-9600.

- **Staff and Students Stay Home when Sick**

- Students, teachers, and staff who have symptoms of infectious illness, such as influenza or COVID-19, should stay home. Staying home when sick with COVID-19 is essential to keep COVID-19 infections out of schools and prevent spread to others.
- Parents/guardians will check students at home to rule out fever and/or signs or symptoms of illness prior to departure from home. Odyssey will provide screening questions for parents.
- Hand sanitizer and wipes are provided in each classroom for staff and student use. Staff will ensure students have approved face coverings prior to entry.
- Odyssey will emphasize to parents they must be available and prepared to pick their child up from Odyssey's campus if needed.
- If students have been exposed to a person who has COVID-19, the parent/guardian must call Odyssey's Health Office to discuss when the student can return to campus.
- If a student has tested positive for COVID-19, the parent/guardian must call Odyssey's Health Office to discuss when the student can return to campus.

- If a student is exhibiting symptoms during class time (ie. coughing in class, stuffy nose/congestion), staff will call the Health Office immediately (ext 6524 or 6515).
- Students will not share supplies. Students will bring their own pencils and headphones, or Odyssey will provide them. All headphones and pencils are *single use*, and the student should take them home or dispose of them before they leave.
- Students should be encouraged to wash or sanitize hands regularly, especially before and after check-in procedures, between classes or activities, and when working with supplies.
- Students will be escorted by staff to the restrooms to ensure there are not too many students in the restroom at any one time.

2. How the district or school will implement a regular COVID-19 testing program and respond to positive test results whether identified within or outside of the district school/testing program, including:

- Reporting positive cases to local health authorities
 - Conducting contact tracing
 - Ensuring CDC quarantine and isolation guidance is upheld
- Odyssey Charter School does not sponsor a sports program, choir, theater, band program, activities that involve traveling to other schools or venues outside of the county, or any other extracurricular activity that could lead to forceful or increased exhalation. Because Odyssey does not have these programs, Odyssey did not have to test under Directive 048. Therefore, Odyssey does not require a mandatory testing program.
 - Odyssey will ensure that staff and students have access to testing by providing information on how staff and students can access community COVID-19 testing sites. Odyssey also provides staff with information and instructions on how to access government funded test kits and has COVID-19 home test kits available to staff and students.
 - Odyssey uses layered screening and safety procedures and strategies for lower-risk extracurricular events. Extracurricular activities will be virtual or canceled during times of high community transmission. (For example, community transmission of Omicron was high, so Valentine's Dances were canceled).
 - All student related COVID-19 cases are reported directly to Odyssey's Health Services Department. The School Nurse provides parents with information related to testing and guidance on quarantine and isolation protocols. They also obtain any information related to contact tracing.
 - Odyssey's Health Services Department and School Nurse works with school administration and the Director of Human Resources to collaboratively determine contact tracing related to other students and staff. The student cases of illness and exposure are reported to the Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD): (702) 759-0925 (24 hours), or schoolcovid@snhd.org by the Health Services Department and the staff cases are reported by the Director of Human Resources.
 - Students are required to check in with the Health Services Department prior to returning to campus to ensure that they meet the CDC guidelines on ending quarantine/isolation. The Director of Human Resources will contact staff prior to returning to campus to ensure that they meet the CDC guidelines on ending quarantine/isolation.

3. Detecting school-wide outbreaks:

- **Definition of an Outbreak**

- The Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists, in their August 6, 2021 publication, defines an outbreak as:
 - Multiple cases comprising at least 10% of students, teachers, or staff, within a specified core group* OR
 - at least three (3) cases within a specified core group* meeting criteria for a probable or confirmed school-associated COVID-19 case with symptom onset or positive test result within 14 days of each other§; who were not identified as close contacts of each other in another setting (i.e. household) outside of the school setting;
 - AND epidemiologically linked in the school setting or a school-sanctioned extracurricular activity†.
 - * A “core group” includes but is not limited to extracurricular activity†, cohort group, classroom, before/after school care, etc.)
 - † A school sanctioned extracurricular activity is defined as a voluntary activity sponsored by the school or local education agency (LEA) or an organization sanctioned by the LEA. Extracurricular activities include, but are not limited to, preparation for and involvement in public performances, contests, athletic competitions, demonstrations, displays, and club activities.
 - § For onset, use symptom onset date whenever available. If symptom onset date is unknown or if a case is asymptomatic, use specimen collection date for the first specimen that tested positive. The 14-day period refers to 14 days before the date of first symptom onset or first positive test sample.
- Odyssey will remain in contact with the SNHD in regards to our COVID-19 positive cases and exposures. We will continue to work with them as possible outbreaks are identified.

- **Mechanism for outbreak declaration and notification of the outbreak**

- In the event of an identified outbreak of COVID-19, Odyssey will communicate with stakeholders through emails, Moodle announcements, and our OneCall system.

- **Mitigation measures to be in place once an outbreak is declared**

- Odyssey will remain in contact with the SNHD in regards to our COVID-19 positive cases and exposures. We will continue to work with them as possible outbreaks are identified.
- If an outbreak is declared, Odyssey will reinstate our universal masking policy for all staff and students. We will also continue with our current mitigation procedures that include physical distancing, cohorting, ventilation, cleaning and disinfection procedures, hand washing and respiratory etiquette, employee health checks, and having all staff and students remain home when sick. Odyssey’s priority is to maintain our current blended model of face to face and online instruction, but should the outbreak continue we will be able to quickly move into providing online only instruction.

- **How the outbreak will be monitored**

- The cases of student and staff COVID-19 cases are closely monitored by Odyssey's Health Office and Director of Human Resources. There is constant collaboration between the departments in the event that there is a positive case on campus. This collaboration will help us to quickly identify an outbreak and also as we determine when we can close or resolve an outbreak.

- **Criteria to be used to close an outbreak**

- Odyssey will closely monitor the COVID-19 positive cases and exposures that take place on campus. If after 14 days from the last COVID-19 case identified in a cluster or core group, we have not identified any other staff or student positive cases, we will close the outbreak.

- **Mechanism to be used to notify of outbreak closures**

- Odyssey will use the same methods of communication, including emails, Moodle announcements, and our OneCall system to notify all stakeholders of the outbreak closure. At that time we will also inform the stakeholders of the mitigation plans that will remain in place.

4. **Additional information from the Southern Nevada Health District regarding your COVID-19 Mitigation Plans**

- **Outbreaks:** Odyssey will continue to communicate with the SNHD regarding suspected/confirmed outbreaks. Odyssey will communicate with the SNHD at schoolcovid@snhd.org or at 702-759-1300.
- **Vulnerable populations:** Odyssey does not serve pre-K students, so has not included a mitigation plan for pre-K students under the age of 5 that are ineligible for vaccinations. For other students or staff who are ineligible for vaccinations or have known underlying conditions, Odyssey works individually with each of the families/staff members and their doctors to provide eligible accommodations.
- **Athletics/Clubs and other activities with higher risk:** Odyssey Charter School does not sponsor a sports program, choir, theater, band program, or any other extracurricular activity that could lead to forceful or increased exhalation. Any other after school or extracurricular activities Odyssey will continue with our current mitigation procedures that include physical distancing, cohorting, ventilation, cleaning and disinfection procedures, hand washing and respiratory etiquette, employee health checks, and having all staff and students remain home when sick.
- **After Odyssey Charter School's COVID-19 mitigation plans have been approved by the Southern Nevada Health District,** Odyssey will be responsible to implement our own plans, declare outbreaks, implement the outbreak mitigation measures as defined in their approved plans, and determine when outbreaks are over.