



# COVID-19 Mitigation Plan

## Background

On February 10, 2022, Governor Steve Sisolak issued Emergency Directive 052 which ended the requirement for masks in school settings. This same directive also contained the requirement for schools to create and adopt a COVID-19 mitigation plan. The intent of this document is to fulfill that requirement while also providing a framework for the continued health and safety of students and staff at the school.

## Definition of Outbreak

Two or more laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases among students or staff with onsets within a 14-day period, who are epidemiologically linked, do not share a household, and were not identified as close contacts of each other in another setting during standard case investigation or contact tracing.<sup>1</sup>

## Response to Outbreaks

In the event of an outbreak, as defined above, the school has variety of mitigation measures that can be leveraged. These include:

- Mandated use of facial coverings for a period of time
- Quarantine of exposed individuals up to and including entire classes
- School Closure
- Temporary return to online learning

School stakeholders will be notified of outbreaks as well as required mitigation measures via the school's social media platforms, parent communication app, email, and robo-call.

When students or staff are either exposed to or diagnosed with COVID-19, they are required to make report of such to the school's Operation's Manager.

The school's Operations Manager is responsible for tracking all reported COVID cases, conducting contact tracing, and working with the Southern Nevada Health District. When reported cases constitute a breakout, the Operations Manager will work with the Executive Director to declare an outbreak and take the necessary mitigation measures.

When COVID-19 cases have declined below the outbreak threshold, school Administration will remove mitigation measures (as appropriate) and communicate with school stakeholders.

## Face Covering Usage

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<sup>1</sup>Weinberg, M. Et all (2020). Proposed Investigation/ Reporting Thresholds and Outbreak Definition for COVID-19 in Educational Settings. Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists. Retrieved online at <https://preparedness.cste.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Educational-Outbreak-Definition.pdf>



Commencing on February 11, 2022, Freedom Classical Academy will no longer require the use of facial coverings on campus. Students and staff that wish to continue use of face coverings on campus will be permitted to do so as long as the coverings are in compliance with the school's adopted dress code.

In the event of an outbreak, the school may require use of masks in specific classrooms/ settings or school-wide in order to mitigate the spread of the disease and forestall further outbreak. Such mandates will not extend beyond the period necessary to curb on-campus outbreaks.

Freedom Classical Academy does not provide transportation services to students. However, periodically buses are hired for transportation to and from school sponsored field trips. While on busses, students, staff, and volunteers will be required to use facial coverings in compliance with Executive Order 052.

## **Hand Sanitation**

Freedom Classical Academy will continue to provide hand sanitizer in dispensers located throughout the school campus. All occupants of the school facility will be encouraged to use sanitizer frequently to kill germs and minimize spread of harmful germs.

Facility occupants will also be encouraged to wash hands on a regular basis, particularly following use of sanitary facilities and prior to consumption of food.

## **Air Purification**

Freedom Classical Academy has purchased air filtration units for each classroom and will continue use of those systems in order to ensure the quality of air inside the facility. Additional larger units have been purchased for the school gymnasium and will be installed upon receipt.

## **Facility Disinfection**

Freedom Classical Academy ensures facility disinfection through a variety of means. The school has purchased several UV-C units that have been found effective in the disinfection of facilities and will continue use of these machines throughout the school. Chemical disinfection will also continue through the regular cleaning of classrooms and surfaces by on-site custodial personnel. Disinfecting wipes have also been supplied to each classroom and both students and teachers are encouraged to regularly wipe down their own desks and chairs.

## **Cohorting**

Cohorting refers to the grouping of students usually by grade level or classroom. The purpose of cohorting within the context of COVID-19 is to limit the persons to which each individual is exposed to, minimizing and containing the exposure risk of each person in that cohort. Freedom Classical Academy has traditionally grouped students into cohorts for the majority of each day for academic and scheduling purposes. For example, middle school students at Freedom Classical Academy remain with the same cohort of students the entire day instead of rotating classes as is typical in other schools. The school will continue this practice to the fullest extent practicable.



## **Social Distancing**

Where practicable, school staff will continue to emphasize social distancing on school premises. Classrooms will retain their individual student desks which replaced work tables prior to the commencement of the school year. No more than two desks will be permitted to touch and group work that requires multiple students working together will be minimized.

## **COVID Testing**

Freedom Classical Academy provides three options for COVID-19 testing to our students and staff. These include rapid testing in the nurse's office, take-home PCR testing, and on-site PCR testing two days a week. Students and coaches participating in athletic events are required to get tested on a regular basis. Students or staff that present with COVID-19 symptoms are provided a rapid test immediately and quarantined in the Nurse's office until the results are confirmed.

## **Online Instruction**

Freedom Classical Academy will continue to provide online instruction to students that have been diagnosed with or exposed to COVID-19 or whom have underlying health conditions that prevent them from attending in person. If an outbreak at the school is declared, the school may return to online instruction for all students for a period of time as outline in "Response to Outbreaks," above.

## **Vaccinations**

Freedom Classical Academy has promoted vaccinations through an on-site vaccination clinic. Information regarding vaccinations is available to all students and staff at the school nursing office.

## **Vulnerable Populations**

Students that provide medical documentation demonstrating a current medical condition that makes them vulnerable to COVID-19 will be permitted to attend classes remotely. Students that reside with family members that have vulnerable medical conditions may also be granted the option to attend classes online. Online students will be responsible for the completion of all classwork and the prompt submission of said work. In order to attend online, student must complete the appropriate form and receive administrative approval.