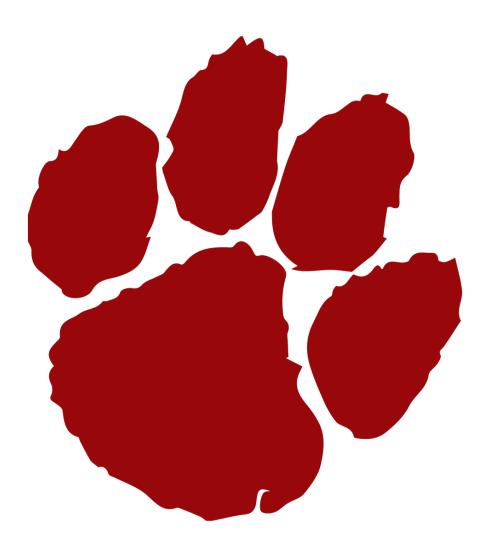
# Tipton Elementary School 2021 Safe Return to In Person Instruction

Based on COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2021-22 School Year as of July 12, 2021 and updates on September 1, 2021



Board Approved: September 14, 2021

Updated Plan

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#### **Teaching & Learning on Campus**

Recent evidence indicates that in-person instruction can occur safely without minimum physical distancing requirements when other mitigation strategies (e.g., masking, hand washing and sanitizing) are fully implemented. This is consistent with CDC K-12 School Guidance. Students will return to a regular school schedule five days a week starting August 9, 2021. Parents and guardians of enrolled pupils have the option to enroll their children in in-person instruction or independent study for the 2021-2022 school year. Parents who chose to keep their student from returning to in person learning will need to complete requirements for independent study. Independent study is for the purpose of COVID mitigation and will only be offered for the 2021-2022 school year.

#### Independent Study

**Independent Study Definitions:** 

Short Term: 3-14 days.

Long Term: Full school year in the program unless there are extenuating circumstances or if the student does not meet the minimum requirements.

Asynchronous Instruction: Independent work

Live interaction means interaction between the pupil and the teacher, aide or other personnel and may include peers; this interaction may be in person, by internet or phone.

Synchronous instruction means classroom-style instruction, or small group, or one-on-one instruction delivered in person or by internet or phone and involving two-way communication between the pupil and teacher.

#### Short Term Independent Study

A student may be assigned to a program of Independent Study when it appears to be the best interest of the student. Such an assignment requires a signed contract between the school, parents, and pupils. An Independent Study assignment shall be based on the individual needs of the student. Such a program may be utilized as an alternative to suspension, home teaching, or an extended family vacation. To request short-term independent study parents must contact the school at least one week prior to starting Independent Study. To fulfill the Independent Study contract, all coursework must be completed and turned in to the office upon return. The Tipton School Board has the right to deny Independent Study to any student.

#### Long Term Independent Study

Long term independent study may be used for any students that are unable to attend in-person school due to a medical condition during the 2021-2022 school year. Long term independent

study is intended to be for the duration of the full school year unless there are extenuating circumstances or if the student does not meet the requirements to remain in the independent study program (outlined below).

To enroll in Independent Study for the 2021-2022 school year, there must be an agreement in place for each pupil. The agreement must be signed by the pupil's parent, legal guardian, or caregiver. For pupils with exceptional needs, the pupil's individualized education program (IEP) must specifically provide for independent study before the pupil can begin participating.

If you wish to have your pupil return to in-person instruction during the school year, you may provide notice to the school secretary and your pupil will be returned to in person instruction no later than five instructional days after we receive the notice. To ensure student success in the long-term Independent Study program, parents and/or guardians must be active participants during both synchronous and asynchronous learning.

When any student fails to actively participate in their education, or has unsatisfactory attendance (this includes but is not limited to three consecutive absences, or excessive absences or tardies within the school year), or misses two live interactions without valid reasons or prior approval, an evaluation by administration and/or the teacher shall be conducted to determine whether the student should be allowed to continue in Independent Study. A written record of the findings of any evaluation conducted pursuant to this policy shall be maintained in the student's permanent record.

Satisfactory educational progress will be based on formalized projects, assignments, pre/post tests, local assessment data, and/or active participation in their education. The student must complete and turn in quality work to the best of their abilities. If the student fails to show progress or growth in required learning concepts or coursework completion, the student will have violated this agreement and must have a parent contact. This may lead to a conference with the teacher or administration and/or removal from the program.

The Independent Study option is to be substantially equivalent in quality and intellectual challenge of in person instruction. The minimum daily time requirement for each student is required based on their grade level. For transitional kindergarten through 3rd grade, there will be opportunities for daily synchronous instruction. For grades 4 through 8, there will be opportunities for both daily live interaction and at least weekly synchronous instruction. The teacher will provide synchronous and asynchronous work for each student to meet the minimum time requirement. The teacher may require more than the minimum amount of time. The requirements are as follows:

TK-K	180 minutes
1st-3rd	230 minutes
4th-8th	240 minutes

In addition, the teacher may require that students enrolled in the long-term independent study program attend in-person periodically. These in-person sessions may include but are not limited to assessments, interventions, engagement, and social emotional services.

Students participating in the long-term independent study program will not have the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities including but not limited to sports, dances, spelling bee, etc.

#### **Independent Study Tiered Re-Engagement Plan**

#### TIER 1

When any student fails to actively participate in their education, or has unsatisfactory attendance (this includes but is not limited to three consecutive absences, or excessive absences or tardies within the school year), or misses two live interactions without valid reasons or prior approval.

#### Re-engagement Strategies:

- Parent is contacted by phone or in-person for an evaluation of continued enrollment, which is placed in student's permanent record for three years
- Assist with connectivity issues, technology needs, and navigating online platform
- Review independent study expectations and contract
- Offer assistance with barriers causing a lack of engagement including outreach to school and community agencies for access or counseling support

#### TIER 2

When any student continues to fail to actively participate in their education, or has unsatisfactory attendance (this includes but is not limited to three additional absences, or additional excessive absences or tardies within the school year), or additional missed in-person sessions without valid reasons or prior approval

#### Re-engagement Strategies:

- Continue offering assistance with connectivity issues, technology needs, and navigating Independent Study curriculum, e.g. Edgenuity.
- Phone call or meeting with parents to review Independent Study expectations, contract, and evaluate whether student should continue in Independent Study
- Student may be required to participate in additional synchronous instruction
- Close monitoring of student participation including parent notification within one day of the student's lack of participation or absence
- Continue to offer assistance with barriers causing a lack of engagement including outreach to school and community agencies for access or counseling support

• Referral to School Counselor, Family Social Worker, School Psychologist, Resource Teacher, and/or District Nurse

#### TIER 3

When any student continues to fail to actively participate in their education, or has unsatisfactory attendance (this includes but is not limited to ten absences, or excessive tardies within the school year), or additional missed live interactions without valid reasons or prior approval

#### Re-engagement Strategies:

- Parent meeting with administration either by video conference, phone or in person to discuss concerns regarding attendance and educational progress
- Administration, school psychologist, family social worker, resource teacher, and/or counselor may conduct a Home Visit
- Referral to appropriate community service agencies
- Student may be transitioned to in-person instruction in no later than five instructional days with collaboration between administrators and family
- May result in a Student Attendance Review Board (SARB) meeting

#### Bell Schedule

### Instructional Day 2021 - 2022 3:05 Release Day

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	Recess Class time	12:05-12:20 12:20-01:30	70	15
	Recess	01:30-01:45	70	15
	Class time	01:45- 2:55	70	13
	Dismiss	02:55	70	
		nstructional minutes	315	
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Warning Bell	08:20		
	Class time	08:25-10:05	100	
	Recess	10:05-10:20		15
	Class time	10:20-11:40	80	
	Lunch	11:40-12:10		30
	Recess	12:10-12:25		15
	Class time	12:25-01:30	65	
	Recess	01:30-01:45		15
	Class time	01:45- 2:55	70	
	Dismiss	02:55		
	Total i	nstructional minutes	315	
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Warning Bell	08:20		
	Class time	08:25-10:05	100	
	Recess	10:05-10:20		15
	Class time	10:20-11:50	90	10
	Lunch	11:50-12:20		30
	Recess	12:20-12:35		15
	Class time	12:35-01:30	55	
	Recess	01:30-01:45		15
	Class time	01:45-02:55	70	
	Dismiss	02:55		
		nstructional minutes	315	
4 <sup>th</sup>	Warning Bell	08:20		
	Class time	08:25-10:05	100	
	Recess	10:05-10:20		15
	Class time	10:20-12:10	110	
	Lunch	12:10-12:40		30
	Recess	12:40-12:55		15
	Class time	12:55-03:05	130	
	Dismiss	3:05		
	Total i	nstructional minutes	340	
5 <sup>th</sup>	Warning Bell	08:20		
	Class time	08:25-10:05	100	
	Recess	10:05-10:20		15
	Class time	10:20-12:10	110	_

	Lunch	12:10-12:40		30
	Recess	12:40-12:55		15
	Class time	12:55-03:05	130	
	Dismiss	3:05		
	Total i	nstructional minutes	340	
6 <sup>th</sup> -8th	Warning Bell	08:20		
	Block 1	08:25-09:45	80	
	Recess	09:45-10:00		15
	Passing	10:00-10:05	05	
	Block 2	10:05-11:25	80	
	Block 3	11:25-12:45	80	
	Lunch	12:45-01:15		30
	Recess	01:15-01:30		15
	Block 4	01:30-02:20	50	
	Block 5 P.E.	02:20-03:05	45	
	Dismiss	3:05		
	Total i	nstructional minutes	340	

#### Safety Measures for TESD

The following guidelines and procedures have been developed to ensure the safety of all students and staff when on campus.

#### Masks - Masks are not required for students or staff after March 11, 2022

- Masks are optional outdoors for all school settings.
- All K-12 students are required to mask indoors, with exemptions per <u>CDPH face mask guidance</u>. Adults in K-12 school settings are required to mask when sharing indoor spaces with students. Masks will be required on all school busses and vehicles.
- Persons exempted from wearing a face covering due to a medical condition, must wear a non-restrictive alternative, such as a face shield with a drape on the bottom edge, as long as their condition permits it.
- Masks will be provided for students who forget to bring one or do not have a facemask.
   Extra masks are located on all school busses, school vehicles, in classrooms and the main office on campus.
- In limited situations where a face covering cannot be used for pedagogical or developmental reasons, (e.g., communicating or assisting young children or those with special needs) a face shield with a drape (per CDPH guidelines) can be used instead of a face covering while in the classroom as long as the wearer maintains physical distance from others.

#### Physical Distancing

Recent evidence indicates that in-person instruction can occur safely without minimum physical distancing requirements when other mitigation strategies (e.g., masking) are implemented. This is consistent with <u>CDC K-12 School Guidance</u>.

#### **Outdoor Play**

Students will be permitted to use all play structures on campus. Students are expected to adhere to all existing rules for playground use.

#### School-Based Extracurricular Activities

The requirements and recommendations apply to all extracurricular activities that are operated or supervised by schools, and all activities that occur on a school site, whether or not they occur during school hours, including, but not limited to, sports, band, chorus, and clubs. Masks are required for all persons while playing all indoor sports, unless wearing a mask during play has been determined to pose a choking hazard by a well-recognized health authority, such as the American Academy of Pediatrics.[1]

For (1) the playing of musical instruments that cannot be done with a face covering (e.g., wind instruments); or (2) when wearing a mask during play poses a choking hazard, at least one of the following options is required:

- a. Conduct these activities outdoors;
- b. Use modified face coverings and bell coverings when playing wind and brass instruments, and maintain 6 feet of physical distancing;
- c. Perform at least weekly screening testing with either PCR testing (1:1 or pooled PCR) or antigen testing of all individuals, including those who are fully vaccinated.

#### Hand Hygiene

- TESD will teach and reinforce washing hands, avoiding contact with one's eyes, nose, and mouth, and covering coughs and sneezes among students and staff.
- Promote hand washing throughout the day, especially before and after eating, after using the toilet, and after handling garbage, or removing gloves. Students and staff should wash their hands for 20 seconds with soap, rubbing thoroughly after application, and use paper towels (or single use cloth towels) to dry hands thoroughly.
- Staff should model, practice, and monitor proper handwashing.
- TESD will ensure adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors, including soap, tissues, no-touch trashcans, face coverings, and hand sanitizers.
- Hand sanitizer will be placed inside each classroom entry door.
- Free standing hand sanitizing stations are being positioned around the campus for easy access
- Students will sanitize their hands on the way in and out.

#### GENERAL DISINFECTION MEASURES

In general, cleaning once a day is usually enough to sufficiently remove potential virus that may be on surfaces. Disinfecting (using disinfectants on the <u>U.S. Environmental Protection Agency COVID-19</u> list) removes any remaining germs on surfaces, which further reduces any risk of spreading infection.

Category	Area	Frequency
Workspaces	Classrooms, Offices, tables, desks	At the end of each day
Appliances	Exterior surfaces of refrigerators, microwaves, coffee machines	Daily
Electronic Equipment	Copier machines, TV's, Telephones	At the end of each day via general disinfecting
General Used Objects	Handles, light switches, sinks, restrooms	Daily or more often as needed
Common Areas	Cafeteria, Library, Meeting rooms, etc.	At the end of each use/day as appropriate
Technology	Chromebooks, laptops, etc.	Once per week (unshare devices)

#### Cleaning of Rooms

- Door handles, light switches, faucet handles etc. will be wiped down and sanitized by custodial staff daily.
- Toilets and sinks will be washed and sanitized at various times throughout the day as needed by the custodial staff. A log for daily bathroom cleaning will be kept for each bathroom documenting date, time and custodian who cleaned the bathroom.
- If the facility has had a sick person with COVID-19 within the last 24 hours, TESD will clean AND disinfect the spaces occupied by that person during that time.

#### Ventilation

In order to provide high-efficiency filtration and sufficient clean air delivery the district updated their HVAC filters to Merv 13 to eliminate added contaminates. (Dust, Pollen, Smog, & Bacteria) TESD installed Ionizers to all our HVAC units as an added way to help with indoor air quality.

#### Recommendations for staying home when sick and getting tested

Follow the strategy for Staying Home when Sick and Getting Tested from the <u>CDC</u>.

- Getting tested for COVID-19 when symptoms are <u>consistent with COVID-19</u> will help with rapid contact tracing and prevent possible spread at schools.
- Staff members and students with symptoms of COVID-19 infection are not to return for in-person instruction until they have met CDPH criteria to return to school for those with symptoms:
- At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; and
  - ii. Other symptoms have improved; and
  - iii. They have a negative test for SARS-CoV-2, OR a healthcare provider has provided documentation that the symptoms are typical of their underlying chronic condition (e.g., allergies or asthma) OR a healthcare provider has confirmed an alternative named diagnosis (e.g., Streptococcal pharyngitis, Coxsackie virus), OR at least 10 days have passed since symptom onset.

#### Case reporting, contact tracing and investigation

The Superintendent, Stacey Bettencourt or Dr. Cherie Solian will immediately notify the Tulare County Public Health Liaison. Superintendent, Stacey Bettencourt and the Principal, Dr. Cherie Solian, are the contact tracers for Tipton Elementary School and will conduct all the contact tracing in consultation with TCHHSA. In the event that both Stacey Bettencourt and Dr. Cherie Solian are unavailable, MOT Director, Fausto Martin and Resource Teacher, Desiree Heinks will conduct contact tracing. These officials will help administrators determine a course of action for the school.

#### Quarantine recommendations for vaccinated close contacts

• For those who are vaccinated, TESD will follow the <u>CDPH Fully Vaccinated People</u> Guidance regarding quarantine.

Quarantine recommendations for unvaccinated students for exposures when both parties were wearing a mask, as required in K-12 indoor settings. These are adapted from the <u>CDC K-12</u> guidance and <u>CDC definition of a close contact</u>.

- When both parties were wearing a mask in the indoor classroom setting, unvaccinated students who are close contacts (more than 15 minutes over a 24-hour period within 0-6 feet indoors) may undergo a modified 10-day quarantine as follows. They may continue to attend school for in-person instruction if they:
  - i. Are asymptomatic;
  - ii. Continue to appropriately mask, as required;
  - iii. Undergo at least twice weekly testing during the 10-day quarantine; and
  - iv. Continue to quarantine for all extracurricular activities at school, including sports, and activities within the community setting.

Quarantine recommendations for unvaccinated <u>close contacts</u> who <u>were not wearing masks</u> or for whom the infected individual was not wearing a mask during the indoor exposure; or unvaccinated students as described above.

- For these contacts, those who remain asymptomatic, meaning they have NOT had any symptoms, may discontinue self-quarantine under the following conditions:
  - i. Quarantine can end after Day 10 from the date of last exposure without testing; OR ii. Quarantine can end after Day 7 if a diagnostic specimen is collected after Day 5 from the date of last exposure and tests negative.
- To discontinue quarantine before 14 days following last known exposure, asymptomatic close contacts must:
  - i. Continue daily self-monitoring for symptoms through Day 14 from last known exposure; AND ii. Follow all recommended non-pharmaceutical interventions (e.g., wearing a mask when around others, hand washing, avoiding crowds) through Day 14 from last known exposure.
- If any symptoms develop during this 14-day period, the exposed person must immediately isolate, get tested and contact their healthcare provider with any questions regarding their care.

#### Isolation recommendations

• For both vaccinated and unvaccinated persons, follow the CDPH <u>Isolation Guidance</u> for those diagnosed with COVID-19.

#### Food Service Recommendations

- Given very low risk of transmission from surfaces and shared objects, there is no need to limit food service approaches to single use items and packaged meals.
- Some students may eat outside when weather permits.
- TESD will clean frequently touched surfaces. Surfaces that come in contact with food should be washed, rinsed, and sanitized before and after meals.
- Meal service is supervised by designated staff/ instructional aides.

#### **Updates**

CDPH will continue to assess conditions on an ongoing basis, and will determine no later than November 1, 2021, whether to update mask requirements or recommendations. This plan will be updated every six months as needed.

New Guidance effective January 13, 2022 from the Tulare County Health and Human Services Agency

Masks will no longer be required after March 11, 2022 for students or staff.

Karen M. Elliott, MBA • Director • Public Health Branch Director Karen Haught, MD, MPH • County Health Officer

January 13, 2022

Schools and districts are advised that CDPH updated their <u>K-12 guidance</u> and <u>FAQs</u> last night which includes pertinent changes for contact tracing and quarantine approaches.

For on-campus exposures, schools may choose to implement individual contact tracing (status quo approach with updated <u>CDPH community I/Q guidance</u>) or the new group-tracing approach. Schools do not need to stick to one approach. Different approaches may be more appropriate for different scenarios, so schools may utilize as needed due to the exposure situation or when dictated by staffing needs.

#### **Updates for individual contact tracing:**

As previously, determining close contacts—still defined as within 6 feet for greater than 15 cumulative minutes in 24 hours during the contagious window (48-hour prior to symptom start through isolation start).

- Vaccinated students: quarantine not indicated.
  - As previously, students are considered fully vaccinated if it's been at least 2 wks since they completed their primary series (2 of 2 Pfizer or Moderna).
  - HOWEVER, given the increased rate of Omicron breakthrough infection: they should be informed of the exposure, strongly recommended to test on day 5, and advised of booster recommendation if 12yo+ and >5 mo since last shot
- Students infected within 90 days: quarantine not indicated.
  - HOWEVER, given the increased rate of Omicron reinfection: they should be informed of the exposure, advised to test day 5, monitor for symptoms
- **Unvaccinated students:** either modified or home guarantine, depending on the exposure.
  - For on-campus, masked exposures only: may use modified quarantine and remain in school if asymptomatic with testing advised ASAP and at minimum day 3-5. May also use standard quarantine if logistically preferred.
  - Any other exposures outside of school: CDPH guidance with standard quarantine in effect.
    Home quarantine may end on day 5 (return day 6) if asymptomatic, negative test on day 5,
    and continue masking through 10 days. As time permits, these test results should be verified
    since these exposures are higher risk.
- Students who become symptomatic and/or test positive follow standard CDPH isolation guidance. Isolation guidance is for all persons regardless of vaccination status or history of recent infection.

#### New group-tracing approach:

Instead of working to identify individuals, schools may send a blanket notification to <u>all students</u> in the affected cohorts (regardless of vaccination status) where the exposure(s) occurred. This may include classrooms, teams, study groups, etc.

- Send timely notification to affected cohorts with information on:
  - o the exposure date
  - o when testing is needed (at least one 3-5 days from exposure)
  - where testing can be accessed
  - o stay home if symptomatic
  - o inform school if positive test or symptoms



## TULARE COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

Timothy W. Lutz, MBA Agency Director

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- Otherwise, no specific attendance restrictions or quarantines if asymptomatic
- Testing is advised day 3-5 for all affected students regardless of vaccination status
- Asymptomatic students who participate in testing may continue extracurricular activities including sports as long as face coverings are worn through the 10-day period
- Students who become symptomatic and/or test positive follow isolation guidance

#### **Test verification:**

Reports of positive test results should be acted upon and do not need confirmation with additional tests. Positive rapid tests are very reliable and confirmation can be an unnecessary delay given the quick spread of Omicron where there is a shorter actionable period.

Verification of test results for clearance remains uniformly recommended, however it is recognized that tracking all results may not be feasible with current resources. Schools are advised to prioritize efforts to best mitigate greatest potential risk of exposure to the school community:

- 1. Verifying students' 5-day negative test to return early from isolation followed by;
- 2. Verifying students' 5-day negative test to return early from quarantine for both out-of-school and sports-related exposures followed by;
- 3. Verifying students' in-school exposure testing for modified quarantine or group tracing

CDPH offers <u>suggestions for home test verification</u>. Again, schools are advised to consider risk in prioritization. For example, schools may opt to utilize self-attestation for lower-risk exposures (in-school exposures for either modified or group-approach tracing) and request photo verification with name, DOB, test date for higher-risk results such as early return from isolation and quarantine.

#### **Updates for Isolation:**

The new <u>CDPH guidance</u> is followed for persons who test positive for COVID-19 (with any kind of test including home tests) <u>or</u> have symptoms of COVID-19 and have been unable to test. Persons who meet this criteria are considered contagious and isolation is indicated *regardless of vaccination status, whether symptoms are present, or if history of infection within prior 90 days*.

- a. Stay home away from others in isolation for 5 days minimum. Standard isolation is 10 days, however isolation may end after 5 days (returning to normal activities on day 6) if persons:
  - ✓ Have a negative rapid antigen test on/after day 5 and;
  - ✓ Have no fever and other symptoms have improved and;
  - ✓ Continue to wear a well-fitted mask around others for 5 more days (to complete 10 days).

Discontinuation of isolation includes a return to extracurricular activities with a mask through 10 days. If masks cannot be worn while around others for an activity (e.g. sports, band) they should abstain from the activity through 10 days.

- Note on symptoms in isolation: If persons still have a fever or test positive on day 5, isolation should continue at least through 10 days and until fever is resolved. If other symptoms are not improving, persons should remain in isolation at least through 10 days and call their doctor.
- Note on tests in isolation: Rapid antigen tests are the preferred test to end isolation after day 5; this test may be done at a clinic or with an over-the-counter (OTC) home test kit, though some employers may require observation of OTC tests. Without a negative test on/after day 5, persons should remain in isolation at least through 10 days.



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Note on masking in isolation: Avoid activities where masks cannot be worn (i.e. eating around others, going out to restaurants, etc) until after 10 days. Well-fitted masks are ideally surgical masks or higher. It is important masks cover the nose and mouth and fit snugly on the face. The mask condition of this guidance remains in effect regardless of the indoor state masking mandate due to expire 2/15/2022.

#### **Prioritization during times of surge:**

Discussion of prioritization measures between school nursing, contract tracing staff, and administration is encouraged. Generally, prioritization considerations should include:

- 1. Ensuring timely, proper isolation of COVID-19 cases
  - This may include verifying negative test results to end isolation early
- 2. Timely notification of potentially exposed persons
  - This may include the option of changing current model to group tracing model for lowest risk exposures (in-class, masked) or all school exposures
- 3. Timely communication with families of current standing and measures being taken
  - Whether to expect individual notification or if group tracing is now in place so they can take extra precautions if they wish for their household
- 4. Timely reporting of <u>major outbreaks</u> or similar concerns to public health so mitigation measures can be discussed (i.e. if concern whether closure indicated)
- 5. As time allows: entry of individual cases into SPOT, tracking of quarantine test results, etc.

#### **CalOSHA updates for staff:**

Be advised, CalOSHA also updated their ETS last week which is effective tomorrow, 1/14/2022. It includes the updated CDPH guidance however also includes **requirements for testing after exposure** and **requirements if home tests are utilized for employees**. There is also now an allowance to keep booster-eligible persons at work with this testing requirement. The 90-day stipulation within CalOSHA is not clear at this time and schools should consult with their HR for clarification.

CalOSHA COVID-19 FAQS

CalOSHA self-seal check for voluntary use of N95