



# NEVADA K-12 SCHOOL SETTING SUMMARY GUIDANCE

*Updated August 4, 2021*

## FACE COVERINGS

Given new evidence on the B.1.617.2 (Delta) variant, CDC has updated the guidance for fully vaccinated people. **CDC recommends universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status.** Children should return to full-time in-person learning in the fall with layered prevention strategies in place.

When teachers, staff, and students consistently and correctly wear a mask, they 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.

**Below is a summary of masking and testing requirements and recommendations for K-12 county school district, charter school and private school settings within Nevada:**

## FACE COVERING REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT, CHARTER SCHOOL AND PRIVATE SCHOOL SETTINGS WITHIN NEVADA:

- **All school staff** MUST wear face coverings while inside school buildings, regardless of vaccination status.
- All kindergarten through 12th grade students, and all school staff, **MUST wear face coverings while on school buses**, as required by the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) Order](#). CDC's Order applies to all public transportation conveyances including school buses. Regardless of the mask policy at school, passengers and drivers must wear a mask on school buses, including on buses operated by public and private school systems, subject to the exclusions and exemptions in CDC's Order.
- **Parents, vendors, volunteers, visitors, and guests** MUST wear face coverings inside school buildings and on school buses.
  - *Parents, vendors, volunteers, visitors, and guests who are unable or unwilling to wear face coverings under any circumstances or exemptions should not be allowed on school buses, in school buildings, or on school campuses.*

School building administrators **may approve exemptions** for:

- Students who are medically fragile as documented per an existing Individualized Education Program or health-related 504 Plan; or,
- Students or staff who can produce documentation from a qualified Nevada-licensed medical professional that they are exempt in accordance with subsection 3 of section 7 of [Directive 024](#):
  - *"Individuals who cannot wear a face covering due to a medical condition or disability, or who are unable to remove a mask without assistance. Persons exempted under this provision should wear a non-restrictive alternative, such as a face shield."*



## FACE COVERING REQUIREMENTS FOR COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT, CHARTER SCHOOL AND PRIVATE SCHOOL SETTINGS IN COUNTIES WITH A POPULATION OF 100,000 OR GREATER (Clark County and Washoe County)

- **ALL kindergarten through 12th grade students** (regardless of whether they would be exempt from a face covering requirement based on their age) **MUST** wear face coverings while inside school buildings unless granted an exemption consistent with this guidance and [Directive 048](#). Face coverings are required indoors regardless of vaccination status.

## FACE COVERING REQUIREMENTS FOR COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT, CHARTER SCHOOL AND PRIVATE SCHOOL SETTINGS IN COUNTIES WITH A POPULATION LESS THAN 100,000

- Each county school district, charter school, and private school **shall adopt a face covering policy** that addresses whether or under what circumstances face coverings will be required for students while inside school buildings, or on school campuses. Any such policy may be more stringent than this and any other applicable State or local health directives, but may not be more permissive.

Irrespective of any policy adopted by a county school district, charter school, or private school, **if a school-wide outbreak of COVID-19 is identified by the applicable local health authority in any school, a universal face covering policy SHALL be implemented immediately for ALL students in the school building where the outbreak occurred** until the local health authority determines that the outbreak is closed. Additional mitigation measures may be required by the local health authority for that school as deemed necessary by the local health authority.

For purposes of this guidance, a **SCHOOL-WIDE OUTBREAK** is defined as any outbreak that extends beyond one classroom or isolated setting. Local health authorities will make outbreak determinations based upon the findings of case investigation and contact tracing and relative to the specific local setting. The CDC COVID-19 outbreak definition will be utilized in making these outbreak determinations.

**All school districts, charter schools, and private schools are strongly encouraged to require all students to wear face coverings while inside school buildings.**



## TESTING

### TESTING REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT, CHARTER SCHOOL AND PRIVATE SCHOOL SETTINGS WITHIN NEVADA:

Required regular testing for **UNVACCINATED** students, staff & volunteers participating in activities that involve travelling to schools outside of their county:

- All county school districts, charter schools, and private schools, regardless of county transmission level, shall implement a regular COVID-19 testing program for **students and staff or volunteers**, including but not limited to coaches, leaders, and advisors, who are not fully vaccinated and who are involved in travelling to other schools or venues outside of the county for athletics and activities such as games, tournaments, competitions, concerts, meets, or similar events.
- **Testing must occur at least once per week.** If a student, staff member, or volunteer tests positive for COVID-19, current CDC recommendations for isolation and quarantine must be followed.
- **This applies to students, staff and volunteers involved in athletics activities.** The Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association (NIAA) must promulgate a mandatory COVID-19 testing and mitigation plan for full-contact and close-contact sports. The plan **MUST** require at a minimum weekly testing of coaches, staff and athletes participating in these sports who are not fully vaccinated. The plan must include rules and guidance for the use of face coverings by student athletes while both actively and not actively participating in the sporting activity.
  - Prior to the commencement of competitions of full-contact and close-contact sports between separate schools, the individual schools must implement the NIAA testing and mitigation plan and begin the weekly testing protocols required by such.

*CDC guidance provides that people who are fully vaccinated do not need to participate in screening testing. However, testing should be made available to fully vaccinated individuals participating in extracurricular and athletic activities.*

### TESTING RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) recommends that testing of all those that are unvaccinated, both staff and students occur at least weekly to be effective. In schools where testing of all staff and students is not feasible, schools may consider multiple testing strategies, for example, testing a random sample of at least 10% of staff and students who are not fully vaccinated.

**\*\*\*If county school districts, charter schools, or private schools require the use of public or private facilities outside of school grounds for educational purposes, including but not limited to instructional activities or administering assessments, such facilities are subject to the mitigation requirements included in this guidance and [Directive 048](#)\*\*\***

For more detailed guidance on COVID-19 mitigation strategies within K-12 school settings, please reference the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services [2021-22 COVID-19 GUIDELINES FOR PREVENTION AND OUTBREAK CONTROL IN SCHOOL SETTINGS](#).