



LIC # 19741 1975833 4415834

# Little Dolphins by the Sea

## Covid-19 Health & Safety Measures

Fall 2022



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## Morning Check Ins + First Day of School Plan:



- All students are required to bring a negative antigen test (all brands accepted) on their first day of school, taken between 6:30am-8:30am (prior to their arrival on campus).
- The physical antigen test should be considered their “ticket” to attend on the first day of school.
- Tests are to be given directly to the classroom teacher.
- Students will no longer be required to temperature check or wash hands upon arrival.

\*Note: Hand washing will continue to be required throughout the day (e.g. transitions, snack, lunch, restroom etc.)



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All students and faculty are required to remain at home if they are exhibiting any of the following symptoms:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea





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Sick students and faculty may return to school after experiencing illness symptoms when the student or faculty member either:

1. Is completely symptom free AND obtains a negative antigen test, OR
2. Obtains a doctor's note stating that they are not or no longer contagious and can attend school. \* Must be fever free for 24 hours before return



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- Masks are *optional*.
- Students and faculty are highly encouraged to wear a well-fitted, high quality mask (KN95, KF94, or N95) when indoors.





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- We will not be requiring social distancing indoors or outdoors.
- Students from different classes will be allowed to mix without the need to maintain social distancing.





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- Surveillance testing (*regular PCR on campus testing*) allows Little Dolphins to *safely* resume most pre-pandemic activities.
- More information on surveillance testing can be found towards the end of this presentation.
- We will be PCR testing 2x/week on campus.





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## What is a close contact?:

One is considered a close contact if they have shared indoor airspace with someone positive for covid-19, for 15 minutes or greater, within 6-feet, and over a 24-hour period.

## My child is a close contact. What do we do?

- Per the CDC Guidelines, we request that close contact children wear a well fitted KN95 mask or KF94 for 10 days, however, we understand that due to how young our little ones are, this may be challenging. We will do our best to have children mask when they return for 10 days. **\*ADULT CLOSE CONTACTS MUST MASK FOR 10 DAYS WITH A KN95 MASK**
- Get PCR tested 3-5 days after your last exposure.
- Antigen test each morning, prior to arrival on campus, until results of the negative PCR is confirmed.
- Monitor health for 10 days.

\*Note: Day 0 is the day of your last contact (exposure) with the infected person.





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## What do I do if my child is positive for COVID?

- Notify the school and Amy at [littledolphins@sevenarrows.org](mailto: littledolphins@sevenarrows.org) and [amarston@littledolphins.org](mailto: amarston@littledolphins.org).
- The student must have isolate for at least 5 days.
- The student may antigen test each morning beginning Day 6. The first day that the antigen result is negative, the student may return to school. \*Note: A negative antigen is required (even if it is beyond Day 10)
- A picture of the negative antigen test must be emailed to [littledolphins@sevenarrows.org](mailto: littledolphins@sevenarrows.org) and [amarston@littledolphins.org](mailto: amarston@littledolphins.org).
- Per the CDC Guidelines, we request that children return and wear a well fitted KN95 mask or KF94 until day 10, however, we understand that due to how young our little ones are, this may be challenging. We will do our best to have children mask when they return for up to day 10.

\*Note: Day 0 is the day you either begin to show symptoms OR if asymptomatic, test positive for COVID



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# Little Dolphins by the Sea

## FAQs

*Q: How does Little Dolphins make Covid-19 policy decisions?*

A: Little Dolphins administration makes Covid-19 policy decisions in consultation with the Covid Task Force, which is comprised of physicians, researchers, and epidemiologists, who donate their time and expertise to advise us on our school policies.

There are many considerations that are taken into account when making policy decisions. The LA Department of Public Health recommendations and mandates, the CDC recommendations and mandates, hospitalization numbers in LA county, the transmission level in LA county, and the needs of our students, parents, faculty and staff, are all taken into account when making a decision. We realize that there are many differing opinions with varying degrees of comfort when it comes to covid. The Little Dolphins administration, along with the support of the board, with the advice of the Covid Task Force, makes the best decisions possible with the best information available at the time. We regularly evaluate the efficacy of our covid policies, and update them as needed, to coincide with the ever changing covid-19 landscape.



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## FAQs (cont)

*Q: Why are we surveillance testing?*

*A:* There are many reasons why we have decided to continue our surveillance testing program. First and foremost, we are committed to the health and safety of every student, teacher, and community member. We believe that frequent testing is a *highly effective* strategy in early detection of potential covid-19, and individuals can be removed from the classroom environment prior to becoming contagious.

Additionally, Little Dolphins has always been at the forefront of keeping kids in school, as evidenced by the fact that we were one of the first schools in LA County to reopen. It has been made clear to Little Dolphins that LA County still plans to make classroom & school closures when outbreaks occur (3 or more epidemiologically linked cases). We are committed to staying open. We believe surveillance testing is an effective means to achieve that goal with early detection.

Lastly, our plan is to resume most pre-pandemic activities. Masking is optional, social distancing will not be enforced, grades will be allowed to mix, and all school events (i.e. kuyams) will include the entire school. We believe that we can do this safely by surveillance testing, which will mitigate the chances that these events become super spreader events.



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## FAQs (cont)

*Q: Why are we surveillance testing if we know it can catch asymptomatic individuals? If the goal is to remain open, the chances increase that we will “find” covid-19 in our classrooms which will result in closures, so why test?*

*A: We believe that asymptomatic individuals will inevitably spread the disease to others in the classroom which will lead to multiple symptomatic and epidemiologically linked cases. If this were to occur, a classroom or school closure becomes imminent. We believe that surveillance testing prevents these closures. Early detection is key to preventing the spread of covid-19 in classrooms because identifying the infected individual early, and removing them from the classroom environment prior to them becoming contagious and spreading the virus to classmates, we will mitigate the chances of an outbreak and a potential closure.*

*Q: Will surveillance testing find many asymptomatic positives? Won't that result in closures?*

*A: In our experience, the few students who have tested positive during our surveillance testing, either are already symptomatic, or develop symptoms shortly after the positive test. We are not seeing a significant amount of asymptomatic positives in our surveillance testing over the last 2+ years. Therefore, we believe early detection is still an effective mitigation strategy.*



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## FAQs (cont)

*Q: Is surveillance testing expensive?*

A: No. Surveillance testing provided by the school is at no cost to you or to Little Dolphins.

*Q: When will we stop surveillance testing students?*

A: If transmission is consistently low, and no variants of concern are on the horizon, the Covid Task Force will make the recommendation when it is best to discontinue surveillance testing.

*Q: Can my child return to school with symptoms, if they have a negative PCR test?*

A: No. Your child must be symptom free AND have a negative PCR test to be eligible to return to in-person school. The only way a student can return to school with symptoms is if the student obtains a doctor's note that states that they are not contagious and cleared to return.



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## FAQs (cont)

*Q: Why does Little Dolphins allow unvaccinated adults on campus when there are schools that are requiring vaccinations to be allowed on campus?*

*A: We believe that our entire community should be included. We do not wish to exclude any student, parent, or community member from school activities based on their vaccination status. That said, if the state mandates a covid-19 vaccination, Little Dolphins will comply and mandate vaccinations.*

*Q: Why is Little Dolphins asking unvaccinated adults to PCR and antigen test prior to coming to campus when vaccinated individuals seem just as likely to catch covid?*

*A: While it is true that vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals can both contract covid, there is evidence to suggest that vaccinated individuals have at least some protection from contracting covid, which makes them less likely to spread the virus. In addition, if they do become infected, there is also evidence to suggest that vaccinated individuals have a shorter period of time that they are actively contagious, and are therefore, less efficient in spreading the disease.*