

## Background

This document aims to inform Shasta Charter Academy families of the approved State of California COVID-19 testing strategies for the 2022-2023 school year. It is intended to support planning processes for safe in-person learning, as disease management is an essential priority to maintain student well-being and development.

## Testing Framework:

Testing for COVID-19 remains an essential tool to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic and help decrease transmission, keeping our students, their families, and our staff safe.

Please refer to the [COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K–12 Schools to Support Safe In-Person Learning, 2022–2023 School Year](#) for more specific information on when and who to test in a school setting. This information is being incorporated into this framework by reference.

## Getting Tested for COVID-19:

Testing remains a key mitigation layer to detect and curb the transmission of COVID-19. Shasta Charter Academy ensures access to COVID-19 testing for our students and staff. Please review the recommended actions and resources offered by the [California COVID-19 Testing Task Force](#), as well as those available through healthcare insurers, local, and federal sources.

### 1. Recommended Actions:

- a. CDPH recommends that antigen tests be considered the primary option for detecting COVID-19 in schools, compared to PCR tests. For more information, see the [Testing Framework for K–12 Schools](#). **Rapid Antigen tests are available at the school upon request at this time.** Please see the school health clerk, Patricia James for more information.
- b. Due to the increased travel and social interactions that often occurs during school-breaks, it is recommended that students and staff get tested for COVID-19 prior to returning to school following major breaks (e.g., summer, winter, spring).
- c. Additional testing recommendations are referenced in relevant sections below.

## Managing Individuals with Symptoms:

### Recommended Actions:

- a. In most situations, any student who develops new, unexplained symptoms should not return to campus until it is clear that symptoms are mild and improving or are due to a non-infectious cause (e.g., allergies). This includes waiting until 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications.
- b. Additionally, if [symptoms](#) are concerning for COVID-19, it is strongly recommended that students wear a mask and get tested immediately. Students should also follow [CDPH recommendations](#) for retesting and/or isolating if results are positive.

## Managing Students Diagnosed with COVID-19:

Prompt management of students with COVID-19 can prevent further spread and, in some cases, allow for early treatment.

### 1. Recommended Action:

- a. Students diagnosed with COVID-19 should follow recommendations listed in [Table 1 \(Persons with COVID-19\)](#) of CDPH's guidance for the general public, including staying home for at least 5 days and wearing a well-fitting mask around others for a total of 10 days, especially in indoor settings.

## Managing Students Exposed to COVID-19:

Prompt notification to students and families regarding exposure to infectious diseases, including COVID-19, can allow for rapid testing, early treatment, and prevention of further spread.

### 1. Recommended Actions:

- a. It is recommended that families notify Shasta Charter Academy if their child has COVID-19 and was on school grounds during their [infectious period](#), and that Shasta Charter Academy in turn notify students who spent more than a cumulative total of 15 minutes (within a 24-hour time period) in a shared indoor airspace (e.g., classroom) with someone with COVID-19 during their infectious period.
- b. In lieu of individual exposure notifications, Shasta Charter Academy will consider providing a general notification to the entire school community during times of elevated [community transmission](#) of COVID-19. This communication can

alert all to the increased potential of being exposed to COVID-19 due to a rise in cases among school and community members, and remind all to monitor for symptoms and get tested.

c. All students with known exposure to persons with COVID-19 should follow recommendations listed in [Table 2 \(Asymptomatic Persons Who are Exposed to Someone with COVID-19\)](#) of CDPH's guidance for the general public. If they remain without symptoms, students may continue to take part in all aspects of Shasta Charter Academy's schooling including sports and extracurricular activities. As recommended in [Table 2](#), they should wear a well-fitting mask around others for a total of 10 days and get tested 3–5 days after last exposure. **Rapid Antigen tests are available at the school upon request at this time.** Please see the school health clerk, Patricia James for more information.