



## **COVID-19 Mitigation Plan**

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## Edge High School

### COVID-19 Protocols for Re-Opening Schools

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Arizona Department of Education (ADE), the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), and Pima County Health Department (PCHD) recommend that in person learning decisions be driven by the current prevalence of COVID-19 in the community. (Please review ADE's [Roadmap for Reopening Schools](#), page 30, for more information.) The protocols that follow do not address whether a district should meet in person, but instead include recommendations for mitigating risk once the decision to meet in person has been made. The protocols are based on CDC "step" guidelines—specifically, Steps 2 and 3. Step 2 protocols, which include enhanced physical distancing measures, should be followed until guidance from Arizona officials indicates that a transition to Step 3 protocols is appropriate.

The following protocols are to be implemented across all school sites. Normal procedures for students who qualify for homebound or chronic ill services will be followed, as will normal procedures for employee requests for reasonable accommodation due to disability.

#### **STAFFING ASSIGNMENTS**

A public information officer (PIO) or their designee will coordinate all messages to students, parents, staff, and the community regarding reopening, possible closure, and other COVID-19-related information. The PIO will ensure that each site has posters with messaging on hand-washing and covering of coughs and sneezes located throughout, along with posters at site entrances reminding individuals not to enter if sick.

At each school or site, a site administrator or designee will coordinate physical distancing protocols as recommended by the CDC, ADHS and PCHD, including ensuring that student and staff schedules, as well as facility set-up, allow for implementation of the protocols.

At each school or site, the building maintenance supervisor will coordinate implementation of cleaning protocols, including ensuring that sufficient cleaning supplies are available to staff and, as appropriate, students. They will work with janitorial vendor to ensure cleaning guidelines are followed daily.

At each school, a site administrator or other designee will coordinate and implement the protocols set forth in the **Step Two Protocols: Employee** section of this document for screening of staff. That individual will be responsible for:

- communicating any reported case of COVID-19 among the school population to District Principal, Rob Pecharich, and to
- Human Resource and Finance Director, Anne Ortiz, if absences of students and staff on any given day are above 15%, or if there appears to be a cluster of respiratory-related illnesses.

The special education director and 504 coordinator will coordinate with site-based support staff to ensure that the needs of special education students and students with special needs are being met in the context of implementation of these safety protocols.

## **TRAINING AND COMMUNICATION**

### **Training**

Prior to students returning to campus each school year, all staff will be trained on implementation of these protocols. Training will include proper use of PPE and supplies; cleaning and disinfecting; and other measures.

### **Communication**

Prior to students returning to campus, parents will be sent a copy (or directed to review a copy on the district or school website) of the portions of these protocols that relate to students and visitors. As part of this process, the district will send communication to all parents that outline the symptoms for which parents should screen their student before sending them to school.

Edge High School designates the Principal of Edge Northwest, Dave Thatcher, and the Principal of Edge Himmel Park, Rob Pecharich as COVID-19 points of contact, which will be communicated to parents prior to the first day of school. This person will be responsible for answering parent questions regarding implementation of COVID-19 protocols.

## **STEP 2 PROTOCOLS (ENHANCED): STUDENTS ON CAMPUS**

Step 2 protocols are established based on community monitoring that reveals moderate and substantial levels of community spread of COVID-19. These practices are put in place as part of a general scale-up of operations.

## Daily Health Screenings

### At home

Inform students and support persons to follow the ***Can I Come to School Criteria*** on the school website. Students should not come to school if they exhibit any of the following symptoms:

- fever of 100.4 degrees or higher, or chills;
- shortness of breath or difficulty breathing;
- vomiting;
- diarrhea; or
- known signs or symptoms of COVID-19, such as, new loss of taste or smell.

Also, inform parents via registration documents, on the school website, and via email reminders that they should screen students for the above symptoms regularly, should self-report symptoms, and should keep students at home if any symptoms are present. Assure parents that students will have the opportunity to make up work missed due to symptoms of COVID-19.

If a student has a chronic condition such as allergies or asthma, parents should inform staff of that condition.

### At school

Procedure: A staff member, wearing appropriate PPE, will visually check each student and may ask general health questions. Any student with visible symptoms of runny nose, cough, shortness of breath, or vomiting, or one who has a fever at or above 100.4 degrees, will be taken to the designated health office and offered the opportunity to take a rapid antigen COVID-19 test. Parents may be contacted for pick-up with the following exceptions:

- If the student has a runny nose and the designated staff member observes that there are no other symptoms, the designated staff member will contact the parent to inquire as to whether the student has had any other symptoms or there have been any COVID-19 exposures in the home. If not, the student may return to class.
- If the student has health information on file that confirms a diagnosis of asthma or other respiratory condition and the designated staff member observes that there are no other symptoms, the designated staff member will contact the parent to inquire as to whether the student has had any other symptoms or there have been any COVID-19 exposures in the home. If not, the student may return to class.

## **Enhanced Physical Distancing**

### **Basic physical distancing practices**

Edge staff members will educate and remind students regularly to maintain at least 3 feet of distance between individuals whenever possible.

During periods of substantial community spread requiring hybrid learning, Edge staff will have students remain with the same groupings and the same staff throughout the day when possible. Edge High School will design schedules for students to allow the same groupings of students to move from subject to subject as much as possible. Edge High School will work to reduce class sizes as much as possible within the constraints of the number of students enrolled and the physical layout of the school.

Finally, Edge High School will convert non-instructional activity spaces to classrooms if the school site has sufficient teachers to staff those converted classrooms.

### **Additional physical distancing practices, when needed for substantial community spread**

To further ensure physical distancing best practices Edge High School may *stagger attendance*. Students will be assigned to specific attendance schedules, with the remainder of instructional time to be completed through distance learning. When students are not scheduled for in person learning they will be provided with distance learning assignments and supports, including technology. Edge will provide each student with the same amount of in-person and distance learning time unless distance learning is not necessary to ensure enhanced physical distancing practices in that student's classroom, or an IEP team has determined that the student's least restrictive environment is home instruction placement.

### ***Classroom layout.***

Desks will be positioned 3 feet apart unless that spacing is not possible due to the size of the classroom and the number of students assigned to it.

Classrooms shall be equipped with and use HEPA filtration during all class periods to improve air quality and circulation.

Desks will be arranged face forward and in the same direction rather than facing each other.

Facemasks will be required, unless not allowed by local, state or federal guidance, in which instance they are strongly encouraged for all individuals while in the classroom. Edge will provide students with facemasks if they do not have one or forget it at home and would like one provided.

### ***Communal spaces.***

#### *Edge Hallways:*

Hallways will be marked to direct students to stay on one side of the hallway for each direction of travel.

#### *Lobby areas:*

Chairs and tables will be removed to prevent people from gathering when appropriate based on community spread. Students will enter building and go straight to class.

### ***Bathrooms.***

Edge will permit students to enter bathrooms in groups no larger than the number of stalls/urinals in the bathroom, and direct them to maintain physical distancing as much as possible.

Edge will display posters reminding students of proper handwashing techniques as set forth by the Center For Disease Control.

### **Front Offices**

Edge will install sneeze guards or other partitions in front of the front desk.

### **Hand Washing**

Edge will recommend all students to wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol at the following times:

- upon arrival at school (use hand sanitizer if there is no sink in the classroom),
- after being outside for physical activity,

- prior to leaving school for home, and
- after sneezing, coughing, or blowing nose.

### **Cloth Face Coverings**

Edge may require face masks unless not allowed by local, state or federal guidance, in which instance they are strongly encouraged for all students and staff to wear cloth face coverings, subject to the health condition exception stated below. Students will not be required to wear cloth face coverings during physical activities and when physical distancing is maintainable, though they may voluntarily wear face coverings at any time.

\*Any person who has difficulty breathing or who is incapable of physically removing the face covering on his/her own will not wear cloth face coverings, and alternate methods of protection will be discussed by parents and staff.

\*\*\*

Students may bring their own cloth face coverings to and from school. When possible, Edge High School will supply face coverings to students and visitors who cannot afford or do not have their own.

Note: Cloth face coverings are designed to protect other individuals rather than the individual wearing the covering. Accordingly, the greater number of students wearing cloth face coverings, the greater the overall transmission mitigation that will be achieved. Plastic face guards, which provide protection for the wearer, will not be required or provided.

### **Student Belongings/Materials**

Edge High School will limit sharing of school supplies among students. If a school supply or piece of equipment must be shared by students (for instance, a pencil sharpener or blocks/toys), a staff member will remind students to use hand sanitizer after use.

### **Trips and Activities**

Edge High School will review each field trip for implementation of mitigation protocols for all students and staff. Edge staff will use virtual learning opportunities (such as virtual tours of museums) to enhance students' educational experiences.

Edge High School will reduce or remove school-wide assemblies with students assembled in the same physical location. As an alternative, Edge High School will hold school-wide assemblies virtually, with student groups remaining in their classrooms.



Large-scale school events such as “Back to School Night” and “Parent Teacher Conferences” will be organized to implement mitigation protocols. These events may take place in person, over the phone or other electronic means.

## **STEP 2 PROTOCOLS (ENHANCED): EMPLOYEES**

Step 2 protocols are established based on community monitoring that reveals moderate to substantial levels of community spread of COVID-19. These practices are put in place as part of a general scale-up of operations.

### **Exposure Assessment and PPE**

Prior to allowing employees to report to work, school administration, in conjunction with relevant site supervisors and department supervisors, will assess each work site to determine whether PPE is necessary for specific positions in order to limit the spread of COVID-19. If a position is determined to require PPE, Edge will provide the PPE to staff at no cost and train staff on its correct use.

### **Visitors to School**

Edge will limit nonessential visitors and volunteers at school. Edge will not permit parent volunteers in the classroom during times of substantial community spread.

### **Daily Screening**

Edge employees will follow the ***Can I Come to School Criteria***.

Edge will not allow employees to work onsite if they exhibit any of the following symptoms:

- fever of 100.4 and higher or chills,
- shortness of breath or difficulty breathing,
- vomiting,
- diarrhea, or
- new loss of taste or smell.

Edge High School will have available at each campus a non-contact thermometer for employees to take their temperature upon arrival at each campus.

If an employee's temperature is at or above 100.4, Edge will send the employee home. Employees must remain home until 10 days have passed since first symptoms and 24 hours symptom free without the use of medications.

Edge employees that travel through commercial transport, such as plane, bus, train etc) may be asked to work from home for ten days before returning to campus.

### **Handwashing**

Edge recommend employees to wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol at the following times, at minimum:

- upon arrival at school;
- after being outside for student physical activity;
- before and after lunch;
- after sneezing, coughing, or blowing nose; and
- after physical contact with other staff or students.

### **Enhanced Physical distancing**

Edge recommends employees to maintain a distance of at least 3 feet between individuals, unless this is not physically possible or, for a student's safety, less space is required. If a situation arises that requires a staff member to touch a student or another staff member (for instance, if a student requires toileting help, is having a physical emergency, or requires a two-person restraint), the staff member will resume physical distancing as soon as safely possible, wash their hands, and disinfect any surfaces they touched.

### **Cloth Face Coverings**

Edge may require face masks unless not allowed by local, state or federal guidance or a revised policy has been adopted by the governing board, in which instance they are strongly encouraged for all staff members to wear cloth face coverings during interaction with students or other staff unless they cannot do so for health reasons. In these cases, the employee will notify their supervisor and discuss strategies for reducing employee interactions with students or staff and other options for maintaining safety protocols. Employees will contact the district's ADA coordinator or their direct supervisor to request a reasonable accommodation and begin the interactive process if they cannot safely wear a face covering. A note from a physician will be required. Staff members may remove face coverings if the staff member is alone in his/her work area.

Unless a health condition prevents it, Edge will require janitorial staff and other vendors with permission to be on campus, to wear cloth face coverings and/or other personal

protective equipment (as available and appropriate) while cleaning and disinfecting the schools.

## **Cleaning and Disinfecting**

Edge will arrange for daily cleaning and disinfecting of all frequently touched surfaces in work areas, such as door handles, sink handles, drinking fountains, desks, and learning tools.

Edge staff is expected to clean and disinfect workspaces (high traffic touch points including table tops, door handles, light switches, staff desk, stapler and desktop supplies) when needed during the school day.

## **STEP 3 PROTOCOLS (LIMITED): STUDENTS ON CAMPUS**

### **Introduction**

Step 3 protocols are established based on community monitoring that reveals lower levels of community spread of COVID-19 than in Step 2. Consult with local health officials for guidance. When Edge progresses to Step 3, the Step 2 protocols should remain in place with the following exceptions:

### **Physical distancing**

#### Introduction

Physical distancing protocols may be relaxed somewhat during Step 3. Edge staff should continue to educate and regularly remind students to maintain 3 feet of distance between individuals when possible. However, increased social interaction among classes is permissible.

### **Cloth Face Coverings**

Edge may require face masks unless not allowed by local, state or federal guidance, in which instance they are strongly encouraged for all students and staff to wear cloth face coverings, subject to the health condition exception stated previously. Students will not be required to wear cloth face coverings during physical activities, though they may voluntarily wear face coverings at any time.

### **Drop-off/Pick-up procedures**

Parents, guardians, and support persons may be permitted to exit their vehicles as needed. Visitors should follow all required protocols in place, based on signage, at the time of their visit.

### **Trips and Activities**

Field trips that can comply with the protocols in this document will be permitted *only* if the area to be visited is at a Step 3 of community mitigation. Teachers will continue to use virtual learning opportunities (such as virtual tours of museums) to enhance students' educational experiences.

School assemblies may be held in staggered groups to ensure that physical distancing protocols can be maintained. Unless physical distancing can be maintained with all students in the same room, school-wide assemblies must be held virtually with student groups remaining in their classrooms.

## **STEP 3 PROTOCOLS (LIMITED): EMPLOYEES**

### **Physical distancing**

#### Introduction

Physical distancing protocols may be relaxed somewhat during Step 3. Edge staff should continue to maintain 3 feet of distance between individuals when possible. However, increased social interaction among individuals is permissible.

### **Cloth Face Coverings**

Edge may require face masks unless not allowed by local, state or federal guidance or a revised policy has been adopted by the governing board, in which instance they are strongly encouraged for all staff members to wear cloth face coverings during interaction with students or other staff unless they cannot do so for health reasons. In these cases, the employee will notify their supervisor and discuss strategies for reducing employee interactions with students or staff and other options for maintaining safety protocols. Employees will contact the district's ADA coordinator or their direct supervisor to request a reasonable accommodation and begin the interactive process if they cannot safely wear a face covering. A note from a physician will be required. Staff members may remove face coverings if the staff member is alone in his/her work area.

## PROCEDURES FOR COVID-19 SYMPTOMS ON CAMPUS AND/OR REPORTED TO SCHOOL

If a person becomes sick with COVID-19 symptoms or reports a positive COVID-19 test, the procedures listed below should be followed:

1. Immediately report the situation to Rob Pecharich, District Principal. Confidentiality must be maintained to the greatest extent possible.
2. If an employee develops COVID-19 symptoms at work, Edge will separate the employee from all other students, staff, or visitors, then make arrangements to send the employee home in a safe manner. If the employee is able to self-transport, the employee leave the site. If the employee is not able to safely self-transport, Edge will contact a family member, friend, or other method of transport to get the employee home or to a health care provider. If the employee appears to be in medical distress, Edge will call 911.
3. If a student develops COVID-19 symptoms at school, Edge will separate the student from all other students and staff, with the exception of one staff member to supervise the student. This staff member will wear PPE or a cloth face covering and maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from the student at all times, unless there is an emergency. Edge will immediately notify a parent or emergency contact to pick up the student, and call 911 if the student appears to be in medical distress.
4. Edge will close off any areas that were exposed to the symptomatic employee or student for a prolonged period. During that time, if feasible, Edge will open windows or outside doors to increase air circulation. After 24 hours, Edge will thoroughly clean and disinfect all surfaces in the area, per [CDC guidelines](#).
5. Edge will determine whether other employees or students may have been exposed to the symptomatic individual within 6 feet and for a prolonged period of time (typically longer than 15 minutes). If so, Edge will notify those individuals (or, in the case of students, their parents) of the potential exposure. Edge WILL NOT disclose the name of the individual who has become sick. Notification will recommend that exposed individuals monitor their health closely, contact their health care provider if possible, and self-quarantine if any symptoms develop.

### QUARANTINE, ISOLATION AND RETURN TO SCHOOL

1. All students and staff will follow the ***Can I Come to School Criteria***
2. Employees or students, regardless of vaccine status, who have developed COVID-19 symptoms or had a positive COVID-19 test may not return to the site until the following has occurred:

Scenario one

- At least 10 days have passed since the first symptoms emerged; and
- There has been a resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications for 24 hours; and

**OR**

Scenario two

- There has been a resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications for 24 hours; and
  - They have received a negative COVID-19 test
3. Employee or students who have had close contact will be evaluated for Quarantine
- a. Individuals who have been vaccinated and are two weeks past their second shot (for two shot cycle) or first shot (one shot vaccine) are not required but are strongly recommended to quarantine after possible close contact with an individual who tests positive for COVID-19.
  - b. Individuals who have not been vaccinated must quarantine for 10 days and check for symptoms. If symptoms develop, isolate per the above guidance.