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**SAFE REOPENING AND OPERATION OF SCHOOLS**

The health and safety of all students, teachers, staff, and the school community are of primary importance. The Board of Directors of Sage Oak Charter Schools has broad authority to take all measures necessary to ensure the safe operation of schools, including, but not limited to, implementing safety measures, distance learning, and eliminating technological disparities.

Sage Oak Charter Schools (“SOCS”) recognizes that the safe reopening and operation of schools must take into consideration health and safety measures provided by national, state, and local health officials, and will be largely dependent on local public health conditions.

For schools to safely reopen and allow students, teachers, and staff to reconvene in-person services, protective measures must be taken and all staff and offices shall be required to follow recommended sanitation protocols in accordance with published guidelines and practice physical distancing. Schools shall take measures to limit in-person access and detect sources of COVID-19 or other infectious diseases.

The use of face coverings is strongly encouraged for students in grades kindergarten through 2, and required for students in grades 3 through 12. Continuing use of face coverings shall be consistent with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), and other local and state school reopening guidelines. Students who do not have personal face coverings shall be provided with face coverings by the school at no cost. Guidelines shall be developed for the use of face coverings by all students including those with special needs and have identified medical concerns. Measures shall be taken to avoid and mitigate any unintended consequences of implementing any safety precautions.

Staff shall be required to wear face coverings when engaging with students, staff, or community members for their own protection, and to protect the health and safety of students and other staff members. Personal protective equipment (PPE) shall be required for specific job functions and distributed to staff in accordance with board policies, and laws.

Students and staff who exhibit signs or symptoms or COVID-19 shall self-quarantine for 14 days and are further prevented from participating in any in-person activity or meeting until it is medically safe for them to return. Students who are unable to meet with staff as a result of COVID-19 shall continue to receive instruction and support.

Decisions concerning school closure, whether full or partial, shall be made in consultation with local health officials and in accordance with state guidelines.

Annual notification shall be provided to parents advising them of health and safety requirements for students to return to in-person activities. Parents, teachers, and staff shall receive training and information on COVID-19 and preventative practices.

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It is the policy of the Board of Directors of Sage Oak Charter Schools that all teachers and staff shall be responsible for ensuring adherence to the policies of the School for the safe reopening and operation consistent with all laws, regulations, and policies.

**Website Resources:**

California Department of Public Health: <https://covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-schools.pdf>

California Department of Education: [cde.ca.gov](https://cde.ca.gov)

California Department of Industrial Relations: [dir.ca.gov](https://dir.ca.gov)