



GEORGE HALL FAQ FROM BTSN

****August 18, 2021**Mrs. Chennault, Principal**A Kind & Inclusive School Community****

Slide deck from the Principal's BTSN [English Version](#) [Spanish Version](#)

In the event of a positive COVID test how will this be dealt with in a classroom? For instance will the whole class need to isolate until testing negative? Are there plans in place to switch to remote if necessary?

According to the [SMFCSD Safe Return to School](#), “SMFCSD will implement contact tracing and rapid-response COVID-19 testing when a student or staff member is determined to have experienced a possible school-based exposure. This response will take place in every instance of a confirmed COVID-19 exposure and this will allow students and staff to remain in school safely.” (pg. 5) All students will receive chromebooks in the coming weeks to ensure access to instruction if classrooms are required to close and isolate. We will work with the District Nursing Department to determine how and when students can return safely in the event that a whole class must be isolated.

Are the staff vaccinated? If not, will they be tested regularly?

The County Superintendents in collaboration with their respective Public Health Officers are strongly encouraging all who are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccination. As schools prepare for the 2021-22 school year, high vaccination rates across the Bay Area provide a layer of safety that was not present last year. 90% of all District employees are currently vaccinated. By October 15, all employees must be vaccinated or undergo regular rigorous testing.

Will staff be regularly tested regardless of vaccination status? Since vaccinated people can still be Covid carriers will negative tests be required also?

The District will conduct regular, random pool testing of all employees, regardless of vaccination status. If a positive result is found, individual tests will be administered to the entire pool and appropriate precautions taken in conjunction with the District Nursing department..

What if a sibling has “symptoms” do all kids need to stay home?

Yes, until we know more about the “symptoms.” According to [California Dept. of Public Health](#) guidelines, students with symptoms of COVID-19 infection may not to return for in-person instruction until they have met CDPH criteria to return to school for those with symptoms:

- At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; and
- Other symptoms have improved; and
- They have a negative test for SARS-CoV-2, OR a healthcare provider has provided documentation that the symptoms are typical of their underlying chronic condition (e.g., allergies or asthma)
- OR a healthcare provider has confirmed an alternative named diagnosis (e.g., Streptococcal pharyngitis, Coxsackie virus),
- OR at least 10 days have passed since symptom onset

Of course, if a student tests positive, siblings may not be on campus until they have a negative test result or have quarantined for the appropriate amount of time, regardless if asymptomatic. We will work with families and the District Nursing department to navigate these complex situations.

Do we distinguish a “clear” runny nose versus having thick+colored mucus or do we treat them all the same?

Both congestion and a runny nose are listed as COVID-19 symptoms. You may work with the nursing team and your doctor in order to rule out COVID-19 if your child is exhibiting either of these symptoms. We recommend that your child remains home if they have any symptoms related to illness.

Will parents be informed if there was any known exposure?

Yes. According to [SMFCSD Safe Return to School](#), “SMFCSD shall regularly report and update COVID-19 health data and metrics twice monthly on our COVID-19 District Dashboard. Data published on the District Dashboard confirms site location and number of cases where an outbreak of COVID-19 has occurred among students or staff.” Please see the flow chart of contract tracing [on this link](#).

What will happen when the fire season causes air quality to be poor?

Windows and doors will be open as much as possible. When this is not possible due to air quality, each classroom has an HVAC system along with two portable air purifier systems to reduce transmission. This is in line with CDPH guidance.

When the air quality is bad and doors/windows are shut, are the 2 air purifiers strong enough to handle the closed off spaces? What is the plan for poor air quality for mask off snack/meal times?

Yes; schools have upgraded ventilation systems, added air purifiers to classrooms, and adapted to ever-changing safety guidance. For indoor spaces, our recent HVAC improvements allow for improved air quality. Ventilation will be optimized by following CDPH guidance on Indoor Environments and filtration strategies designed to reduce long-range airborne transmission of COVID-19 and other respiratory Infections. When the air quality is too poor to safely hold our programming the District “may consider student dismissal and begin distance learning until air quality improves and proper ventilation on indoor classrooms/common areas can resume.” Page 10 of the San Mateo County Coalition for Safe Schools and Communities [Pandemic Recovery Framework](#).

Could you discuss the nurses or other CARE teams on school grounds for the children?

The nursing team is shared by the schools throughout the District and are available for consultation and guidance, particularly if your child is exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms due to other health factors such as allergies. A nurse is not readily available on site at George Hall. The CARE team supports student mental health through crisis response, identifying student needs, and telehealth support while considering the special needs of student groups. This team is comprised of our site principal, inclusion specialist, school psychologist, language and literacy specialist, school counselor, and resource specialist program (RSP) teacher.

Is there a plan to provide time during class for students to talk about their feelings in a group and therefore support each other?

Yes! Each classroom holds a morning meeting in order to build community, regulate emotions, and learn problem solving strategies. This looks different at each grade level. Our school counselor and psychologist also support classroom teachers in facilitation of morning meetings. If you have additional concerns about your child, please reach out to your classroom teacher or the George Hall CARE Team.

Is only hand sanitizer being used, or is regular hand washing occurring at the school?

Regular hand washing is occurring throughout the day at school as well as sanitizing.

What if our child forgets their water bottle? Are there extra water bottles in the office?

There are disposable cups available for students who forget water bottles.

We returned our chrome book last year to our teacher at the end of the year. Would we be reissued the chrome book again?

Yes, chromebooks will be reissued in the coming weeks to all students. The district is currently acquiring around 5,000 additional chromebooks so all students have access to instruction.

Our first grade teacher collected the chrome book and returned it to the office. Should we collect it, or will it be given back to the 2nd graders?

See response above.

I got the chrome book from San Mateo Park, should I give it back to them? or I can give it to GH?

Please bring the chromebook back to George Hall. Each chromebook is district issued and checked out to each student via barcode.

My daughter told me the breakfast line is long and she only has 3 minutes to eat. What can be done to aid in this problem?

We are working on this situation, and with most procedures being slower at the beginning of the year we are sure this will resolve soon.

Are the names/photos/roles going to be updated on the website?

Classroom pages are up to date. The staff directory page will be updated shortly. For privacy, staff are not required to post photos of themselves on the George Hall website.