

Addendum for Grades 1-6

Ojai Valley School intends to open with in-person classes when public health guidelines deem it safe to do so. We believe being together is in the best interest of our students and, as a small school, can be accomplished by maintaining a safe environment that includes reducing class sizes, tightening health protocols, moving to outdoor classrooms, and other safety measures. We are working with the Ventura County Public Health Department in support of these goals, starting with our elementary students.

Below are the protocols to safely bring students back to campus in grades 1-6:

HEALTH AND HYGIENE

All students and staff members must stay home if sick or exhibiting any COVID-19 symptom, including fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea.

Students, Faculty and staff members will be educated about best practices to prevent illness, including:

1. Encouraging frequent hand washing and demonstrating for students how to wash their hands. Handwashing will be required upon arrival to campus and throughout the school day, including after snacks, meals, and activities
2. Requiring all staff members and students to wear a protective mask at all times, except when eating, drinking, or when participating in athletics
3. Using hand sanitizer
4. Frequently cleaning and disinfecting surfaces and objects
5. Maintaining social distancing, or keeping a physical distance of 6 feet apart, and limiting exposure when in enclosed areas
6. Teaching proper cough and sneeze etiquette

STABLE COHORTS AND OUTDOOR SPACES

Enrollment will be limited to 10-14 students per class or stable cohort. Students will remain in their cohort groups for most of the day. Students will move between their core classrooms and other campus facilities, such as Art, Outdoor P.E. and Woodshop while other specialty teachers (technology, music, library, Spanish) will come to each cohort's primary location to teach their lessons. Students will be distanced in classrooms, seated six feet apart, and will wear protective masks.

Outdoor areas will be used for academic lessons, snack time, lunch and other activities. Both indoor and outdoor areas will be frequently cleaned and sanitized. Each community is unique, and OVS is fortunate to have many outdoor areas in which students can socialize and learn.

CLEANING, SANITIZING AND DISINFECTING

Classrooms will be frequently cleaned and disinfected. Students will be educated and encouraged, as age appropriate, to participate in frequent cleaning of their own personal space. Bathrooms will be cleaned and disinfected multiple times throughout the day. Teachers will have bottles of hand sanitizer available. Hand-washing stations and water bottle refill stations will be available as well.

CLEANING, SANITIZING AND DISINFECTING (CONTINUED)

EPA-approved products will be used for cleaning and disinfecting classrooms and other campus areas. Classrooms will be opened throughout the day to encourage ventilation, especially when cleaning. OVS will ensure a safe and correct application of disinfectants using personal protective equipment and ventilation.

DROP-OFF AND PICK UP PROCEDURES

Parents will be asked to drop off and pick up their students at designated drop-off areas. Students in grades 1-2 will be dropped off at the East Entrance to campus, next to the Admissions Office, between 7:30 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. Students in grades 3-6 will be dropped off at the West Entrance to campus, near the Stables, between 7:30 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. Students may be picked up at the same locations at the conclusion of the school day at 2:05 p.m. Parents must stay in their cars and wear protective face coverings during drop off and pick up. For identification purposes, parents must also have a school-approved placard posted in their car windshield. Parents and visitors will not be allowed on campus during school hours to reduce potential exposure of our students and staff members. If a parent needs to pick up their child during the school day, we ask that the parent call the Front Office at (805) 646-1423 to make arrangements.

HEALTH SCREENINGS

Temperature and COVID-symptom assessments will be taken daily upon arrival to campus at designated entrances and again during the day. If a student has a temperature greater than 99.5 F, and/or COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea), or has recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19, the student will be sent home immediately and not permitted to attend school until cleared by a medical professional. Pursuant to state guidelines, it is safe to return to school 10 days after the onset of symptoms, 24 hours fever-free with no medications, and general improvement of symptoms.

COVID-19 RESPONSE AND TESTING

Any students or staff members exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 will immediately be required to wait in a designated isolation area until they can be transported home or to a healthcare facility. Testing will be recommended and if a student or staff member tests negative after symptoms, that individual may return to school three days after symptoms resolve. Any student or staff member who has had close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case will be sent home, quarantined for 14 days from last exposure, and testing will be recommended. Any student or staff member with a confirmed COVID-19 case infection will be isolated and excluded from school for 10 days from symptom onset or test date. The Health Center will identify contacts, and quarantine and exclude exposed contacts for 14 days after the last date the case was present at school while infectious. OVS will recommend testing of contacts and prioritize symptomatic contacts (but will not shorten 14-day quarantine). OVS will close off areas used by any individual suspected of being infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 and not be used before cleaning and disinfecting.

OVS plans to obtain testing of 50% of faculty and staff every 2 months. Additionally, the OVS Health Center will have the capability to provide rapid testing onsite for staff and students as needed.

COMMUNICATION

Ojai Valley School's Health Center staff will play a central role in communications with families and health professionals. Nurse Aaron Newlow RN and Nursing Assistant Paloma Sandoval will be the primary contacts and liaisons with Ventura County Public Health (VCPH). They will immediately consult with the VCPH liaison and possible close contacts to be quarantined in the event of a COVID-19 exposure or positive case while maintaining confidentiality as required by state and federal laws. Health Center staff can be contacted at (805) 646-1423 ex. 1238.