

Addendum for Grades 9-12

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. This started with our approved waiver to resume in-person instruction for elementary students and now continues with our plan to resume classes for students in grades 9-12 on October 22.

Below are the updated protocols to safely bring students back to campus in grades 9-12:

HEALTH AND HYGIENE

All students and staff members must stay home if sick or exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, 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

SMALL CLASSES AND OUTDOOR SPACES

Class sizes will be limited to 10-12 students. Students will be distanced in classrooms, seated 6 feet apart, and will wear protective masks. When students are not in class, they will have access to outdoor areas for studying, meetings, lunch and other activities. They must remain 6 feet apart in these areas at all times. The library will be available for quiet study with a maximum of 12 persons. Students will be directed to follow directional signs when walking on campus to remain distanced from one another.

Classroom doors and windows will remain open when possible to assist air flow. 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.

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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.

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.

ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL PROCEDURES AND CAMPUS ACCESS

Bus riders will be temperature/symptom checked before boarding the bus in the morning. Students and drivers must follow occupancy guidelines established for each vehicle and must wear a mask when entering the vehicle and for the duration of the ride. Students arriving by car will be temperature/symptom checked at the pool parking area before exiting their cars. Parents are to remain in their cars. A final determination regarding a student's ability to enter campus and attend class will be made by staff performing the assessment. If students are driving themselves, they will be directed where to park for the day after they have been assessed.

The academic day begins at 8:10 a.m. and concludes at 5:10 p.m. Dismissal procedures will be the same in the afternoon, with parents picking up students at the pool parking area. 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 student during the school day, we ask that the parent call the Front Office at (805) 646-5593 to make arrangements.

HEALTH SCREENINGS

Temperature and COVID-symptom assessments will be taken daily. 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.

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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 will obtain testing of all faculty, staff and students prior to the start of in-person classes on October 22. It is expected that all teachers will then be tested monthly. PCR and rapid testing will be available through the OVS Health Center. Students will be tested on an as-needed basis. Expectations and timing of testing may change depending on regional COVID trends and guidance from health care agencies.

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. Questions about other protocols, including arrivals and campus access, should be directed to Head of School Craig Floyd at (805) 646-1423.