

August 25, 2021

Dear Aseltine Parent/Guardian:

This letter is to inform you that Aseltine's 2021-2022 COVID-19 Prevention Plan is now accessible at <https://aseltine.org/21-22/>. A paper copy is also available upon request. Please make your requests to Yoe Kusumoto at ykusumoto@aseltine.org. She will ensure a paper copy is sent home with your child. Please note that our website also includes additional resources related to COVID-19.

Here is a summary of key points of the 2021-2022 COVID-19 Prevention Plan:

Face Coverings

Aseltine School supports and implements the current State of California requirements for face coverings:

- 1) All K-12 students and adults at Aseltine School are required to mask indoors and in school vehicles regardless of vaccination status.
- 2) Masks are optional outdoors for all in K-12 school settings but will be strongly encouraged on a case by case basis.

Physical Distancing & Cohorts

Although CDPH no longer has requirements for physical distancing and cohort groups, Aseltine will continue to encourage physical distancing and keep assigned cohort groups separated to the greatest extent feasible on a case by case basis. Where and whenever possible, employees are to maintain physical separation between themselves and other employees, their students, and essential visitors. At this time, Aseltine continues to limit access to our school property for Aseltine students and staff, related service providers, and district personnel during student school hours.

Hand Washing/Sanitizing

Handwashing stations are available in the student and staff restrooms. There are six restrooms in the building and also another sink available in the Staff Lounge for use of handwashing. In addition, there are 6 hand sanitizing stations throughout the school building in close proximity to entry points and classrooms. Hand sanitizing and washing opportunities are included in the students' daily schedules and additional hand washing will be prompted by staff members as needed.

Cleaning & Disinfecting

We've implemented heightened cleaning and disinfecting measures to ensure the health and well-being of staff and students. We will clean classrooms and common areas once every day. Classrooms or common areas will be disinfected when an individual who contracts COVID has been in the area within 24 hours. Employees will be provided cleaner/disinfectant to use in their areas, when necessary.

According to the January 14, 2021 document released by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), "frequent disinfection, which was thought at the beginning of the pandemic to be a key safety component, can pose a health risk to children and students due to the

chemicals used and has proven to have limited to no impact on COVID19 transmission.” Disinfection with specified product, is recommended for schools after a case has been identified in the school, in the spaces where the case spent a large proportion of their time (e.g., classroom, or administrator’s office if an administrator). With this updated guidance, Asetline School has moved to cleaning as the primary method and using disinfecting less frequently and when appropriate.

Ventilation

The virus that causes COVID-19 spreads in droplets that are exhaled by someone who has the virus. Ventilation can reduce the spread of viral particles in a specific area by diluting them and thus help decrease the risk of exposure.

Asetline is committed to improving air quality in all area of our school building by using the following strategies:

Fresh Air: Encourage teachers and staff to introduce fresh outdoor air as much as possible, for example, by opening windows where practicable. If opening windows poses a safety or health risk (e.g., by allowing in pollen or exacerbating asthma symptoms) to persons using the facility, we consider alternatives such as maximizing central air filtration systems or using the provided air purifiers.

Systems Maintenance and Improvements: At the beginning of the year an independent company was hired to thoroughly clean the air ducts throughout the school building. Additionally, new filters were installed. Finally, UV lights were mounted at the main furnace vent to kill potential COVID-19 particles in the air prior to the air flowing into classrooms and work areas.

Systems Upgrades: We have supplied each classroom and common area with up to 2 air purifiers that range from 700 to 800 square feet. Portable air quality monitors were also purchased and placed inside classrooms and offices. The monitors are very easy to read and inform employees when the quality of the air in the room might change from good to bad and make adjustments to ventilations as required.

Considerations for Partial or Total Closure

Currently, the state of California does not allow for distance learning during the 2021-22 school year. Based on communication received from the state, any decision to mandate a partial or total closure of schools will be decided by state and local health officials. Should you have any questions in regards to instruction and/or related services offered during required quarantine or isolation, please reach out to Kim Groulx directly at kgroulx@asetline.org or at 619-206-2135, ext. 109.

What Happens to Learning if a Class or School is Quarantined or Closes?

The intent of the school is to ensure a safe and effective learning environment for our students and staff. The recent guidance provided by the CDPH allows for students exposed to

COVID-19 to remain on campus, if mitigation strategies are followed. For additional information regarding COVID-19 Decision Tree, please visit our website at <https://aseltine.org/21-22/>.

Follow the Procedures Below if Your Child or Someone in the House is Sick or Tests Positive for COVID-19

My child is sick and does not take a COVID-19 test

If your child gets sick and you or your healthcare provider decides not to have them get a polymerase chain reaction (PCR/NAAT) to determine if they have COVID, they may return when:

- It is at least 10 days from their symptom onset and
- They are without a fever for 24 hours with no fever reducing medication and
- Their symptoms are improving.

My child is sick and/or tests positive with the COVID-19 virus

If your child tests positive for COVID-19 through either PCR (NAAT) Test or antigen test, they may return when:

- It is at least 10 days from their symptom onset or the date they tested positive if asymptomatic and
- They are without a fever for 24 hours with no fever reducing medication and
- Their symptoms are improving.

My child is sick and tests negative for the COVID-19 virus

If your child gets sick and tests negative for COVID-19 through a PCR (NAAT) Test, they may return when:

- They are without a fever for 24 hours with no fever reducing medication and
- Their symptoms have been improving for 24 hours and
- They provide proof of the negative PCR test results to the school site.

IMPORTANT NOTE: *Negative Antigen tests are not accepted. Currently San Diego County only accepts negative PCR (NAAT) Tests for return to work/school. It is recommended that parents choose to get a PCR (NAAT) Test for their children, to prevent having to retest. Parents can use the testing available through their assigned local school district to meet these requirements.*

At Aseltine School we are committed to ensuring a safe and healthy school environment for all. Moreover, we are dedicated to offer uninterrupted services for all our students. Your support is deeply appreciated as we navigate another year with COVID-19. As a community we follow guidance that emphasizes implementing multi-layered prevention strategies to the greatest extent feasible.

Should you have any additional questions about school procedures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 when we resume classes, please contact us. Again, we look forward to welcoming students and their families back to school August 30, 2021.

Sincerely,
May Padilla
Executive Director