

August 22, 2022

Dear Aseltine Parent/Guardian:

We are excited to welcome students back to campus for the 2022-23 school year, which begins Monday, August 29. As the start of the new school year approaches, we want to update you on our COVID-19 mitigation strategies and general safety protocols.

We know that COVID-19 is here to stay as we enter into a new phase of handling this virus. Aseltine School has been able to adjust to changing conditions, and will be able to continue to do so, due to the collective efforts of our community throughout the pandemic.

Summary of key points of Aseltine’s 2022-2023 COVID-19 Prevention Plan

Face Coverings

Aseltine School will begin the year by requiring all students, staff, and visitors to wear face coverings while indoors. We will review this standard regularly and adjust this requirement as conditions allow.

Other mitigation measures

Aseltine School will continue to provide a safe and healthy learning environment by maintaining other mitigation strategies including regular cleaning, handwashing, temperature and symptom checks and optimal ventilation on campus.

Ventilation

Aseltine classrooms and office spaces have high levels of filtration in our HVAC system and room air purifiers with HEPA filters that remove potentially harmful particles from the air.

Aseltine School also has multiple particle sensors and carbon dioxide monitors that help us gauge the quality of the air so any aberrations can be quickly corrected.

Testing

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) recommends that “antigen tests be considered the primary option for detecting COVID-19 in schools, compared to PCR tests.” The antigen test provides rapid results for individuals who have virus levels that are high enough to transmit the virus. The PCR tests have a high level of sensitivity and can pick up low levels of the virus. This may cause students to unnecessarily miss school with low levels of the virus despite being asymptomatic and not being a risk to transmit to others. Therefore, the antigen tests will help to ensure that every student has access to in-person learning while maintaining a safe school environment.

Weekly asymptomatic COVID-19 testing will continue to be provided for all staff members on a weekly basis. This testing is available to students on a voluntary basis. Student testing requires parental consent. For more information on this process or to sign your student up for weekly testing, please contact Yve Bauer at ybauer@aseltine.org or 619-196-2135 ex 116.

Under current CAL OSHA regulations, staff members who have been in close contact with a person who has tested positive or who have experienced COVID-19 symptoms must test to return to work.

Students who become symptomatic while at school are required to wear a mask while being treated at school and while waiting to be picked up by a parent/guardian. Students will have the opportunity to either get tested at school or can be provided with a rapid antigen test kit to take home. Students with symptoms must test negative to return to school.

Vaccination

All Aseltine employees are fully vaccinated and many are up to date with their boosters. We will encourage all eligible students to be vaccinated as well as all members of the school community to receive any boosters for which they are eligible.

Positive Cases

Aseltine School will continue to work with the County of San Diego throughout the 2022-2023 school year. We will also continue to follow the guidelines set forth by the [County COVID-19 decision tree](#). Please note this decision tree is updated on a regular basis.

Currently, per California state law, employees eligible for shortened isolation must continue to wear a highly protective mask at all times in the workplace when around others, except when eating or drinking, for 10 days after the date of their initial positive test.

MONKEYPOX

The County of San Diego has declared a local emergency around the monkeypox virus. While there are only a few cases among individuals under the age of 18, we understand that families may be concerned.

Monkeypox spreads between people primarily through direct contact with infectious sores, scabs or body fluids. It also can be spread by respiratory secretions during prolonged face-to-face contact but not casual brief conversations or walking by someone with monkeypox. According to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), the risk of monkeypox to the public is currently very low based on the information available.

Both the CDPS and the County of San Diego are monitoring transmission levels and have created web pages with information in multiple languages about the virus. We encourage you to review these materials to learn more. We will continue to monitor this virus and provide updates as necessary.

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 the school's 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 29, 2022

Sincerely,
May Padilla
Executive Director