

COVID-19 – Safe Reopening Plan 2021-2022

Introduction and Overview

This document was developed to plan for a safe reopening of school at Val Vista Academy for the 2021-2022 school year. Val Vista Academy recognizes the importance of having students return to campus for in-person instruction, though this will not be without concern for student and staff safety. With that in mind, Ball Charter Schools remains committed to providing a robust classroom experience while keeping a strict and unwavering eye toward health and safety through a comprehensive, though non-restrictive learning environment.

To ease in the navigation of this document, this document contains the following topics:

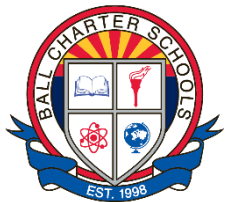
- [Prevention Measures](#)
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The goal of this plan is to help our parents, students, and staff plan for and implement measures to reduce the COVID-19 transmission in the school setting while also meeting the educational needs of all students.

This document explains the measures that will be in place for our staff, students, and visitors in an effort to keep our community safe. Please review the contents of this document carefully as a family.

First and foremost, prevention of transmission on our campus begins at home. As such, we expect that our families watch for symptoms: Individuals with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear **2-14 days after exposure to the virus.** People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- 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
- Diarrhea



If your student exhibits more than one of these symptoms, consistent with our normal Health and Safety policies, we ask that you keep your student home and contact the school.

NOTE: All students on campus must have an Emergency Contact listed that can pick up within 60 minutes of being notified of need to pick up. No medication should be given to a student prior to coming to school to reduce fever, or symptoms of illness. If it is confirmed that a student was given medication; the student will be sent home immediately.

Prevention Measures

Physical Distancing Requirements:

- Whenever possible, appropriate physical distancing should be maintained when walking, sitting and engaging in conversation with others.
- Specific signage will be posted to remind students and staff of physical distancing in prominent places throughout the campus.

Arrival and Departure:

- Designated routes for entry and exit will be used to prevent crowding.
- Drivers will be asked to remain in their vehicles, when dropping off or picking up students.
- Staff members will be supervising drop-off and pick-up to disperse groups.
- When necessary, adjustments may be made to drop-off and pick-up routines to support physical distancing.

Classroom Settings:

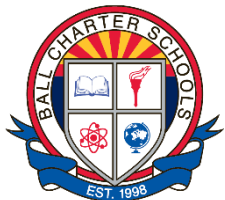
- Students will be spaced apart as much as possible and appropriate, though distancing is not guaranteed.
- Students will remain in cohorts to the extent possible, though will not be guaranteed in every circumstance.
- Students should have supplies that only they will use.
- Classroom furnishings have been reduced to the extent possible, to facilitate distancing and reduce high-touch surfaces.

Non-Classroom Settings:

- Playgrounds will be regularly sanitized to ensure a safe play space.
- Restrooms: Students are reminded that when in the bathroom they should maintain distance and should return to class immediately after washing and drying their hands.
- Cafeteria- Tables will be sanitized regularly to ensure a safe eating space. Additionally, students will be encouraged to maintain safe distancing when eating.
- Hallways- physical distancing will continue in the hallways to the extent possible.

Hygiene Measures

Handwashing and Other Hygiene Measures:



- Our school teaches and reinforces proper handwashing technique, avoiding contact with one's eyes, nose, and mouth, and covering coughs and sneezes is recommended.
- When using shared materials (ie. Computers, athletic balls, etc.), staff will routinely remind students to not touch their face to prevent the transmission of infectious diseases.
- Signage is posted in high visibility areas to remind students and staff of proper techniques for handwashing and covering of coughs and sneezes and other prevention measures.
- Our school ensures adequate supplies for teachers and staff to support healthy hygiene behaviors, including soap, tissues, no touch trash cans, face coverings and hands-free hand sanitizing stations.
- Sharing student supplies and equipment is not a preferred practice; items which must be shared will be cleaned and disinfected between uses.
- The school has minimized the contact with high touch surfaces (e.g., doors, sinks, restroom areas).
- Assigned seating in classrooms will be implemented to assist with student identification.
- Where possible, social distancing will be maintained in open areas, such as hallways, stairwells, gyms, playgrounds.

Cleaning and Maintenance:

- Rooms will be cleaned regularly including teacher and student desks, chairs, doorknobs and all high contact surfaces; disinfecting all surfaces in each classroom daily will promote good health practices.
- Air quality has been enhanced through the use of enhanced air-filters and will change as scheduled.
- Bipolar ionization units have been placed in our air ducts to sanitize air moving through our HVAC system.

Monitoring Measures

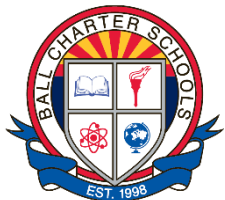
Health Screenings:

- Consistent with existing Executive Orders, the use of face coverings remain optional and those who choose to wear one, may do so. Please note that individual choices will be fully respected.
- In the event a staff member or student has symptoms the staff or student member will be sent home and CDC guidance will be followed.
- Students must stay home if they feel ill or are exhibiting symptoms of respiratory infection.
- Parents and guardians must assess their child's health daily prior to heading to school.
- At the beginning of each day as students enter the classroom; teachers will informally screen students for respiratory symptoms.
- Students will be reminded of proper hygiene, including avoiding touching the eyes, nose, and mouth and covering the mouth when coughing. Students are asked to cover the nose when sneezing and safely discarding tissues in the covered trash can within each classroom.

Response to Reported Cases

Ball Charter Schools will follow the most recent guidance from the Maricopa County Department of Health (MCDH) regarding isolation. Each case is unique, and Ball Charter Schools remains committed to partnering with the local health authorities to limit transmission on campus.

Notify Health Officials and Close Contacts:



- In accordance with state and local laws and regulations, Ball Charter Schools will notify [local health officials](#), staff, and impacted families of any case of COVID-19 on campus while maintaining confidentiality in accordance with the [Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\)](#).
- Additionally, Ball Charter Schools will inform those who have had [close contact](#) with a person diagnosed with COVID-19 and inform them of the most recent guidance provided by the MCDH with regard to isolation.
- The health professional will follow established screening protocols and will consult with public health officials to determine how best to handle students and staff who display or develop COVID-19 symptoms.
- An Isolation area has been set up for students or staff who may be sick.

General Information

Visitors on Campus:

- At this time, visitors will be limited to an “as needed” basis on campus.
- All visitors and volunteers must follow all posted safety protocols.

Nutrition and Wellness:

- Schools will continue to follow practices and procedures that comply with public health guidelines such as food handling, food preparation, cleaning and disinfecting, and food and drink dispensers.

Social-Emotional Well-Being:

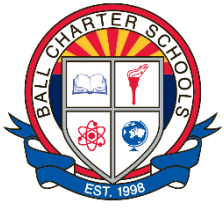
- Ball Charter Schools recognizes the need to focus attention toward the social-emotional well-being of our students. As such, Ball Charter Schools has placed an emphasis on the training and development of this with our teachers and staff during our pre-service time.
- Students’ social-emotional well-being will be addressed within each classroom as school reopens. Should school personnel have concerns; parents or guardians will be notified in a timely way.

Events and Field Trips:

- Large group gatherings, such as school assemblies and other activities will be held outside or in spaces where appropriate distancing is possible.
- Field Trips will take into consideration the health and safety guidelines set forth in this document.

Designated COVID-19 Point of Contact:

- Charley Dillard, is the designated point of contact person responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns. Her contact information is: 480.656.5555 Ext. 302. Email: cdillard@ballcharterschools.org



Val Vista Academy

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