



Marin County Office of Education Walker Creek Ranch Outdoor School

COVID-19 PROTOCOLS FOR SPRING 2023

November 4, 2022

OVERVIEW

Walker Creek Ranch (WCR) follows all federal, state, and local public health guidelines related to COVID-19. All schools attending the outdoor school program at WCR are expected to follow COVID-19 health guidelines and protocols from their home schools, districts and counties, in addition to current Public Health guidelines in Marin County as described in the [Marin County SMARTER Schools Plan](#). WCR will follow more stringent guidelines if there are any differences. Because the Outdoor School program at WCR is a multi-day residential program, with students, cabin leaders and teachers sleeping in dormitories and shared lodging, additional mitigation strategies are in place beyond those in effect in typical school settings to help support the health and safety of all participants.

BEFORE COMING TO OUTDOOR SCHOOL

Vaccinations

All WCR staff are fully vaccinated. As noted in the [Marin County SMARTER Schools Plan](#), all participating school staff, cabin leaders and students should be fully vaccinated and boosted (if eligible) before coming to WCR.

COVID 19 Screening Requirements

Participants exhibiting any COVID-19 related symptoms may not come to WCR regardless of vaccination status. Schools must verify (*via the COVID 19 Screening and Testing Verification Form attached*) that all participants (students, teachers, and cabin leaders) meet specific health criteria before attending Walker Creek Ranch. If any participant does not meet the criteria listed below, they may not attend.

Either: For any participant, regardless of vaccination status, **who has not tested positive** for COVID-19 within 90 days (prior to the last day of their scheduled visit to WCR):

- Test negative for COVID-19 via a rapid antigen test at school before departing to WCR
- Be free from COVID-19 Symptoms*

OR: For any participant, regardless of vaccination status, **who has tested positive** for COVID-19 within 90 days (prior to the last day of their scheduled visit to WCR):

- 10 days** have passed since the start of symptoms or date of the first positive COVID-19 test
- Symptoms* are no longer present and the participant has been fever free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicines.

Any participant who is unable to meet criteria above should not be allowed to board transportation to WCR.

** Symptoms of COVID-19 Include: 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.*

***The 10 day period is more restrictive than the Marin SMARTER Schools Plan, and is required because of the residential nature of the Outdoor School Program, and masking requirements through day 10. Students, Cabin Leaders and staff cannot be expected to wear masks while sleeping. If day 10 is in the middle of the scheduled visit to WCR, a student or staff member may arrive at WCR on day 11 if they are symptom free without use of fever reducing medications.*

AT OUTDOOR SCHOOL

COVID-19 Safety Training

Students will participate in a COVID-19 safety training on arrival day, wherein they will be introduced to the WCR COVID-19 safety, meal, healthcare, and cleaning procedures outlined below.

Participant Sleeping Arrangements

Students are assigned to a cabin group of approximately 10-12 students. Students will share a bunk, and will alternate sleeping directions on top and bottom bunks to ensure the most distance possible between students while sleeping. One or two cabin leaders will be assigned to each cabin group and will be assigned their own bed. Classroom teachers are assigned to a room in the Teacher's Lodge (additional lodging space available if needed).

Meal Procedures

Immediately prior to meals, students will be reminded to wash their hands with soap and water. Hand sanitizer is available at the dining hall entrance and at each table, and extra hand washing stations are located at the bathhouse and dining hall patio. Meals are led and monitored by WCR staff members. Classroom teachers help supervise student meals. Students are encouraged to use hand sanitizer upon exiting the dining hall and are reminded to wash their hands upon return to their cabins. Kitchen staff will provide to-go meals to serve to students in isolation during mealtime.

Health Center Procedures

Students who need to visit the Health Center for any reason will be initially assessed outside, under an awning roof. If the issue is routine and/or minor and does not involve a COVID-19 related symptom (i.e., receiving daily medication or minor scrape), classroom teachers will either treat the student outside, or invite the student to the patient receiving area. If the visit involves COVID-19 related symptoms, the student will be asked to wear a mask and treated per the protocol outlined below in the "COVID-19 Symptoms" section.

Cleaning Procedures

All staff will adhere to proper and appropriate cleaning and disinfecting procedures, including the use of PPE. All disinfectants used at WCR are FDA approved and appropriate for a school setting.

Shared Spaces

WCR staff will follow a cleaning schedule to regularly clean and disinfect shared restrooms, other shared spaces, and frequently-touched surfaces (i.e., door knobs/push bars, light switches, etc.) around the site each day.

Cabins

Students will participate in daily cabin cleaning in their own cabin. They will pick up and put away their belongings, sweep the floor and wipe surfaces with soapy-water-spray (approved to be used with students) and towels. Cabin Leaders will be provided sanitizing wipes for the disinfection of frequently-touched surfaces (such as door knobs/push bars, light switches, etc.) in the cabins at least once a day. If a student departs early, their bunk bed will be disinfected by staff when students are not

present. Every cabin, including cabin bathrooms and bunk beds, will be cleaned and disinfected thoroughly before the next group arrives.

Dining Hall and Kitchen

The dining hall is cleaned and sanitized after each meal service, including tables and seating. Kitchen workspaces are frequently and regularly cleaned and sanitized (including before food prep, after food prep, before meal service, and after meal service).

Health Center

WCR staff will clean and disinfect the health office on a daily basis. Classroom Teachers will be provided proper PPE and disinfecting products to clean and disinfect the Health Center regularly and frequently, and as needed after student visits.

Student Isolation Space

After the departure of a student who has been isolated due to suspected or confirmed COVID-19, the assigned WCR staff member will clean and disinfect the furniture, surfaces, and restroom used by the student placed in isolation. Once clean, the staff member will record the time and day that area was cleaned using the Health Center Log provided by WCR administration.

Ventilation

Most Instructional activities at WCR occur outdoors. In cabins and buildings windows will be opened to promote air exchange as much as possible, depending upon weather conditions. During short, scheduled, daytime visits to the cabin, doors will remain open, as well. Doors are closed at night for safety. All sleeping cabins, meeting rooms, and the dining hall are equipped with HEPA air purifiers.

Masks and PPE

Masking at WCR follows the [Marin County SMARTER Schools Plan](#) based on COVID community level as follows:

- Recommends wearing a mask at schools indoors when the COVID-19 community level is high.
- Advises persons to consider wearing a mask at schools indoors when the COVID-19 community level is medium, especially if they or someone in their household is immunocompromised or at high risk for severe illness.
- Advises persons to wear a mask based on their personal preference, informed by their personal level of risk when the COVID-19 community level is low

Any student, cabin leader or teacher may choose to wear a mask at any time, and should bring at least two clean face coverings per day for a total of 8 masks. Extra masks are also always available at WCR for students, cabin leaders, teachers and staff. When a student or staff member experiences symptoms of COVID 19, they will be asked to wear a mask provided by WCR.

Hand Washing and Hand Sanitizer

Hand sanitizer is available at the entrance to every building and cabin, and staff and students are encouraged to use it upon entering and exiting the building. WCR program staff carry hand sanitizer in their backpacks during hikes for students to use as needed. Students are instructed in the proper hand-washing techniques at the orientation meeting on Monday. Students are reminded to wash their hands each time they return to the cabin after an activity and before meals. Adults are encouraged to wash their hands frequently. In addition to the sinks located in the bathroom facility, several portable handwashing stations are located outside the dining hall and central bathhouse.

Ongoing Symptom Screening

Each day of attendance, WCR staff, teachers and cabin leaders will monitor themselves and students for visible symptoms of COVID-19. Anyone with symptoms will be tested, isolated, and follow the [Marin County SMARTER Schools Plan](#) and home school / district protocols. Staff members living in shared housing on site will be offered space for isolation and recovery.

COVID-19 Testing During the Week

WCR staff are trained in the proper administration and supervision of self-swab, rapid antigen COVID-19 nasal swab tests. Students may participate in rapid testing to rule out COVID-19 in the presence of pre-existing conditions such as known allergies.

Testing is available to all WCR staff as needed. Outdoor Education staff will be tested on the first day of each program week and are required to test if symptomatic. If a staff member tests positive for COVID-19, isolation and quarantine protocols will be followed.

All test results taken at Walker Creek Ranch will be reported to the student parent/guardian, school, and Public Health.

COVID-19 SYMPTOMS: STUDENT ISOLATION, EXPOSURE, NOTIFICATION

Student Isolation

When a student exhibits symptoms or is complaining of illness (including but not limited to COVID-19 related symptoms) a WCR staff member or classroom teacher will assess the student. A rapid antigen COVID-19 test may be administered (if the parent/guardian signed approval on the Student Health Form or gives verbal permission over the phone).

If a student has a documented pre-existing, chronic condition (noted by the parent/guardian on that child's Student Registration and Health Form) such as migraines, asthma, allergies, the student may be given a COVID-19 test, with appropriate permissions, before being treated for their chronic condition.

Unless the symptoms are the result of a documented, pre-existing condition, the Classroom teacher or WCR Administrator will contact the student's parent/guardian to notify them of their student's symptoms and results of the COVID-19 test (if given) and may ask the parent/guardian to pick up their child as soon as possible.

A student who has symptoms of COVID-19 and/or has tested positive for COVID-19 will be moved to a comfortable isolation area to await pick-up by a parent or guardian. The isolation area may be indoors or outdoors (depending on conditions), with access to a restroom.

A WCR staff member or classroom teacher will supervise the student until the student's parent/guardian picks them up, and the student will be provided with self-guided activities. The supervising adult will be provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), limit interactions to less than five minutes, and maintain more than six (6) feet of space between themselves and the student.

After the student has been picked up, WCR staff will disinfect the isolation area and restroom. Upon returning home, the student should follow local guidelines and CDC strategies for [Staying Home when Sick and Getting Tested](#). The parent/guardian should contact their child's school to determine when the child can return to regular school.

Exposure Notices for Participants

If a positive case is identified on campus and students have participated in one or more meals in the dining hall, all participants will be considered exposed. WCR will inform the participating school administrators so that they can share an exposure notification to all families as soon as practicable. WCR will also work with Marin County Public Health to follow outbreak response and reporting guidelines.

RESOURCES AND GENERAL INFORMATION

- Marin SMARTER Schools Plan [Marin County Schools SMARTER Plan 2022.10.04 with ESP - FINAL.pdf \(marinschools.org\)](#)
- Marin County Isolation and Quarantine Guidelines [Isolation, Quarantine, and Travel Guidance for TK-12 Schools, Child Care, Youth Programs/Activities, and Household/Community Exposures - Google Docs](#)
- [California Department of Public Health K–12 Guidance 2022–23 School Year \(ca.gov\)](#)
- CDC Guidance for COVID Prevention in Schools <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>
- CDC Quarantine and Isolation website <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>
- CDPH Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/guidance-for-face-coverings.aspx>
- CalOSHA Emergency Temporary Standards <https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/coronavirus/ETS.html>
- ACA Field Guide for Camps <https://www.acacamps.org/resource-library/coronavirus/camp-business/field-guide-camps>