

OCEAN DISCOVERY INSTITUTE POLICIES TO CONTROL COVID-19 HAZARDS: RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMMING AND/OR STAFF TRAVEL

We will follow federal, state, and local school and overnight camp guidance as practicable, as well as SDCOE COVID-19 policies, protocols, and procedures, to promote the highest level of safety for all participants and staff.

The policies below apply to all individuals in the “Ocean Discovery Cohort” – all staff, volunteer mentors, and students participating in the Residential Program regardless of if they are staying onsite or offsite. These policies also apply to individuals who are in the ‘household’ of the Ocean Discovery Cohort during the Residential portion of the program (e.g., the family of a volunteer mentor if that mentor is staying offsite with their family).

BEFORE DEPARTURE

COVID-19 Vaccine Requirement

For everyone’s safety, all Ocean Discovery staff, volunteers, and students participating in residential programming are required to be fully vaccinated*. All individuals must provide Ocean Discovery proof of COVID-19 vaccination prior to travel.

Proof of vaccination includes the date the dose(s) of the vaccine were received, and the type of vaccine received. Any of the COVID-19 vaccines that are approved by the state of California at the time of vaccination are acceptable.

Boosters are not required, but are strongly recommended. See the [CDC Guidelines](#) for a summary of booster eligibility.

*People are considered fully vaccinated for COVID-19 vaccine ≥ 2 weeks after they have received the second dose in a 2-dose series (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) or ≥ 2 weeks after they have received a single-dose vaccine (Johnson and Johnson/Janssen).

Pre-Travel Negative COVID-19 Test Requirement

Before travel (or arriving onsite at the field station if not traveling with Ocean Discovery), each individual, regardless of vaccination status, is required to provide proof of a negative COVID-19 PCR test, antigen, or at-home test OR provide proof of a lab-based positive COVID-19 test from within the last 90 days. Ocean Discovery will verify each individual’s negative test documentation or 90-day positive test result before allowing them to board an Ocean Discovery vehicle or enter Ocean Discovery’s site.

Each individual must submit **one** of the following:

- **PCR test** result taken within 72 hours before arrival at Ocean Discovery.

Acceptable proof of a negative COVID-19 PCR test includes:

- Printed copy of email from testing agency/laboratory.
- Printed photocopy of negative test from testing agency/laboratory.

- **Rapid antigen test** results taken within 24 hours before travel.

Acceptable proof of a negative COVID-19 antigen test includes:

- Printed copy of email from testing agency/laboratory.
- Printed photocopy of negative test from testing agency/laboratory.

- **At-home test** results taken within 24 hours before travel.

Acceptable proof of a negative COVID-19 at-home test includes:

- A photo of the negative test, including the individual's name and date and time of the test.
- A documented test observed by a trained staff member or Safety Officer.

- **Proof of a positive COVID-19 test in the last 90 days.** If you have tested positive of COVID-19 in the last 90-days, have recovered, and are no longer considered in [isolation](#), you are exempt from the testing requirement with proof of a positive COVID-19 PCR or antigen.

Any individual who is not able to provide proof of a negative COVID-19 PCR test, rapid antigen test, or recent positive COVID-19 test will not be allowed to board an Ocean Discovery vehicle, enter the Ocean Discovery residential site, or attend the residential program.

DEPARTURE DAY

Screening and Checking for Signs and Symptoms

Upon arrival on departure day, all individuals are required to participate in screening for [COVID-19 symptoms](#) and a temperature check.

Any individual (child or adult), regardless of vaccination status, who

- has COVID-19 related symptoms,
- has a temperature above 100.4 degrees,
- has been in Close Contact** with someone who has COVID-19 in the last 10 days,
- or who has tested positive or been diagnosed with COVID-19 within the last 10 days

may not attend the residential program, will be sent home, and will not be allowed to travel or participate in the residential program. Screening results will be documented and kept confidential.

**A [Close Contact](#) is defined as someone sharing the same indoor airspace (e.g., home, clinic waiting room, airplane etc.) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (for example, three individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes) during an infected person's infectious period.

Infectious Period is defined as:

- For symptomatic infected persons, 2 days before the infected person had any symptoms through Day 10 after symptoms first appeared (or through Days 5-10 if testing negative on Day 5 or later), and 24 hours have passed with no fever, without the use of fever-reducing medications, and symptoms have improved, OR
- For asymptomatic infected persons, 2 days before the positive specimen collection date through Day 10 after positive specimen collection date (or through Days 5-10 if testing negative on Day 5 or later) after specimen collection date for their first positive COVID-19 test.

For the purposes of identifying close contacts and exposures, infected persons who test negative on or after Day 5 and end isolation are no longer considered to be within their infectious period. Such persons should continue to follow CDPH isolation recommendations, including wearing a well-fitting face mask through Day 10.

Pre-Travel Checklist

Before getting in an Ocean Discovery vehicle or entering the Ocean Discover Field Station if traveling separately, Ocean Discovery will verify that each individual meets the pre-trip requirements:

1. Proof of COVID-19 vaccination
2. Proof of negative COVID-19 test result or positive COVID-19 test within in the last 90 days
3. COVID-19 Close Contact status
4. COVID-19 related symptom status
5. Temperature below 100.4°F

DURING THE RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM IN BAHÍA DE LOS ANGELES

Screening and Checking for Signs and Symptoms

Students are closely monitored by Ocean Discovery staff. If a student indicates that they are feeling unwell, or is observed by a staff member exhibiting [COVID-19 related symptoms](#), they will be sent to the designated isolation area for further assessment.

All adults are expected to self-screen and report if they are ill and/or experiencing any of the COVID-19 related symptoms, or if they have had Close Contact with someone who has COVID-19.

If an individual is experiencing COVID-19 related symptoms, has a temperature, or has been identified as a Close Contact, isolation or quarantine guidelines will be followed.

Face Coverings

Requirements for wearing face masks is guided by current public health guidelines and school district policies: Masks are not required, except in the symptom isolation area when an individual is sick or when [isolation or quarantine guidelines](#) require the use of a mask to remain onsite. This includes in vehicles.

We will not prevent any employee from wearing a face covering when it is not required unless it would create a safety hazard.

A clean, undamaged face covering will be provided to any persons who would like to wear a mask but fail to bring, lose, break, or otherwise damage their mask for use onsite at no cost. In addition, a respirator will be provided for employees who are not fully vaccinated to wear at work at no cost to the employee.

In the event that the State or County were to revert to requiring masks at schools, Ocean Discovery would follow those guidelines. Similarly, if the COVID-19 risk in our area increased to a level that would necessitate requiring masks, Ocean Discovery would follow the best medical advice and practices recommended.

Individuals may be excluded from services and/or onsite access for failure to comply with facial covering requirements.

Hand Washing and Hand Sanitizer

[Wash hands](#) with soap and water, including scrubbing for at least 20 seconds, at a minimum before and after eating, after using the restroom, or handling garbage. When hand washing is not practicable, fragrance-free hand sanitizer may be used.

Ocean Discovery staff carry hand sanitizer in their first aid kits during outings for student use as needed.

Immediately prior to meals, individuals are reminded to wash their hands with soap and water. Hand sanitizer is provided when eating at locations other than the Field Station.

Meals are served in the kitchen and eaten outdoors. Students bus and wash their own dishes and are encouraged to wash their hands after eating.

Ocean Discovery staff clean tables after each meal service.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

All staff are responsible for cleaning in accordance with protocols outlined for their position and/or work activities. Staff must use products supplied by Ocean Discovery Institute, use according to the directions on the label, and ensure proper ventilation during use. In general, cleaning once a day is sufficient to remove potential virus on surfaces. Cleansing wipes (e.g., baby wipes) can be used by staff and students to wipe down desks and/or shared equipment after use.

If the facility has had a sick person confirmed with COVID-19 within the last 24-hours, spaces occupied by that person will be cleaned AND disinfected.

ISOLATION, CONTACT TRACING, AND QUARANTINE

Isolation and COVID-19 Testing During the Program

Any individual who appears to have COVID-19 symptoms upon arrival onsite or who becomes sick during their stay will be separated from other individual.

To promote the highest level of safety possible for both students and staff, appropriate PPE will be worn while interacting with sick patients. When interactions with the patient are necessary, the supervising adult must wear appropriate PPE, must limit interactions indoors to less than five minutes, and must be always more than six (6) feet away from the individual.

The Manager on Duty staff are trained in the proper administration of self-swab, rapid antigen COVID-19 nasal swab tests. If an individual in the Ocean Discovery Cohort is experiencing any of the COVID-19 symptoms, the Onsite Manager, Safety Officer, or other trained staff will administer a rapid COVID-19 test.

Rapid antigen tests are self-swab nasal tests that take approximately 15-30 minutes for results. While waiting for test results, the patient will wait in an area designated for that purpose, away from other students and staff (although appropriate adult supervision will be provided).

If the rapid antigen tests results are positive,

- Anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 should isolate away from others (with appropriate adult supervision) for at least 5 days and follow [isolation](#) guidance.

- If a student, the parent of the symptomatic child will be informed.
- Contact tracing will be conducted to identify Close Contacts.
- Families will receive a “community notification” text of a positive case onsite.
- All individuals onsite during the infectious period (e.g., staff, students, volunteers, cook, station manager) will be notified.
- The Onsite Manager in consultation with medical professionals and in accordance with isolation guidelines will determine course of action for the individual, Close Contacts, and the cohort. This includes return to onsite activities of the COVID-19 positive individual if:
 - A minimum of 5 days have passed
 - The individual is fever free for 24 hours (without fever-reducing medication)
 - The individual’s symptoms are improving
- Individuals who have completed at least 5 days of isolation must wear a well-fitting mask around other people through day 10. They can return to activities provided they wear a mask at all times, indoors and outdoors unless it would create a safety hazard.
- Enter and track in “BLA Symptom and Contact Tracking”.

If the rapid antigen test results are negative, the County requires confirmation with a second test administered no less than 12 hours after the first test.

- The individual will remain in [isolation](#) (with appropriate adult supervision) until authorized to return to activities.
- The parent of a symptomatic child will be informed.
- The Onsite Manager in consultation with medical professionals and in accordance with isolation guidance may allow an individual to return if:
 - The individual is fever free for 24 hours (without fever-reducing medication)
 - The individuals symptoms are improving
 - The individual has proof of a second negative COVID-19 test taken at least 12 hours after the first negative test.
- Enter and track in “BLA Symptom and Contact Tracking”.

Contact Tracing and Quarantine of Close Contacts

Ocean Discovery will notify all individuals in the Ocean Discovery Cohort (including fully vaccinated) who shared an indoor space for 15 minutes or more with a person who was contagious with COVID-19 that they may remain onsite and participate in activities provided they, wear a well-fitting mask indoors around others for at least 10 days following the date of last exposure.

Prior to returning onsite, employees must complete a “Return to Work” form and be approved by Lindsay McKay for onsite work.

Case Tracking and Return to Work

All individuals with symptoms, who have tested positive for COVID-19 during program, or who are identified as a Close Contact will be tracked using the “BLA Symptom and Contact Tracking” spreadsheet.

Employees in isolation who are returning onsite must complete a “Return to Work” form and be approved by the Onsite Manager or Lindsay McKay for onsite work.

Notification of Employees and Clients

Incidents of possible exposure are documented and tracked. Local health officials will be notified and staff and families will be notified according to guidance. Confidentiality will be maintained during this process. Employees exposed to an individual with confirmed COVID-19 while at working onsite should refer to CDC guidance on how to conduct a risk assessment of their potential exposure and are encouraged to be tested for COVID-19. Ocean Discovery will assist in this assessment.