

Supplemental Information for the Returning to School Checklist - January 2021

Reopening for In-Person Instruction

Idyllwild Arts Academy reopened for in-person instruction on October 8, 2020 when Riverside County was in the red tier of the state's classification system. Over the course of the next ten weeks, the School was able to operate safely with only seven community members testing positive for COVID-19 and no community spread of the virus on campus. Precautions included social distancing, mask wearing, cohort grouping, to-go meals, closing campus, daily symptom screening and more. There was also a robust surveillance testing system in place with more than 2,500 PCR tests given to community members.

The spring 2021 semester will start on February 1 with all students in online classes. On February 22, the school will resume in-person instruction, with most classes being offered in-person. Students can choose to stay home and participate in all programs online, or come to campus for a hybrid program with approximately 80% of classes in person and 20% online.

Stable Groups

Stable groups will be based on the dorm assignments for boarding students (approximately 87% of students are boarders). There will be at least 15 stable groups, with no more than 14 students in each group. Each student is in one of seven majors - creative writing, dance, film, interarts, music, theatre, or visual art. Where possible, students are assigned dorms and stable groups based on their art major to help minimize contact with other groups.

Preventative Measures

All community members are required to wear masks in any public space. For students, public space is defined as anywhere outside the dorm rooms in their stable group. For employees, that is anywhere outside their private office, outside their home or apartment for employees who live on campus, or outside their personal vehicle.

All community members are required to complete a daily health screening form asking if they have any COVID-19 symptoms or recent exposure. Boarding students have their temperature checked by staff before leaving the dorm each morning. Day students and off-campus employees stop at the security kiosk at the entrance to campus each morning to get their temperature checked and verify that they have completed their health screening form. Boarding students with COVID-19 symptoms are isolated from the community and evaluated further. Day students and employees with COVID-19 symptoms are required to stay home and then advised when they can return based on applicable guidance.

Where possible, social distancing is in place and class sizes have been reduced. In spaces where it is not possible to have students six feet or more apart, other measures are in place, like plexiglass partitions.

Air filters in heating and ventilation systems have been replaced per applicable guidance, fans have been added to many classrooms and spaces, and when the weather permits windows and doors are open.

Staff are required to complete training on all of the above safety measures, and the school holds regular meetings to update employees on the COVID-19 situation and any changing or evolving guidelines.

Testing and Contact Tracing

Per CDPH guidance, all community members, employees and students, will be subject to on-site weekly PCR surveillance testing. Additionally, all community members will be required to submit a negative COVID-19 test before their initial return to campus.

Symptomatic testing will be done for any community members displaying COVID-19 symptoms, and response testing will be done in the case of an outbreak.

Contact tracing will be conducted by the Director of the Health Center for any community member who tests positive for COVID-19. The local health officer will be notified by phone, and any confirmed contacts will be required to quarantine until applicable requirements to return to the community have been met.

The Head of School will notify the community any time a community member has tested positive for COVID-19. The Director of the Health Center and the Human Resource Department will notify and work with any employees who have been identified as contacts. The Director of the Health Center and Student Services staff will notify and work with any students who have been identified as contacts.

COVID-19 Prevention Program (CPP)

Please refer to the school's COVID-19 Prevention Program (CPP) for more information on other preventative measures in place across campus.