

KPPCS Return to Learning Plan 2021

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KPPCS School Return to Learning Plan 2021-2022

Kona Pacific Public Charter School provides a safe and stimulating learning environment for our students in kindergarten through 8th grade. Our educational approach has three core strands: public Waldorf, Hawaiian culture, and sustainable land stewardship, which are the “head, heart, and hands” of our unique ohana. In this historical moment of worldwide crisis due to the pandemic with its trifold stressing of our health, economic, and social systems, we are tasked with creating a viable and sustainable school plan to meet the learning and well-being needs of our students and families while minimizing the health risks of being together on campus and the isolation risks of virtual learning.

We believe that our core strands provide the way through this crisis. With our roots in the deep wisdom, beauty, and aloha of the islands and culture of Hawaii, practicing sustainable stewardship of all of our resources towards the goal of safety and well-being both physical, mental, and emotional, and guided by the profound Waldorf insights into child development and educational practice, we have confidence that we will emerge from this historical moment stronger, healthier, wiser, more compassionate and more abundant in the things that matter than ever before. We are grateful to be together with you on this amazing adventure of discovery and transformation.

Instructional plan

Kona Pacific Charter School understands that children learn best when on campus. We also understand that there are inherent risks associated with gathering in groups during the Covid-19 pandemic. Kona Pacific intends to open to full in person instruction at the start of the 2021-2022 school year on August 4th 2021. We will however, continue to follow all health and safety guidelines set forth by the health department. If significant changes in the local spread of Covid-19 occur, Kona Pacific may temporarily move back to a blended learning or a distance learning model until the heightened risk subsides. If a change in instructional plan becomes necessary, we will inform parents in a timely manner.

Health and Safety

The health and safety of all members of our Kona Pacific learning ohana both physically, mentally, and emotionally is our highest priority at all times, but particularly during this time of high risk for harm -due to the pandemic, especially of our most vulnerable community members. We can make up for student learning gaps and help our students catch up to their learning objectives, but we can't undue serious harm or death. At the same time, the heightened risk conditions from the pandemic may be with us for some time and there's no way to completely eliminate risk, so we have to learn how to balance the danger of infection with the dangers of isolation and fear. It is our

intention to convey to our students at all times that we will come through this crisis stronger, wiser and better because of it, and that the world is ultimately a safe and wonderful place filled with truth, beauty, and goodness.

Physical distancing, wearing of masks, proper hygiene (handwashing, coughing / sneezing into a sleeve or tissue, etc.), and cleaning and disinfecting surfaces are the keys to maintaining a safe and healthy campus environment during the time of the pandemic. The Hawaii Department of Education (HIDOE) and State Charter School Commission have issued a [Guidance for Reopening Schools](#) (see Appendix B) brochure that summarizes a few of the many practices we will put in place and get good at in the 2020-2021 school year. A detailed list of health and safety practices follows.

Pre-Screening

Parents are asked to assist us in creating a safe campus by pre-screening your children prior to sending them to school. Under the pandemic conditions, everyone must be much more cautious about staying home if they are not feeling well. **Even mild symptoms of feeling unwell could result in a major impact on the ohana if something harmful spreads as a result of exposure, especially to our most vulnerable community members.**

We suggest taking your child's temperature, and/or using some variation of the following CDC screening questions to see how your child is feeling in the morning prior to coming to school:

- 1. Do you feel hot or feverish?**
- 2. Do you have a sore throat?**
- 3. Have you been coughing and sneezing recently?**
- 4. Do you have any trouble breathing?**
- 5. Do you have headaches, sore stomach, muscle pain?**
- 6. Do you have a recent new loss of sense of smell or taste?**

If your child has a fever (100.4 or above per the American Academy of Pediatrics) they shouldn't come to school that day. Likewise, if the answer to any two of CDC questions is yes, your child shouldn't come to school. If your child doesn't have a fever, and the answer to only one of the CDC questions is yes, please consider carefully whether to send your child to school that day. If they do come to school and develop further symptoms during the day, you will be called to pick them up from school. Given the current pandemic conditions, if your child isn't feeling well and you are unable to pick them up within an hour, we will call your emergency contacts to pick up your child.

Entering Campus

- Campus will continue to open to all students at 8:15 with the opening-of-campus bell. Student drop off will be at the drop-off / pick-up circle from 8:15 to 8:30am, at which point the start-of-school conch will sound.

- The campus is currently closed to all non-essential community members. Parents may walk up the stairs to the front office for purchases, paperwork, etc. Parents are not permitted to walk children to their classrooms and may drop off children with a staff member at the top of the stairs. Volunteers that are not in direct contact with students will be allowed on campus as of 11.22.21. They must follow all state policy regarding testing/vaccination and must be pre-approved by administration.

Parents should keep their masks on until the time of reentering their vehicle.

- Because of the narrow width of the campus stairs, in order to honor physical distancing requirements the left side of the stairs will continue to be marked for going up to campus, and the other side (also the left side while up on campus facing the stairs) for going down to the parking lot.
- Only staff members will be permitted to enter any classroom while students are on campus.
- Parents/Guardians are asked to not gather and socialize with families and friends while on campus.
- Nonessential visitors to campus will be restricted.

Daily Screening

- All students and staff members will have their temperature checked by a Kona Pacific staff member at the beginning of the day with a touchless thermometer. The parents of children with a fever will be contacted to pick their child up from school. The child will be kept apart from others and monitored until the parent arrives.
 - Staff members with a fever will go home and a substitute will be called in if needed.
- Staff will screen students for illness during morning temperature check
- *Per the CDC, schools are not expected to screen students or staff specifically for COVID-19. The purpose of screening is for general illness symptoms. Any teacher or designated adult can perform the screening. No special training is required.*

Physical Distancing

Physical distancing must be maintained by all children and adults while anywhere on campus, inside or outside. The DOH has indicated that a 3 foot distance will be maintained between people if at all possible in addition to wearing masks when inside of a classroom or any indoor area.

Masks / Face Coverings

- Students will bring to school each day a clean non-bandana face mask that goes around their ears.
- If a student needs a mask, staff members will assist students in acquiring a clean disposable mask as needed.
- Masks must be easy to put on and take off.
- Students with sensitivities to elastic bands around the ears can have a mask that

has velcro straps or some other type of functioning fastener that still allows for ease of putting the mask on and taking it off.

- Face masks will be provided for all students and staff who don't have one on a given day. This will not be a substitute to the rule that everyone is expected to provide their own mask on a regular basis.
- All students and adults on campus will wear a mask inside of the classroom
- Outdoor learning will be encouraged throughout the day to allow for mask breaks

Cleaning & Disinfecting

- All high touch surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected regularly and frequently. ○
Desktops, tables, counters, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, touch screens, chairs, arms of chairs, and faucets and sinks.
- All other regularly-used surfaces on campus should be disinfected at least once a day, and more often if necessary.
- Hand sanitizers should contain at least 60% alcohol.

Ohana Bubbles

- We will consider each classroom a cohort (family unit or ohana bubble):
 - 3 feet of social distance will be maintained at all times while on campus.
 - We will limit and control interaction with other classroom cohorts.
 - Indoor gatherings of more than 10 individuals who are not in the same classroom cohort will be prohibited.

Picking Students Up

- Pick-up time at the end of the day: Students will remain in their ohana bubbles in designated areas during pickup times.
- Parents should remain in their vehicle to pick up their child
- Students must wear masks when leaving their classroom or when in any indoor location throughout the day
- Students are expected to leave campus at the end of the school day.
Students on campus 20 minutes or more after pickup may accrue a fee.

COVID-19 Exposure & Infection Protocol

Covid exposure policy

State mandated quarantine:

A state mandated quarantine occurs when the health department has mandated a quarantine due to travel **without** following the testing restrictions, exposure to a positive covid case or a positive result from a covid test. In order to return to campus, a student or staff member must:

- Student or staff must quarantine for 10 days following state guidelines if travel related
- Students or staff must quarantine for 10 days following known exposure and receive a negative molecular or antigen Covid- 19 test administered by a medical professional.

Illness

In the event that a student or staff member experiences any covid or flu like symptoms including cold symptoms, they must stay home. When in doubt, please err on the side of caution. The spread of Covid-19 is severe in our community. If a family member is sick, please keep all members of the household home. If they have not been exposed to any known covid 19 cases, They may return to school when they are:

- 24 hours symptom free without the use of medication and a negative molecular or antigen Covid- 19 test administered by a medical professional.
 - 24 hours symptom free without the use of medication and a note from a medical doctor clearing them to return to campus
 - Or 10 day quarantine since the onset of symptoms
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- We must all be prepared for outbreaks that may happen at school or home, understanding that the COVID-19 risk is greater than influenza-like-illness because of general lack of immunity in the population and greater rate of infectiousness.
 - We must prevent stigmatizing children and adults who are exposed to or infected by COVID-19.
 - If a student, parent, or staff member has either tested positive for COVID-19 or has been identified as a close contact or household member to someone who has tested positive, the DOH will conduct an investigation, and those individuals will be directed to a 10-day home quarantine. In that scenario, the DOH will work with the school executive director if it is identified that someone (student or staff member) at the school is affected. The DOH will send a letter to the director with start and end dates of an individual's quarantine or isolation. The affected individuals will also receive a letter from the DOH notifying them once they've completed their quarantine or isolation.
 - Students and staff who have tested positive for Covid-19 will submit a release from quarantine form completed by a health professional before returning to campus.
 - Staff members must notify the director immediately if exposed to a positive case of Covid-19, awaiting test results after an exposure, or testing positive for Covid-19 if the staff member has been on campus or around any member of the KPPCS community within the 10 days before testing positive or symptoms starting.
 - Vaccinated staff members (within 6 months) who have been identified as a direct contact of a person who tested positive for Covid-19 must quarantine for no less than 5 days and test on the 5th day post exposure.
 - Staff should have lessons prepared in case of extended absenteeism.
 - If there is a confirmed or suspected case of Covid-19 reported in your child's classroom, parents will be notified, and instructed on the next steps, and should be monitoring for Covid-like symptoms. Families must report any covid like illness immediately to the school.

- In the event of a confirmed case of Covid-19 in your child's classroom, the class will move to distance learning for no less than 24 hours and follow all health department recommendations in regards to classroom closures.
- If the health department deems necessary, the classroom may be temporarily closed and students will engage in learning digitally until Kona Pacific is instructed that the classroom can re-open.
- Depending on the severity of the spread and number of cases related to the school if an outbreak does occur, KPPCS will err on the side of caution and may alter the above plans to ensure the health and safety of the students, staff and Kona Pacific community.

Other

- Parents, children, and staff are encouraged to protect their personal health. ● Parents must ensure their child's underlying medical conditions are managed, and that the school is notified of changing medical conditions, as appropriate. ● The signs and symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough, shortness of breath) will be posted on campus.

Daily School Operations

Classrooms

- Classrooms / learning spaces will be physically arranged to maintain appropriate physical distance between students through the day
- If physical distance or mask reminders become necessary, teachers will use non-verbal reminders whenever possible.
- Students will be trained by their teachers to understand and practice proper physical distancing and mask protocols and to respond to non-verbal and verbal reminders.
- All students will have a permanently-assigned desk cubby to minimize exposure to other students' spaces.
- Each class will be provided with suitable cleaning supplies and hand sanitizer.
- Students will be explicitly taught and will practice proper hygiene in the classroom, including hand washing, coughing / sneezing into tissues or sleeves, etc.
- Limit Sharing:
 - Each student's belongings will be kept separated from others' and in individually labeled containers, cubbies, or areas; high-touch items (water bottles, etc.) should be taken home each day and cleaned, if possible.
 - The sharing of high-touch classroom equipment and supplies (scissors, art supplies, etc.) will be minimized by assignment to individual students.
 - The sharing of classroom items when there aren't enough for each student to have their own (electronic devices, books, etc.) will be minimized and properly disinfected between use by different students.
 - Recess equipment (balls, jump ropes, etc.) will only be used by one group of students at a time.
 - Use of hard-to-disinfect porous materials, such as area rugs, couches and cushions, will be minimized.

Attendance

- Teachers will take attendance daily. Students are required to attend school 5 days a week, in person. Please notify the school immediately if your child will be absent due to quarantine and the teacher will work with you to provide missing work. Parents, please talk to the school director if you have concerns about the attendance policy or other attendance issues in the pandemic environment.

Recess

- Swings chains and monkey bars will be cleaned after each ohana bubble's use. Students in an ohana bubble on the lower playground should wash and sanitize hands prior to playing on swings and/or monkey bars, in order to maintain the integrity of their ohana bubble.
- Balls, hoops, frisbees, etc. may be shared among students within an ohana bubble, as long as students wash and sanitize hands beforehand.

Lunch

- Students will eat lunch and snack outdoors to allow for ample ventilation and physical distancing. Please consider packing lunch items that lend themselves well to eating outdoors.

Restrooms

- Students will practice physical distancing and wear a mask at all times when using the restroom.
- The number of students in restrooms will be limited to reduce interaction. ● The next student in line for the restroom will wait six feet away from the restroom door until another student exits the restroom.
- Soap and paper towel dispensers will be checked regularly to ensure supplies are stocked at all times

Conclusion

In this Kona Pacific School Reopening Plan we have sought to address all important considerations of safely returning to learning with our students, families, and staff. We have gone into detail so that all members of our ohana can know what is expected. In this way we can help each other out what we know is pono into practice.

Thank you for helping us make the transition back to school under these pandemic conditions as smooth as possible by honoring all requests in this plan, and working with us to improve our process. As we put these guidelines into practice together we will learn the most effective ways for keeping our campus safe, and helping our students continue their joyful journey of discovery and learning

Mahalo nui iā 'oe!