

COVID-19 Safety Protocols

Health Screenings

Every student or staff member coming on campus is asked to self-identify any COVID-19 symptoms and not to enter campus if exhibiting any symptoms. Similarly, any guardians or visitors entering campus will be asked to complete a screening for symptoms and will be prohibited from entering if symptomatic, COVID positive, and/or a close contact. Site signage including a self-screening reminder along with a list of symptoms is posted at key points of entry around campuses.

Student & Staff Health Tracking

Parents are required to report any student illness or diagnosis of/exposure to a COVID-19 positive case to the school so that school health personnel can follow-up appropriately to confirm any next steps. Similarly, staff members are required to report any symptoms related to their absence to their principal or direct supervisor. Any student or staff member exhibiting symptoms [consistent with COVID-19*](#) will be required to provide a negative COVID-19 PCR/molecular test result in order for them to be able to return to campus, per current county public health recommendations. At-home test results are not currently accepted in symptomatic scenarios. A doctor's note may be used as alternative clearance to return to campus, provided the note contains the following: a statement that a medical evaluation of the symptomatic student was completed, an alternative explanation for the symptoms, and a statement that a COVID-19 test is not needed.

**NOTE: Per recommendation of Santa Clara County Public Health Department, students who exhibit runny nose or congestion will not be excluded from in-person learning provided this is their only symptom (see FAQ #14 on SCCPHD website [here](#)).*

Face Coverings

All adults and all students are required to wear masks unless a) alone in a room, b) eating outdoors, or c) doing strenuous physical activity. Masks are to be worn securely over the nose and mouth and cleaned daily (additional guidelines from the CDC found [here](#)). BCS provides single-use face masks on site for students and staff who may need them. The only exception to these masking requirements would be made for anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the covering without assistance, and students with a documented special need who are unable to tolerate a face covering.

Ventilation

We maximize the quantity of outside air for all classrooms/offices with mechanical or natural ventilation systems by evaluating and optimizing all HVAC systems, including updating air filters to ensure the highest MERV rating possible. Teachers and staff ensure that the HVAC fan in classrooms is set to run at all times and windows and doors remain open throughout the day. Additionally, all instructional and public spaces are provided with HEPA-based air purifiers. See [this FAQ](#) for more information on processes regarding our campus air quality.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

Classrooms and office spaces are cleaned nightly and treated multiple times weekly using an aerosol-based disinfectant solution. Disinfecting wipes are also provided to staff for the cleaning of classroom surfaces at regular intervals throughout the day. In the case of a COVID-19 case onsite, the area is cleaned and disinfected within 24 hours. Any shared materials including headsets, keyboards, pencils, etc. may be disinfected between uses.

Hand Hygiene

All classrooms and restrooms are equipped with sinks containing touchless soap and paper towel dispensers. Outdoor sinks are also dispersed throughout campus to help expedite more frequent hand washing for all students. Automatic hand sanitizer machines are provided at the entry to each classroom as well as in key high traffic areas. Bottles of hand sanitizer are also provided in high traffic areas and available for staff to use as needed. Staff and students are required to follow regular daily washing (with soap and water for 20 seconds) regimens*:

- after using the restroom or helping a child use the restroom
- before and after eating
- after recess

**Teachers may determine additional times where washing is appropriate for their students.*

Testing

In order to monitor COVID-19 transmission rates in our community, we have partnered with [Concentric by Ginkgo](#) to provide all of our families with the opportunity to participate in a pooled COVID-19 testing program. All students are invited to participate in this program by having their parents opt-in for them to be tested for free onsite. More information about this asymptomatic testing program can be found [here](#). In the case of possible exposure, those who have opted into our pooled testing program will be given the option of onsite antigen testing by our staff in order to clear them for return to the classroom. All others will be required to provide proof of a negative COVID-19 test (both antigen and molecular PCR tests accepted).

For symptomatic testing, we follow Santa Clara County Public Health recommendations and request that individuals with symptoms provide molecular (PCR or PCR-like) test results. Families and staff have found the most success accessing these kinds of tests through the [Curative](#), [El Camino](#) or [Carbon](#) health systems. Additional resources can be found [here](#). Please don't hesitate to reach out to our health team (health@bullischarterschool.com) for more support with finding testing.

Vaccination

Per current [public health order](#), vaccination of all school workers is required. As such, all staff are required to either present a proof of their vaccination status to human resources or submit a negative test result weekly. Additionally, any parents who wish to volunteer onsite (i.e. hot lunch) are also required to be vaccinated in order to be on campus and volunteer.

Responding to COVID-19 Cases

In alignment with the public health guidelines, all potential cases or close contact cases are investigated thoroughly by school administration and health personnel. In the event of a close contact or positive reported case on site, public health guidelines are followed to inform the necessary individuals and provide support to those affected. The most up-to-date guidelines are posted [here](#).

In the case of an COVID-19 exposure onsite:

- The positive case will be immediately isolated (if onsite) and instructed to isolate for 10 days from the date of symptom onset or positive test collection.
- Close contacts with the positive case (within 6 feet of case for more than 15 minutes) will be notified and provided with appropriate quarantine information*.
- An email with information regarding the exposure will be sent to families and staff.
- Custodial staff will be notified to ensure that appropriate cleaning and disinfection of the space occupied takes place.
- Staff will report the positive case and any close contacts as required to our insurance provider (CharterSafe) and to the Santa Clara County Public Health Department.

*Consistent with [Public Health guidelines regarding exposure in a school setting](#) where masking and other mitigation steps are in place, most students identified as close contacts will be able to continue with in-person learning through a **modified quarantine scenario**. In this scenario, all quarantining students must:

- Remain without symptoms
- Continue to appropriately mask (as required per our protocols)
- Undergo testing at least twice during the quarantine period
- Be removed from all extracurricular activities at school, including sports, and activities within the community setting for the entirety of their quarantine period

Those identified as close contacts who do NOT qualify for modified quarantine (i.e. within 6 feet WITHOUT masks, as in at lunch) will be instructed to quarantine at home, but will also be eligible for a shortened 7-day quarantine, if they test negative on or after day 5 after exposure.

A student or staff member who tests positive for COVID-19 will be allowed back on site only if:

- 24 hours have passed since a fever of 100.4 or higher has resolved without the use of fever-reducing medications and COVID-19 symptoms have improved; **AND**
- At least 10 days have passed since COVID-19 symptoms first appeared **OR** the date of specimen collection of their first positive COVID-19 test, if asymptomatic

NOTE: A negative COVID-19 test will not be required for a staff member or student who tests positive for COVID-19 to return to school assuming they have met the aforementioned criteria.