

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 test result (both rapid Antigen & molecular/PCR accepted) in order for them to be able to return to campus, per current county public health recommendations. 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](#).

For symptomatic testing, we follow [current CDPH testing recommendations](#) and accept antigen and molecular test results from individuals who exhibit any COVID-19 symptoms other than loss of taste or smell. For those with these latter, COVID-specific symptoms, a confirmatory negative PCR result is needed for clearance to return to campus. Families and staff have found success accessing these kinds of tests through the [Curative](#) or [El Camino](#) health systems. More testing resources can be found [here](#) or provided by our health team (health@bullischarterschool.com).

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 Exposures

In alignment with the [Santa Clara County Public Health Department \(SCCPHD\) guidelines](#), all potential cases or close contact cases are investigated thoroughly by school administration and health personnel. In the event of a reported positive case or close contact, public health guidelines are followed to inform the necessary individuals and support those affected.

In the case of an COVID-19 exposure onsite:

- The positive individual will be isolated (if onsite) and instructed to isolate for at least 5 days from the onset of COVID-19 symptoms or positive test collection.*
- Close contacts to 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 all families and staff identified as possible close contacts of the positive individual(s).
- 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.

*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**
- They are asymptomatic or symptoms improving; **AND**
- They provide a negative test result (antigen preferred) from on/after day 5 after the onset of COVID-19 symptoms or positive test collection (whichever is earliest); **OR**
- At least 10 days have passed since the onset of COVID-19 symptoms or the date of specimen collection of their first positive COVID-19 test.

Consistent with school-based exposure guidelines, most students identified as close contacts in a school setting where masking and other mitigation steps are in place will be able to continue with in-person learning through a **modified quarantine scenario. In this scenario, all students must: 1) Remain without symptoms; 2) Continue to appropriately mask; and 3) Undergo testing at least twice during the quarantine period. Those close contacts who do NOT qualify for modified quarantine (i.e. are within 6 feet WITHOUT masks, i.e. 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.

Any students or staff members who are identified as close contacts of a positive COVID-19 case outside of the school setting are given instructions by school personnel to quarantine appropriately in alignment with the most current [SCCPHD guidelines](#).