

BUSD Health and Safety Frequently Asked Questions for Staff (FAQ's) 1.3.22

Welcome back! We hope you had some rest and were able to recharge over break. We appreciate your continued efforts during the pandemic to keep our district functioning and our students in school. Here is a link to the latest revisions in Los Angeles County Department of Public Health guidelines http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/coronavirus/docs/protocols/Reopening_K12Schools.pdf. Please note the revised guidelines were distributed on January 2, 2022, so we are doing our best to review and share our new protocols. Thank you for your patience.

Here are some responses to frequently asked questions. If you have further questions, please feel free to email Re-openingSchool@burbankusd.org.

1. **Do students and staff have to wear masks? Do vaccinated individuals have to wear masks?**

Currently, the Los Angeles Department of Public Health is requiring all individuals, regardless of vaccination status, to wear masks indoors **and now masks are required outdoors per public health revised guidelines from 1/1/22**. Per public health, *“Outdoor masking is required for students, except when eating or drinking, when in crowded outdoor settings where distancing cannot be easily and reliably maintained.”* This includes passing periods for secondary, as well entering and exiting school. The outdoor masking requirements are to provide additional protection during the Omicron surge.

2. **What type of masks should employees wear?**

LADPH has added a requirement to provide upgraded masks to all school employees: At this time, **all school employees, as defined above, must wear surgical-grade masks (also known as the blue, three-ply disposable masks) or higher level PPE (e.g. KN95 or N95 respirator masks). The minimum requirement is for employees to wear the blue surgical mask.** Individuals may also double mask, with a cloth face covering worn over the surgical mask, recommended for enhanced protection. **Cloth face coverings alone are no longer acceptable, as they do not provide the same level of source control or personal protection as a proper surgical mask or higher level PPE.** Our sites have surgical masks available for all school employees. Here is a link to a more detailed description of different types of masks <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/coronavirus-covid-19-and-medical-devices/face-masks-barrier-face-coverings-surgical-masks-and-respirators-covid-19#:~:text=The%20FDA%20does%20not%20have,of%20NIOSH%2DApproval>.

3. **What type of masks should students wear?**

LADPH recommends students wear masks that are well-fitting, non-cloth masks of multiple layers of non-woven material with a nose wire. This is a recommendation, not a requirement.

4. **What happens if a student refuses to wear a mask?**

Masks are mandatory per public health guidelines. If a student or staff member does not have a mask, then one will be provided. If a student is struggling with wearing a mask, then the teacher and administrative team can work to support the student and help them learn the correct way to wear a mask. If a student is defiant and refuses to wear a

mask, then we will follow progressive discipline. Link to policy:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/11jvsSpAUIcJeJWk4sKorLN9ko4CMWWZG/view?usp=sharing>

We have been following these discipline policies and have held meetings with parents and students to enforce mask requirements. Please notify your administrator if students are refusing to wear masks. We understand that many students need reminders, but if a student is being defiant about health and safety protocols, please notify your administrator so they can assist or refer to Student Services.

5. What if a teacher or staff member has concerns about the quality of a student's mask?

If a teacher or staff member is concerned about the quality of a mask, they can consult with the nurse or health assistant and then work with the parent to ensure the student has proper PPE.

6. What if a student has special needs or has a medical condition that prevents them from wearing a mask?

The Special Education Department has already reviewed students who may need accommodations and they have worked with site administration and staff to create a plan to assist the student. This group is very small in number, but if you have any concerns, please see your administrative team or the special education team at your site. Please see our Mask Wearing Guidelines for Students in Special Education or who have medical conditions. Link to policy:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/11MIFID7m7lLgBORJLAeOOfbE05z4EJ4o/view?usp=sharing>

7. Can teachers and staff wear face shields? What about students?

Yes, but the individual must wear a medical grade mask underneath the face shield.

8. If I contract Covid and have to take days off, do I have to use sick days?

The district shall provide 5 working days of the employee's regular rate of pay for vaccinated employees who test positive with Covid-19 through January 31, 2022. This is not in addition to time they may have taken under SB 95. If employees have already used their 5 days, they will need to use sick time. If employees are taking time off to care for an individual who has tested positive, employees will need to use their own sick time. Please see the BTA and CSEA MOU's for more detail.

9. Are teachers and staff required to get their booster?

The Covid-19 booster is not currently required for employment though the majority of our staff have been vaccinated. However, public health is recommending all employees get their booster for additional protection against the Omicron variant. **In addition, public health guidelines have changed and employees who are eligible for the booster, and have not received it, are required to quarantine for 5 days if exposed to a positive case.** The Board of Education and Superintendent are currently considering requiring

the Booster vaccination for all employees. Booster appointments are readily available in our community

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/ncorona2019/vaccine/hcwsignup/>.

Recommended interval for Booster:

Pfizer - 6 months after completing Covid-19 series

Moderna - 6 months after completing Covid-19 series

Johnson & Johnson - 2 months after receiving J & J Covid 19 series

*Please see link for more information <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/booster-shot.html>

10. What are new rules for quarantine if **I am a close contact?**

The definition for close contacts has not changed. According to LADPH, if you are vaccinated and boosted and have no symptoms and you are fever free for 24 hours, **you do not need to be quarantined. However, LADPH is requesting a negative diagnostic/viral test on Day 5 (not before).** Employees would not need to quarantine prior to Day 5 if they are fully vaccinated and boosted and asymptomatic. Employees can provide a photo of their negative test to their school nurse or supervisor. Please see BUSD testing clinic information.

If individuals are not fully vaccinated or boosted, and are deemed close contacts, they will need to quarantine for 5 days, be asymptomatic and then take a negative viral/antigen test on Day 5 (or after and not before) to return.

***Close contacts, regardless of vaccination status, who are asymptomatic, will be able to return to school or work on Day 6 with a negative viral test (home tests are acceptable). The negative test must be completed on Day 5 and not before. We are also adding testing clinics at both high schools Monday through Thursday so any exposed, asymptomatic employee may use our testing sites to get their Day 5 test. Please note that employees who test positive or have symptoms may not use the BUSD testing clinics.**

11. If I am fully vaccinated and boosted, do I need to quarantine **if I test positive?**

Yes. If you test positive, you must isolate for 5 days regardless of vaccination status, booster status and symptoms. According to LADPH, if you are vaccinated and boosted and have no symptoms, or symptoms are improving and you are fever free for 24 hours, you may return on Day 6 with a negative diagnostic/viral test/home test from Day 5 (not before). If the individual tests positive on Day 5, then they need to remain in isolation until they receive a negative test or they complete a 10 day isolation and symptoms are improving or gone.

Please provide a photo or test results to your school nurse and/or immediate supervisor to return to work.

****Students or employees who test positive should not use BUSD testing clinics for their Day 5 test to prevent spread to other students and staff.**

12. What are the daily cleaning guidelines for schools?

Link to Daily Cleaning Guidelines

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1deLCw6jQjiOlkOgJRw cud19 UqK FEyF/view>

13. What supplies will teachers have in their classrooms?

BUSD has provided masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, wipes, partitions where needed, signs, bottle fillers (replaced drinking fountains), and additional equipment for nurses and special education classrooms. Facilities and principals will be working to ensure that hand sanitizing stands are filled and supplies are readily available.

14. Have air filters been upgraded?

During Distance Learning, our facilities team was hard at work outfitting school buildings and classrooms with MERV13 filters. All sites have MERV13 filters, which is a high-grade filter system. <https://www.burbankusd.org/Page/3210>

15. Can we have our doors and windows open?

MERV13 filters are similar in quality to what is installed in hospitals. Our ventilation system brings in air from the outside to ventilate rooms. When teachers open windows and doors, it can undermine the quality of how the ventilation system works. Facilities recommends keeping doors and windows closed to help facilitate the ventilation system. However, if employees prefer to leave windows and doors open, they are welcome to do so.

16. Can students use the playground equipment?

Yes. Students should wash their hands, use hand sanitizer and maintain physical distancing on the playground equipment. Students should wear masks outside.

17. How will attendance be handled?

Some parents may be keeping students home due to concerns with the surge. **Students will be marked "E" for Epidemic for these absences and it is recommended they be placed on independent study if they are going to be out for more than 3 days.**

18. Can students take independent study?

According to the State of California, "parents can request individualized study for a pupil whose health would be put at risk by in-person instruction, as determined by the parent or guardian of the pupil."

Secondary - ILA is really meant for students wanting independent study for a semester or longer. Students grades 7-12 can sign up for more information.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdQndDLx4mgLnlFDsSjsoqz3GXQTPqYyc6_xyTCfuoxvq8Fw/viewform

****Parents may request that students be placed on short-term independent study if students are out for 3 or more days due to Covid (up to 14 days), quarantine or concerns over the surge.**

19. Are overnight field trips currently allowed?

No. The district is suspending any overnight field trips for the month of January due to the Omicron variant. We will review conditions for February. Teachers and staff were reminded that any trips planned, especially during winter months, may have to be canceled if conditions changed.

20. Will students receive home tests?

Home tests are being delivered today to BUSD. Sites will process and send home tests with students on Wednesday. Each K-12 student will receive two home tests. Information will be coming from sites. Here is a link to the public health video on how to conduct the home tests <http://bit.ly/COVID-self-swab>.

21. Where can asymptomatic students get tested?

Monday, January 3, 2022 at BHS from 2-8pm
Tuesday, January 4, 2022 at JBHS from 2-8pm
Wednesday, January 5, 2022 at Dolores Huerta MS from 2-8pm (auditorium lobby)
Thursday, January 6, 2022 at Muir Middle School from 2-8pm (auditorium)

*Link for testing registration [REGISTRATION](#)

22. Can students or staff who are quarantined because they are exposed and close contacts to a positive case use the BUSD testing clinics?

Yes, as long as they are asymptomatic.

23. Can students or staff who are isolated because they are a positive case use the BUSD testing clinics?

No. We do not want other employees and students exposed to individuals who test positive or are symptomatic. They will need to isolate and test elsewhere. Here are alternative testing resources <https://www.burbankusd.org/Page/3398>

24. Is there a travel advisory?

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/CID/DCDC/pages/COVID-19/Travel-Advisory.aspx>

25. Will students and staff need to wear masks in the hallways?

Students and staff must wear masks at all times both inside and outside, except when eating and drinking.

26. Will students need to wear masks during PE and sports?

Revised Youth Sports Protocols are coming out on 1.3.22 and we are trying to get clarification on masks during PE. We will send this information out as soon as we get clarification.

27. Will nutrition and lunch be served?

Yes, our BUSD Food Services will provide nutrition and lunch on our school campuses.

28. What do I do if I am concerned that health and safety protocols are being violated?

First talk to your colleague, student or the site administration. Then, feel free to call the We-Tip hotline at 1-800-873-7283 or email stacycashman@burbankusd.org. These reports go to Stacy Cashman in Student Services. We also encourage you to visit the BUSD website for detailed information on Reopening, Resources and Covid-19 Public Health and Safety Guidelines. You can also email at Re-openingschool@burbankusd.org.