

## **BUSD Health and Safety Frequently Asked Questions for Students and Parents (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 attend school and follow health and safety guidelines. 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](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 provide guidance. 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](mailto: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 students and staff, 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 students.** The outdoor masking requirements for students and staff are to provide additional protection during the Omicron surge. While our school staff will be reminding students of this new requirement, we appreciate your partnership and help in reminding all students to follow health and safety guidelines.

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

According to LADPH guidelines, it is “strongly recommended but not required that students wear upgraded masks which at a minimum are well-fitting, non-cloth masks of multiple layers of non-woven material with a nose wire. Nothing in this protocol requires that schools provide upgraded masks to its general student population and parental preference should be respected as to the level of PPE a student wears.

**However, universal masking with some appropriate type of face covering is still currently required for both indoor and outdoor settings on the school campus.”** 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 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. We understand that many students need reminders, but if a student is being defiant about health and safety protocols, then disciplinary measures may be required.

4. **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 contact 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: [BUSD SPED Mask Guidelines](#)

5. **Can students wear face shields?**

Yes, but the student must wear a mask underneath the face shield or a drape.

6. **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/>

7. **What are new rules for quarantine if a student is a close contact?**

According to LADPH, if a close contact (student exposed to a positive case for 15 minutes or more over a 24 hour period) is vaccinated and boosted and has no symptoms and is fever free for 24 hours, **the student does not need to be quarantined. However, LADPH is recommending students get a diagnostic/viral test.** Students would not need to quarantine prior to Day 5 if they are fully vaccinated and boosted and asymptomatic. Students or parents can provide a photo of their negative test to their school nurse. We are also sending out additional BUSD testing clinic information to parents, students and staff.

**If students 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 (not before) to return.**

**\*Close contacts who are unvaccinated and 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 employees or students may use our testing sites to get their Day 5 test. Please note that students who have had or have symptoms may not use the BUSD testing clinics.**

8. If a student tests positive, do they need to isolate? **What if they are vaccinated and boosted?**

Yes. If a student tests positive, they must isolate for 5 days **regardless of vaccination status, booster status and symptoms**. According to LADPH, if a student is vaccinated and boosted and has no symptoms, or symptoms are improving and the student is fever free for 24 hours, they may return on Day 6 with a negative diagnostic/viral test/home test from Day 5 (not before). If the student 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 school. **Students who initially test positive and have symptoms, may not use the BUSD testing clinics.**

9. If a student contracts Covid or a student is placed on quarantine, will the absence be excused?

Yes, students will be excused for absences related to Covid or quarantine.

10. What are the daily cleaning guidelines for schools?

Link to Daily Cleaning Guidelines <https://www.burbankusd.org/Page/3080>.

11. What supplies are available in 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 stations are filled and supplies are readily available.

12. 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>

13. Will doors and windows be 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.

14. 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.

15. 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/1FAIpQLSdQndDLx4mgLnlfFDSsJsoqz3GXQTPqYyc6\\_xyTCfuoxvq8Fw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdQndDLx4mgLnlfFDSsJsoqz3GXQTPqYyc6_xyTCfuoxvq8Fw/viewform)

**\*If you are interested in independent study due to concerns over Omicron, please contact your site administrator/principal.**

16. Will students receive home tests?

Home tests are being delivered today to BUSD and sites will be distributing them on Wednesday. Each K-12 student will receive 2 home tests. More information will be sent. Here is a link to the public health video on how to conduct the home tests

<http://bit.ly/COVID-self-swab>.

17. Where can students get tested? (As long as they are asymptomatic and have not tested positive during the past two weeks)

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](#)

18. Is there a travel advisory?

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

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

Students and staff must wear masks at all times both inside and outside.

20. Will nutrition and lunch be served?

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

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

First talk to your student's teacher or site administration if there is a concern. Then, feel free to call the We-Tip hotline at 1-800-873-7283 or email [stacycashman@burbankusd.org](mailto:stacycashman@burbankusd.org) or [Re-openingSchool@burbankusd.org](mailto:Re-openingSchool@burbankusd.org). These reports go to Stacy Cashman in Student Services. We also encourage students and parents to visit the BUSD website for detailed information on Reopening, Resources and Covid-19 Public Health and Safety Guidelines.