

BUSD - Health and Safety Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)- Part 2 8.11.21

- How long does an unvaccinated individual, who is exposed to a positive case, have to quarantine? UPDATE as of 8/11/21: Students and employees with an exposure to a positive case should test for COVID-19 and inform the school/district of test results. Exposed students and employees who are not fully vaccinated must quarantine and monitor for symptoms for 10 days from their last contact with the positive case. Quarantine may end after Day 7 for exposed students who remain asymptomatic, if a PCR is collected after Day 5 from the date of last exposure and test negative; they will need to continue to monitor for symptoms thru day 14.
- What contact tracing protocols are in place in case a student or teacher tests positive? We have been conducting contact tracing per Los Angeles County Department of Public Health guidelines since the pandemic began. All reported cases are traced, close contacts are called or notified by our nursing staff, exposures are notified with a letter regarding testing, resources, and symptom monitoring, and the decision pathway for exposure management is followed. You can also see a video by our Lead Nurse, Lenora Aguilera, on the BUSD website. See the link below for the Exposure Management Plan and Decision Pathway.
<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/docs/education/ScreeningEducationSettings.pdf>

Example: A student is sick at school. The student is sent to a designated area, separate from the health office, and the student is assessed by our trained health staff. If it is determined the student needs to go home, parents would be called immediately to pick up their child. Please note that some students may have documented allergies, so if they present with a runny nose, the nurse would work with the parent to see if the student is presenting new and different symptoms. The nursing staff would advise a parent of a student with symptoms to test. If positive, the student would go into quarantine and the nurse would complete contact tracing and notification of close contacts. Close contacts would need to be quarantined - duration depends on the case. Staff and students exposed to the positive case would get a notification letter (typically within 24 hours of the report of a positive case). Quarantine of classrooms would depend on the number of close contacts, the vaccination status of the exposed students, and other factors. Please see our Lead Nurse Lenora Aguilera's video on exposure management on our website and through this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H0KfaoXyTfc> and https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t-UhCvrO_tY

- What is the threshold number of cases for quarantining a classroom? What about the whole school? Currently, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health requires close contacts to quarantine. Each index case is traced and close contacts are instructed to test and quarantine. Sometimes there are only a few close contacts and sometimes the entire classroom has to quarantine. The Los Angeles County Department of Public

Health has not indicated a specific number of cases that would lead to a classroom or school closure at this time but that decision would be made by BUSD and LADPH. Three cases that are linked are considered an “outbreak,” but not all outbreaks require classroom or school closure.

- Will siblings of quarantined students also be expected or permitted to quarantine as well? Close contacts are required to quarantine per Public Health. In most cases, siblings have had close contact so they would most likely quarantine.
- If a student/classroom is quarantined at home due to a positive case how will those children receive instruction? Teachers would provide assignments and information to individual students and they would complete work as they would during any other illness. If the entire classroom is quarantined, teachers would flip their classroom to distance learning. If the teacher became ill, a substitute teacher would take over the class. Some teachers in primary grades may choose to provide packets of work but teachers will communicate their plan to provide work for students who are absent as they always do at the beginning of the year. Our BUSD team is working on more detailed information on this topic and it will be communicated as soon as possible.
- Will sick and/or quarantined students be switched to ILA distance learning? Currently, Public Health requires an 8-10 day quarantine depending on the individual case, so secondary students would not need to switch to ILA since the number of courses are different. In ILA the student takes one class at a time. We are working on instructional plans for students on quarantine and will send more details as soon as possible.
- What is the policy if a student can't or won't wear a mask consistently and correctly in the classroom? Please see our [BUSD Face Mask Guidelines for students](https://www.burbankusd.org/Page/3080) <https://www.burbankusd.org/Page/3080>
- Are windows permitted to remain open during the school day? 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.
- How will social distancing be enforced at lunch? Staff are designing lunch plans to create as much space as possible and will encourage students to maintain distance as much as possible. Parents can encourage their children to wear masks outdoors if that makes them more comfortable.
- What is the plan for lunch on inclement weather days?

Administration at individual sites will be working on alternative schedules and locations for students to eat just as they do for rainy days and heat days. In elementary, this might be a classroom and in secondary it may mean opening larger buildings like gyms and multi-purpose rooms.

- How will social distancing be enforced during masks-off recess time?
Staff will continue to remind students to keep a safe distance from others.
- In what scenarios would students be allowed to remove their masks in a classroom setting?
Students will be required to wear their masks indoors. They will only be able to remove their mask outdoors.
- Will shared spaces such as computer labs, libraries, and auditoriums continue to be utilized?
Yes, but universal masking is required.
- Are students going to have their temperatures checked each morning before entering school?
Parents will be conducting home health screenings (taking temperatures and checking for Covid symptoms) before sending students to school. We will be sending instructions and reminders to parents and staff on a weekly basis. School staff will not be taking individual temperatures of students at this time. COVID symptom posters will be on display at site entrances and schools will be reminding parents about the importance of doing morning health checks with their students.
- Will a student who shows up to school with nondescript symptoms such as runny nose or cough be allowed to stay?
It depends on the individual case. Our school nurses will assess students and make a determination whether the students need to be sent home. Some students may have documented conditions and our nurses are informed of these cases. We want to avoid sending students home for documented allergies. Our health staff will be working with parents to identify if symptoms are new or atypical when assessing students. They have been trained and are working closely with LADPH.

What happens if they develop such symptoms during the school day? For example, would a coughing student be required to leave class? Or get a Covid test before returning?

If a student presents symptoms during the school day, our nurses will isolate the student in a designated area and assess the student. If the determination is made that a student should go home a parent will be contacted to immediately pick up their child. Parents should be sure to update their contact information on the Parent Portal. Contact tracing, quarantine, testing, and notification protocols would be followed. Please refer to our exposure management plan for details

http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/coronavirus/docs/protocols/ExposureManagementPlan_K12Schools.pdf

*Please note that every case is different, but for every positive Covid-19 case we consult with the case, notify close contacts, make reports to Public Health, notify students/parents or staff of the exposure period, and quarantine and encourage testing.

- Will the number of allowable absences be expanded for this year so that parents can keep sick or potentially exposed kids home?
 Covid-19 will be treated like any other illness when it comes to attendance. However, we also understand that this is an unprecedented year and it's critical for students and staff to remain home if they are ill. Any concerns regarding individual student attendance can be directed to the site staff or Student Services.
- My child receives speech therapy in a group setting. Obviously, this cannot be masked. What changes will be made to speech services to keep them safe and effective?
 Staff and students may use see-through masks or face shields with cloth "drapes."
- If you choose the ILA distance learning option for your child, can you change it to in-person learning later in the school year? How long will it take to switch over once the change is requested?
 Yes, students can switch to in-person learning from ILA within 5 days per Assembly Bill 130. However, changes in programming may impact their credits and can disrupt their learning.
- What will a typical day look like for ILA students in elementary school? Will Zoom be required or optional?
 ILA is for students in grades 7-12. Independent Study is for elementary children and consists of daily one-hour synchronous instruction for Grades TK-3 with weekly check-ins. Grades 4 and 5 have one hour once a week synchronous instruction with daily check-ins.
- Will parent volunteers be allowed on campus, and will unvaccinated or partially vaccinated folks be allowed to visit or volunteer?
 Only vaccinated volunteers are allowed on campus. They will need to provide proof of vaccination. Vaccination proof will need to be uploaded into the Raptor system.
- What if I am concerned about how the school will manage positive cases?
 Our BUSD Health Services has been conducting exposure management, contact tracing, and reporting of cases throughout the pandemic. We have handled staff, child care, and summer school cases and we are experienced in this process.
- Do parents need to provide vaccination records?
 If your child has received the Covid vaccine, please email your child's vaccination card to your school nurse. Records will be kept confidential but this will assist us during Exposure Management.
- Are immunizations required to be complete before a child can attend in-person instruction?
 Yes. Our nurses have been calling and mailing letters to families since last year to make sure all students have completed immunizations.