

Update on Omicron January 3-19, 2022

Berkeley Unified School District
January 19, 2022 Board Meeting

COVID-19 at BUSD

January 3-18, 2022

1. Data: COVID Cases, Absences
2. Enhanced Response During the Surge Period
 - a. Testing
 - b. Contact Tracing
 - c. KN95 Masks
3. CDPH Introduces Group Contact Tracing/BUSD Introduces All-School Notifications

To our Terrific Testing Team

Thank you for sticking around
to keep our school open & healthy!!!
We appreciate all of your hard work.



What we have accomplished together as a community is remarkable - and every small act of kindness and gratitude makes a huge difference!

Cases In Our Schools

January 3-15

One-Week Case Count (on campus while infectious)

January 3-8	167
January 9-15	285

Preschools	Cases
Franklin	8.5
Hopkins	1
King	6

Elementary Schools	Cases
Berkeley Arts Magnet	13.5
Cragmont	8
Emerson	20.33
John Muir	6.5
Malcolm X	20
Oxford at West Campus	8
Rosa Parks	22
Ruth Acty	9
Sylvia Mendez	21.33
Thousand Oaks	3
Washington	16

Middle Schools	Cases
Longfellow	32
Martin Luther King Jr.	22.5
Willard	24

High Schools	Cases
Berkeley High School	194
Berkeley Tech. Academy	13
Berkeley Ind. Study	0

Other	Cases
Berkeley Adult School	1
District Office/VAPA	2.33

Staffing Absences: Week by Week Comparison: January 3-18

	Teacher Absences Comparison: January, 2022			Other Staff* Absences
	# Absent	# Unfilled	Non-Classroom	
1/3	56	33	10	40
1/10	64	42	10	41
1/18	49	21	9	56

*Other Staff includes Clerical, Instructional Assistants, Custodians, After-School Teachers, Instructional Techs, School Campus Aides, Librarians, Counselors, and Administrators

Student Absence Rates

Week of:	% Absent
December 6-10	4.68%
December 13-17	5.29%
January 3-7	12.96%
January 10-14	12.65%

All-Day Testing at Berkeley Adult School Extended Through Surge

Mondays-Fridays 9:00 am - 4:30 pm

DATE	# of TESTS	POSITIVE	% POSITIVE
1.3.22	125	27	0.22
1.4.22	118	20	0.17
1.5.22	157	19	0.12
1.6.22	184	36	0.20
1.7.22	148	37	0.25
TOTAL	732	139	0.19

DATE	# of TESTS	POSITIVE	% POSITIVE
1.10.22	218	68	0.31
1.11.22	196	35	0.18
1.12.22	158	30	0.19
1.13.22	121	20	0.17
1.14.22	204	44	0.22
TOTAL	897	197	0.22

Who is testing?

- Symptomatic (students, staff)
- Testing out of Isolation (test on Day 5, return on Day 6 with resolving symptoms)
- After an Exposure
- Volunteers

School-Site and BUSD Facilities Surveillance Testing

WEEK	# of TESTS	# POSITIVE	% POSITIVE
Jan. 3-8	5912	129	2%
Jan 10-14	7651	107	1.4%

Who is testing?

- Students/Staff at Site
- Athletes
- After an Exposure
- Public Health Recommends

Why Rapid Antigen Tests?

- Immediate results
- Now recommended to test out of isolation

Enhanced Response During the Surge Period

1. Increased Testing Using Parent and Community Volunteers
 - a. Burn rate = 18,000 + tests/week
 - b. 60,000 in stock (receiving 40,000 today)
2. Group Contact Tracing
 - Focus on testing most students/staff 2X week
 - Notify the school community of increased exposure risk
 - Respond to high-transmission events per Public Health
3. KN-95 Masks

During the Period from January 3-14, Berkeley Unified...

- Increased testing at “high incidence” schools to twice per week.
- Expanded testing at Berkeley High School to five days per week, and made this testing open to all students. (We encourage all students at BHS to test twice per week.)
- Expanded middle school testing to include 7th and 8th grade students.
- Expanded testing for students and staff at Berkeley Adult School to five full days per week, and we will offer a special line for BUSD staff to accelerate their wait time and make it easier to get to work.

Starting January 18: Twice Per Week Testing in All Schools

Effective Tuesday, January 18, all students in all K-12 schools will be offered testing for COVID-19 two times per week. This effort, supported by dedicated staff and community volunteers, extends the testing strategy BUSD has taken throughout the pandemic, and, given our resources, creates the most effective possible system for detecting COVID cases in our schools.

- Entire school community notified weekly of elevated risk and urged to test.
- Testing dates shared by principals and posted on [BUSD's Testing Information webpage](#)
- No modified quarantines required. Students can participate in extracurriculars.

We strongly urge all families to register their students for BUSD testing. It will take a community-wide effort to catch COVID cases early and prevent transmission in our schools.

[Families can register their students for BUSD COVID testing here.](#)

COVID Testing Volunteers



Berkeley Public Schools Fund

Jumpstart their future

Thank You, Berkeley!

Thank You, Berkeley School Volunteers!

*Thank You, Berkeley Public Schools
Fund!*

Volunteers to Date	Total Volunteers Needed	
190	196	97%

Urgently Seeking Volunteers to Test Students at School!

We are still actively seeking volunteers to help us further expand COVID testing for our students. Since my request for volunteers to the BUSD community on Monday, we've had more than 120 individuals sign up to help with testing! But we still need more help for about a 3-4-week period. *This help is instrumental to keeping our schools open!*

To get involved, please [register as a School Support Volunteer](#) with Berkeley Schools Volunteers (BSV).

Note: The brief application does require an upload of your COVID vaccination card.



Make a Difference!

Community Notice About COVID Risk at School

Given our commitment to test all students twice-per-week, we are shifting our focus and much of our contact tracing resources to testing. This means in most instances we will discontinue close contact notifications during this surge period and instead ask our families to visit BUSD's [COVID case dashboard](#) in order to be informed of new cases at your school.

In alignment with City of Berkeley Public Health and [new K-12 case response guidance from the California Department of Public Health \(CDPH\)](#),

The new CDPH guidance recognizes the now-impossible workload for school districts that is associated with notifying families about every possible close contact and instead introduces group notifications and group testing.

Ongoing Vaccination Opportunities for BUSD Staff

Two new Vaccination Clinics are available to BUSD staff in January. These have been advertised by the district to all employees.

Berkeley Community College

Tuesday, January 11, 11:00 am to 6:30 pm

Tuesday, January 18, 11:00 am to 6:30 pm

Exploring Booster February Clinics for Students 12+

- In partnership with Carbon Health and the City of Berkeley

KN-95 Masks

Thousands of KN-95 masks have been ordered for students and staff. The first round of these masks have been distributed to schools this week. KN-95 masks are available through the surge, but not mandatory.



Upgrade Your Mask

Consider Fit, Filtration and Comfort

GOOD



**Surgical
Mask**

BETTER



**KF94/KN95
Surgical + Cloth**

BEST



N95

FAIR



Cloth Mask

One that fits well and has at least 3 layers. A cloth mask is better than no mask.



Working Together to Stop the Spread

- Stay home with any COVID-19 symptom
- Seek BUSD or other testing
 - Close contact
 - Symptoms
- Mask indoors and outdoors
- Get vaccinated/boosted