

Health and Safety Guidance for 2021-22
Benicia Unified School District
Updated February 28, 2022

Benicia Unified School District continues to follow California Department of Public Health (CDPH) guidance regarding COVID-19 protocols during the 2021-22 school year. These guidelines may change when Solano County Public Health (SCPH) and CDPH provide updates. The following represents the most recent changes per CDPH Guidance:

Masks:

Per Governor Newsom and the [California Department of Public Health \(CDPH\)](#), after March 11, 2022, masks will no longer be required but will be strongly recommended in California schools and childcare facilities. Staff and students may attend without a mask starting March 14, 2022.

Testing when have COVID-19 Symptoms or are Close Contact Exposure

All employees and students are advised to get tested when they have COVID-19 symptoms.

Close Contact Exposure (within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes) staff and students:

1. Should consider testing [on day 5 or immediately if symptoms develop](#) and [should](#) follow all isolation recommendations-if tested positive.
 - a. Knowing one is infected early during quarantine enables (a) earlier access to treatment options, if indicated (especially for those that may be at risk for severe illness), and (b) notification of exposed persons ("close contacts") who may also benefit by knowing if they are infected.
2. If symptoms develop, staff and students should also:
 - a. Self-isolate and test as soon as possible AND
 - b. Continue to self-isolate if the test result is positive, and contact their healthcare provider regarding available treatments and any questions concerning their care.
3. Fully vaccinated (2 weeks after the second vaccine*) staff who do not have symptoms do not need to quarantine, even if they were close contacts.

*CDPH guidance has defined fully vaccinated as 2 vaccines. At this time, BUSD will continue to define fully vaccinated as anyone who has received 2 vaccines.

Quarantine Protocols for Staff and Student who Test Positive:

1. **Staff and Students who Test Positive** – Everyone, regardless of vaccination status, previous infection or lack of symptoms need to do the following:
 - a. Stay home for at least 5 days.
 - b. Isolation can end after day 5 if [student/staff test negative with an Antigen test and symptoms are not present or are resolving](#). They can return on day 6 and must continue to wear a mask for an additional 5 days. [If the student/staff remains positive on day 5 or has significant symptoms](#), isolation [continues until day 10](#). No further testing is required to return on day 11.
 - c. [If the student/staff is unable or unwilling to test, isolation is required for 10 days, with return on day 11 as long as fever or significant symptoms have resolved.](#)
 - d. [Students/staff who tested positive and are eligible to return after 5 days, must wear well-fitting masks for 5 additional days, especially in indoor settings.](#)

2. Unvaccinated Staff who had Close Contact Exposure with COVID-19 must do the following:

- a. Stay home for at least 5 days after your last contact with a person who has COVID-19.
- b. Test on day 5.
- c. Quarantine will end after day 5 if symptoms are not present and you have a negative test on day 5 and are symptom free. If unable to test or choose not to test, and symptoms are not present, quarantine will end after day 10.
- d. Strongly encouraged to get vaccinated or boosted.
- e. If testing positive, follow isolation recommendations above.
- f. If symptoms develop, test and stay home.
- g. Asymptomatic employees in this category are not required to stay home from work if:
 - i. A negative diagnostic test is obtained on day 5 after last exposure to a case.
 - ii. Employees continue to have no symptoms.

Food service and Eating/Drinking:

- 1. Maximize physical distance as much as possible while eating (especially indoors). School sites should use additional spaces outside of the cafeteria for mealtime to help facilitate distancing.
- 2. Clean frequently touched surfaces. Surfaces that come in contact with food should be adequately cleaned before and after meals.
- 3. Given very low risk of transmission from surfaces and shared objects, there is no need to limit food service approaches to single use items and packaged meals.
- 4. Limit eating or drinking in your classroom.

Visitors and Volunteers:

- 2. Volunteers who will stay in learning places for a longer time need to provide proof of vaccination. Schools need to verify and document on Volunteer Registration Information all volunteers' vaccination information.
- 3. Schools should not limit access for direct service providers, but can ensure compliance with school visitor policies. Schools need to verify and document all direct service providers' vaccination information.
- 4. Schools should continue to emphasize the importance of staying home when sick. Anyone, including visitors, volunteers, and direct service providers, who have symptoms of infectious illness, such as flu or COVID-19, should stay home and seek testing and care.

School Wide Events (promotion, graduation, sports, concerts, etc.) and Meetings:

- 1. Open house will be held virtually.
- 2. In person promotions and graduations should be held outdoors, weather permitting.
- 3. Large group meetings can be held in-person or virtually.
- 4. Masks are strongly recommended at large indoor gatherings.
- 5. Protocols for in person gatherings will be assessed as needed.

Other General Updates:

1. Use frequent hand washing throughout the day, avoiding touching your face.
2. Turn on your portable air filter in your classroom.
3. Get the vaccine if you have not already done so.
 - a. BUSD will continue to offer weekly testing clinics to employees and students.