



# LEA PLAN FOR SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION AND CONTINUITY OF SERVICES

BIRMINGHAM COMMUNITY CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

2022-2023

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## PLAN INTRODUCTION

The following plan outlines all components of our procedures and protocols for the safe return to in-person instruction for the 2022-2023 school year. Protocols outlined in this plan have been revised in alignment with the most recent guidance from LACDPH. The health, safety and welfare of all members of our school and surrounding community is of the utmost importance. The established health protocols have been developed with input from the community and in alignment with state and local regional health department guidelines.

The BCCHS Covid-19 Compliance Team meets periodically and is comprised of staff representing administration, human resources, maintenance, health, security, and faculty. Our Covid Community Outreach representative is designated as the liaison to the Department of Public Health (DPH) in the event of an outbreak on campus. In addition, all managers and supervisors are responsible for implementing and maintaining the Covid Prevention Protocols in their assigned work areas and for ensuring employees receive answers to questions about the program in a language they understand. All employees are responsible for using safe work practices, following all directives, policies and procedures, and assisting in maintaining a safe work environment.

We implement COVID Guidelines issued by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health in alignment with the California Department of Public Health.

- Please refer to the California Department of Public Health for updated guidance related to Covid-19 protocols and guidelines for safe in-person instruction at the following page:

[http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/docs/protocols/Guidelines\\_for\\_COVID-19\\_Prevention\\_in\\_TK12\\_Schools.pdf](http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/docs/protocols/Guidelines_for_COVID-19_Prevention_in_TK12_Schools.pdf)

- Student vaccination requirements are aligned with LAUSD policy and the State of California. California strongly recommends that all eligible individuals [get vaccinated against COVID-19](#) and [remain up-to-date](#) to protect oneself and reduce transmission of the virus.

## MASK POLICY

In accordance with the LA County Department of Public Health (LACDPH) update on 3-31-23, masks are strongly recommended, but not required, indoors.

Masks, particularly [high-quality and well-fitting masks](#) (PDF), remain highly effective, inexpensive, and are dynamic tools to protect oneself and mitigate transmission of COVID-19 and other respiratory pathogens.

### 1. Required Actions:

- a. As noted in CDPH guidance [Get the Most Out of Masking](#), “no person can be prevented from wearing a mask as a condition of participation in an activity or entry into a venue or business (including schools or childcare), unless wearing a mask would pose a safety hazard” [e.g., watersports].
- b. As noted in [Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Non-Emergency Regulations](#), “Employers shall provide face coverings and ensure they are worn by employees when required by a CDPH regulation or order.” Employers are required to offer for voluntary use well-fitting medical masks and respirators, such as an N95, KN95 or KF94, at no cost to their employees who work indoors and have contact with other workers, students, and members of the public, or who are in vehicles with more than one person.

Upon request, BCCHS provides for voluntary use, well-fitting medical masks to school employees who work indoors and are in contact with others.

Masks are provided for any person that requests one before entering campus.

**PE, Dance, Performing Arts and Music Classes:**

Students and instructors are not required to wear face masks while indoors.

- Students are reminded to limit their exertion to a level that is comfortable when wearing a face mask and to immediately take a break from exercise if they begin to experience any difficulty breathing.
- Masks worn voluntarily should be changed if they become wet, if they stick to a person’s face, or if they obstruct breathing.
- For activities that generate a greater volume of respiratory droplets, such as heavy exertion, increasing the distance between individuals and limiting such activities to outdoor space is strongly recommended.

## PHYSICAL DISTANCING

Recent evidence indicates that in-person instruction can occur safely without minimum physical distancing requirements when other mitigation strategies (e.g., masking) are implemented. This is consistent with CDC K-12 School Guidance.

Seating charts are recommended in every class to support communication related to possible Covid exposure should the need arise.

## HANDWASHING AND RESPIRATORY ETIQUETTE

At least 2 washing hand stations will be available in every building corridor. Every classroom has access to an unlimited amount of hand sanitizer.

In order to implement effective hand sanitizing procedures, we:

- Provide hand sanitizer in offices, classrooms, break areas, entrance to the school and other high traffic areas
- Provide soap and water to employees in the following locations:
  - Faculty dining room
  - Restrooms in all buildings and hallways
  - Sinks in the nurse's office and main office
- Encouraging employees to wash their hands for at least 20 seconds each time.

## CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE OF HEALTHY FACILITIES

In general, cleaning once a day is usually enough to sufficiently remove potential viruses that may be on surfaces. Disinfecting (using disinfectants on the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency COVID-19](#) list) removes any remaining germs on surfaces, which further reduces any risk of spreading infection.

BCCHS cleans and disinfects all classrooms, offices and indoor spaces as needed and as frequently as is feasible.

High touch surfaces are disinfected daily. We implement the following cleaning and disinfection measures for frequently touched surfaces:

- Classrooms, common areas, break rooms and restrooms are cleaned daily and more frequently as needed.
- Single use items have replaced commonly shared/touched items
- Items which cannot be replaced with single use items are cleaned after each use
- High touch areas in staff break rooms are disinfected frequently, and there are no commonly shared items in the breakroom such as coffee pots or dishes
- Hand sanitizer is available in offices, classrooms, break areas, entrance to the school and other high traffic areas
- Disinfectant and related supplies are available to all employees by request to the maintenance department
- All classrooms and offices have been supplied with hand sanitizer and soap and water are maintained at all sinks with the exception of the lab sinks

## VENTILATION

We maximize, to the extent feasible, the quantity of outside air for our buildings with mechanical or natural ventilation systems by using: **MERV 13 or equivalent filtration in every classroom/office.**

- Ventilation system filters in every classroom and office are MERV 13.
- MERV-rated filters can provide substantial protection from long-range airborne infection, especially if ventilation is otherwise poor.
- MERV 13 removal efficiencies for particles of 0.3–1.0 µm: an average removal of ≥65 percent of 0.3–1.0 µm particles may reasonably be assumed.
- MERV 13 filters reduce the concentration of indoor generated small airborne particles and would lower any long-range transmission of SARS-CoV-2 indoors by these airborne particles.

**HEPA Portable Filter: Optional (with evidence of an underlying health condition)**

- HEPA-based Indoor Air Purifiers can trap and remove 99.97% of airborne particles as small as 0.3 microns.

## CONTACT TRACING, ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE

In the event of Covid-19 exposure, BCCHS uses the Los Angeles Department of Public Health (LA DPH) Appendix T2: Protocol for COVID 19 Exposure Management Plan in K-12 Schools. The protocol can be found at the following link:

[http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/coronavirus/docs/protocols/ExposureManagementPlan\\_K12Schools.pdf](http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/coronavirus/docs/protocols/ExposureManagementPlan_K12Schools.pdf)

This document contains plans for the isolation of case(s); identification of persons exposed to cases at school; immediate quarantine of exposed employees and/or students; assurance of access to testing for all exposed individuals within the school as the basis for further control measures; and reporting of all COVID-19 exposures at the school to the DPH by completing the Covid-19 Case and Contact Line List for the Educational Sector.

**Exposure to Covid-19**

An individual is considered to have exposure to Covid-19 if the person is within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more to someone who has been confirmed Covid-19 positive.

Guidelines for self-isolation for positive cases of Covid-19 and close contacts can be found at this link:

[http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/docs/isolation\\_quarantine\\_guidelines/LAC\\_DPH\\_Guidelines\\_for\\_COVID\\_cases\\_and\\_contacts.pdf](http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/docs/isolation_quarantine_guidelines/LAC_DPH_Guidelines_for_COVID_cases_and_contacts.pdf)

**For Exposure on Campus:**

1. BCCHS will immediately separate positive cases from the school community to self-isolation at home if notification occurs while the case is on-site. Temporary isolation of a case may occur either in the health office or in another designated space until arrangements are made for the person's return to their home.
2. BCCHS will provide information to the case or appropriate family member covering regulations governing self-isolation in accordance with current DPH guidelines.
3. Regardless of vaccination status, all individuals with a positive Covid-19 test result must be isolated for 5 days. Day 0 is the first day of the positive test. The individual may end isolation on

Day 6 providing there are no symptoms and the individual has been fever free for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication. It is strongly recommended that the individual test negative for Covid-19 prior to ending isolation. Individuals who still have symptoms after day 5 should continue to isolate for the entire 10 days.

For Exposure at Home:

Students who are quarantined will be able to access class work using Google Classroom and will be held harmless for the absences.

**Positive Cases of Covid-19**

Asymptomatic Positive Case

Upon notification to school officials that any member of the school community tests positive for or has symptoms consistent with Covid-19, we will enact safety protocols as follows:

Anyone who tests positive for Covid-19 will be required to isolate for 5 days from the date of the positive test (Day 0).

For asymptomatic positive cases: the individual may take a Covid test on day 6 and return to school if the test is negative. If the test on day 6 is positive, the individual must continue to quarantine for a total of ten days. The individual may return to school on day 11.

For symptomatic positive cases: the individual may take an antigen test 24 hours after symptoms have subsided (e.g. fever reduced without medication). If the test is negative, the individual may return to school on day 6. If the test on day 6 is positive, the individual must continue to quarantine for ten days. The individual may return to school on day 11.

Tests that are inconclusive: will be treated as positive. If the test is negative, the individual may return to school on day 6. If the test on day 6 is positive, the individual must continue to quarantine for ten days. The individual may return to school on day 11.

BCCHS will immediately report a cluster of cases (3 or more cases within 14 days) to the LACDPH either by email or by phone (888) 397-3993 or (213) 240-7821.

Should full or partial closure of in-person school operations become necessary, classes will resume on-line coursework/classes via distance learning.

BCCHS will incorporate surveillance testing and reporting into regular school operations per DPH guidelines should the DPH require this testing.

Vulnerable employees (those above age 65, and those with chronic health conditions that place them at high risk if infected) are assigned work that can be done from home whenever possible. Staff assignments and breaks are staggered to promote social distancing.

## COORDINATION WITH LOCAL AND STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENTS AND OFFICIALS

BCCHS personnel, including school leadership, School Nurse, our BCCHS Safety Committee, and Human Resources team meet as needed and remain up-to-date with LA County and California Department of Health guidelines for operations and Covid maintenance and response protocols governing educational institutions. We ensure all compliance and reporting protocols are followed. We also ensure any changes to our operational procedures or health and safety guidelines are communicated immediately to our school community through the ParentSquare communication tool.

## DIAGNOSTIC TESTING AND HEALTH SCREENING

BCCHS will provide Covid testing at no cost for all employees and students who have close contact with a person with Covid-19 or were exposed to a Covid positive case or who were exposed during an outbreak.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Health and safety protocols for students with disabilities are consistent with guidelines for all students. In the event a student has a documented medical reason for not wearing a mask, students with disabilities may use a face shield as an alternative. Additional support for students with disabilities are available through the Special Education department to ensure continuity of learning, accommodations and modifications as needed and in alignment with the students' Individual Education Plan.

## CONTINUITY OF SERVICES: ACADEMIC, SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL, MENTAL HEALTH AND NUTRITION

In the event of Covid exposure or future need for the closure of the physical school plant and in-person instruction, all instruction will continue via Google Classroom and video conferencing through Zoom or MS Teams. Social, emotional and mental health support will continue through remote access and referral services. Nutritional services will continue through daily pick-up meal distribution.

## PUBLIC COMMENT INFORMING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLAN

This plan and school procedures have been developed with ongoing input and communication from the school community. BCCHS has conducted many surveys to families, students, faculty, staff and community members to inform procedures and policies affecting the implementation of in-person instruction. Educational Partners have access to two-way communication through our school communication platform, ParentSquare. Feedback and input have been solicited and encouraged



through ParentSquare as well as through public meetings such as Coffee with the Principal, School Board Meetings, Open House, and in committees such as: Parent Family Engagement Team (PFET), Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA), and English Learner Advisory Council (ELAC). All policies have been developed in alignment with DPH guidelines and with feedback from the BCCHS community.

## ASSURANCES

BCCHS provides the following assurances:

- The LEA has made (in the case of statutorily compliant plans) or will make (in the case of new plans) its plan publicly available no later than 30 days after receiving its ARP ESSER allocation.
- The LEA sought public comment in the development of its plan and took those public comments into account in the development of its plan.
- The LEA will periodically review and, as appropriate revise its plan, at least every six months.
- The LEA will seek public comment in determining whether to revise its plan and, if it determines revisions are necessary, on the revisions it makes to the plan.
- If the LEA revises its plan, it will ensure its revised plan addresses each of the aspects of safety currently recommended by the Centers for Disease Control(CDC), or if the CDC has revised its guidance, the updated safety recommendations at the time the LEA is revising its plan.
- The LEA has created its plan in an understandable and uniform format.
- The LEA's plan is, to the extent practicable, written in a language that parents can understand, or if not practicable, orally translated.
- The LEA will, upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability, provide the plan in an alternative format accessible to that parent.