

## BCA/WPS Infectious Disease Policies

(June 2022)

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### 1. MASK POLICY:

Masks are **optional** indoors and outdoors at all of our campuses, with the following exceptions:

- Masks are **required** in the "isolation room" when symptomatic students are awaiting pickup
- Masks are **required** in the nurse's office (BCA) or at the front office (WPS) when care is being provided
- Masks may be **required** in certain situations (outbreaks, etc.) per consultation with our local health jurisdiction

Masks are also **strongly encouraged** in the following situations:

- For those recovering from a non-COVID respiratory illness following a negative test and return to school (*follow symptom policy for return*)
- For 10 days following a known COVID exposure
- When participating in high-risk activities such as indoor contact sports, performing arts, and band (bell covers recommended for wind instruments)
- When community transmission rates are high

### 2. POSITIVE COVID-19 TEST RESULT:

If a student tests positive for SARS-CoV-2 by a molecular or antigen test, please complete our [BCA/WPS Covid-19 Positive Case Notification Form](#). The student must isolate at home for a minimum of 5 full days after symptom onset or positive test date if no symptoms are present (this is day 0). They may return on day 6 if:

1. No fever within the past 24 hours (without medication), AND
2. Symptoms have significantly improved, AND
3. Student wears a well-fitted mask around others days 6-10 OR tests negative with an antigen test to return without a mask

If they cannot wear a mask and do not test negative after day 5, they must isolate through day 10.

### 3. EXPOSURE TO COVID-19:

Regardless of vaccination status, students are no longer required to quarantine after exposure to COVID-19 unless they develop symptoms. We will no longer be notifying individual classes of positive cases.

If a student has a known exposure outside of school, they are encouraged to:

- Wear a well-fitted mask for 10 days after the last date of exposure
- Monitor for symptoms
- Get tested 3-5 days after their last exposure. Molecular (PCR/NAAT), antigen, and at-home tests are accepted.

Note: If a student has been recently infected (within the past 90 days), antigen testing is recommended, as PCR results may remain persistently positive and not be indicative of a new, active infection.

If a student develops symptoms, please follow protocol for [SYMPTOMS](#). If a student tests positive, please follow protocol for [POSITIVE COVID-19 TEST RESULT](#).

\*Note that household exposures hold the highest risk of transmission. If your child has a household exposure, please see the following recommendations:

1. Isolate the positive individual from the rest of the household if possible. Then test exposed individuals 3-5 days following last date of exposure.
2. Your child is allowed to continue to attend school as long as they remain symptom-free, but you are welcome to keep them home out of precaution. If they do attend school, please ask them to wear a mask and test them each morning before school if possible.

### 4. COVID-19 SYMPTOMS:

If a student develops any cold, flu, or COVID-19 symptoms, as defined by fever, cough, congestion/runny nose, sore throat, headache, body aches, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, new loss of taste or smell, fatigue, diarrhea, or nausea/vomiting, the student must stay home from school. Families have three options for their child's return to school **once symptoms have significantly improved** (including no fever for 24 hours without medication):

1. Healthcare provider's note confirming safe return to school
2. Negative COVID-19 result, OR
3. 5 days since symptom onset, followed by masking through day 10

NOTE: If a student has ONLY ONE short-term symptom, as defined below, they may return to school the next day. A COVID-19 test is not required, though still recommended for anyone experiencing one or more symptoms. A person with a short-term symptom has:

- ONE of the following symptoms: fatigue; headache; muscle pain or body aches; sore throat; congestion or runny nose; nausea or vomiting; or diarrhea
- AND the symptom begins and resolves in less than 24 hours
- AND no known COVID-19 exposure

If you choose options #1 or #2, please email test results or provider's notes to [summer@bcacademy.com](mailto:summer@bcacademy.com). For at-home tests, a picture of the negative test result is accepted. Please encourage your child to wear a mask at school until they are completely symptom-free.

See more under the DOH's [What to do if a Person is Symptomatic](#).

## **OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

It is important to keep your child home when they are sick, regardless of COVID test results. Remember that if they have COVID symptoms, our protocol requires that their symptoms should have **significantly improved** before their return. If they wake up sick, it is not acceptable to test them for COVID and then send them to school. They need to stay home until they feel better.

Some other illnesses can continue to be infectious for days after symptoms resolve. For example, if your child has nausea/vomiting and diarrhea, which are symptoms of **norovirus**, or "the stomach bug," they must stay home for 24 hours after symptoms fully resolve, preferably 48 hours. You can read more about norovirus [here](#).

Another infectious disease we may see at school is **conjunctivitis**, or "pinkeye." This is not always caused by a virus or bacteria, but when it is, it is contagious. If your child has white or yellow drainage from their eye, altered vision, and/or redness of the eyelid or skin surrounding the eye, they must stay home from school and see a healthcare provider who can determine when it is safe to return.

In addition to staying home, **handwashing** is the most effective way to prevent the spread of both norovirus and viral/bacterial conjunctivitis.

Thank you for your partnership in keeping our school safe and healthy.