

BCA/WPS Infectious Disease Policies

(updated August 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 symptoms policy for return*)
- For 10 days following a known COVID exposure, especially if in contact with individuals at high-risk for getting very sick
- When community transmission rates are high

Individuals who have tested positive and returned to school after completing 5 full days of isolation **should** wear a well-fitting mask through day 10.

2. POSITIVE COVID-19 TEST RESULT:

If a student or staff member tests positive for SARS-CoV-2 by a molecular or antigen test, please complete our [BCA/WPS Covid-19 Positive Case Notification Form](#) (*Staff, please complete [STAFF] BCA-WPS Covid-19 Positive Case Notification Form*). The student or staff member must isolate at home for a minimum of 5 full days after symptom onset or positive test date if no symptoms are present (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

They should wear well-fitting mask around others days 6-10. If they cannot wear a mask, they should isolate through day 10.

3. EXPOSURE TO COVID-19:

Regardless of vaccination status, students and staff 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. Per [DOH Requirements & Guidance](#), we will be providing weekly reports indicating if each campus has had one or more cases.

If an individual has a known exposure (close contact), especially a household exposure, they are encouraged to:

- Monitor for symptoms
- Wear a mask around others for 10 days following exposure
- Get tested* right away and, if negative, repeat testing every 24-48 hours through at least the first 5 days after exposure (*If prolonged contact such as household, continue to test until 5 days after the last positive household member's isolation has ended*)

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

Note: "Close contact" is defined as within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more.

4. COVID-19 SYMPTOMS:

If a student or staff member 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 or staff member must stay home from school**. There are three options for their return to school **once symptoms have significantly improved** (including no fever for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication):

1. Healthcare provider's note confirming safe return to school
2. Negative COVID-19 result, OR
3. 5 full days since symptom onset (symptom onset is day 0)

If you choose options #1 or #2, please email students' test results or provider's notes to nurse@bcacademy.com (or, for PrePrimary, satellite@bcacademy.com). A picture of a negative test 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](#)

5. 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.