



BPC COVID-19 Testing & Quarantining FAQs

Lower School

- What kind of COVID-19 test will BPC use?
 - BPC's health team will use PCR (molecular) pool tests from Concentric by Gingko, which tests up to 25 students at one time.
 - Each classroom will be considered one pool.
 - [Concentric by Gingko FAQs](#)

- When and where will testing take place?
 - Weekly testing will take place on campus during the school day.
 - Day and time: Tuesdays, 9:00 am–12:00 pm
 - Location: Outdoors on campus

- How does the test work?
 - Each student will swab their own nose by inserting the nasal swab ½ inch into each nostril and swirling it around 4 times in each nostril.
 - Each swab will be placed into the same tube and sent to Gingko's lab to interpret results.
 - PCR tests are highly accurate, making this test the best choice for our unvaccinated K–5 students.

- What if my child can't self-swab? Who will help them?
 - This PCR test is easy enough that even kindergarteners should be able to complete the test on their own. BPC's health team will clearly explain and demonstrate how to do it.
 - No physical contact will be necessary.
 - If your child needs assistance, they will receive help from a trained staff member.

- When will families receive test results?
 - No news is good news. Test results will be sent to our health team within 48–72 hours. If a pool comes back positive, only then will families be contacted by the school.

- What happens if my student's pool is positive?
 - BPC's health team will promptly test each student individually using rapid antigen tests provided by CDPH, which will provide results in 15-30 minutes.
 - Regardless of symptoms, any student who has a positive test result will be sent home immediately; the department of public health will be in touch to review isolation protocols and next steps.
 - Close contacts (as determined by Berkeley Public Health Division) of the student who tests positive will be contacted and instructed to quarantine. Your student's information will be shared with BPHD so they can determine next steps.

- What if my student tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 3 months? Do they still need to be tested weekly?
 - Per CDPH and BPHD protocols, your students will be exempt from participating in testing for 90 days.
 - Once 90 days have passed, BPC will begin including them in their classroom's pool testing.
 - If your child is symptomatic during this 90-day period, please contact your medical provider and obtain a test outside of BPC.

Upper School

- What kind of test will BPC use?
 - Abbott BinaxNOW Ag Card (rapid antigen test), which provides results in 15 minutes.
 - [Abbott FAQs](#)
- When and where will testing take place?
 - BPC's health team will be testing **unvaccinated** students twice weekly. (In order for your student to be considered fully vaccinated, the school must have a record of their vaccinations on file.)
 - Testing will occur during the school day at a time designated by the division head. (If your child is absent the day of testing, we will test them on their return.)
 - Students will swab their noses outdoors, and the team will process the tests indoors. Surfaces will be disinfected after all tests are processed.
- How does the test work?
 - Each student will receive a nasal swab which they will insert ½ inch into each nostril. They will be instructed to swab each nostril at least 5 times, for a total of 15 seconds per nostril.
 - Students will give the swab to a BPC health team member.
 - Swabs will be inserted into antigen test cards, with results being read after 15 minutes and no later than 30 minutes.
 - Students will be dismissed back to class when they have finished swabbing.
- When will families receive test results?
 - Test results will be sent via text/email to parents soon after your student is tested, within 1-2 hours.
- What happens if my student's test result is positive?
 - BPC will contact the family immediately to discuss next steps. In some cases, an additional rapid antigen test may be administered.
 - BPC is able to administer a confirmatory PCR test on site, which will be shipped to a lab for processing. Families are also able to obtain their own confirmatory PCR test outside of BPC.
 - The student who has a positive test result will be sent home immediately; a local Department of Public Health will be in touch to review isolation protocols and next steps.
 - Close contacts (as determined by Berkeley Public Health Division) of the student who tests positive will be contacted and instructed to quarantine. Your student's information will be shared with BPHD so they can determine next steps.

Quarantining

- What is a **modified quarantine**?
 - A period of time (10 days) during which students who were exposed to COVID-19 (for more than 15 minutes over a 24-hour period within 0-6 feet indoors) can **continue in-person instruction, but must refrain from extracurricular activities, including sports (both in school and in the community)**.
 - [City of Berkeley COVID-19 Quarantine Order \(August 19, 2021\)](#)
 - [COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2021-22 School Year](#)
 - Eligibility:
 - Asymptomatic, unvaccinated students who were exposed to COVID-19 in any school setting, when both parties were fully masked at the time of exposure (indoors and outdoors) and supervised by school staff. **Modified quarantine only applies to school settings.**
 - Both positive and exposed student were fully masked at the time of exposure

- Requirements:
 - Except for in-person classroom instruction, students in modified quarantine must stay home and away from others when not in class
 - They must refrain from all community activities. At school, they must refrain from all sports and high-risk activities like singing and band.
 - An initial negative test is not required to initiate modified quarantine
 - Test twice weekly (must be supervised in school setting or by healthcare provider) with negative results for 10 days
 - If any symptoms develop, isolate and get tested immediately
 - Eligible for shortened quarantine

- What is a **shortened quarantine**?
 - Unvaccinated student quarantine can end *after* Day 7 (Day 8 or later) if a negative test is collected *after* Day 5 (Day 6 or later) from the date of last exposure
 - [City of Berkeley COVID-19 Quarantine Order \(August 19, 2021\)](#)
 - [COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2021-22 School Year](#)
 - Eligibility:
 - Student must be unvaccinated and asymptomatic
 - Students who were masked or unmasked at the time of the exposure
 - Students in modified and standard quarantine may be eligible

- Requirements:
 - Continue daily self-monitoring for symptoms for 14 days from last exposure
 - If any symptoms develop, isolate and get tested immediately

- What is a **10-day (standard) quarantine**?
 - This is an option for students who were exposed to someone with COVID-19 who do not get tested, but stay home and away from others for 10 days.
 - If the exposure happened outside of school, the student must quarantine for 10 days from their *last* exposure, and contact the BPC Campus Health Team.
 - On Day 11 students may resume normal activities.

- Students must continue to be monitored for symptoms between Day 11 and Day 14.
- What will learning look like for a quarantined student?
 - BPC is not currently equipped to manage a full distance learning program for quarantined students. We do, however, plan to reach out to families when in-person attendance is not practical/possible and do our best to help students stay as up-to-date as possible with learning and assignments.
- [K-12 Schools Guidance 2021-2022 FAQs](#)
- [2021-2022 Quarantine Requirements for TK-12 School Settings Decision Tree Handout](#)
- [COVID-19 Flowchart for Parents](#)
- [ACOE Modified and Shortened Quarantine Flowchart](#)

BPC Campus Health Team

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Questions? Please contact Lauren Cates at: healthhub@blackpinecircle.org