



## K-8 COVID-19 Safety Plan (updated March 2022)

### Daily Health Screening

- All BPC families are encouraged to complete a daily health screening for their student(s) using ParentSquare. [Click here for instructions](#) to complete the health screening.
- COVID-19 symptoms include: fever (temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or greater), chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea. If these symptoms develop, do not send your child/come to school. Contact your healthcare provider and/or have your child tested/get tested as soon as possible.
- If your student is not cleared to attend school after completing the health screening, they must stay home and email [healthhub@blackpinecircle.org](mailto:healthhub@blackpinecircle.org) for further instructions.
- Our COVID-19 health team will be tracking the data to determine trends and protocols for symptomatic students.

### Masking Recommendations

- Masking is optional both indoors and outdoors.
- Masking indoors is optional but “strongly recommended”.
- See the [New Masking Guidance Effective 3/21/22](#)
- Masking choices are up to individual families/staff.
- The following types of masks are recommended for use:
  - Fitted surgical mask
  - KN95 | KF94 | N95
  - Double mask (surgical mask with a cloth mask over it)
- BPC will have disposable 3-ply masks available for students who need them.
- BPC is asking those students/staff participating in high-exertion activities indoors (volleyball, singing, band, etc.) to wear a mask.
- Parents on BPC campuses (regardless of vaccination status):
  - are **required to wear masks indoors** when sharing spaces with students.
  - are not required to wear masks outdoors.

### COVID-19 Testing

- All students and staff, regardless of vaccination status, are tested regularly for COVID-19. Black Pine Circle follows the CDPH guidelines regarding frequency, guided by Alameda County and Berkeley case rates.
- **Lower School (K-5)**

- Black Pine Circle administers weekly pooled PCR testing in partnership with [Concentric by Gingko](#), with support from CDPH.
- Tests deliver results in 48-72 hours, however, parents will only be notified if there is a positive or inconclusive pool/result. No news is good news.
- BPC is prepared to do rapid testing in the event of a positive pool/result.
- Testing occurs every Tuesday during class from 9:00 am-11:25 am.
- **Additional Lower School testing:**
  - BPC administers the [Abbot BinaxNOW Rapid Antigen Test](#), with support from CDPH
    - as needed, guided by local case rates and BPC's positivity rate
    - if students or staff become symptomatic on the school's campus
    - if they were exposed to a confirmed positive COVID-19 case on BPC's campus.
- **Upper School (6-8)**
  - Black Pine Circle administers the [Abbot BinaxNOW Rapid Antigen Test](#), with support from CDPH.
    - These tests are administered:
      - weekly for all students, at a frequency to be determined by community case rates;
      - if they become symptomatic while on BPC's campus;
      - if they were exposed to a confirmed positive COVID-19 case on BPC's campus.
    - These tests deliver results in 15 minutes.
    - Test results are uploaded and sent via email/text to BPC families by the end of the testing day.
- **If your child tests positive for COVID-19, please contact [healthhub@blackpinecircle.org](mailto:healthhub@blackpinecircle.org) as soon as possible for next steps.**
- **Re-testing after a positive test result is no longer recommended. Please review these important new [COVID-19 Re-Testing Tips](#).**
- **If your child is symptomatic and their COVID-19 test result is negative:**
  - **Stay home and do not return until symptoms have resolved/improved (we understand coughs can linger).**
  - **Test again 24-48 hours later or before returning to BPC.**

### **Meals**

- Eating snacks and lunch will take place outside as weather permits.
- Food sharing is discouraged.

### **Hand-washing, Cleaning, and Ventilation**

- Students will continue to practice frequent hand-washing/sanitizing throughout the school day.
- Students can share materials so long as they wash hands and/or sanitize before and after using shared materials.
- Per CDPH guidance, Black Pine Circle will clean and sanitize classrooms, common spaces, and surfaces once daily.
- The school will continue to implement our ventilation and filtering procedures including HVAC/MERV-13 air filters, air purifiers, and opening windows and doors whenever possible to increase air flow.

## **Quarantine, Isolation, Close Contacts, and Case Reporting**

- Staff and students with COVID-19 symptoms (regardless of vaccination status) must not return to school until they meet the following criteria:
  - At least 24 hours have passed since the resolution of a fever without the use or fever-reducing medications, **and**
  - Other symptoms have improved, **and**
  - They have a negative COVID-19 test or a healthcare provider has provided documentation of an alternative diagnosis.
  
- **Quarantine:**
  - BPC will ask your child to quarantine if they are considered a *household close contact*. Please email [healthhub@blackpinecircle.org](mailto:healthhub@blackpinecircle.org) if someone in your household tests positive for COVID-19.
  - If your child has COVID-19 symptoms or is exposed to someone with COVID-19, please see: [COVID-19 Flowchart for Parents](#)
  - We are no longer asking close contacts (from a school exposure) to quarantine. This applies to unvaccinated and vaccinated students.
  - Staff and faculty who are considered close contacts and are booster eligible, but do not yet have their booster, will be asked to quarantine for 5 days after their exposure.
  
- **Isolation:**
  - If your child tested positive for COVID-19, they will need to:
    - isolate, regardless of vaccination status or lack of symptoms
    - stay home for at least 5 days
  - Isolation can end after Day 5 if symptoms are not present or are resolving and a diagnostic test (antigen preferred) is negative.
  - If unable to test or choose not to test, it is best to isolate through Day 10.
  - If fever is present, isolation should continue until fever resolves.
  - If other symptoms are not resolving, continue to isolate until symptoms are resolving or until after Day 10.
  - Wear a well-fitting mask around others for a total of 10 days, especially in indoor settings
  - [When can I leave isolation?](#)
  
- **Close Contacts:**
  - If your child is considered a [close contact](#), they:
    - spent 15 minutes within 6 feet of someone known to have COVID-19, either after they were diagnosed or up to two days before they started showing symptoms.
    - had multiple brief exposures adding up to 15 minutes, especially if indoors, and even if you wore face coverings or masks.
    - had unprotected direct contact with an infected person's sneeze, saliva, or cough.
    - do not have to quarantine
  - If a staff/faculty member is considered a close contact, they:

- spent 15 minutes within 6 feet of someone known to have COVID-19, either after they were diagnosed or up to two days before they started showing symptoms.
    - had multiple brief exposures adding up to 15 minutes, especially if indoors, and even if you wore face coverings or masks.
    - had unprotected direct contact with an infected person's sneeze, saliva, or cough.
    - do not have to quarantine unless they are booster eligible and have not yet gotten their booster
  - If a staff/faculty member is booster eligible but has not yet had their booster, BPC will ask them to quarantine at home for 5 days, and will need to take a test on Day 5.
  - **Group-Tracing Approach:**
    - When a member of our school community tests positive for COVID-19, BPC's health team considers any person who has been exposed a close contact, and those individuals will be notified accordingly.
  - It is recommended that close contacts wear a well-fitting mask indoors and outdoors for 10 days after their last exposure unless eating or drinking.
- **Case Reporting:** Black Pine Circle is required to report positive COVID-19 cases to the Berkeley public health division.
  - Please contact the school immediately if you or anyone in your household tests positive for COVID-19, even if you or your student have not been on campus.
  - In addition to reporting positive COVID-19 cases, BPC is required to report any close contacts with a confirmed positive COVID-19 case, if the exposure happened on BPC's campus.

### **Health & Safety Communications with the BPC Community**

- BPC regularly publishes a health and safety newsletter which includes testing and masking updates, weekly COVID-19 positivity rates and community vaccination rates.
- If a student/staff member tests positive for COVID-19, a letter is sent to close contacts about the possibility of exposure with instructions about testing/quarantining etc. Every effort is made to protect the privacy of the individual who tests positive.
- If a student/staff member tests positive for COVID-19, a notification is sent to the entire community. Every effort is made to protect the privacy of the individual who tests positive.

**These health and safety guidelines are subject to change throughout the year depending on updated guidance/mandates from state and local health authorities.**