



## **BPC COVID-19 Safety Plan for 2023–24 School Year** **(Updated 1/25/24)**

***Black Pine Circle School will continue to follow CDPH K-12 Guidance for Covid-19 Risk Mitigation for the 2023–24 school year. This plan will be updated and families will be notified if the guidance changes during the school year.***

### **Vaccinations:**

- 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.
- Please visit the [City of Berkeley's vaccination webpage](#) for more information about vaccination opportunities.

### **Ventilation:**

- To increase the circulation of outdoor air, classroom windows and doors will be open when practicable.
- The school will continue to implement our ventilation and filtering procedures including HVAC/MERV-13 air filters.

### **Mask Wearing Guidance:**

- BPC will have masks available for any student or staff member who wishes to wear one.
- Students and staff should follow CDPH guidance for [When and Where to Wear a Mask](#), as well as masking guidance for specific situations (see below).
  - **Per CDPH, individuals who test positive should wear a well-fitting mask around others for a total of 10 days in indoor settings.**
  - BPC **recommends** that close contacts wear a mask for 10 days after their last exposure to a case, however, the school will not be monitoring mask-wearing for close contacts.
- In the event that BPC receives guidance from a local and/or state health department that requires a mask be worn while on campus, we will notify the BPC community as soon as is feasible.

### **Hand Washing:**

- Students will continue to practice frequent hand washing/sanitizing throughout the school day.
- Teachers of young students will teach hand washing routines when the school year begins.

### **Meals:**

- Eating snacks and lunch will take place outside as weather permits.

### **COVID-19 Testing:**

- CDPH recommends over the counter antigen tests be considered the primary option for detecting COVID-19 in schools.
- Testing should be considered when engaging in activities that might result in high-risk exposures (e.g. large gatherings, travel). Such activities may occur more often during major breaks from school.
- We ask families to invest in antigen tests for their students (readily available at CVS, Walgreens, Costco, etc.).
- **To view CDPH guidance with information about what to do after testing positive for COVID-19, please click [here](#).**
- If, for some reason, obtaining OTC COVID-19 tests is a hardship for your family, please contact Sonam Gonsar (Upper School Office Manager) or Lucy Morris (Lower School Office Manager).

### **What To Do If You Test Positive for COVID-19:**

- **Parents/guardians must [report their student's positive test HERE](#).** *Reporting cases allows us to understand the number of cases in our community and ensure COVID-19 positive individuals receive appropriate return-to-school instructions.\**
- **Stay home if you have COVID-19 symptoms, until you have not had a fever for 24 hours without using fever-reducing medication, AND COVID-19 symptoms are mild and improving.**
  - A mask **must** be worn while indoors for 10 days following a positive test with symptoms.
  - Symptoms of COVID-19 include:
    - Fever or chills
    - Cough
    - Shortness or breath or difficulty breathing
    - Fatigue
    - Muscle or body aches
    - Headache
    - New loss of taste or smell
    - Sore throat
    - Congestion or runny nose
    - Nausea or vomiting
    - Diarrhea
- If you test positive for COVID-19 and do not have symptoms please adhere to the following guidance:
  - **Mask when you are around other people indoors for 10 days following a positive test. You may remove your mask sooner than 10 days if you have two negative tests taken at least one day apart.**
  - **Avoid contact with those at higher risk for severe COVID-19 for 10 days.**
- **[Staff must report their COVID-19 case by filling out THIS FORM.](#)**
- Speak with your healthcare provider about treatment options.

\*The potential infectious period is 2 days before the onset of symptoms or the positive test date (if no symptoms) through Day 10. (Day 0 is the symptom onset date or positive test date).

### **Recommendations for Close Contacts (per CDPH):**

- **If you have COVID-19 symptoms you should mask and test right away.**

- **If you do not have symptoms, and are at higher risk of severe COVID-19 infection, you should test within 5 days.**
- **If you do not have symptoms and have contact with people who are at higher risk of severe COVID-19 infection, you should mask indoors when around such people for 10 days.**

#### **Exposure Notifications:**

- Parents/guardians will receive routine close contact notifications during the 2023–24 school year.
- **BPC will provide general notifications to the entire community when there is an outbreak in the school community.**
  - An outbreak is considered 3 positive COVID-19 cases within a 7-day period that are epidemiologically linked.
- BPC will continue to follow Cal/OSHA notification requirements for faculty and staff who test positive or are exposed, including direct notification of exposures, case notifications, and outbreak notifications to staff members.
  - Cal/OSHA Outbreak definition: three or more COVID-19 cases among employees in an “exposed group” within a 7-day period\*
  - Cal/OSHA Major Outbreak definition: 20 or more COVID-19 cases in an “exposed group” within a 30-day period

#### **Reporting to the Berkeley Public Health Division:**

- BPC will follow all guidance in regard to reporting positive cases to our local health jurisdiction, the City of Berkeley Public Health Division.

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