



WILDCAT CANYON COMMUNITY SCHOOL
blossoming from East Bay Waldorf School

COVID 19 Health and Safety Policy

August 25, 2023

I. PURPOSE

The Wildcat Canyon Community School (WCCS) is deeply committed to providing in person school programming without compromising the health and safety of all of our community members. To this end, WCCS is following all applicable state and local guidance related to COVID-19. At heart, teachers and parents all want their children to be safe and our policy framework is intended to establish a baseline of practices for us to trust as a community.

The main goal of this policy is to prevent transmission of COVID-19 viruses among our community while ensuring that all students have as much safe and full in-person instructional time as possible. We are committed to providing in person instructions that support student physical and emotional health. This will require the cooperation of the WCCS community as we navigate in person schooling in the midst of the COVID pandemic. This policy is based on the May 23, 2023 guidance, published by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), [“COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K–12 Schools to Support Safe In-Person Learning, 2022–2023 School Year”](#) and March 14, 2023 Contra Costa County Guidance on [”K-12 Schools, Preschool/Childcare Guidance When a Student, Teacher, or Staff Member is Symptomatic, a Close Contact, or Diagnosed with COVID-19”](#). The policy will be updated to reflect changes made on the local and the State level. It is important that our entire community is familiar with this policy, and its subsequent updates, and follow all procedures contained herein.

II. ROLES and RESPONSIBILITIES

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees is responsible for ensuring that all necessary school functions are in place and functional. Specifically, the school’s Administration Circle is responsible for creating this policy and keeping it up to date. In addition, the Administration Circle is responsible for making sure the teachers and the parents are well aware of this policy and its implementation requirements.

Teachers

The teachers are responsible for being intimately familiar with the policy and its implementation guidance as described herein. The teachers are responsible for ensuring that children under their supervision follow guidelines outlined below.

Parents and School Volunteers

Parents and school volunteers are responsible for being intimately familiar with the policy and its implementation guidelines as described below.

III. SCHOOL WIDE SAFETY MEASURES

A. FACE COVERINGS

Face coverings are not required in indoor or outdoor settings. No person can be prevented from wearing a mask as a condition of participation in an activity or entry into a school, unless wearing a mask would pose a safety hazard (e.g., watersports).

B. VENTILATION

- 1) Unless prohibited due to incremental weather, unhealthy air quality days or similar, all classes will have a combination of indoor and outdoor experiences.
- 2) WCCS is following [CDC](#) guidance on ventilation of indoor spaces.¹
- 3) When air quality is AQI 100 or better, our school will optimize ventilation in indoor spaces by opening all available windows and doors throughout the school day.
- 4) Each classroom is equipped with and will run high-quality air filters with HEPA components.
- 5) Each bathroom is well ventilated.

C. HAND HYGIENE

- 1) The teachers will teach and reinforce washing hands, avoiding contact with one's eyes, nose, and mouth, and covering coughs and sneezes among students.
- 2) Handwashing will be promoted throughout the day, especially before and after eating as well as after using the toilet.

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/ventilation.html>

- 3) The school will ensure adequate supplies of resources to support healthy hygiene behaviors.

D. MANAGING COVID-19 IN SCHOOL SETTINGS

The following requirements are based on the most recent Contra Costa County guidance for [“K-12 Schools, Preschool/Childcare Guidance When a Student, Teacher, or Staff Member is Symptomatic, a Close Contact, or Diagnosed with COVID-19”](#).

Situation	Immediate Action	Follow Up
<p>COVID-19 Symptoms (e.g., fever, cough, runny nose, loss of taste or smell, difficulty breathing)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Send home and advise contact to consult with their primary care provider for recommendations regarding the need for testing. 2. If negative COVID-19 test result (PCR) or (antigen – consider retesting if using antigen 24 hours after negative test) or COVID-19 ruled out by primary care provider, can return 24 hours after fever resolves and symptoms have improved. 	<p>None.</p>
<p>Positive COVID-19 Test</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Must isolate stay home for at least 5 days from positive test 2. You will no longer need to isolate after day 5 if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Symptoms are not present, or are mild and improving; AND - You are fever-free for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medication). 3. If you end your isolation after day 5, consider wearing a well-fitted mask around others for a total of 10 days, especially in indoor settings. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify Close Contacts.² 2. Notify CCHS If: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Elementary Schools and Childcare: report clusters of 3 or more cases in the same classroom including teachers and students. - Middle and High Schools: report if 10% of campus population are COVID 19 positive in a 14-day period.

² Close Contact² means the following:

1. In indoor spaces of 400,000 or fewer cubic feet per floor, close contact is defined as sharing the same indoor airspace for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period during a confirmed case's infectious period.
2. In large indoor spaces greater than 400,000 cubic feet per floor, close contact is defined as being within 6 feet of the infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period during the confirmed case's infectious period.

Contacts to COVID-19 Positive	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Quarantine not required. 2. Get tested between days 3-5 after exposure. 3. Consider wearing a well-fitted mask around others for 10 days, especially indoors. 4. If you develop symptoms, get tested right away and isolate if positive. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The School must notify all employees who may have had close contact with a COVID-19 case within one business day in a manner that does not reveal the COVID-19 case's personal identifying information.
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E. COVID – 19 TESTING

For the purposes of diagnostic testing for COVID-19, any PCR (molecular) or antigen test used must either have an Emergency Use Authorization by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration or be operating per the Laboratory Developed Test requirements by the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. In-home tests are acceptable as long as they meet the above requirements.

All test results must be emailed to a confidentially managed email address at covid@wildcatcanyon.org.

F. COVID-19 SAFETY PLANNING TRANSPARENCY

In order to build trust in the school community and support successful return to school, this policy will be posted on the school’s public website and included as part of the school’s parent/child handbooks for both grades and early childhood classes.