



WILDCAT CANYON COMMUNITY SCHOOL
blossoming from East Bay Waldorf School

COVID 19 Health and Safety Policy

August 22, 2021

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 August 2, 2021 guidance, published by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), “[COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2021-22 School Year](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/K-12-Guidance-2021-22-School-Year.aspx)”¹. 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 Operations Circle is responsible for creating this policy and keeping it up to date. In addition, the Operations Circle is responsible for making sure the teachers and the parents are well aware of this policy and its implementation requirements.

¹ <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/K-12-Guidance-2021-22-School-Year.aspx>

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. WCCS SCHOOL WIDE SAFETY MEASURES

A. Face Coverings

- 1) Face Covers are required to be worn by everyone when sharing indoor space with children except when actively eating or drinking.
- 2) Teachers reinforce indoor face covering use throughout the day.
- 3) Face Coverings are optional outdoors.
- 4) The school will maintain a stock of face coverings for students who inadvertently fail to bring a face covering to school to prevent unnecessary exclusions.
- 5) Parents are highly encouraged to discuss any concerns pertaining to masking with their child's teacher.
- 6) The following **individuals** are exempt from wearing masks at all times:
 - Persons younger than two years old. Very young children must not wear a mask because of the risk of suffocation.
 - Persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a mask. This includes persons with a medical condition for whom wearing a mask could obstruct breathing or who are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a mask without assistance.
 - Persons who are hearing impaired, or communicating with a person who is hearing impaired, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication.
 - Persons exempted from wearing a face covering due to a medical condition, must wear a non-restrictive alternative, such as a face shield with a drape on the bottom edge, as long as their condition permits it.
 - In limited situations where a face covering cannot be used for pedagogical or developmental reasons, a face shield with a drape can be used instead of a face covering while in the classroom as long as the wearer maintains physical distance from others.

B. PHYSICAL DISTANCING

- 1) Per CDC and CDPH guidelines, physical distancing is unnecessary in indoor environments when other mitigation strategies, such as face coverings and ventilation, are implemented.
- 2) WCCS will maximize physical distance indoors while eating and arrange for eating outdoors as much as feasible.

C. LUNCH AND SNACK BREAKS

- 1) Physical distance will be maximized as much as possible while eating indoors. Outdoor eating will be arranged for as much as possible.
- 2) Because of the very low risk of transmission from surfaces and shared objects, there is no need to limit food service approaches to single use items and packaged meals.

D. VENTILATION

- 1) Unless prohibited due to incremental weather, unhealthy air quality days or similar, all early childhood education programs will be held outdoors as much as possible. Upper grades programs will have a combination of indoor and outdoor experiences.
- 2) WCCS is following [CDC](#) guidance on ventilation of indoor spaces.²
- 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.

E. 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.

² <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.

F. CLEANING

- 1) Janitorial services are contracted for thorough cleanings 3 times a week.
- 2) Staff are disinfecting high-touch surfaces daily.
- 3) Teachers or students are wiping down desks and chairs daily.

G. STAYING HOME WHEN SICK

- 1) To keep our committee safe and school in person please do not send your child to school if there is any possibility that they are sick.
- 2) If you are not sure if your child is ill (i.e does not yet exhibit any of the known covid symptoms listed below), please err on the side of caution and keep them home a day for observation.
- 3) Any staff member, volunteer or child with COVID-19 symptoms illustrated on **Figure 1**, must stay home.
- 4) Self symptom checks are required for all staff and students every morning when attending school. Please make sure you or your child has no known covid symptoms.
- 5) Any student or staff member who develops symptoms during the day is sent home. Students are physically separated from classmates in a special 'Isolation Area' to await pick-up.
- 6) Getting tested for COVID-19 when symptoms are will help with rapid contact tracing and prevent possible spread at schools.
- 7) Staff and members of the community with symptoms of COVID-19 infection cannot return to school until they have met the following criteria to return to school for those with the following symptoms:
 - At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; and
 - Other symptoms have improved; and
 - They have a negative test for SARS-CoV-2, **OR** a healthcare provider has provided documentation that the symptoms are typical of their underlying chronic condition **OR** a healthcare provider has confirmed an alternative named diagnosis **OR** at least 10 days have passed since symptom onset.

FIGURE 1: Symptoms of COVID-19³

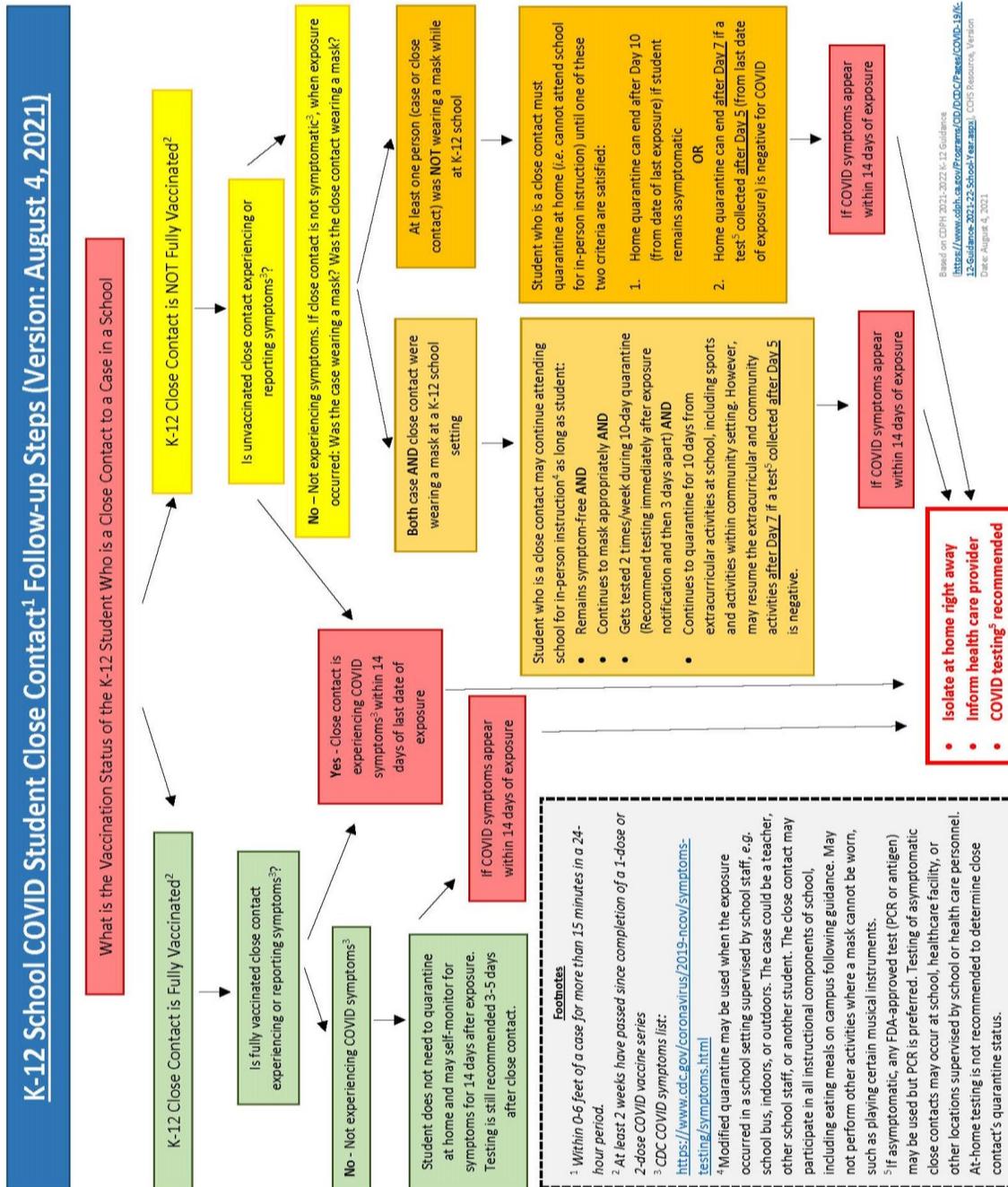
SYMPTOMS	COVID-19	COLD	FLU	ASTHMA	SEASONAL ALLERGIES
 Fever	✓		✓		
 Cough	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
 Shortness of breath	✓			✓	
 Fatigue, weakness	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
 Headache	✓		✓		✓
 Body / muscle aches	✓	✓	✓		
 Sneezing		✓	✓		✓
 Sore throat	✓	✓	✓		✓
 Stuffy or runny nose	✓	✓	✓		✓
 New loss of taste and smell	✓	✓			
 Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea	✓		✓		

³ <https://cchealth.org/covid19/pdf/Symptoms-Graphic.pdf>

H. CASE REPORTING AND QUARANTINE

The school is required to report COVID-19 cases to the local public health department. School's Operations Circle is responsible for maintaining an open communication channel with the Contra Costa County Public Health Department. Student close contact follow-up steps will be implemented in accordance with Figure 2.

FIGURE 2: Student Close Contact Follow-up Steps⁴



⁴ <https://cchealth.org/covid19/pdf/K-12-Close-Contact-Follow-up-Chart.pdf>

I. ISOLATION RECOMMENDATIONS

For both vaccinated and unvaccinated persons, follow the CDPH [Isolation Guidance](#)⁵ for those diagnosed with COVID-19.

K. 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.

L. VACCINE VERIFICATION FOR WORKERS IN SCHOOLS

Starting October 15, 2021, the school must comply with vaccine verification requirements for all workers. These requirements are based on the [State Public Health Officer Order of August 11, 2021](#).⁶

1) Vaccine Status Verification

In accordance with CDPH Guidance for Vaccine Records Guidelines & Standards, only the following modes may be used as proof of vaccination:

- COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card (issued by the Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control & Prevention or WHO Yellow Card) which includes name of person vaccinated, type of vaccine provided and date last dose administered); OR
- a photo of a Vaccination Record Card as a separate document; OR
- a photo of the client's Vaccination Record Card stored on a phone or electronic device; OR
- documentation of COVID-19 vaccination from a health care provider; OR
- digital record that includes a QR code that when scanned by a SMART Health Card reader displays to the reader client name, date of birth, vaccine dates and vaccine type; OR
- documentation of vaccination from other contracted employers who follow these vaccination records guidelines and standards.

In the absence of knowledge to the contrary, a school may accept the documentation presented as valid. Workers who are not fully vaccinated, or for whom vaccine status is unknown or documentation is not provided, must be considered unvaccinated.

We are working on creating a plan for tracking verified worker vaccination status. Records of vaccination verification must be made available, upon request, to the local health jurisdiction for purposes of case investigation.

⁵ <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Guidance-on-Isolation-and-Quarantine-for-COVID-19-Contact-Tracing.aspx>

⁶ <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Order-of-the-State-Public-Health-Officer-Vaccine-Verification-for-Workers-in-Schools.aspx>

2) Testing requirements

- Asymptomatic unvaccinated or incompletely vaccinated workers are required to undergo diagnostic screening testing.
- Workers may be tested with either antigen or molecular tests to satisfy this requirement, but unvaccinated or incompletely vaccinated workers must be tested at least once weekly with either PCR testing or antigen testing. Any PCR (molecular) or antigen test used must either have 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.
- Unvaccinated or incompletely vaccinated workers must also observe all other infection control requirements, and are not exempted from the testing requirement even if they have a medical contraindication to vaccination, since they are still potentially able to spread the illness. Previous history of COVID-19 from which the individual recovered more than 90 days earlier, or a previous positive antibody test for COVID-19, do not waive this requirement for testing.
- The school is working on a plan for tracking test results and conducting workplace contact tracing, as well as reporting testing results to the Contra Costa County Public Health Department.