



WILDCAT CANYON COMMUNITY SCHOOL
blossoming from East Bay Waldorf School

COVID 19 Health and Safety Policy

September 18, 2022

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 June 30, 2022 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 June 10, 2022 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). The school will provide masks to students who inadvertently fail to bring a face covering to school but desire to use one.

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 But Not a Close Contact² (e.g., fever, cough, runny nose, loss of taste or smell, difficulty breathing)</p>	<p>Send home³ and advise contact with primary care provider for recommendations regarding need for testing.</p> <p>If negative COVID-19 test result (PCR or antigen) or COVID-19 ruled out by primary care provider, can return 24 hours after fever resolves and symptoms have improved.</p> <p>If not tested and does not see primary care provider to identify cause of symptoms,</p>	<p>School/classroom remains open.</p> <p>Notification of cohort in this scenario is at the discretion of each institution and not required by CDPH or CCHS. No notification of CCHS is required</p> <p>At-home COVID-19 tests may be used if a photograph of the completed test is taken with a time and date stamp.</p>

² Close contact is defined as someone sharing the same indoor airspace, e.g., home, classroom, car, airplane etc., for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (for example, three individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes) during an infected person's infectious period. Infectious period is defined as:

- For symptomatic infected persons, 2 days before the infected person had any symptoms through Day 10 after symptoms first appeared (or through Days 5-10 if testing negative on Day 5 or later), and 24 hours have passed with no fever, without the use of fever-reducing medications, and symptoms have improved, OR
- For asymptomatic infected persons, 2 days before the positive specimen collection date through Day 10 after positive specimen collection date (or through Days 5-10 if testing negative on Day 5 or later) after specimen collection date for their first positive COVID-19 test.

³ When community transmission is below “high” (substantial, moderate, low) and individual only has a runny nose and they are NOT a close contact to someone who has COVID-19, then they do not need to isolate and test as long as they don’t have other symptoms or concerns. If students have only a runny nose and ARE a close contact they should isolate and test at any community transmission rates. In addition to this, students who have any other common symptom or multiple symptoms concerning for COVID-19, should still isolate and test no matter the community transmission rates. To determine case rate/community transmission schools can use CDC county tiers, which breaks down tiers into “high,” “substantial,” “moderate,” and “low” transmission, in their COVID tracker website: <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view> Additionally, schools can also view the CDC community transmission level on our county website <https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org>

	<p>can return to school 10 days after symptom onset.</p> <p>If symptomatic and a known contact to a positive case, refer to the “Contact to COVID19 – Symptomatic” section below.</p>	<p>Test must have been taken in the last 1 day for an antigen test, or 2 days for a PCR test.</p>
<p>Close Contact to COVID-19 and Symptomatic</p>	<p>Symptomatic students, teachers, and staff must quarantine at home, regardless of their vaccination status (even if fully vaccinated), masking, or recent COVID infection history. Testing is highly recommended and if completed and returns positive, refer to actions and follow up for “Positive COVID-19.”</p>	<p>No notification of CCHS is required unless positive test result in a close contact.</p>
<p>Positive COVID-19 PCR or Antigen Test Result</p>	<p>Must isolate at home, regardless of vaccination status.</p> <p>The timeline for return is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With symptoms: May return after 5 days have passed since symptom start date IF symptoms are improving and there is no fever for 24 hours (without fever-reducing medication) AND a negative test is completed (antigen recommended), on or after day 5. • For children under 2: May return to school after day 5 without testing, IF symptoms are improving and no fever for 24 hours (without fever-reducing medication) • Without symptoms: May return after 5 days have passed since the date of positive COVID-19 test and negative test is completed on or after day 5 (antigen recommended). If unable to test on day 5 or after, or if repeat test on day 5 remains positive, case must stay isolated until a negative test is obtained or 10 days of isolation have passed. No additional isolation or testing required after day 10. <p>Next Steps: Identify exposed group and proceed with notification of exposed group.</p>	<p>CCHS Notification:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Notify CCHS using the SPOT Intake Form 2. A CCHS Schools Case Investigator will follow up with school liaison to coordinate next steps. <p>Disinfection Instructions: If notified of a positive COVID-19 case within previous 24 hours – clean and disinfect spaces where case occupied.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCHS Schools Team Email: covid.schools@cchealth.org • CCHS General Covid Information Hotline: (844) 729-8410

<p>Exposure to COVID-19 Outside of School</p>	<p>Household or any other close contact outside of the K-12 or Preschool/Childcare setting can now be treated the same as any other exposure location:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exposed students, regardless of vaccination status, can partake in all school activities, unless symptoms develop or student tests positive for COVID-19. • Exposed students should be tested (via Antigen or PCR), 3-5 days after last exposure, unless they had COVID within the last 90 days. If exposure involves multiple positive household members, timing begins from the date of the first household member to test positive. • If under 2, monitor for symptoms and test if symptoms develop. (At home tests not approved for children under 2). • If student has symptoms they should stay home, get tested and follow the below guidance for “Close Contact to COVID-19 and symptomatic” • If student tests positive, follow section above for “Positive COVID-19 PCR or Antigen Test Result”. 	
<p>Negative COVID-19 PCR or Antigen Test Result</p>	<p>If no symptoms and not a contact to a COVID-19 positive individual, may return to school. At-home test results do not need to be confirmed by PCR test. If symptoms present, may return to school after 24 hours if symptom improvement and no fever (without the use of fever-reducing medication).</p>	
<p>Identify GROUPS who shared the same indoor airspace for at least 15 mins within 24 hours of someone with COVID-19</p>	<p>All Students, Regardless of Vaccination Status without any symptoms, identified as a contact in a supervised school setting, do not need to quarantine at home. As long as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Remains Symptom free 2. Test on day 3-5 after exposure 3. Strongly recommend wearing a well-fitting mask for ten days after last exposure 4. Should symptom monitor to Day 10 after the last known close contact with the positive case. If symptoms begin, isolate at home. 	<p>School/classroom remains open.</p> <p>General notification to "groups" of exposed students. A sample notification is found here.</p> <p>No notification of CCHS is required.</p>

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.

G. VACCINE VERIFICATION FOR WORKERS IN SCHOOLS

The State Public Health Officer Order pertaining to COVID-19 Vaccine Verification for Workers in School was [rescinded](#) as of September 17, 2022. There are no longer requirements to verify vaccination status of school workers nor conduct routine COVID-19 testing.