



Environmental Charter Schools Covid-19 Health & Safety Guidelines for In-Person Instruction

2022-2023 School Year

This document incorporates Covid-19 protocols for students and staff, and may be amended as guidance from LADPH changes.

Welcome Back

Dear ECS Families,

We are so happy to have all of our students back on campus after summer break. Last year, we dedicated a great deal of time and resources to ensure the health of our entire community. As a result, students, families and staff remained safe, even during periods with high positivity rates. Over the course of the pandemic, we have been in regular communication with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LADPH) and continue to implement necessary protocols to keep our campuses open and in-person instruction thriving.

We hope that you will find this guide useful, as it outlines everything that you need to know in preparation for a wonderful 2022-23 academic year.

On behalf of the ECS Board of Directors and our leadership team, I welcome you back to school and thank you for your commitment to Environmental Charter Schools.

With respect and appreciation,
Farnaz Golshani-Flechner

Health Assessment

Do you have any of the following:



Fever



Cough



Shortness of breath



Sore throat



Runny nose



Feeling unwell

Prior to arrival on campus each morning, please assess your student's health.

Individuals with symptoms, including but not limited to fever (100.4°F or higher), new cough, diarrhea, vomiting, shortness of breath and loss of taste or smell, should not come to school. **If in doubt, please stay home!**

Remember to let the front office know about your student's absence.

It is also important to tell the front office if your student has had close contact with a person known to be infected with Covid-19 in the last 5 days.

On-Campus Safety Measures

The following on-campus safety measures have been implemented to keep students and staff safe:

- Ventilation - In addition to measuring air quality in all classrooms, HVAC systems have been upgraded and filters are changed regularly. Staff are also encouraged to keep classroom windows and doors open.
- Surface Cleaning - All campuses are cleaned daily, including high touched surfaces.
- Hand Hygiene - Frequent hand washing is encouraged and sanitizer is available in various locations throughout each campus.
- Signage - On each campus, signs are posted to remind students and staff about masking rules, physical distancing, and hand hygiene.
- Limiting visitors - During regular school hours, non-essential visitors will be restricted.

Physical Distance



Physical distance indoors limits the spread of Covid-19. ECS will adhere to the following strategies to maintain as much distance as possible:

- During regular school hours, school sites will limit non-essential visitors.
- Non-essential furniture has been removed from classrooms to allow maximum space for students and staff.
- Staff will assist students in minimizing congregating when outside of the classroom or on the playground.

Seating charts in each classroom are also strongly encouraged.

Masks / Face Coverings



ECS continues to follow LADPH protocols outlined in the [TK-12 Exposure Management Plan](#). However, in response to community positivity rates, **students and staff may be required to wear a mask when indoors or outdoors**. ECS will communicate with families any time our mask policy changes as a result of public health conditions.

When selecting a face mask for your student, choose one that covers their nose and chin, with no large gaps around the side of their face, and has three or more layers of tightly woven material. It should also have an adjustable nose wire for a snug fit. Students may not wear masks with exhalation valves or vents.

Extra face coverings are available in the front office if your student needs one.

Covid Testing

PCR and Rapid-Antigen testing may be used in response to Covid-19 outbreaks, periods of high transmission, contact tracing, pre-entry for return to school after holidays/breaks, or when an individual is symptomatic.

Throughout the year, students may also be sent home with an over-the-counter Rapid-Antigen test. Carefully review the instructions prior to administering the test on your student.



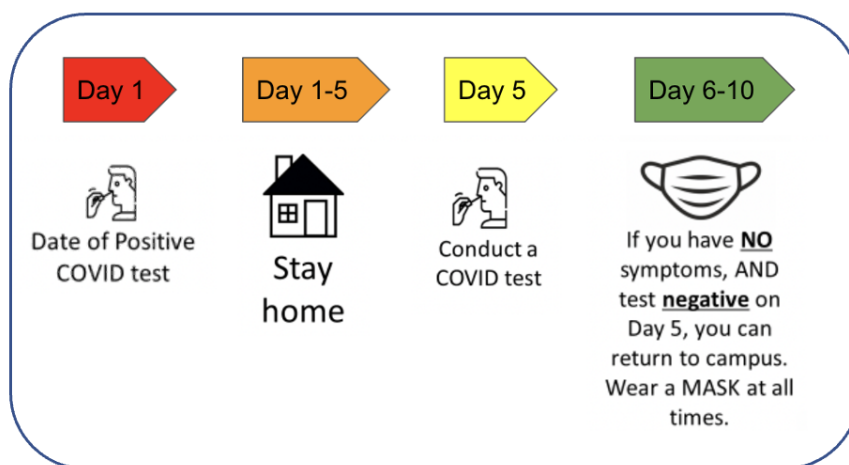
Note: all staff are encouraged to test weekly; however staff who are unvaccinated will be required to take a Rapid-Antigen test once per week. Additionally all contractors and service providers will also be required to test once a week prior to interacting with ECS students.

Quarantine Guidelines

Per [LADPH guidelines](#), **anyone who tests positive for Covid-19 may not attend school and will be required to quarantine for at least 5-10 days**, regardless of vaccination status, previous infection or symptoms. Students eligible for short-term Independent Study (ISP) will be contacted by the program coordinator and provided with resources needed to participate in remote learning.

Quarantine may end on day 6 if:

- A Covid test on Day 5 or later yields a negative result;
- Individual is fever free for 24 hours (without fever-reducing medicine); and
- Individual has no symptoms or existing symptoms are improving.



Students with Symptoms at School

If a student becomes unwell at school, they will be placed in an isolation area (physically distanced from others) until they can be picked up by a parent or guardian. ECS will follow [LADPH'S Pathways](#) to determine an appropriate course of action.

Close Contacts

Per [LADPH guidelines](#), **anyone indoors within 6 feet of an infected person, for 15 minutes or longer over a 24 hour period, is considered a close contact.** Note: if a

student is exposed to an infected person outdoors (i.e.: lunchtime or recess), they are not a close contact.

Close contacts may continue attending school, so long as they:

- Remain asymptomatic;
- Monitor for symptoms ;
- Wear a mask indoors and around others (except while eating and drinking) for 10 days; and
- Take a covid-test 3-5 days after exposure (test will be provided by ECS based on supply).

Protocols and Notifications

Should a positive Covid-19 case occur at a school site, designated staff will follow protocols outlined by [LADPH](#) while maintaining confidentiality in accordance with the Families Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Anyone identified as a close contact will be notified immediately (via TalkingPoints, email, or phone call), and will be provided with instructions regarding quarantine or additional testing necessary.

Schools are also required to notify LADPH of any student, staff or visitor with a confirmed Covid-19 case, who was on campus at any point within the 14 days prior to their illness onset date. With direction from LADPH, ECS will determine the number of positive cases that may lead to the closure of a classroom, multiple classrooms, or even a school.

Covid-19 Vaccine


The Covid-19 vaccine prevents illness by working with the body's natural defenses to help safely develop immunity to the virus. In addition to providing individual protection, the vaccine also reduces the burden of Covid in our surrounding communities and helps to ensure that schools remain open.

Anyone who is 5 years and older is eligible to receive a free Covid-19 vaccine. For more information about the safety and effectiveness of the Covid-19 vaccine, please visit the [CA.gov Vaccine](#) site.

ECS urges all students, family members sharing homes with individuals in our school community, and staff to get vaccinated against the virus. To find a vaccination location near you, please visit the [LADPH Vaccine Hub](#). Vaccine opportunities will also be available on campus periodically throughout the year.

The CDC strongly recommends a booster shoot to anyone 5 years and older as follows:

- If you received a Moderna or Pfizer vaccine, get a booster shot after 5 months
- If you received a Johnson & Johnson vaccine, get a booster shot after 2 months



If your student is vaccinated against Covid-19 (meaning they have received 2 doses of either Pfizer or Moderna), please take a photo of the Vaccination Record Card and email it to CovidVaccine@ecsonline.org.