



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

2023-2024 School Year
(revised July 2023)

This document incorporates health and safety protocols for students and staff, and may be amended as necessary with guidance from LADPH.

Welcome Back

Dear ECS Families,

We are so happy to have all of our students back on campus after summer break. Over the past two years, we dedicated a great deal of time and resources to ensure the health and safety of our entire community. Since the start 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 2023-24 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, sore throat, diarrhea, vomiting, or shortness of breath, should not come to school.

If in doubt, please stay home!

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

If your student stays home, it is our expectation that they will return to school as soon as they are feeling better. Daily attendance is crucial for learning.

On-Campus Safety Measures

Since the pandemic, the following on-campus measures have been implemented to ensure that our students and staff remain healthy and safe:

Safety Measures:	Health Measures:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Safe Gun Storage Resolution</u> - Resolution passed by the ECS Board of Directors in June 2022 that strongly encourages all families to lock guns/firearms when not in use and store ammunition separately.• <u>Safety Drills</u> - Throughout the year, Principals schedule practice drills (fire, lockdown and earthquake) on each campus to prepare students and staff for an emergency.• <u>Updated PA and Intercom Systems</u> - Campus PA systems can page all classrooms simultaneously and 2-way intercom systems allow classrooms to listen and speak through the PA system.• <u>ECS Network Safety Plan</u> - Plan that contains protocols, procedures and communication templates for staff to meet the ongoing needs of emergency situations.• <u>Door Bloks</u> - Durable neoprene rubber devices in all classrooms that allows staff to quickly secure and lock the door without needing a key.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Ventilation</u> - In addition to measuring air quality in all classrooms, HVAC systems have been upgraded and filters are changed regularly.• <u>Surface Cleaning</u> - All campuses are cleaned daily, including high touched surfaces.• <u>Hand Hygiene</u> - Frequent hand washing is encouraged and sanitizer is available in various locations throughout each campus.• <u>Signage</u> - On each campus, signs are posted to remind students and staff about safety protocols.

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 asked to use face covering while indoors or around others. ECS will communicate with families any time our policy changes as a result of public health conditions.

Remember, 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 multiple layers of tightly woven material. The mask should also have an adjustable nose wire for a snug fit.

A limited supply of face coverings are available in the front office if your student needs one.

Covid Testing

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.



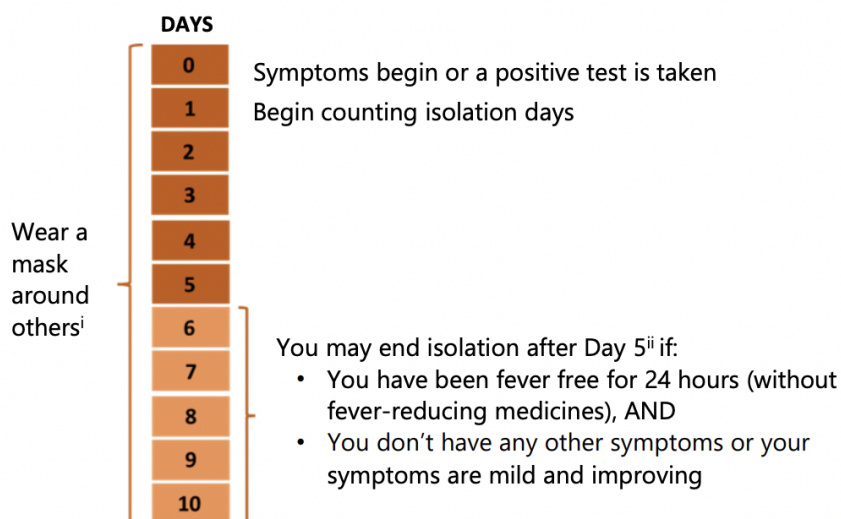
Quarantine Guidelines

Per [LADPH guidelines](#), **anyone who tests positive for Covid-19 may not attend school and will be required to quarantine for at least 5 days**, regardless of vaccination status, previous infection or symptoms. In this situation, families *may* elect short-term Independent Study (ISP) for their student and will be provided with resources needed to participate in remote learning, if applicable.

Quarantine may end on Day 6 if:

- Individual is fever free for 24 hours (without fever-reducing medicine); and
- Individual has no new symptoms or existing symptoms are improving.
- Note: it is recommended that the individual wear a mask around others, except while eating or drinking, through Day 10.

ISOLATION



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.

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 and continue to monitor for symptoms.
- Note: It is recommended that a mask be worn around others (except while eating and drinking) for 10 days and that a Rapid test be taken 3-5 days after exposure.

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).

Close contact may be notified via TalkingPoints, email, or phone call, and will be provided with necessary instructions.

Covid-19 Vaccine

The Covid-19 vaccine and booster 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 6 months and older is eligible to receive the 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.