



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

2025-2026 School Year
(revised July 2025)

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,

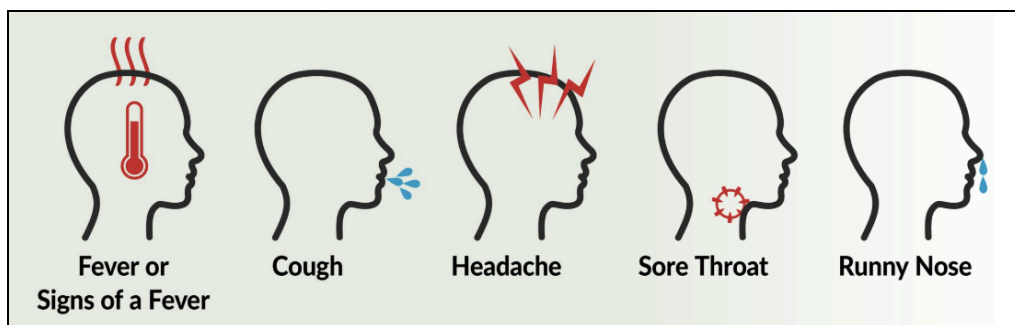
We are so happy to have all of our students back on campus after summer break. Since the pandemic, we dedicated a great deal of time and resources to ensure the health and safety of our entire community. Additionally, we continue to regularly communicate with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LADPH) in order to implement necessary protocols that keep our campuses open and in-person instruction thriving.

We hope that you will find this guide useful. It outlines ECS' health and safety procedures that you need to know in preparation for a wonderful 2025-26 academic year. If ECS makes any changes or updates to these guidelines, we will communicate them with you immediately.

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

With gratitude and appreciation,
Danielle Kelsick

Health Assessment



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! And 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">• Safe Gun Storage Resolution - 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.• Safety Drills - Throughout the year, Principals schedule practice drills (fire, lockdown and earthquake) on each campus to prepare students and staff for an emergency.• Updated PA and Intercom Systems - Campus PA systems can page all classrooms simultaneously and 2-way intercom systems allow classrooms to listen and speak through the PA system.• ECS Network Safety Plan - A comprehensive plan that contains protocols, procedures and communication templates for staff to meet the ongoing needs of emergency situations.• Door Bloks - Durable neoprene rubber devices in all classrooms that allows staff to quickly secure and lock a door without needing a key.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ventilation - In addition to measuring air quality in all classrooms, HVAC systems have been upgraded and filters are changed regularly.• 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.• Covid Supplies - A limited supply of face masks and Rapid-Antigen tests are available in the front office.• Epi Pen - Each campus has been provided with an auto-injector for the emergency treatment of severe allergic reactions.• Narcan - Each campus has been provided with the nasal spray and the Principal, along with front office staff, have been trained on its use.• Signage - On each campus, signs are posted to remind students and staff about ECS safety protocols.

Masks / Face Coverings



ECS continues to follow the protocols outlined in the [LADPH Covid-19 & Acute Respiratory Illness Community Guidelines](#).

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, or when an individual is symptomatic. Each campus has a limited supply of Rapid tests available in their front office.

Quarantine Guidelines

Regardless of vaccination status or previous infection, per [LADPH guidelines](#), **if someone tests positive for Covid-19, they are only required to quarantine if exhibiting symptoms:**



If you feel sick with cold, flu, or COVID-19 symptoms:

1. **Stay home away from others** until you have not had a fever for 24 hours (without using fever-reducing medication) and other symptoms are improving. LAC DPH recommends that you test negative before resuming normal activities. COVID-19 can spread quickly, especially when someone feels sick.
2. **Wear a well-fitting mask around others while you feel sick.** Masks can help prevent the spread of germs, including COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses.
3. **Get tested.** Testing helps make sure you get the right treatment and don't spread germs to others. If you test negative but continue to feel sick, test again 48 hours later. If you continue testing negative, talk to your doctor about testing for other respiratory pathogens, especially if you are high-risk for severe illness.
4. **Avoid contact with high-risk individuals for 10 days after you started feeling sick.** This includes the elderly, people who reside temporarily or live in a congregate facilityⁱ or people who are [immunocompromised](#).
5. **Get treatment** for COVID-19 or influenza. Talk to your provider about options.



If you test positive or a healthcare provider diagnoses you with COVID-19:

1. If you have symptoms:
Follow the steps above for people who feel sick with symptoms of a cold, flu, or COVID-19.
2. If you do not have symptoms, you do not need to stay home as long as you:
Wear a well-fitting mask around others for 10 days after you tested positive.
Monitor yourself for symptoms. If you start feeling sick, follow instructions above for people who feel sick with symptoms of a cold, flu, or COVID-19.
Avoid contact with high-risk individuals for 10 days after you tested positive. Higher risk individuals include the elderly, people who reside temporarily or live in a congregate facilityⁱ or people who are [immunocompromised](#).

In addition, tell anyone you've been around while you were potentially infectious (that is, two days before and while you felt sick) that they have been exposed and need to follow the instructions for people exposed to COVID-19 below.

Students and staff may return to campus (without a negative Rapid test), so long as they are fever and symptom-free.

LADPH recommends wearing a mask around others for 10 days after testing positive.

If your child has symptoms and is required to quarantine, they should continue to complete their assignments and log into google classroom. We don't want students to fall behind during this time.

Independent Study Program (ISP)

Any student who must miss school due to major illness, serious family emergency or required extended travel *may* qualify for independent study. Please reach out to your site's social worker for more information.

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 within 6 feet of the infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more, over a 24-hour period while that person is potentially infectious. In smaller spaces or areas with poor ventilation, infections can occur more readily.

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

- Remain asymptomatic and continue to monitor for symptoms.
- It is recommended that a mask be worn around others (except while eating and drinking) for 10 days
- It is recommended that you administer a Rapid test 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).

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 [LADPH Covid-19 Vaccine website](#).

ECS urges all students, family members sharing homes with individuals in our school community, and staff to get vaccinated against the virus.

Symptom Guidance*

The following is not a diagnostic tool, does not replace the advice of a licensed healthcare provider, nor does it revise guidance related to an individual child's known medical condition or existing IEP, or 504 plan. Contact a health care provider if your child needs medical care. A doctor's note is generally not required to return to school or child care.

Overall not feeling well	<p>STAY HOME if any new illness or symptom prevents a child from participating meaningfully in routine activities.</p> <p>Please note that a child with multiple symptoms is more likely to be contagious.</p>
Fever	<p>STAY HOME if a fever is 100.4°F or higher.</p> <p>RETURN WHEN fever goes away over night and is gone in the morning without the use of medications.</p>
Respiratory Virus Symptoms (cough, runny nose, sneezing)	<p>OK TO ATTEND SCHOOL WITH MILD SYMPTOMS, but should test for COVID-19 before attending school, follow COVID-19 guidance and it is recommended that child wear a mask for 10 days from symptom onset.</p> <p>STAY HOME if symptoms are accompanied by fever or if child has significant nasal discharge.</p> <p>SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION for severe symptoms, including a bad cough, difficulty breathing, trouble catching their breath, or wheezing when not controlled by medication (like albuterol).</p> <p>RETURN WHEN child has been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication and other symptoms are improving.</p>
Sore Throat	<p>OK TO ATTEND WITH MILD SYMPTOMS, but it is recommended that child wear a mask around others.</p> <p>SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION for difficulty breathing or swallowing, or continuous drooling.</p> <p>RETURN WHEN IMPROVING or if an antibiotic is prescribed, take the first dose at least 12 hours before returning.</p>

Eye Irritation (including Pink Eye)	<p>STAY HOME if there is significant discharge from the eye or if symptoms prevent child from participating meaningfully in routine activities.</p> <p>SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION for difficulty seeing, an eye injury, or pain they cannot tolerate.</p>
Vomiting	<p>STAY HOME if vomiting has occurred 2 or more times in 24 hours.</p> <p>RETURN WHEN vomiting has ended overnight, and child is able to hold down liquids and food.</p>
Diarrhea	<p>STAY HOME if child is unlikely to make it to the toilet in time or if symptoms prevent them from participating meaningfully in routine activities.</p> <p>SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION if the stool looks bloody or black.</p> <p>RETURN WHEN child has not had diarrhea for 24-48 hours or infectious cause has been ruled out.</p>
Rash	<p>OK TO ATTEND WITH MILD SYMPTOMS.</p> <p>STAY HOME if child has a fever or recent exposure to measles or chickenpox.</p> <p>SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION if rash is worsening, causing pain, has blisters, or is not healing.</p> <p>RETURN WHEN IMPROVING or as guided by health care provider.</p> <p>Note: In general, for conditions such as lice, impetigo, ringworm, scabies, and pinworms, child may return once they start appropriate treatment and it is recommended to cover rash if possible.</p>

*<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/docs/SymptomGuidanceChartForChildren.pdf>