

# Ballard School District

## COVID Safe School Plan 2022/2023

### **1. Our primary goal is to have students on campus to the greatest extent possible while ensuring student and staff safety to the greatest extent possible. (*Back to normal*).**

- We continue to make steps back to normalcy, there are still some mitigation measures that need to be in place to support our goal.
- People have varying degrees of comfort with COVID-19 risk. We need to respect where people are with their thinking on this continuously-changing situation.
- Individual school districts must follow and meet state and local public health guidelines.
- This is a fluid plan. We may be forced to change from a less restrictive to a more restrictive (and vice versa) model at different points during the school year.

### **2. Background: Extremely Complicated and Ever-Changing Regulations from Multiple Levels**

- Federal Level - Center for Disease Control (CDC), Department of Education
- State Level - CA Department of Education (CDE), CA Department of Public Health (CDPH), SB 117 (March 2020), SB 98 (late June 2020)
- Local Level - Santa Barbara County Department of Public Health (SBCDPH)

### **3. Ballard Elementary School Learning Options for 2022-2023**

- We provide in-person instruction in our classrooms. The option of short-term independent study is to provide for extended need for quarantine purposes.
- On Campus Learning: Instruction that utilizes face-to-face instruction at school with additional health and safety precautions.
- Short Term Independent Study: Instruction that utilizes a short-term independent study contract with daily interaction with the teacher or classroom aide via zoom to facilitate learning. This allows students to continue instruction when needing to isolate or quarantine.

### **4. Plan Published on Website**

This plan is available on the Ballard School website ([www.ballardschool.org](http://www.ballardschool.org)) .

### **5. Physical Distancing**

Currently there is not a requirement for physical distancing in the classrooms. However, Ballard School has structures and plans in place should the need to reinstitute physical distancing occur.

### **6. Stable Cohorts of Students Minimizing Contacts**

Ballard School has only one class at each grade level. Class sizes range from 15 to 21 students when all students are present. To minimize the number of contacts and help students feel safe, students typically remain in their class cohort groups to the extent possible, to minimize transitions and contact while inside classrooms. Outside, students are mixed in grades K-2 and 3-6.

### **7. Face Coverings and Other Essential Protective Gear**

All staff and students will have face coverings available while indoors as mandated by the Center for Disease Control and the California Department of Public Health.

## **8. Cleaning and Disinfection**

- Ballard's custodial staff has the appropriate tools, equipment, and training to provide enhanced disinfecting.
- Staff has Identified and stocked cleaning products.
- Custodial staff has the proper protective equipment as required by the product instructions.
- All products are kept out of children's reach and stored in a space with restricted access.

## **9. Health Screenings for Students and Staff**

Self-screening of all staff and students for COVID-19 symptoms including:

- Daily reporting by staff member if they have been exhibiting COVID-19 related symptoms or have been in recent contact with anyone with COVID-19 or related symptoms.
- Weekly reminders to parents regarding screening students for COVID-19 symptoms:
- Sending home any student exhibiting symptoms, and requiring a negative COVID test to return to school.

## **10. Healthy Hygiene Practices**

Sanitizer dispensers have been installed in every classroom and office space.

Ballard School has implemented routines for frequent hand sanitation focusing on COVID-19 prevention measures:

- After using restroom
- Before and after eating
- When entering a classroom or office

## **11. Identification and Tracing of COVID-19**

### **Identification**

If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 the school will follow the guidelines established by the Santa Barbara County Department of Public Health, including:

- Student/staff will be sent home if not already quarantined
- Student/staff instructed to isolate for the required number of days.
- School based close contacts group identified and instructed to test between days 3 and 5.

### **Tracing**

The Superintendent/Principal is the COVID-19 liaison, to act as the communication point for all COVID-19 concerns. (The Administrative Assistant will serve as the back-up liaison.) The COVID-19 Liaison's responsibilities include:

- Managing and supporting contact tracing
- Notifying exposed persons/cohorts
- Creating and maintaining a database of exposed students and staff
- Communicating with the Public Health Department in the event of an outbreak.

## **12. Staff Training and Family Education**

- The Superintendent/Principal and school nurse will support staff and community in understanding the district's safe return plan.

- Staff has been trained on health and safety protocols at site-based professional development.
- Staff has been trained on all elements of this plan
- Families and Community will be supported through resources found on the Santa Barbara County Public Health website.

## 13. Testing

### Testing of Students

Students who have symptoms of COVID or have been exposed to someone will be tested, even if the student is asymptomatic. This is subject to change as the Public Health Department continues to update their protocols.

- Student will be sent home if not already quarantined
- Student will be directed to undergo testing through:
  - Their healthcare provider, or
  - Free COVID-19 Testing Sites in Santa Barbara County
  - Or given a home antigen test
- Student may return to school with a negative COVID test result or with a note from a physician with an alternative diagnosis, or after 10 days of quarantine (and improving symptoms).
- School-based close contacts will be identified and instructed to test between Days 3 and 5.

### Testing of Staff

Staff members who have symptoms of COVID or have been exposed to someone with COVID will be tested, even if the individual is asymptomatic. This is subject to change as the Public Health Department continues to update their protocols.

- Staff member will be sent home if not already quarantined
- Individual will be directed to undergo testing through:
  - Their healthcare provider, or
  - Free COVID-19 Testing Sites in Santa Barbara County
  - Or given a home antigen test
- Staff member may return to school with a negative COVID test result or with a note from a physician with an alternative diagnosis, or after 10 days of quarantine (and improving symptoms).

## 14. Communication Plan

The Superintendent/Principal will communicate with students, staff, and parents about cases and exposures at the school, consistent with privacy requirements such as FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) and HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act), by:

- Documenting/tracking incidents of possible exposure and notifying local health officials, staff, and families immediately of any positive cases of COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality, as required under FERPA and state law related to privacy of educational records.
- Communicating with the parent/caregiver if a student is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, referring to the student's health history form and/or emergency card to identify if the student has a history of allergies.
- Notifying local health officials, staff, and all families immediately of any positive case of COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality as required by state and federal laws.

## 15. Miscellaneous

- Hold assemblies outside if possible.