

To All Buckeye Union,

Welcome to a new school year. The purpose of this communication is to clarify the protocols that the Buckeye Union will be following when a student is ill, including with COVID.

Clearly, COVID has provided many challenges these past two plus years. The reality is that COVID is an illness that we will likely be dealing with moving forward. In the past two years, our approach to keeping students healthy has evolved as more has become understood about this new virus. Throughout the past two years we have had to balance the need to be especially cautious given the many uncertainties of this new illness while striving to deliver a quality education to our students. At times, this added caution has led to our students, families, and employees enduring many significant school disruptions that have interfered with our best efforts to educate our children.

After reviewing the latest guidance from the [California Department of Public Health](#), the [National Centers For Disease Control](#), and [El Dorado County Public Health](#), the District has determined that COVID will now be treated in much the same manner as other student illnesses (e.g. cold and flu) that frequently occur within our schools and community at-large. The following are some additional key points.

- As required, we will make face coverings available to all who request them; however, students will not be required to wear a face covering. Every student who wishes to wear a face covering will be supported with their choice.
- Moving forward, school sites will not notify parents regarding individual COVID cases, but will report outbreaks at school to parents and Public Health. An outbreak is defined by at least three suspected, probable, or confirmed COVID-19 cases within a 14-day period among people who are epidemiologically-linked* in the setting, and

are not known to be close contacts of each other in any other case investigation,

*Epidemiologically-linked cases include persons with close contact with a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 disease; OR a member of a risk cohort as defined by public health authorities during an outbreak. A “risk cohort” includes persons with potential for shared exposure with cases through a shared defined physical space. Examples include but are not limited to persons in the same classroom, school, extracurricular activity, work-shift, physical workspace, or living/sleeping space.”

- It will be the responsibility of parents to keep their children home if their child is too sick to come to school. Public Health does recommend anyone that is positive with COVID, remain in isolation for 5 days and until symptoms are resolving.
- The District will not be removing students from school when mild cold or allergy-like symptoms are exhibited.
- The District will administer COVID tests, if requested by a parent, as long as our supplies last.
- The District will not mandate testing in order for a student to return to school after being ill. Testing will not be mandated for students to participate in any school activities.
- The District is maintaining an Independent Study Program, which incorporates daily interaction and live instruction.

With these points in mind, we are returning to illness protocols similar to those that were in place prior to the pandemic. In general, this means the following:

Fever: If temperature is over 100, stay home until 24 hours fever-free without medications(no Tylenol or ibuprofen that could mask a fever).

Diarrhea or Vomiting: Keep at home until one day of normal health.

Mild Cough, Runny Nose or Congestion: If there's no fever and your child feels fairly good, school is fine.

Bad Cough: Children with a bad cough may need evaluation for bronchitis or other concerns. When the cough *improves* and the child is *feeling better*, then it's back to school. A cough can take a week or longer to resolve!

Sore Throat: Severe sore throat could be strep - symptoms are headache, stomach pain, patches in throat and often fever. If present, contact a doctor. Strep requires antibiotics 24 hours before they come back to school.

Earache: Consult or visit the pediatrician to rule out infection, be seen for ANY drainage!!!

Pink Eye (Conjunctivitis): There are three types caused by allergies, a virus, or a bacteria. Bacterial conjunctivitis will require an antibiotic. The current AAP recommendation is no exclusion, but be seen for pain/drainage.

As we move forward with these protocols, the District will continue to monitor communications and recommendations coming from local and State Public Health officials.

Buckeye Union School District