



## **Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan March 2022 Update**

### **Background**

Over the last school year, we have followed California Department of Public Health (CDPH) guidance and mandates to allow for a return to full in-person instruction in the safest way possible.

Governor Newsom has announced a change to the mask mandate for schools. After 11:59 p.m. on March 11, California will adopt new indoor mask policies and move from mask requirements to mask recommendations in schools. On March 12, 2022, the K-12 Schools Guidance will shift to strongly recommend masks and will not require masking while indoors, regardless of vaccination status.

### **1. Masks**

**Blue Oak will follow the recommendations of the CDC and eliminate the mask requirement from our COVID response.**

- a. Masks will not be required for students and staff. They continue to be strongly recommended and those choosing to continue to mask will be supported.
- b. Masks will continue to be available on site.
- c. Masks requirements may be reinstated. The Blue Oak Charter Council will review this plan if or when that occurs.

We appreciate and acknowledge that the state lifting the mask requirement may cause anxiety for some people, especially those at higher risk for COVID-19 or who live with someone at higher risk. Please note that mask-wearing is still strongly recommended by the state and is an option for every student or staff member who wishes to wear one at any time.

We also appreciate and recognize that others who do not support masking in schools will continue to share their opinion that masking should end immediately. Our decision so far to adhere to state guidelines - not more, not less - has enabled us to continue in-person learning while weathering the COVID-19 storm.

Thanks to the commitment and resilience of our community doing our part, we now have the tools to turn the page and begin a new chapter. This new chapter is focused on continuing the mitigation strategies we are all familiar with and focusing on personal responsibility and respect



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## d. Respecting Personal Choice

- i. The state is providing personal choice for masking in schools with the expectation that individual decisions are respected.
- ii. One should not make assumptions regarding someone's beliefs or health status based upon their choice to wear or not wear a mask, nor should they comment on them.
- iii. For young children, please let teachers know your wishes. *The schools may discuss the change with students in a developmentally appropriate manner, including how to respect everyone's personal choice.*
- iv. If your child(ren) expresses any anxiety, feel free to reach out to our school counselors for additional support as needed.

## 2. Hand Hygiene

- a. Blue Oak will Continue teaching and reinforcement of hand washing, avoiding contact with eyes, nose and mouth, covering coughs and sneezes throughout the day.

## 3. Staff Vaccination

- a. Staff who have been or intend to be vaccinated are requested to share this show verifiable proof of vaccination.

## 4. Physical Distancing / Small Group Requirements

- a. No minimum physical distancing or isolation of groups will be required, though eating physical distance will be maximized with outdoor seating when possible

## 5. Ventilation & Cleaning

- a. Facilities staff will continue to monitor ventilation and will properly maintain and replace filters.
- b. Facility will be cleaned and disinfected once a day.
- c. If a person has been reported as sick with COVID 19 within the last 24 hours, any area used by them will be cleaned specifically.

## 6. Sickness & Quarantine

Families and students will be expected to stay at home when sick and get tested.

Staff and students with symptoms of COVID-19 infection will be directed not to return for in-person instruction until they have met CDPH criteria to return to school for those with symptoms:

- a. At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; and
- b. Other symptoms have improved; and
- c. They have a negative test for SARS-CoV-2, OR a healthcare provider has provided documentation that the symptoms are typical of their underlying chronic condition (e.g., allergies or asthma) OR a healthcare provider has



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- confirmed an alternative named diagnosis (e.g., Streptococcal pharyngitis, Coxsackie virus), OR at least 10 days have passed since symptom onset.
- d. COVID-19 will be reported to the local public health department per AB 86.
    - i. The school nurse will act as Blue Oak's COVID-19 liaison.
  - e. Blue Oak supports and follows CDPH quarantine guidelines under the advice of the school nurse.

## **7. Visitors and Volunteers**

All are welcome on campus, no proof of vaccination or negative tests are required.

*Blue Oak Charter Council will review and update this policy no later than the next regularly scheduled board meeting after any CDPH update.*