

TRCS Covid Protocols Discussion

[TRCS Covid Safety Plan- Aug. 2022](#)

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The Three Rivers Charter School community is considering revision of our Covid-19 Protocols as the virus has entered a new, endemic phase. There are 3 pieces under consideration:

1. Isolation Protocol (exclusion from school)
2. Approach to testing for Covid at school
3. Masking requirements at school

Below is some information to consider about how our current protocols align with latest guidance from Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and California Department of Public Health (CDPH). Mendocino County Public Health is currently following [CDPH guidelines for schools](#).

Mendocino County is currently considered in the “LOW” Covid-19 Community Level by the CDC.

Recommended actions from CDC and CDPH based on current level: LOW

- [Stay up to date](#) with COVID-19 vaccines, including recommended booster doses.
- Maintain [ventilation improvements](#).
- Avoid contact with people who have suspected or confirmed COVID-19.
- Follow recommendations for [isolation](#) if you have suspected or confirmed COVID-19.
- Follow the recommendations for [what to do if you are exposed](#) to someone with COVID-19.
- If you are at [high risk of getting very sick](#), talk with a healthcare provider about additional prevention actions.
- People may choose to mask at any time. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a high-quality [mask or respirator](#) when indoors in public.

CDCPH Mask Guidance for LOW:

Everyone: People can wear a mask based on personal preference, informed by their own personal level of risk.

Vulnerable people*: Consider wearing a mask in crowded indoor public places. Ensure your mask provides the best [fit and filtration](#) (respirators like N95s, KN95s and KN94s are best). If you are a vulnerable person* or live with a vulnerable person*, consider taking additional precautions.

1. Isolation Protocol: Are the current TRCS Protocols for people testing positive for Covid-19 (isolation, when to return, masking) in line with the CDC, CDPH and FBUSD?

After testing positive:

- Symptomatic and asymptomatic infected persons must isolate until at least Day 5.
- Those who test negative on or after Day 5 can end isolation and are no longer considered to be within their infectious period.
- Such persons should continue to follow CDPH isolation recommendations, including wearing a well-fitting face mask through Day 10.

YES, our protocols for response to testing positive reflect recommendations from the State, County and are in line with FBUSD.

2. Masking: Current TRCS Plan requires that if there are 2 or more cases in one classroom within a 5 day period, that class is required to wear a mask indoors for 5 days from the last exposure. Should this policy continue?

- No other local schools have been identified who practice this requirement (FBUSD, Mendocino Unified, several other charter schools in the county).
- Per CDPH masking guidance, close contacts should wear a well-fitting mask around others for a total of 10 days, especially in indoor settings and when near those at higher risk for severe COVID-19 disease.
- The TRCS Parent Teacher Network was polled at the February meeting and the majority voted to keep this policy on place (15 yes, 1 No) after a respectful discussion.

Based on response from staff and PTN attendees it is recommended that this policy stay in place for now.

3. Testing: TRCS has continued our weekly surveillance testing program and also sends at home test kits with families before vacations. Should this practice continue?

- Latest guidance from CDPH for schools does NOT include regular surveillance testing. Most schools in the county do not perform regular weekly surveillance testing (one charter identified so far, FB and Mendo do not).
- This practice of testing everyone weekly is very time consuming for staff and has not resulted in catching cases of asymptomatic people.
- Testing groups or individuals who have been exposed has led to identification of symptomatic and asymptomatic cases at TRCS and many cases have been identified with home test kits.
- Dialogue with staff families at the Feb. PTN Meeting resulted in a recommendation that:

Weekly surveillance testing should continue and rotate testing two classes each week (for students with consent). Everyone will be tested on return from breaks and home test kits to be sent home before breaks to test before returning.

Latest Guidance from CDC:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>

Latest Covid Guidance for Everyone from CDPH:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Guidance-on-Isolation-and-Quarantine-for-COVID-19-Contact-Tracing.aspx>

Latest Guidance for **Schools** from CDPH :

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/K-12-Guidance-2022-23-School-Year.aspx#>

Fort Bragg Unified School District's latest guidelines:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ayh3G2XQ4FDIC5KxaLGDhtRasXftGvK4/view>