



Safe Return to School (Grades TK-5)

As with all best laid plans, this plan is subject to change this ever-evolving pandemic environment. All Gridley Unified District Schools will reopen for student attendance on August 31, 2020. Currently, all schools are required to open in a distance learning format per directive from the State of California. Butte County Department of Public Health has offered an opportunity for students in elementary grades (TK-5 in Gridley) to return in person, following successful application for a special waiver, review of the reopening plan (this document), and consultation with the California Department of Public Health.

We are confident that our waiver reopening plans and procedures will allow our students to return safely and receive the education they deserve — *IN PERSON*. In this plan you will not only see the safety measures we have in place for McKinley and Wilson schools, but also the supports we have in place should a student become ill or live in a household with an infected family member and need to have an extended absence.

GUSD Meets the California Department of Education Checklist for Reopening Schools

- ✓ Local Conditions to Guide Reopening Decisions
- ✓ Plan to Address Positive COVID-19 Cases or Community Surges
- ✓ Injury/Illness Prevention Plan
- ✓ Campus Access Plan to Minimize Non-Essential Visitors
- ✓ Hygiene Plan to Address and Teach Hygiene Practices
- ✓ Protective Equipment
- ✓ Physical Distancing— A Practicable Plan for Classroom and Campus Distancing
- ✓ Cleaning/Disinfecting Practices
- ✓ Employee Issues—Training and Collaboration
- ✓ Communication with Students, Parents, Employees, Public Health Officials, and the Community.

Reopening Timeline at a Glance

August 3, 2020

- Planning revisions following Butte County being placed on the California COVID Watchlist.

Our timeline is based on our most current information and can change based on factors when school starts or if state guidance changes.

August 31, 2020

- In-person instruction to begin with small cohorts of students and safety protocols in place, ***pending approval of county waiver to reopen.***
- Without an approved county waiver, instruction will begin in distance learning format for all students.
- Home to School Transportation (should the waiver be approved) begins with possibly revised routes and safety protocols. Bus transportation is not a district requirement for all students. In accordance to state guidelines, ***all students using district school buses will be required to wear face coverings at all grade levels.*** Parents with concerns may want to transport students themselves.

Late Fall 2020*

Upon release from the state watchlist: for a period of 14 days:

- Regular school schedule may resume for all grade levels as soon as possible in consultation with Butte County Public Health.
- Safety and cleaning protocols will remain in place.

Facilities Management Procedures

GUSD Maintenance and Operations takes pride in the care and cleanliness of our facilities and has been working since the March school closures on additional sanitization and disinfecting practices. In this plan we highlight some key areas on which we are focusing and additional procedures, equipment, and practices being added to ensure a safe return to school.



- Hand sanitizing stations installed in classrooms, gyms, labs, offices, etc.
- Disinfecting spray bottles and paper towels in all classrooms and offices for staff interim disinfecting and surface cleaning.
- Soap and paper towel dispensers checked and stocked regularly.
- Training of all staff in the district in safe and appropriate use of disinfectants.
- Cleaning of high-touch surfaces in between cohort use of a space.
- Busses will be cleaned between routes.
- Classroom furniture arrangements to improve distancing capabilities wherever feasible.
- Clearing/removal of unnecessary furnishings and clutter from classrooms and office areas
- Students will be issued individual learning kits of all needed supplies to eliminate sharing of manipulatives, art supplies, etc.
- Drinking fountain use will be suspended; instead students are encouraged to bring bottled water or single use disposable cups will be provided.
- HVAC filters will be changed with increased frequency.
- Additional disposable PPE available as needed at each school site, for student and staff use.

Healthy Hygiene Practices Benefit Everyone!

Wash Your Hands Often



- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds often throughout the day, and especially after blowing your nose, coughing, sneezing, or using the restroom.
- All classrooms have readily available handwashing facilities as well as hand sanitizer dispensers. If soap and water are not readily available, **a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol**. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they dry.
- Handwashing routines will be taught and reinforced with students daily.

Cover Coughs and Sneezes



- If you are in a private setting and do not have on your cloth face covering, remember to always cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or the inside of your elbow when you cough or sneeze.
- Throw used tissues in the trash.
- Immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Handwashing and sanitizer stations are readily available across campus.

Cloth Face Coverings Required for Students and Staff



- The cloth face cover is meant to protect other people in case you are infected.
- Per California Department of Public Health, face coverings are encouraged for grades TK-2 and **REQUIRED** for students in grades 3+ and for staff on campus.
- Staff may also use transparent face shields when necessary to conduct educational activities. Staff must use face masks when not involved in direct instruction (e.g. when dealing with other adults).
- Cloth face coverings should not be placed on anyone who has trouble breathing, is unconscious or incapacitated, or is otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.
- **Students and staff are encouraged to bring their own appropriate cloth face coverings.**
- Disposable masks will be available at school and on buses when needed.
- Students repeatedly refusing to comply with this state mandate may not be eligible for in-person instruction and home learning may be required.
- Cloth face coverings should not be worn during strenuous exercise such as PE. Even in these activities, social distance should be maintained.

Hygiene Education and Training



- District health staff will train other staff in handwashing procedures, [local screening procedures](#), and [symptoms](#) awareness such as the [CDC Self-Checker](#).
- Staff will be instructed by district nurse in how to conduct daily self-checks/screenings prior to coming to work. Staff showing any symptoms on the self-screening or who have been in recent close contact with a known positive COVID-19 individual should not come to work.
- Students will be trained in routines/procedures through daily instruction and reinforcement.
- Signage placed throughout campus to remind staff and students of healthy hygiene practice.
- Families will be provided with virtual orientation materials and printable handouts in Spanish and English regarding increased safety practices on campus.
- All families will be required to sign a Family/School Covenant.

Testing Procedures



- Information about the importance of testing after a possible exposure and the locally available resources for COVID testing will be made available to staff and families.
- Employees are encouraged to avail themselves of opportunities for regular interval testing to mitigate potential asymptomatic COVID infections.



Classroom Logistics and Practices

GUSD believes that classroom-based instruction and the structure of attending school on a daily basis is critical to our students' educational and social-emotional well-being. To ensure they can have that opportunity, we have implemented some of the following practices for our classroom spaces. GUSD has increased outdoor learning spaces on all campuses. We ask for all staff to abide by the following guidance for their space. Although classroom spaces are being cleaned daily by custodial staff, these additional practices are designed to increase safety throughout the day.

Classroom Arrangements

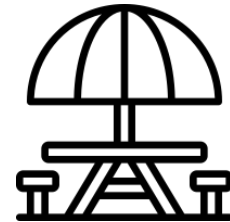
- All student and teacher desks and tables should be arranged to allow for distancing of 6 feet.
- Small cohorts of students will increase social distancing.
- All students should face the same direction rather than sitting in groups or facing each other.
- Disinfecting supplies, hand sanitizer, and handwashing supplies will be present in each classroom.
- Schedule is modified to allow time for cleaning between cohorts entering the space.
- Classrooms need to be free of any additional or unnecessary furniture or clutter that may get in the way of distancing or disinfecting practices. Temporary storage is being arranged for this.
- Outdoor learning spaces used, weather permitting.
- Markings on floor to reinforce distancing will be in place.
- Materials/manipulatives will be provided for each student as opposed to sharing whenever possible.
- Special Education services will be provided in a push-in model in order to maintain cohorts—students may also be served one on one.



Students (grades 3+) and all staff are required to wear face coverings at school.

Outdoor Learning Spaces

- Staff is encouraged to use outdoor learning spaces to increase physical distancing and ventilation.
- Each cohort will have an assigned outdoor space
- Assigned outdoor spaces will also be used for drop-off and pick-up
- Activities such as singing should take place out of doors.



Short Term Independent Study or Home Learning Practices

In situations in which a student may need to stay home for an extended period of time due to themselves or a family member's illness, it will be critical that simple access to classwork be available. Also, in a worst case scenario in which the school would be forced to close for a period of time, instruction needs to remain as seamless as possible. Using Seesaw (K-2) and Google Classroom (3+) extensively can aid in this case. To that end, students and teachers should:

- Ensure Seesaw or Google Classroom is being utilized as part of or in tandem with daily in-class instruction. Use of E-submission is encouraged to minimize handling of papers.
- Students and parents must ensure that student devices are readily accessible and able to connect to Wi-Fi and check both Gmail and Google Classroom
- Reinforce student use of Google Suite Apps, particularly Google Docs, to align with Google Classroom usage.
- Reinforce the use of student Gmail as the common means of student communication.



Campus Logistics and Practices

Each campus in GUSD is unique in its layout and availability of facilities. Students and staff should remember at all times maintain social distancing at all times when passing through the common areas of the campus.

Common Areas

- Restrooms will remain stocked with proper handwashing supplies.
- Recess times will be staggered and cohorts will be assigned a specific play area.
- Hallways will have one way traffic flow.

Library facilities, etc.

- Use of libraries and other areas in which students typically congregate will be limited to individuals or pairs to allow for distancing.
- Librarian will deliver books to students in their cohorts.

Food Service

- Students will continue to be served breakfast and lunch in “grab and go” format.
- Plexiglass separators will be in place in main offices and cafeteria.
- Foods will be served individually wrapped.
- Outdoor seating areas will be assigned by cohort for PM bus riders **ONLY** to eat lunch upon arrival. All other students receive “grab and go” to be consumed at home.
- Food service workers will wear appropriate personal protective equipment.

Ingress/Egress

- Parents/visitors will be allowed on campus by appointment only and must use a face covering consistent with state mandates.
- Each cohort will be assigned a designated drop-off/pick-up gate/location.
- School staff will monitor each gate and facilitate the handoff of students from their guardians
- Students move from gates to monitored cohort waiting areas or directly to the classroom where they will be screened for symptoms and wash their hands.
- Students who arrive late will be directed through the main office. Students with more than three tardies/trimester will be recommended for home learning program.
- Student supervision before and after school is limited to drop-off and pick-up times. PLEASE be prompt.

School Offices

The GUSD District Office and all site offices will continue to support students and parents. It is important though that we reduce the number of physical outside contacts as much as possible to protect the health of everyone. To help us do that:

- Schools will be limiting outside guests on all campuses to individuals or agencies providing direct services to our students.
- Parents and guardians will be limited to waiting areas in offices unless they have an appointment on campus with an individual.
- All guests are required to wear face coverings. If you do not have one, one can be provided.
- Please use phone and email to handle office communications and attendance.
- Update your contact information as early as possible in the school year, and provide both email and cellular (texting) contact information if possible.

What happens when a student becomes sick?



The COVID-19 virus is spreading throughout our community and will continue to do so until either a vaccine or herd immunity ends the spread altogether. As we learn more and more about the virus, we now know that our youth are least affected and generally recover quickly. We also know much more about how the disease spreads and for how long a person may be contagious. With that knowledge, we are well prepared for what to do when a student or staff member exhibits [symptoms](#) or becomes positive. **Students, staff, and parents need to remember to self-screen daily. If they are exhibiting symptoms, they need to stay home**

and contact their health care provider to determine if they need to be tested. The CDC offers this [Self-Checker](#) to aid in this decision.

If a student becomes sick while at school or begins to exhibit any symptoms

- Put on a face covering immediately (while remaining distanced, ask for a mask from a staff member if you do not have one).
- Student will be sent directly to the Health Care Office where they will be:
 - Evaluated by a nurse or healthcare assistant
 - Asked with whom they have been in close physical contact (less than six feet of distance for 15 or more minutes)
 - Held in an isolation area until a parent or guardian comes to pick them up.
 - Asked to remain home until the test results either clear the student to return or confirm a positive case of COVID-19.
- Students sent home for exhibiting symptoms or awaiting test results will be provided short term independent study opportunities while they are out (see p. 11).
- Follow BCOE COVID-19 Screening Flow Chart and the Butte County Public Health (BCPH) Guidance on the following pages

If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19

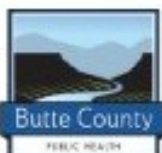
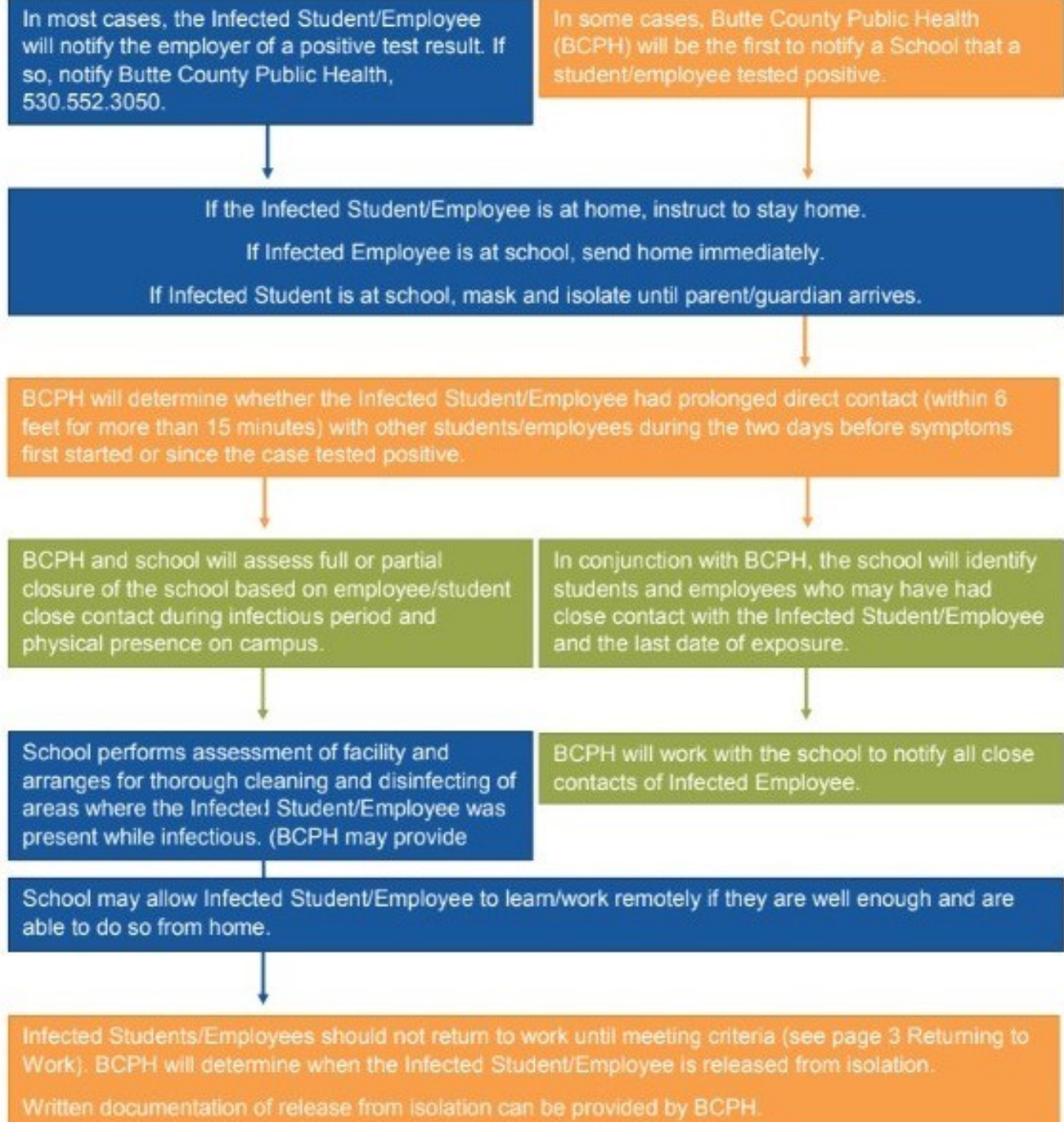


1. **Students or staff who test positive should notify the school immediately so that contact tracing can be started. If a household member tests positive, the school should be notified and the staff or student should isolate at home until cleared by BCPH.**
2. **The district nurse will contact BCPH to begin coordination of effort if the positive test was in a staff or student.**
3. **District nurse, health staff, and site administrator will work in collaboration with BCPH to begin contact tracing (see p. 7).**
4. **Students or staff who test positive should NOT come to school until they have been cleared by BCPH or meet the criteria on page 8 of this plan.**
5. Individual students will remain on short term independent study (see p. 11) until cleared to return to school.
6. In consultation with BCPH, should a school reach 5% of teachers and staff infected within a 14 day period, the school will close and move to a full distance education model for a minimum of 14 days while deep cleaning and additional BCPH consultation occurs.

Communication to families about COVID exposures and cases in the schools, consistent with privacy laws and BCPH guidelines (see p. 10), will occur through use of the Catapult autodialer, text messages, and website alerts. District staff (superintendent, special projects coordinator, and district nurse) have been and continue to be in contact with BCPH and County Office of Education about COVID in schools through emails and virtual meetings.



When a Student/Employee Tests Positive for COVID-19



Based on the CDC's [Cleaning and Disinfecting](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/return-to-work.html), and [Discontinuation of Home Isolation](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/return-to-work.html)

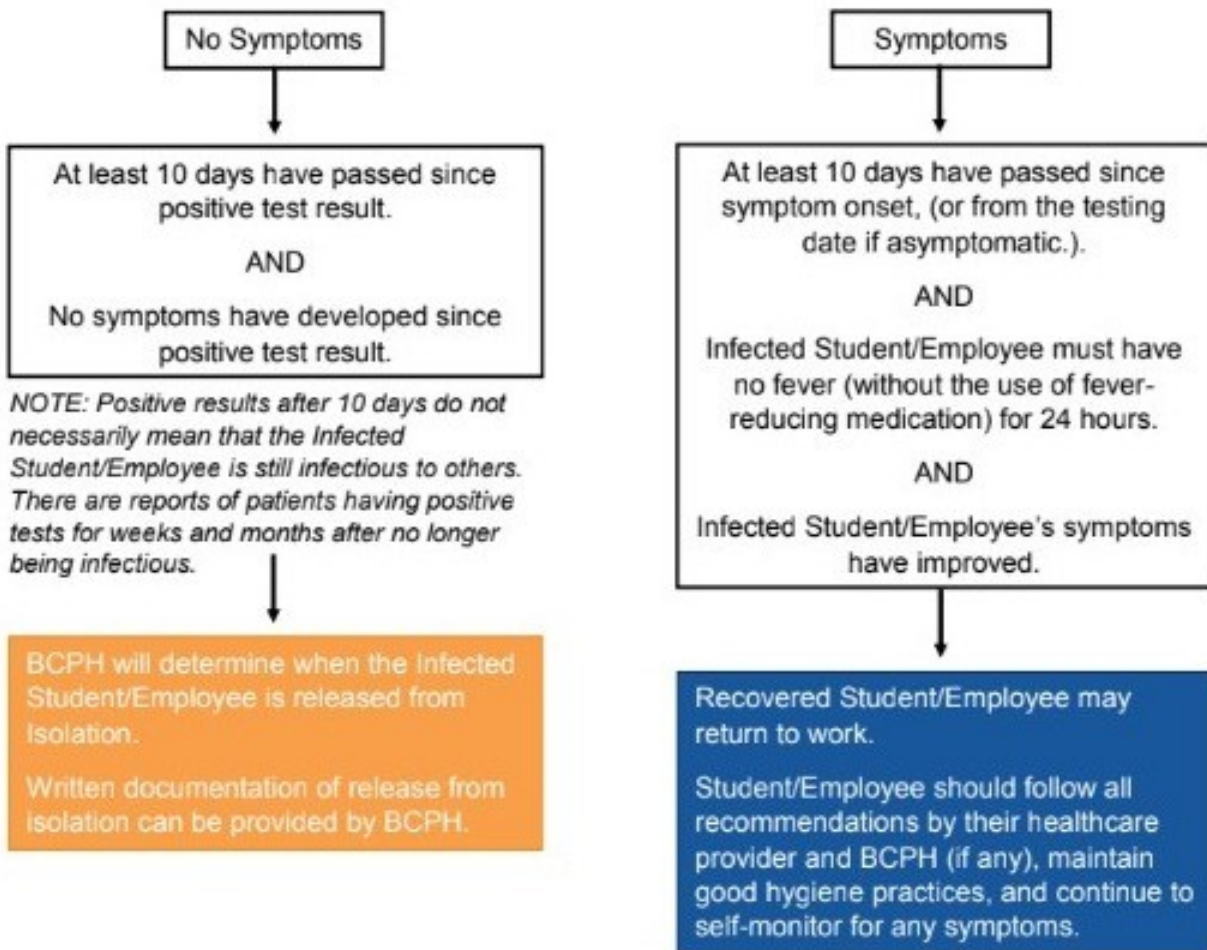
Legend

- School
- BCPH
- Collaboration

Returning to School after Testing Positive for COVID-19

Infected Students/Employees who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 may not return to work until they meet the CDC criteria for discontinuation of isolation. Butte County Public Health (BCPH) will utilize the following Symptom/Time based strategy.

BCPH determines if the patient had symptoms consistent with a COVID-19 infection regardless if it is before or after testing.



Based on the CDC's [Cleaning and Disinfecting](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/return-to-work.html), and [Discontinuation of Home Isolation](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/return-to-work.html)
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/return-to-work.html>

Legend

- School
- BCPH
- Individual

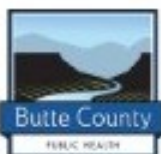
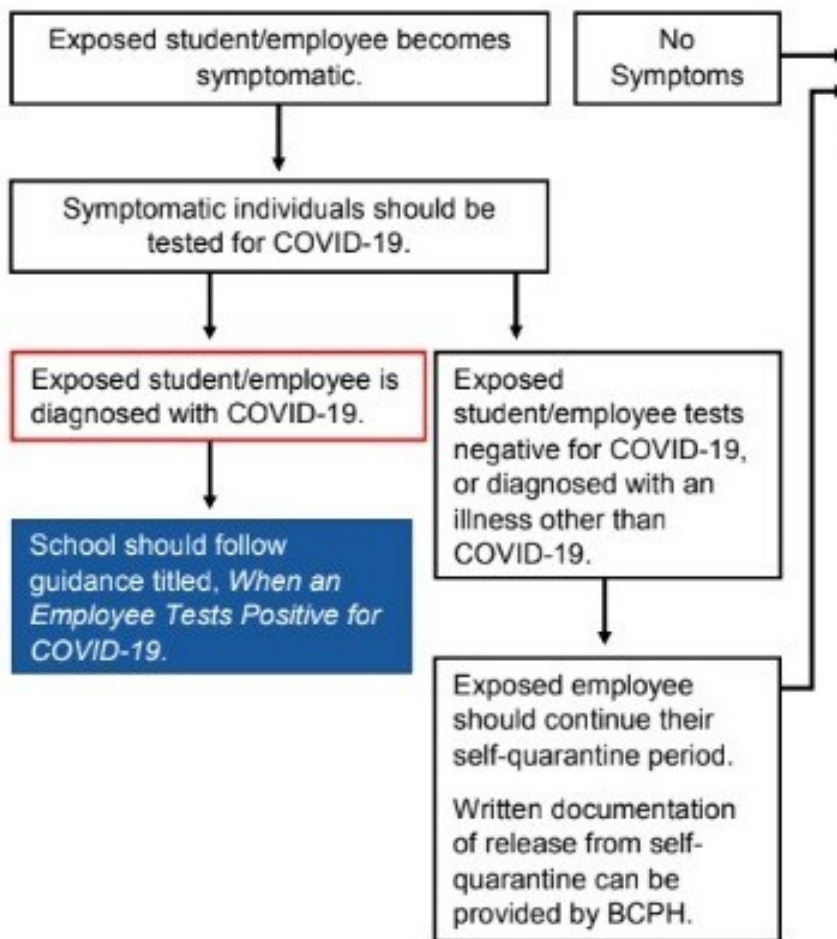
Close Contacts to a Lab-confirmed COVID-19 Case

Butte County Public Health will provide follow up to close contacts. Close contact is defined as being within 6 feet of a person during their infectious period for 15 minutes or longer. This can occur 2 days before symptoms appear or the positive test is collected, and during the first 10 days from symptom onset or the positive COVID-19 test.

BCPH will monitor Student/Employee for symptoms during their quarantine period. It is recommended that all those in quarantine get tested for COVID-19 on day 3 to 5 and day 14 of their quarantine period.

Allow exposed student/employee to learn/work remotely during self-quarantine if able to from home.

Allow exposed student/employee to return to school 14 days after their last exposure to the person who tested positive as long as they remain asymptomatic.



Based on the CDC's [Public Health Recommendations for Community-Related Exposure](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/public-health-recommendations.html), <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/public-health-recommendations.html>

Legend

School

BCPH

Individual

Butte County Public Health Protocols on the Onset of Symptoms, Potential Exposure to and/or Close Contact with an Individual Testing Positive for COVID-19 in a School Classroom/Cohort Setting

1

Scenario

A student or staff member either exhibits COVID-19 **symptoms**, answers yes to a health screening question or has a temp of 100.4 or above.

Action

- Student or Staff: Sent home
- Contact Healthcare provider/Public Health for testing
- **Cohort OPEN**

Communication

No action needed

2

Scenario

A family member or someone in **close contact** with a student or staff member test positive for COVID-19.

Action

- Student or Staff: Report information to administrator, sent home, quarantine
- Contact Healthcare provider/Public Health for testing
- **Cohort OPEN**

Communication

To: Student Families and Staff

Template Letter:
Household Member or contact w/C19+

3

Scenario

A student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19.

Action

- Student or Staff: Report information to administrator, sent home, quarantine
- Families of Students and Staff: quarantine and contact
- Healthcare provider/Public Health for testing
- **Cohort CLOSED for 14 days from last exposure**

Communication

To: Student Families and Staff
- Phone call and
- Template Letter:

Confirmed C19+ in Cohort

4

Scenario

A student or staff member tests negative for COVID-19 after any of the reasons in scenarios 1, 2 or 3

Action

- Student or Staff: May return to cohort 3 days after symptoms resolve, however must continue isolation if in contact with C19+ family member
- **Cohort OPEN**

Communication

To: Student Families and Staff

Template Letter:
Household Member or contact w/C19+

For more detailed information visit <http://www.buttecounty.net/publichealth>



Home Learning Options for Students



Although we believe that classroom-based instruction is still the best option for students from an educational, social, and emotional standpoint, and that our campuses will provide a safe learning environment for our students, we are aware and prepared for students and parents who may not feel ready to physically return to school daily. We also want to ensure that we have options for students who may be medically fragile or have compromised immune systems. GUSD has options to meet the needs of these families. Students with disabilities will require an IEP decision to be placed in the appropriate educational setting.

Remote Learning

- For **cohorts of students** and teachers that may have to self-isolate or quarantine for a short period of time due to a COVID 19 exposure.
- Coursework delivered from GUSD teachers online via SeeSaw (K-2) or Google Classroom (3-5), supported with additional online resources.

Short-term Independent Study

- For **individual students** who plan to return to regular, classroom-based school but will be out for two weeks at most due to illness or self-isolation.
- Must have a qualifying reason (COVID-19 self-isolation qualifies) and may require physician documentation.
- Cannot be extended past two weeks (10 school days) without Superintendent approval.
- Requires a minimum absence time of five school days to qualify.

Long Term Home Learning Program

- For students who are not ready to physically return to school daily.
- Must enroll by August 14, 2020 and commit to the 2020-2021 school year.
- Will consist of parent/guardian delivered instruction from California State Adopted Curriculum provided by GUSD and supported by a GUSD certificated teacher.
- Students will be required to “check in” remotely on a daily basis and submit regular work.
- Students will have opportunity for daily live interaction with peers and teachers through Zoom.
- A certificated teacher will be available daily through regular office hours for additional consultation/support.



GRIDLEY

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