



2023-24 Westerly School Health & Safety Protocols
To ensure a culture of health, safety, and shared responsibility

Overview & Rationale

Westerly School has prepared this document to outline our practices and protocols to facilitate the safety, health, and wellness of the students, families, faculty, and staff.

Westerly's practices and protocols highlighted in this document are based upon the following rationale:

- Follow the current CDC and Long Beach Health Dept. protocols for COVID-19
- Create a culture of mindfulness towards health and safety practices through partnership with families to protect their child(ren), other children, families, and faculty/staff
- Community Core Values: Responsibility, Kindness, Respect, Honesty, Adaptability

On-campus Practices and Protocols for Illness

There are instances where your child may be not feeling well but not experiencing fever or severe symptoms. During this time, Westerly strongly requests that the following protocols should be followed:

- Please send your child to school with a face mask to be worn indoors or when in close contact with others. Masks should not depict images that may be perceived as violent or scary, and be in compliance with school policies.
 - Face shield also optional WITH cloth/surgical non-valved face masks for students
- Students showing symptoms (e.g. sniffles, cough, sneezing) will be provided a mask, if needed.

Hand Washing/Sanitizing Protocols

- Hands washed for a minimum of 20 seconds at regular intervals
- Hand sanitizer provided to students and teachers throughout the campus
- Mandated hand washing after restroom usage
- Signage posted for reminders of best practices for hand hygiene



Standard Guidelines for COVID-19

As we moved from a pandemic to endemic, Westerly will continue to follow the CDC and Long Beach Health Dept. guidelines for COVID exposure and positive tests.

If your child displays any signs of illness or COVID symptoms, please keep them at home and inform the school.

By signing the Westerly [Family Handbook](#), parents/guardians are attesting that their child(ren) exhibits no signs of illness or symptoms of COVID prior to morning drop-off.

The standard return-to-school guidelines for COVID-19 are as follows:

- If anyone in my household, including my child/children, have experienced any symptoms of illness or COVID-19:
 - Have your child take a COVID test at home if they display any signs of illness, especially fever
 - Your child/children are strongly recommended to wear a mask until symptoms resolve
- If my child/children are exposed to COVID-19:
 - They must wear a well-fitting mask around others for a total of 10 days and are recommended to get tested 5-7 days after last exposure.
- If my child/children test positive for COVID-19:
 - Child with Symptoms of illness or COVID-19
 - Contact the school as soon as possible
 - Your child/children must isolate at home for a minimum of 5 days.
 - Your child/children may leave isolation and return to school any time after 5 days as long as they have been fever-free for 24 hours (without the use of fever reducing medicines) AND they either have no symptoms or their symptoms are mild and improving.
 - Your child/children must wear a well-fitting mask through Day 10. They may discontinue wearing a mask around others between Day 6-Day 10 if they have had two sequential negative COVID-19 tests taken at least one day apart.
 - Siblings with exposure to COVID-19
 - Siblings must wear a well-fitting mask indoors around others and monitor their health through Day 10
 - Siblings are recommended to test as soon as possible after exposure; inform the school should the test confirm a positive result.

At-home Health and Safety Practices

- Highly recommend up-to-date vaccinations of all eligible persons within the household
- Health Screening & Hand Hygiene Practices
 - Screen your child/household members for signs of illness or symptoms of COVID



- Keep your child home if they display any signs of illness, especially fever
- Have your child take a COVID test at home if they display any signs of illness, especially fever
- Have your child wear a mask around others if they display any signs of illness
- Practice Hand Hygiene at home
- Ongoing Education
 - Review any symptoms requiring attention of teachers/staff
 - Inform Westerly School of any signs of illness or symptoms of COVID within the household

References

- [American Academy of Pediatrics: COVID-19 Planning Considerations: Return to In-person Education in Schools](#)
- [COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools to Support Safe In-Person Learning, 2022-2023 School Year](#)
- [Center for Disease Control and Prevention: Vaccines for COVID-19](#)
- [Long Beach Department of Health](#)