



Parent Forum: Return to School 2021

September 2, 2021



Tonight's Agenda

- We're Coming Back!
- Meet Our New School Counselors
- Current Guidance
- Continued Preventive Measures, Protocols, and Testing
- Closing Comments and Q & A

Agenda





2021-22 COVID Advisory Committee

School Personnel

- Julie Galles, Interim Head of School
- Verena Denove, Associate Head and Director of Admissions
- Joey Campanella, Associate Head for Program
- JoAnn Neil, Athletic Director and 6th-8th PE Teacher

Trustees

- Dave Monahan, Board Chair and Wesley parent
- Paolo Velasco, Board Vice-Chair and Wesley parent/alum parent
- David Hookom, Trustee, former Board Chair, Wesley parent/alum parent

Covid Advisory Expert Team (all Wesley parents)

- Ravi Tharani, MD – Orthopedic Surgeon, KP Panorama City
- Tania Tang, PhD in Epidemiology - works for Kaiser analyzing data
- Paul Dluzniewski, PhD in Epidemiology - works in private sector and teaches at UCLA



Meet the Counselors



The Power of a Team

- Polly Grant and Fredrick Williams
- Between the two of them, we will have a counselor on campus every day.
- They will support students, parents, and teachers.
- They can conduct check-in meetings with students, but they do not provide regular therapy. They will help find outside professionals if needed.





Current Guidance



No More Tiers

The state discontinued the 4-Tier system in mid-June.

CA DPH continued to provide guidance documents for all sectors, including schools.

LA County DPH also has guidance, and is often more restrictive.

Over the past two months, cases have risen and more restrictions have returned.

If the Tier system still existed, LA County would be back to purple.

However, a large percentage of County residents are now vaccinated.

Measures*	Higher Risk → Lower Risk of Community Disease Transmission			
	Widespread Tier 1	Substantial Tier 2	Moderate Tier 3	Minimal Tier 4
New cases**/100,000 population per day (7 day average; 7 day lag)	>7	4-7	1-3.9	<1
Testing % Positivity (7 day average; 7 day lag)	> 8%	5-8%	2-4.9%	<2%



Current State and County Guidance

- Everyone on a K-12 school campus must wear a mask indoors
- All school personnel must show proof of vaccination or undergo weekly testing
- Ventilation, handwashing, and reporting/contact tracing continue
- Isolation and quarantine protocols remain
- Also recommended:
 - Vaccination for all eligible individuals, with legally required exemptions
 - Cohorting and distancing to the extent practicable to have children back in schools
 - Universal masking (indoors and out, vaccinated or not)
 - Regular testing
 - Limiting visitors to campus, requiring vaccine confirmation for visitors
- Some companies and schools/districts
 - Universal (indoor and outdoor) masking, regardless of vaccination status
 - Vaccine mandates with legally required exemptions



Wesley's Prevention Measures, Protocols, and Testing



Overarching Protocols

Universal masking (indoors and out, regardless of vaccination status)

Weekly testing for everyone

3-foot physical distancing inside, more if possible

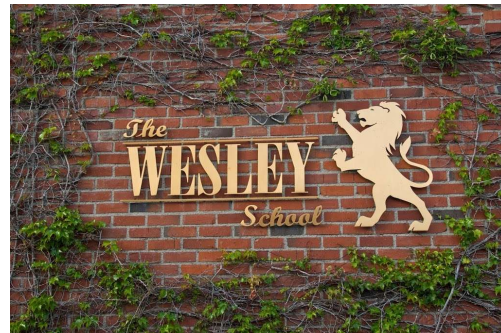
Grade-level cohorts, minimal mixing in Bands

Hand washing/sanitizing

Ventilation and air filtration/purification

Isolating of cases (10 days); quarantining of close contacts (7 days w/test)

Limiting visitors to campus, must show proof of vaccination





Additional Details

Student desks are in rows facing front

Teachers are using seating charts, aiming for consistency within reason

Students still have spaced seating at snack/lunch

Group work will be limited

Locker assignments and access to lockers will be staggered

Students can have mask breaks outside, away from others

Sports teams are operating under their own guidance

LEAP is operating with specified cohorting





What we are NOT doing anymore

Temperature checking/symptom screening upon entry

Plexiglass barriers

One-way halls and walkways (although try to avoid crowding)

Prohibiting all outside visitors

Restricting students to one or two rooms

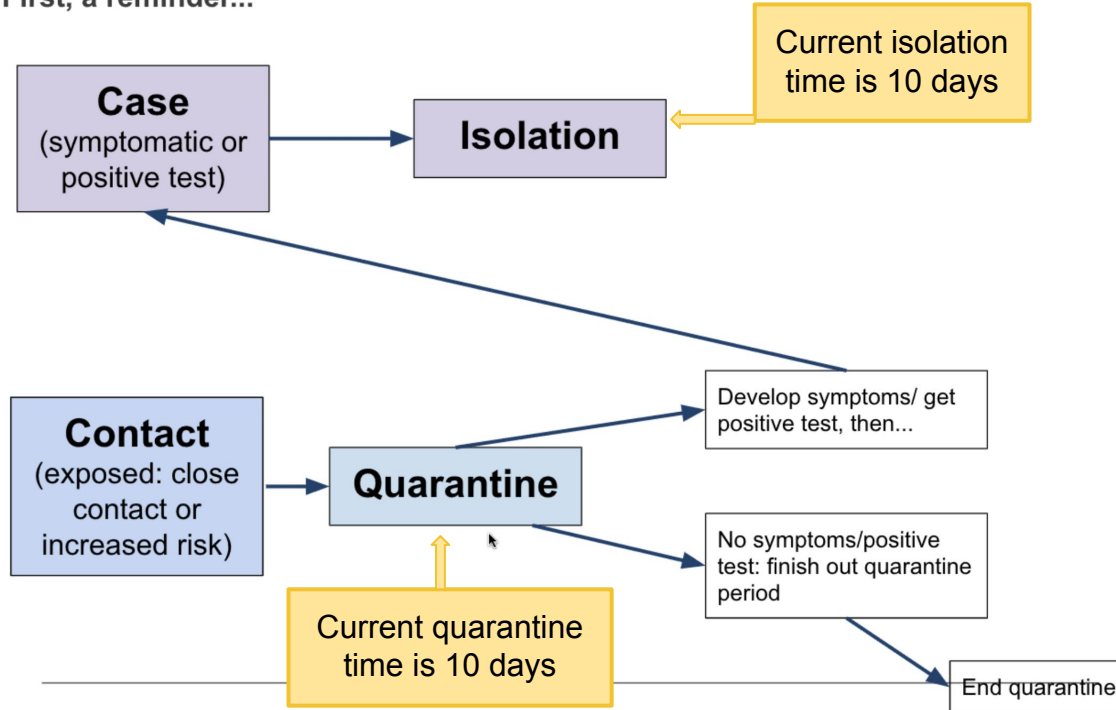
Prohibiting locker use



Reminder: Isolation vs. Quarantine

CDC Changes & Quarantine Requirements

First, a reminder...





What Happens with a Positive Student Case

School is notified and is in communication with the family, student must isolate for 10 days

We determine the close contacts and notify those families. Unvaccinated close contacts quarantine for 7 days if they have a negative test on day 5-6. Vaccinated close contacts are not required to quarantine.

We determine impact on classes and if we will be streaming classes to at-home kids.

We notify the employees and the community.





What Happens with a Positive Fac/Staff Case

School is notified and the individual must isolate for 10 days.

We determine the close contacts and notify any families. Unvaccinated close contacts quarantine for 7 days if they have a negative test on day 5-6.

Vaccinated close contacts are not required to quarantine.

We determine impact on classes and if the teacher will be able to zoom into class or we will provide substitute coverage.

We notify the employees and the community.





What We Can't Tell You

Personal Health Information (PHI) must be kept confidential by the school

We are not permitted to share

- Who has tested positive (past or present)
- Who has accommodations and why
- Who has been vaccinated

We know parents and employees might want to know these things. However, we cannot share them.

Communications to families and employees must stay frustratingly vague.

- “Your child may have been exposed to...”
- “There has been a positive case among employees...”



Testing

- State and County guidance mandates weekly testing of unvaccinated employees; we have a higher standard - weekly universal testing.
 - While not preventative, testing is useful for tracking the virus in our community
 - We can isolate and quarantine people faster, which reduces transmission
- Wesley's onsite testing
 - Agile Force and LSA labs will offer PCR tests on a weekly basis on campus for employees and students, regardless of vaccination status
 - Register online each week or for a number of weeks
 - No more paper...but make sure your child knows their WHOLE birthday, including year
 - We may be able to offer limited testing slots to parents or other community members



Community

8:20-8:40 Monday, Wednesday, Friday in the Sanctuary

Mondays - Pastor Steve's team leads, K-4 / 5-8 alternate

Wednesdays - school leads, K-4 attends, 5-8 zooms in

Fridays - school leads, 5-8 attends, K-4 zooms in

Students will be spread out (5-6 per row, skipping rows)

Parents can still watch (zoom link in the Wesley Weekly)



The First Day

1. Students arrive at their regular drop-off time and location
2. Students go directly to the classrooms, like last year
3. At 8:20, we will ring the bell and start to gather in fire-drill fashion on the Commons
4. We will have a brief Opening Ceremony
5. Students will “run off” to start their first day with teachers
6. The gathering will be filmed and sent to parents.
7. New parents have an orientation Zoom at 9:00 w/admin.





Our Collective Responsibility

- Doing everything we can to STOP an infection from arriving on campus
 - Following CADPH and LACDPH health orders and guidelines
 - Encourage reduction of exposure outside of school
 - Report a positive case in your family
- Doing everything we can to STOP transmission
 - Masks and physical distancing
 - Handwashing and cleaning/disinfecting
 - Cohorting and managing student movement
 - Contact tracing -- isolating and quarantining





Specific Asks of Parents

- Please read school communications
- Do not bring your child to school with ANY symptoms
- Have masks on BEFORE entering the parking lot
- Keep the school informed of any concerns or positive test results
- Continue to exercise caution with social choices





This Remains a Fluid Situation

- We are still watching all our data sources and staying in touch with what other schools are doing.
- We will watch our campus data very closely.
- We must plan for infections and shoot for zero transmission.
- We must anticipate infections and quarantines and hope they are minimal.
- We appreciate everyone's continued patience and flexibility.





CAC Comments and Q & A



The
Wesley
School