



Rhino Roar  
News for the Washington community  
Published weekly (mostly)  
Mar 26, 2021

Links to [calendar](#) and past [newsletters](#) on [PTA website](#)

4 volunteers needed next week from 8 - 9 am, helping screen students as they arrive at school. This does not involve close contact with students. If you are available, please email Principal Hazen @ [katiahazen@berkeley.net](mailto:katiahazen@berkeley.net)

Student Covid-19 testing will be offered on Tuesday 3/30 for all students who wish to participate. This is completely optional, but it is highly recommended. We will use the mouth swab test, and it will be administered by a nurse.

Each student will have the opportunity to test once every two weeks during school hours. As much as possible, we are planning to have the test on the same day every two weeks to keep the process simple. Testing is just another step in keeping our communities safe as we begin to come back together., so we encourage everyone to take part.

BUSD has partnered with PMH Laboratories to perform the testing. The District will have nurses on hand, in addition to the nurses provided by the testing agency, to collect samples with the mouth swab test. If you are interested, you can find out more information about PMH here: <https://pmhlaboratory.com/>

For your student to be eligible to be tested, the following steps are required. There is no cost for the testing. Please read all FOUR steps carefully.

All of the forms can be filled out and submitted online. No printing or wet signatures are required. These forms are also attached in English and Spanish to this email and will be available in your school offices starting Monday if you would rather fill them out beforehand or onsite.

STEP 1: ONE TIME Registration with PMH laboratories- Please click link below to register: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/>

Fill out all areas of form that have an \*. In the area below on the form please enter the client #1541 Please only enter the number, not the schools' name.

For the two answers below that, please enter "PCR" which is the mouth swab test.

STEP 2: ONLY NEEDED IF UNINSURED

The District is committed to making testing available to all students. When registering with PMH in the previous step you will be asked for your insurance information. If you do not currently have health insurance, please fill out the form at the link below so the cost can be covered. This form will be required on a monthly basis.

[HRSA COVID-19 Uninsured Program](#)

STEP 3: ONE TIME Parent Consent Form

All families who wish to have their students participate need to fill out the form below. The form says you are consenting to have your child tested through June of 2021 and covers all testing dates until school is out. Please click the link below.

[PARENT/GUARDIAN CONSENT FORM FOR WEEKLY STUDENT COVID TESTING](#)

#### STEP 4: EVERY TEST DAY

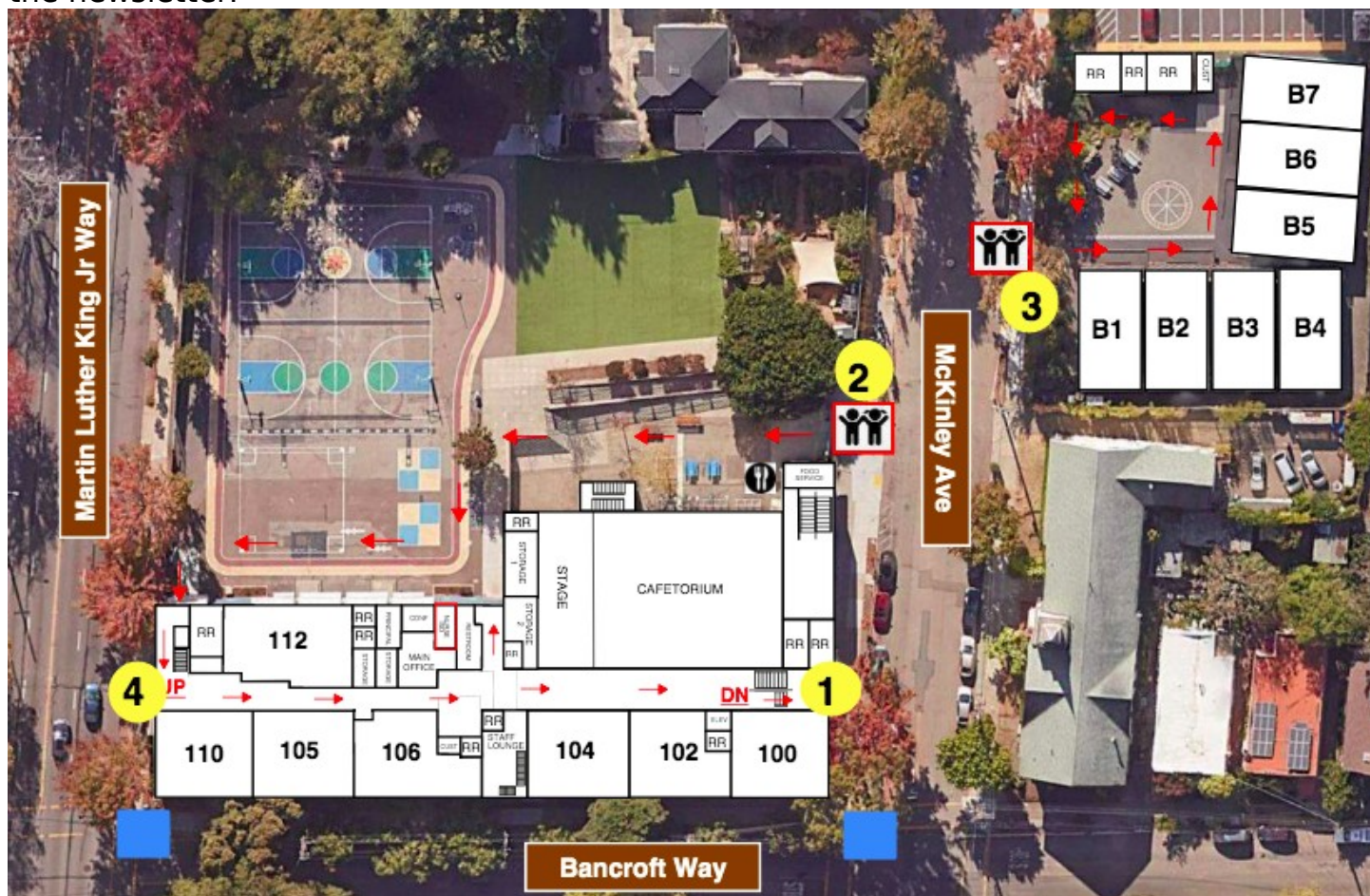
The form at the link below needs to be filled out before your child takes a test each time as it asks for any underlying conditions and possible Covid-19 symptoms or exposure.

[COVID-19 Patient Test Request Form](#)

If you have any questions, please contact Winn Burda, Project Manager, Student Covid Testing, Berkeley Unified School District, Cell 510-809-5748 [winnburda@berkeley.net](mailto:winnburda@berkeley.net)

Updated Entry and Exit gate locations: Every student must check in before being allowed on campus. You can help this process go smoothly by completing the [daily health survey](#) for each student before they leave home to travel to school each day. As a reminder, parent/guardians are not allowed on campus at this time.

We've updated the gate locations, please see below, entry times and gates at the end of the newsletter:



#### Late Arrivals

Students who arrive after school starts must still go to the check-in kiosk first. If the check-in kiosk has been closed for the day, a sign will be put in its place directing students to check in at the office first for the same entry process. Students who are cleared from the office to go to their classroom will be given a pass to present to their teacher that they have completed the daily health screener.

Students who arrive in class without a pass will be sent to the office to complete the health screener and receive a pass before being permitted to enter their class.

Check out this handy checklist for getting ready to come back to school: <http://www.berkeleyschools>.

Message from the Visual and Performing Arts department (VAPA): we are maintaining our commitment to quality music education during the return to in-person learning. On campus we will be providing general music classes for 30 minutes once a week for grades 3-5 (and lower grades at schools who usually have music grades 1 and 2). These classes will not be the normal instrumental classes, but rather a whole-class musical experience with safety and social distancing in mind. Students will not need to bring their instruments to school.

We will also be continuing instrumental music for 4th and 5th graders online after school at 1:35 and 2:25. Starting April 12, every 4th and 5th grader will be able to meet up with their instrumental teacher in online virtual classes and continue lessons until the end of the year. Music teachers will be reaching out to students via google classroom and parent email lists to inform them of their available class times and links. If you are not able to get info from your music teacher by 4/12 or have other questions, please contact me at [petergidlund@berkeley.net](mailto:petergidlund@berkeley.net) and I can provide that info.

We are pleased that the above info means that we are actually able to provide more total musical experiences than earlier this year in BUSD for both in-person and distance learners district wide!

Looking forward to a musical spring 2021, Pete Gidlund, VAPA Supervisor

COVID-19: Scientists, Doctors Launch Vaccine Virtual Town Halls (including a Washington parent!)

Ongoing Series Aims to Address Vaccine Concerns, Answer Public's Questions

More than 50 scientific experts from across the United States, including virologists, infectious disease specialists and medical doctors, are launching a series of virtual town halls this week to answer the public's questions about the COVID-19 vaccines.

The effort aims to bring factual, scientific information to people across the country, particularly communities of color that have been hardest hit by the pandemic. Questions about safety, speed of vaccine development, side effects, efficacy and new variants will be answered with the latest scientific information.

Called "COVID-19 Vaccine Education," the program is sponsored by the American Society for Virology and the American Society of Microbiology, two of the nation's leading professional organizations in the area of infectious diseases. The town halls will be hosted by pairs or groups of experts, and the sessions will run 30 - 45 minutes.

The series kicked off on Monday, with additional weekly events slated to continue throughout the spring and summer.

Keep up with the latest dates, and register to attend, by visiting [www.asv.org/education](http://www.asv.org/education). (All the events are free, but registration is required; maximum capacity for each town hall

is 300 people.)

A brief video about the events is here: <https://twitter.com/>

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Calendar Reminders:

- March 29 Kindergarten, First and Second grade students return to in-person instruction
- April 5 - 9 Spring Break (Please don't travel over 120 miles from home, help us keep school open!)
- April 12 Third, Fourth and Fifth grade students return to in-person instruction

If your child is absent for any reason, please email [washingtonattendance@berkeley](mailto:washingtonattendance@berkeley) and copy your child's teacher. Thank you!

Questions or concerns? Please email Principal Katia Hazen at [katiahazen@berkeley.net](mailto:katiahazen@berkeley.net)