

Rhino Roar



News for the Washington community

Published weekly (mostly)

August 27, 2021

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

Please register your child for onsite COVID testing with this QR code ->

Or at <https://my.primary.health/>

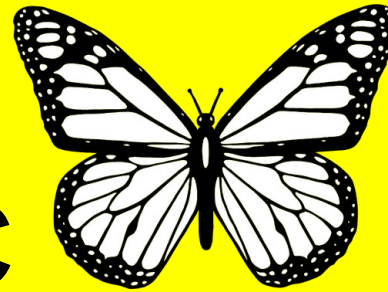
- We want ALL Washington students to participate in weekly testing!
- Testing will happen every Wednesday morning in the classroom with the teacher present and trained medical

technicians administering the test.



- You will be notified immediately, directly by the testing company.
- More details below
- Thank you for helping Washington stay open!

ELAC



English Learner Advisory Committee

Welcome to the new School Year!

Sept. 2, 6:00-7:00

[Zoom link](#)

Meeting ID: 869 3168 2396

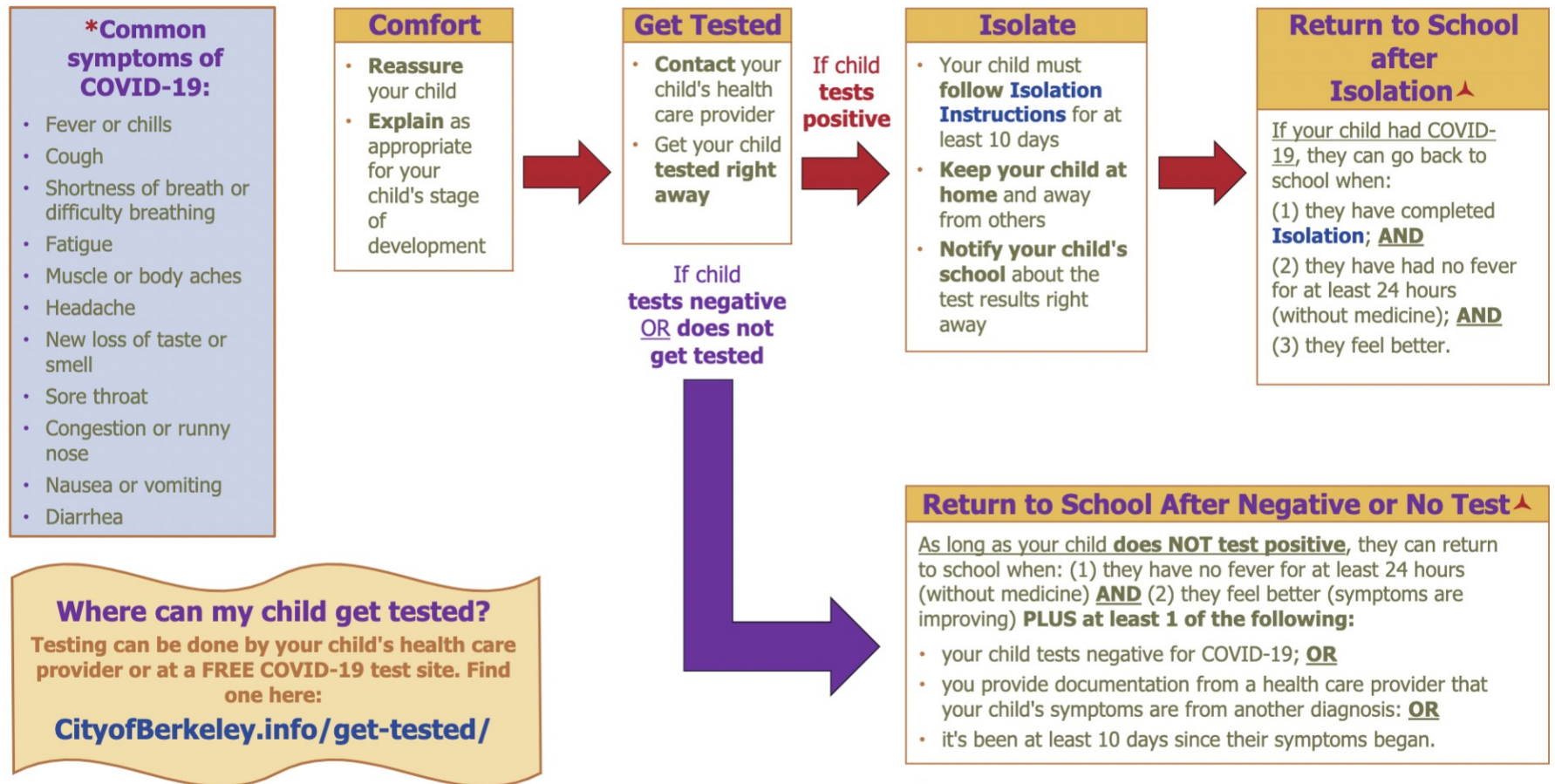
Passcode: 292440

- **Come meet other Washington families**
- **Learn about the different languages at Washington**
- **Learn about the English Language Development Program at Washington**
- **Share ideas for school wide celebrations like Culture Night, Latinx Heritage Month, Ramadan education and awareness, Asian Pacific Islander month and more**
- **Support one another and learn how to support your child**

Get involved in your Washington PTA! 1st meeting is Sept 16, 6 to 8 pm via Zoom <https://berkeley-net.zoom.us/>

What do I do if my child has COVID-19 symptoms* with no known exposure?

(applies to **VACCINATED** and **UNVACCINATED** children)



Where can my child get tested?
 Testing can be done by your child's health care provider or at a FREE COVID-19 test site. Find one here:
CityofBerkeley.info/get-tested/

▲ Check school/program policy before sending your child back.

COVID testing is scheduled to happen at Washington every Wednesday morning 8:30am to 12pm

[One-Time Student Testing Registration here](#). **We want 100% of Washington students to test every week!**

This year, our new testing partnership with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and Vestra Labs will only require a one-time student testing registration and parent/guardian consent. Please complete the Primary Health registration form so your student can be tested every week school is in session. You do not need to upload insurance information or any identification documents. This consent covers both rapid antigen testing and PCR testing.

Please make sure all information is completed in your registration in order to receive your student's test results. After registration you will need to confirm your email address and phone number. You will receive an email and text to do this.

BUSD will provide weekly rapid testing at all elementary, middle, and high school sites. The district will also deploy testing units to schools where students are under a modified quarantine due to a close contact with a COVID-19 case. Students under modified quarantine who are asymptomatic may continue to attend school as long as they test twice weekly through the BUSD testing program during the quarantine period.

The test is a shallow nasal rapid antigen test. Results can be expected in 15 to 20 minutes.

Testing for elementary students will happen just outside their classroom during school hours.

Tests will be administered by trained Vestra technicians. Students will be guided through the process of inserting the nasal swab just inside of each nostril for 15 seconds. The technician will then process the test.

Students will return to their class immediately after testing.

If Your Student Tests Positive during COVID testing at School

If a student tests positive with a rapid test, the technician will administer a second PCR test to confirm the student is positive. We expect to get these test results in 48 to 72 hours. BUSD will presume the student is positive unless the PCR test comes back negative. We will isolate the student while the parent is contacted to pick them up. Staff will be prepared to reassure the student, should the student become upset. School COVID Liaisons will begin contact

tracing with the student's parent/guardian and the BUSD nurse will provide isolation instructions.

The City of Berkeley Health Department has given the okay to turn on the water fountains on Washington's playground. Hand sanitizer is available after use. We continue to urge students to bring a refillable water bottle labelled with their name for use during school.

We need substitute teachers! Did you know that you can become a substitute teacher if you have an undergraduate degree and pass a basic skills test? Find out more [here](#). The BUSD Human Resources Department can answer your questions at (510) 644-6150, or email Principal Hazen at katiahazen@berkeley.net

Campus opens at 8 am Please do not drop your child off prior to this time unless they are enrolled in the [BEARS](#) before school program. Thank you!

Washington can stay open during most instances when smoke from wildfires is in the East Bay. All classrooms and offices have HEPA 17 air purifiers that work effectively to lower the spread of COVID-19 with windows opened or closed. Please refer to this [Air Quality Index \(AQI\) guidance](#) to learn about how schools will respond to rising AQI levels.



At AQI levels over 150, we will eat indoors in the cafeteria, which already has markings for distancing in place. Decisions about school closures for very high AQI level events are made by the Superintendent of Berkeley Schools.

Calendar Reminders:

- **Saturday, August 28:** TK/K Potluck 10:30-12:30; 1st-grade potluck 1:30-3:30
- **Sunday, August 29:** 2nd-grade potluck 1:30-3:30
- **September 6:** No school for Labor Day holiday
- **September 11:** 3rd grade potluck 10:30-12:30; 4th-grade potluck 1:30-3:30
- **September 12:** 5th-grade potluck 1:30-3:30
- **September 16:** PTA meeting 6 - 8 pm via [Zoom](#)

If your child is absent for any reason, please email washingtonattendance@berkeley and copy your child's teacher.

Thank you!

Questions or concerns? Please email Principal Katia Hazen at katiahazen@berkeley.net