

Self-Quarantine/School Absence Policy

** subject to change **

Last Updated 09/07/2022

The following policy covers students, aides, teachers, TROs, and anyone else seeking to enter BNS's facilities.

BNS requires that students are vaccinated against COVID-19. It is strongly recommended that all adults, and all eligible children, receive a COVID-19 vaccination and booster as appropriate given current recommendations and in consultation with their doctor(s). Adults and children who are not vaccinated may be required to follow different policies with regard to their involvement and participation at BNS.

We request that when reporting absences, families report according to the classification as defined below (and described in [this infographic](#)):

- **Positive COVID-19 Test:** isolate at home for five (5) days from symptom onset. Child/teacher may return to school on day six (6) if they have been fever free for twenty-four (24) hours without the use of fever-reducing medicine (if present) AND symptoms have improved (e.g., respiratory symptoms). A well-fitting mask must be worn on days six (6) through ten (10).
- **Newly symptomatic individual/child (even one who tests negative using an at home antigen test):** students and teachers who experience an unexplained new symptom need to isolate at home for five (5) days from symptom onset or provide a negative PCR test (if their symptoms have improved and they wish to return to school prior to the 5-day period). After day five (5), the individual may return to school under BNS's general illness/sick policies (i.e. improving symptoms and fever free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication). A new symptom is defined as any common cold symptom, or any new unexplained symptom that cannot be attributed to a previously known cause.
- **Exposed and asymptomatic individual/child (unvaccinated or not up to date with vaccines):** If you've had [close contact](#) with someone who has COVID-19, you should get

tested 3-5 days after your exposure, even if you don't have symptoms. You should also wear a mask indoors in public for 10 days following exposure or until your test result is negative. Follow guidance for isolation if your test result is positive.

- **Exposed and asymptomatic individual/child (up to date with vaccines):** May return to school, follow any masking policies that are currently in place, and closely monitor for the appearance of symptoms.

Positive COVID Cases

If a child or staff member has a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19, call your physician/pediatrician for further instructions. Parents are asked to inform the school within 24 hours by emailing our school COVID contacts (COVID@new-school.org) if their child or any member of the immediate household has developed any reportable communicable disease (as defined by the State Board of Health; www.vdh.state.va.us; "Reportable Disease List" and including COVID19). BNS will notify the entire school community of a positive COVID-19 test anywhere within the community. Names will never be used, but the community will be notified about the class color of a confirmed case. Other notifications will be made in accordance with the VA Department of Health after their contact tracing (as noted below).

If there is a positive case of COVID-19, the classroom will be deep cleaned. Contact tracing may be performed by the Health Department.

Plan for Student/Teacher who becomes symptomatic while at school:

- Move symptomatic individual(s) to the conference room next to the front door or outside area if available.
- Ensure symptomatic individual remains masked (as able if no respiratory difficulties)
- Teacher (or support individual) should wear mask, face shield, gown, and gloves.
- If breathing medication such as albuterol is required, only inhaler with spacer should be utilized. (Nebulizers are considered an aerosol-generating procedure).
- Increase ventilation as able in the conference room by opening windows or other available strategies. (Adjoining doors should be closed).
- Symptomatic individual should leave the school as quickly as possible (e.g. home with parent or emergency services).
- After symptomatic individual leaves, the room should be sterilized with the UV-cleaning light and room should remain unused until complete air turnover occurs (30 minutes).
- Clean surfaces that the symptomatic individual touched in their classroom/throughout

the school.

- School COVID contacts, Molly Lucier (mollycavewmn@gmail.com) or TJ Stone (tjstonebns@gmail.com), will email symptomatic individual's classroom of possible exposure to an ill individual.
- Recommendation for all members of the household to leave the school to minimize possible infections.