



Guidelines on Reducing Voluntary Higher-Risk Activities (COVID-19)

Drafted:: September 21, 2020

Updated: October 1, 2020

To reduce potential for exposure to COVID-19 within the BNS community during times of high community outbreak, it is important that Blacksburg New School students, families, and employees refrain from voluntary higher-risk activities, namely any voluntary activities that would increase your family's risk of being in close contact with someone with COVID-19, [defined by the CDC](#) as "anyone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes." Examples of these higher-risk activities are:

1. Eating at an indoor restaurant, coffee shop, or similar
2. Going to bars or nightclubs
3. Going to concerts or sporting events
4. Going to a salon or barbershop
5. Going to a gym
6. Carpooling
7. Participating in contact sports (e.g., soccer, basketball, or any other sport)
8. Going to a movie theater
9. Using public transit
10. Holding or attending indoor parties or other social gatherings of 10 or more people.
11. Attending indoor religious service
12. Going to an amusement park

The above list is not meant to be exhaustive and we realize that extenuating circumstances might make some of these activities relatively safe (e.g., if masks are worn and social distances are maintained). If you have any questions about a particular activity, please email our BNS COVID contacts (Molly Lucier, mollycavewmn@gmail.com, or TJ Stone, tjstonebns@gmail.com) and they will contact the appropriate committee(s)/individual(s) for additional information. Please also refer to the [Blacksburg New School Travel Guidelines](#), which remain in effect.

These guidelines do not apply to activities required for education at Blacksburg New School, for employment, to care for dependents, or to receive essential services (such as groceries, healthcare). Individuals who choose not to refrain from these activities should engage in remote learning activities until this guideline is no longer in effect. If a family member engages in an isolated instance of one of these activities, then we ask that the family shift to remote learning for a 14-day period or until receiving a negative test result.

These guidelines were adopted following the emergency September 9 board meeting, called in response to concerns over the high community case count, and will remain in effect until the next regularly scheduled board meeting, October 14, at which point the board will reevaluate the community and school case count situation.