Self-Quarantine/School Absence Policy

** subject to change **

Last Updated 08/05/2021

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

*It is strongly recommended that all adults, and all eligible children, receive a COVID-19 vaccination. 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**: exclude for ten (10) consecutive days from symptom onset AND only allow to return after fever free for twenty-four (24) hours without the use of fever-reducing medicine (if present) AND symptoms have improved (e.g., respiratory symptoms).

- **Symptomatic individual/child who tests negative**: may return to school under BNS’s general illness/sick policies.

- **Exposed and asymptomatic individual/child (unvaccinated)**: needs to stay in quarantine for 14 days after the date of last contact. Even if the child is tested for COVID-19 and has a negative test, the child must still stay home for the full 14 days. This is because it can take up to 14 days after exposure to the virus that causes COVID-19 to become infected.

- **Exposed and asymptomatic individual/child (vaccinated)**: 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 14 days following exposure or until your test result is negative. You should isolate for 10 days if your test result is positive.
If a child or staff member has a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19, call the local health department for further instructions. Parents are asked to inform the school within 24 hours by emailing our school COVID contacts (Molly Lucier mollycavewmn@gmail.com and TJ Stone tjstonebns@gmail.com) 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.