



Blacksburg New School 2500 North Main Street, Blacksburg VA 24060

www.blacksburgnewschool.org

540-552-6693

Est. 1971

January 3, 2023

BNS Community,

In December 2022 the BNS Board voted to adopt several changes to our COVID policies. These are detailed below for your reference.

1. BNS will follow CDC's recommendations for masking optional when Montgomery County is in medium/yellow community transmission. This is a change from our previous policy which treated medium/yellow community transmission like high/red community transmission.
2. BNS will no longer require masks when Montgomery County is in low/green or medium/yellow community transmission levels when students are in shared spaces including hallways, bathrooms, art, and the computer lab. This is a change from our previous policy in which masks were required in these shared spaces regardless of the community transmission levels.
3. BNS adopted the temporary eating guidelines (which will now be our new eating policy) which stated that students will have the option of eating inside when the "feels like" temperature is <45 degrees F. All students will continue to eat outside when the "feels like" temperature is >=45 degrees F.

In addition to these policy changes, you can now find two links to COVID trackers on our website. A link to the CDC's tracker can be found by clicking the [big orange COVID button](#) in the upper menu bar and then clicking [Community Transmission Tracker](#). **You can use this to check the COVID status each week. *If we move into high/red community transmission using this CDC tracker, masks will be mandatory throughout the school.* Screenshots of these links are below.**

Thank you for being a part of our school,

Kiyah Duffey
BNS Board President

COVID Plans

New Ways at The New School

Educating during COVID is the wildest thing we've seen our school navigate in its 50 years of existence. Up close and personal, up close and in person is the Blacksburg New School way. But, we're learning new ways to do what we've always done: work to instill a love of learning and respect for the community and others. Now we're just doing it from a little further away (like, 3' - 6' away).

Below, you'll find details about our school operating procedures, offerings, risk-mitigation efforts, and weekly board updates.

[Policies & Procedures](#)

[Board Updates](#)

2022-2023 Policies & Procedures



Self-Quarantine/School Absence Policy
** subject to change **
Last Updated: 10/26/2022
Update: removed broken VA Dept. Health infographic link

Below are links to important guidelines and school policies that are critical for our ongoing efforts to remain open to in-person learning.

Our *Self-Quarantine & Absence Policy* was last updated on: 8/30/2022

Montgomery County, Virginia
OVERALL COVID RISK
WEEKLY NEW CASES PER 100K
WEEKLY COVID ADMISSIONS PER 100K
PATIENTS W/ COVID (% OF ALL BEDS)
CovidActNow.org Last



Self-Quarantine/School Absence Policy
** subject to change **
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The following policy covers students, aides, teachers, TRD, 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 respect to their involvement and participation at BNS.

We request that, when reporting absences, families report according to the classification as defined below:

- **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 (tests free for twenty-four (24) hours without the use of fever-reducing medicine (if present), BNS symptoms have improved (e.g., respiratory symptoms). A well-fitting mask must be worn on days six (6) through ten (10).
- **Recently symptomatic individual/child:** Even one who tests negative using an at-home antigen tests, 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 (e.g., 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

*COVID updates removed broken VA Dept. Health infographic link

Last updated October 26, 2022

Below are links to important guidelines and school policies that are critical for our ongoing efforts to remain open to in-person learning.

Our *Self-Quarantine & Absence Policy* was last updated on: 8/30/2022

BNS Policies & Documents

- [Community Expectations](#)
- [Self-Quarantine & Absences](#)
- [Hand-Washing Policy](#)
- [COVID-Closing Policy](#)
- [CDC Booster Guidance](#)
- [Community Transmission Tracker](#)

Board Updates

Click on any of the images below to read historical reports from the Board of Director's regarding COVID planning, preparation, and learning support efforts from 2020 and 2021.