

2021 - 2022 BRANDON ACADEMY COVID SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Overall Goal of School Operations and Protocols

We will strive to keep BA open and operating as close to pre-COVID standards in the safest way possible, taking all reasonable steps to limit the spread of the virus in our community. As we enter the third year of the pandemic, we will balance the need for academic, social, and emotional development of our students with the safety and health of our community. Our operating protocols are not fixed and will be adjusted based on the rate of community spread.

Fully In-Person Learning with Mitigation Protocols

- All students must learn on campus; no full-time at-home learning option will be available.
- Students who are not COVID positive or quarantined but are symptomatic or ill will be encouraged to rest and get better; online learning will not be available.
- Students who are Covid positive or quarantined, well enough and able, will be required to learn asynchronously from home for the duration of the isolation or quarantine.
- Students who are Covid positive or quarantined will not be allowed to participate in any in-person school events or activities.

Mitigation Protocols

Health Screening

- Daily employee, student, and guest screening will resume following the same protocol from the 2020 - 2021 school year.
- Faculty will be instructed to send all symptomatic students to the Office; the administration will send symptomatic students home. A note from your doctor is not required to return to school.
- Should a student feel sick, please keep him/her at home and call your family doctor immediately. You may also want to utilize this [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Self-Checker](#) to assess your symptoms.

Face Covering

- At the opening of school, a face covering is required indoors regardless of vaccination status unless eating, in PE, or participating in athletics.
- Face covering is optional outdoors.

- Face covering requirements will be evaluated regularly with the intention of making face-covering recommended indoors as soon as it is safe to do so. Evaluation will use community and school transmission data, aiming for low or moderate transmission.
- Per the State of Florida, parents that would like to have their child opt out of wearing a face-covering need to complete this [Google Form](#). A form needs to be completed for each child that is opting out of wearing a mask.

Physical Distancing

- Students will be spaced as far apart as possible in classrooms, facing the same direction.
- Teachers will keep seating charts for contact tracing.
- Large group activities may be modified (for example, split into smaller groups, moved outside, shortened in time, etc.) or postponed to reduce the likelihood of close contact.
- Activities will take place outdoors when possible.

Hand

- Sanitizing stations will be available in public areas and students will be encouraged to wash their hands frequently.

Sanitation

- Classrooms will be cleaned regularly, particularly in high-touch areas.
- Extra sanitation will occur in areas of known COVID exposure.

Contact Tracing

- Laboratory confirmed positive individuals must isolate for 10 days (including staying separate from the family in the home to the extent possible) and may return on day 11 if fever-free for 24 hours.
- Following local health department and [CDC](#) guidance, the BA administration will contact trace in situations of known close contact with COVID positive individuals.
- Note all return to campus dates must be coordinated by the administration.

Hygiene

- Current local health department protocols for adults classify close contact as less than 6 feet for more than 15 minutes over a 24-hour period, 48 hours prior to the onset of symptoms of the positive person.
- An exception to the definition of close contact was added by the CDC to exclude students, greater than three feet from an infected person if both the infected student and exposed student are masked.
 - **Students that have opted out of wearing a mask and are deemed to have been in close contact with a positive person by the BA administration per CDC protocol, will quarantine for 14 days from the last contact with the infected person.**
- Individuals who have had COVID in the last three months or have been fully vaccinated for two weeks do not need to quarantine after close contact.

Visitors

- Visitors will be allowed on campus and must abide by all safety protocols established.
- During the school day, visitors must check-in at the office to screen.
- Visitors should be limited to outdoor areas and, when necessary, common indoor spaces for limited amounts of time.
- When pre-approved, groups of parents may meet on campus following the established protocols (for example, athletic parent meetings, orientations, Parent Association, etc.)

Athletics

- Middle and Upper School athletic programs will follow the guidelines of the FHSAA.
- To the extent possible, coaches will adjust indoor activities (for example, smaller groups, move outside, etc.) to limit close contact.
- Coaches will not allow symptomatic students to participate and will coordinate closely with the administration.

Vaccination

- BA strongly encourages eligible employees and students to consider getting the COVID vaccine to reduce the likelihood of spread in our community, keep vulnerable members safe, prevent widespread absences and keep our school open.
- Covid Symptoms to look for:

- Fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle and body aches, headache, the new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea.