

# Pandemic Emergency Operations Plan Updates

## FAQ

*March 9, 2022*

As our community, the Monroe County Health Department, the Indiana State Department of Health, and the CDC have lifted Covid guidelines for schools, the BMS Board of Directors and Administration have worked together to revise BMS's Pandemic Emergency Operations Plan to reflect the current situation. This document gives a quick overview of changes; more information can be found by reading the complete PEOP. These guidelines will be revisited every two weeks for the remainder of the school year and updated as needed to reflect the changing situation.

### **Will everyone still wear masks?**

Masking is required by all people indoors, unless they are eating/drinking/napping and physically distanced. Surgical grade or higher masks are encouraged.

Masking outdoors will be optional for everyone. However, please have your child mask before coming to the door for drop-off to avoid a gathering or traffic jam of unmasked people at the door. If you would like your child to stay masked outdoors, please notify teachers, but primary communication about this should happen at home between parents and children. Teachers will give reminders as possible but have limited ability to enforce individual family preferences.

### **Will kids still be socially distanced?**

Social distancing of six feet (or separation by a partition) will be maintained at all times when unmasked indoors.

### **What do we have to do if our child is sick?**

Symptom screening will be more important than ever. Please screen your child for symptoms each morning, and report illness to the school to work with Administration on a safe date to return. Students exhibiting Covid symptoms may return with a lab-administered rapid or PCR test or after an 8 day isolation period from the onset of symptoms.

### **What do we have to do if our child tests positive for Covid?**

If your child tests positive for Covid, they must isolate at home for 8 days from the onset of symptoms, and please notify the school.

### **What if our child is a close contact?**

Particularly close or high-risk contacts will be notified as close contacts, though there is no required quarantine. The entire classroom will be notified of the positive case in the classroom and asked to use the supplied at-home rapid test for mitigation testing on day five after possible exposure.

**What if a person has a positive Covid test in my child's classroom?**

In the event of a positive test, the individual's privacy will be protected to the greatest extent possible. The classroom will be notified of the positive test result, and the Administration will also send a weekly email notification of any schoolwide cases.

If a classroom reaches a 10% rate of Covid-positive or symptomatic individuals, the school will consider classroom closure. This is based on the new ISDH recommendations. The MCHD would also be notified of any classroom with a 10% rate.

**What about vaccination status?**

The ineligibility of our youngest community members for vaccination is a strong motivator in maintaining indoor masking. However, the updated guidelines apply to all individuals, regardless of vaccination status.

**What if Covid gets worse again?**

The guidelines will be reviewed every two weeks or more frequently if needed. In the event of a surge or rise of a concerning variant, stronger protocols will be reinstated to ensure the safety of our school community.

**Are all the other protocols being lifted?**

No, most of our protocols are staying the same. For example, all environmental protocols such as mid-day classroom cleaning, mid-day temperature checks, HEPA filtration, MRV13 filtration, extra ventilation/outdoor time, lunch changes, separate entrances, and podding procedures are staying in effect.