

Dear Parents,

The Alamance Health Department changed the policy for quarantine. Please read the letter sent to the schools.

**BSS will use the 10-day quarantine policy.** Please note if your child is vaccinated there are different guidelines if they are exposed to the virus.

### **Exposure At Home or Outside School**

Person who is not fully vaccinated and has been in close contact with someone with a confirmed case of COVID-19, in which one the persons were not masked must complete for 10 days of quarantine. The 10-day quarantine begins after the last known close contact with the COVID-19 positive individual.

NCDHHS recommends that schools not require an individual who is fully vaccinated (at least 2 weeks after getting their second dose in a 2-dose series or one-dose of a single-dose series) to quarantine if they have had no symptoms after being a close contact to someone with COVID-19, and they do not live in a congregate setting.

**BSS requires that if a vaccinated child is exposed to a positive case, unmasked for more than 15 minutes and less than 6 feet apart, the child will need to quarantine for 2 days, do a home/rapid test with a negative result before he/she can return to school.**

### **School Exposure:**

**-Individuals who are not fully vaccinated after a close contact in a classroom or other school setting if masks were being worn appropriately and consistently by both the person with COVID-19 and the potentially exposed person do NOT need to quarantine.** This is based on updated studies that have shown low risk of COVID-19 transmission in classroom settings when face masks were being used appropriately by both the person with COVID-19 and the potentially exposed person, as well as multiple layers of prevention measures in place to prevent transmission in school settings. This applies to exposures in classrooms, other in-school settings, and school transportation but does not apply to exposures during extracurricular, including athletic activities and lunch.

### **- When should schools consider lifting their universal indoor mask requirements?**

Given that our student population is largely not yet vaccinated, face covering remains a critical tool for protecting children and keeping them safely in the classroom. NCDHHS recommends that schools base their mask requirements on levels of community transmission, as defined by the CDC. Community Transmission Levels are determined by two indicators- case rates and test percent positivity. If the two indicators are categorized in different transmission levels, the higher level is selected. NCDHHS recommends schools continue to implement a universal face covering requirement if they are in a county with high or substantial levels as defined by the CDC. When community transmission levels decline in your county to moderate or low levels for at least 7 consecutive days, school leaders can consider making face coverings optional for vaccinated individuals. Face coverings in school will continue to be required for all unvaccinated individuals until community transmission is at low levels, when masks could be optional for everyone. NCDHHS will continue to re-evaluate this guidance as all school-aged children become eligible for and get vaccinated

**I check the CDC transmission every week and Alamance County continues to be in the high red zone.**

### **Thanksgiving/Christmas Holidays**

Recommendations from the CDC

- Protect those not yet eligible for vaccination (under age 5) by getting yourself and other eligible people around them vaccinated.
- Wear well-fitting masks over your nose and mouth if you are in public indoor settings if you are not fully vaccinated.
  - Even those who are fully vaccinated should wear a mask in public indoor settings in communities with substantial to high transmission.
    - Outdoors is safer than indoors.
  - Avoid crowded, poorly ventilated spaces.
  - If you are sick or have symptoms, don't host, or attend a gathering.
  - Get tested if you have symptoms of COVID-19 or have a close contact with someone who has COVID-19.

### **Requirements for BSS School**

Please monitor any symptoms, especially if your child is unvaccinated/vaccinated before he/she returns to school.

**Please know that if COVID numbers increase at school, all protocols are subject to change.**

Thank you for your transparency and cooperation during this time. May God continue to watch over us as school continues, children learn and have fun!

Mrs. Gomez