

Dear Parent and Student,

I trust that summer treated you well! Hard to believe that the halls will soon be filled with excited students again. As we begin this school year, I am sure you have questions about Bulloch Academy's return to school plan as it relates to COVID-19. We are working to update the Frequently Asked Questions section on our website, but I thought these questions and answers might be helpful as we start the new school year.

"Does my student have to wear a mask?" The CDC currently recommends wearing a mask at all times indoors. We recognize that this is not feasible for all students all of the time; therefore, masks are **recommended but not required** for those unvaccinated and/or concerned about a pre-existing health condition.

'Am I required to wear a mask on campus?" If you are an unvaccinated visitor or volunteer and plan to be indoors on our campus, masks are **required** while you are indoors. Please sign in at the Cornerstone building. If you need a mask, one will be provided for you.

"What if my child wakes up not feeling well?" Community rates of COVID-19 are rising so self-screening at home is very important. If your child is not feeling well, PLEASE keep them at home.

"What do I do if I think my child has COVID-19?" Please keep them home, seek testing, and contact the school nurse for guidance.

“Will an absence affect my child's attendance record?” BA will not have perfect attendance recognition again this year. Again, if your child is sick, PLEASE keep them home.

“What happens if my child is exposed to someone at school who tests positive for COVID-19 and my child is NOT vaccinated?” School quarantines will be decided by the close contact rule stated in the DPH guidelines (within 6 feet of the infected for 15 cumulative minutes or longer in the classroom). Those exposed will be sent home. The school nurse is the designated point of contact to assist you with return dates for your child. **Whether or not your child was wearing a mask is irrelevant.**

“What if my child is exposed to someone who tests positive for COVID-19 and my child is FULLY vaccinated?” Students who are fully vaccinated (two weeks past their last COVID shot) will NOT have to quarantine as long as they are not experiencing symptoms.

“Will you close a classroom or grade level due to COVID-19?” Possibly. Much like last year, if we recognize a high transmission in a class, grade or grades, transitioning to virtual learning in those grades or that class may be necessary for a short period. We do try to limit these closures and only use this strategy when significant spread is recognized.

“If my child is unvaccinated and there is a closure, can he/she attend extracurricular activities?” In the event of a closure, unvaccinated students are excluded from all extracurricular activities IF he/she was identified as a close contact of the infected. If

unvaccinated and not identified as a close contact, your student is allowed to continue extracurricular activities on campus.

“If my child is fully vaccinated and there is a closure, can he/she attend extracurricular activities?” In the event of a closure, FULLY vaccinated students may attend all extracurricular activities on and off campus. This may be subject to change in athletic competitions, but we will update you with any changes in this guidance.

“If my child is home sick and does not have COVID, do you offer virtual learning for him/her?” BA supports a safe and healthy campus. If your child is sick, PLEASE keep them home and let them recover. Virtual learning is reserved for those with COVID-19 illness or those who are quarantined due to COVID.

“If we go out of town, should my child log on to his/her classroom virtually?” Virtual learning is ONLY available for COVID-19 related illness or quarantine.

“Can I walk my child into his/her classroom?” Campus parking is currently limited, but you may walk your child to his/her classroom; however, we ask that you walk your child to the outer classroom door wherever possible. If walking your child in requires using the lower school hallway, we ask that you walk him/her to the door only. Please do not enter the classroom or congregate in the hallways. All parents should exit the building by 8 a.m.

“Can I have lunch on campus with my child?” Not at this time, but we will revisit this once community rates decline.

“Can I visit my child's classroom on his/her birthday?” Good news! BA is allowing one parent to take birthday goodies (which do not have to be individually wrapped) to his/her child's classroom. If your celebration is indoors, we will require a mask in this situation, regardless of vaccination status. Simply sign in at the Cornerstone building, and a mask will be provided for you.

“Will we have field trips this year?” This one is tricky. Field trips will be approved solely by the Headmaster. There are some field trips which require early booking and payment. COVID-19 may dictate whether or not these actually happen. Please be patient as we look to incorporate field trips which protect the safety and wellness of our students and staff (think outdoor trips).

“Is the COVID-19 vaccination a requirement to attend schools in the state of Georgia?” This vaccine is NOT currently required to attend Georgia schools; however, the vaccination adds a hugely effective layer of protection for your child and helps protect our faculty and staff.

“Is the COVID-19 vaccination a condition of employment at Bulloch Academy?” No, but 75% of staff at Bulloch Academy are fully vaccinated.

“Can the school nurse administer the COVID-19 vaccine at any time on campus?” Specific training is required to administer this vaccine. BA continues to look for opportunities to make vaccination clinics available on campus and advertise these in the BA community.

I hope you find these helpful as you visit the campus this fall.

As Always...GO GATORS!

Heather Dabbs, RN

School Nurse at Bulloch Academy

hdabbs@bullochacademy.com

912-764-6297 ext 225