

Dear Parent & Student,

Welcome back Gators for the 2022-23 school year! As we enter the third year of a pandemic, we are thankful that guidance from the CDC and Georgia Department of Public Health has been revised to support maximum face to face education. In order to best serve our families, I have updated my most common COVID Questions & Answers. I am grateful to have the opportunity to support your child's health and please reach out to me for any further concerns. We ALL highly value in-person instruction for our children and with your help we can continue to educate our students in a healthy environment.

Heather Dabbs, RN

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**"Is my student required to wear a mask?"**

BA fully supports and encourages mask wearing, but it is not a requirement for our students or faculty.

**"Are visitors required to wear a mask?"**

If you are not fully vaccinated and in times of high community Covid rates, while visiting our campus and especially indoors, we recommend wearing a mask. Disposable masks are available at the front desk of our Cornerstone Building for your convenience when you sign in.

**"What if my child wakes up and does not feel well?"**

The current Omicron variants have a high transmissibility rate. Screening your child at home for symptoms is important to recognize

illness and reduce exposure. If your child is not feeling well, PLEASE stay home and contact our school nurse. We will be glad to assist you in connecting with a medical provider and helping guide your child's return back to school when feeling better.

**"Will an absence affect my child's attendance record?"**

COVID related absences are excused. BA will not have perfect attendance recognition similar to the past two school years.

**"What if my student tests positive for COVID?"**

Please know how much we care and contact our school nurse if your child has been diagnosed with COVID. Thankfully, using updated CDC guidance, students fully recovered from COVID may return more quickly to campus. Students diagnosed with COVID are required to:

- a) Remain at home for a MINIMUM of 5 full days from symptom onset or date of positive test
- b) After 5 full days from the symptom onset or positive test and if your student is well and fever free for 24 hours, he/she may return to campus for the following 5 days. We highly recommend wearing a mask days 6-10.

**"Can my child go to school if a member of our household is sick with COVID?"**

If your student is fully vaccinated, yes. If your student is not fully vaccinated, because of the increased risk to your student of becoming infected from a household contact, please keep your student at home until you consult with our school nurse. Plans for return to school vary based on your student's exposure, vaccination status, and ability to

remain separate from the household member with COVID. See below for more specific details.

**“What if my child lives with someone who tests positive for COVID & my child is vaccinated?”**

First, contact Heather Dabbs prior to your child's return to campus if you have a positive household member.

In accordance with DPH guidance, exposed students who have received the vaccine have less risk of contracting illness and may continue in person learning/extracurricular activities if having no symptoms AND the following applies:

1. He/she has received a primary vaccine series and a booster vaccine.
2. Has received the J&J vaccine within the past 2 months
3. Has had COVID within the last 90 days

**“What if my child lives with someone who tests positive for COVID and my child has not received the vaccine?”**

Your child may be at an increased risk for contracting COVID and will be transitioned to our online education for a minimum of 5 days.

He/she will not be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities or athletics during this time. It is recommended to test on day 5 if possible. Provided that the student separated from the infected person and if feeling well, the student may return to school plus extra-curricular activities after 5 full days and should wear a mask for the remainder of the ten day period. If separation did not occur,

please contact **Heather Dabbs** for guidance on when your child may return (particularly if your student is Pre-K through 1st grade).

**“What happens if a student in my child's classroom tests positive for COVID?”**

In our middle and high schools, we know that our students interact regularly and closely together with each other, both on and off campus. Please monitor your student for symptoms and access testing when appropriate. Individuals will be responsible for notifying their contacts. BA will report clusters or outbreaks to the Georgia DPH. We highly value in person instruction, but for clusters or outbreaks, your class or grade may be transitioned to online learning for a brief period if there is a significant rise in cases on this campus.

(\*\*In lower grades, your student may interact routinely with others in a smaller student group within their class. If an individual in the smaller group contracts COVID, your student may be at higher risk of illness. Your student may be required to transition to at home learning for a period of 5 days to monitor for symptoms.)

**“Will you close a classroom or grade level due to COVID?”**

The Omicron variant is highly contagious and may increase the likelihood of spread on our campus and increase the chances of transition to online education. If we recognize a high rate of reportable illness of any kind in a particular class or grade, transitioning to online education may be necessary for a short period of time.

**“If there is a grade or class closure, can my student attend extracurricular activities?”**

It depends. If your child has no COVID symptoms and does not have a household exposure to COVID, he/she may continue to participate in extra-curricular activities. We encourage our parents to please monitor for symptoms closely during this period of time

**“If my child is home sick and does not have COVID, do you offer online education for him/her?”**

If your child is sick, PLEASE keep them home and allow time to recover. Transitioning to online education is reserved only for students with absences related to COVID.

**“If we go out of town, should my child log on to his/her classroom virtually?”**

Online education is ONLY available for COVID related illness or quarantine or for a lengthy illness. It is not available for vacations. Please contact the school nurse first (medical).

**“Can I walk my child into his/her classroom?”**

Yes, BA welcomes our parents to walk your child into school. All parents should enter through the Cornerstone building. Please walk your student to the door of his/her classroom. Please limit entering the classroom or congregating in hallways. Please be mindful to exit by 8am so your student's learning can start on time.

**“Can I have lunch on campus with my child?”**

Yes. Our faculty likes to get to know our parents and we are allowing parents to have lunch on campus. Please make arrangements with your child's teacher prior to the actual lunch date.

**"Can I visit my child's classroom on his/her birthday?"**

Yes. Please make party arrangements with your child's teacher. Please sign in and enter through our Cornerstone Building. Masks are available for your convenience.

**"Will we have field trips this year?"**

Yes! BA will have field trips this year. Please note that BA will follow all of the rules set by the field trip site and any transportation service used.

**"Is the COVID-19 vaccination a requirement to attend schools in the state of Georgia?"** Vaccination is NOT required to attend Georgia schools.

As Always...GO GATORS!

Revised 8/1/2022 HD