

Overview

Breakthrough Public Schools (BPS) is committed to protecting the health and safety of our scholars and staff. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve and impact our community, we have worked on updating our protocols to be more sustainable and less disruptive to instruction while still leveraging the highest-impact strategies to mitigate against in-school transmission.

The protocols that follow were developed based on recommendations and guidelines from the CDC, FDA, and Ohio Department of Health, as well as guidance from our expert partners at MetroHealth and the Cleveland Department of Health and our learnings as a network over the past 2+ years. Guidance and recommendations have continued to evolve along with the COVID-19 virus, and we expect them to continue. We will keep families updated as protocols change.

COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies

Hand Hygiene

Hand hygiene using soap and water, or a waterless alcohol gel (at least 60% alcohol) when soap and water is not an option is a proven strategy to prevent the transmission of pathogens. Hand hygiene is essential before school entry, before eating/ drinking, and after bathroom activities. All classrooms, offices, and common building areas will be provided with an adequate supply of hand sanitizer for use by staff and scholars when hand washing is not practical or feasible.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

All in-use spaces will be disinfected daily as part of the routine daily cleaning process. Classrooms will also be provided with supplies to disinfect desk surfaces throughout the day (e.g. after meals). In addition, any classroom that experiences a positive case will be treated with additional disinfection measures the evening following notification.

Ventilation

The simplest and best approach to air quality is to open windows to bring in fresh air, and classroom windows will be opened daily to the extent possible. In most cases, classrooms are also equipped with individual heating and cooling systems, which circulate air from outside and also mean the air is not shared from room to room. In buildings/spaces with conditioned air, we will ensure that the HVAC equipment is configured to bring in the maximum amount of fresh air allowable. In addition, we have upgraded HVAC filters throughout our buildings and installed portable air purifiers in high-traffic shared spaces and the small number of classrooms without windows that open.

Vaccination

While the decision to be vaccinated is a personal one, BPS strongly encourages all staff and scholars to [stay up-to-date with their COVID-19 vaccinations](#) to protect their health and that of their family and community members. A list of currently available vaccination opportunities can be found on the Ohio Department of Health's website [here](#).

Use of Face Masks

When community spread is high, correct and consistent [mask use](#) is a critical step everyone can take to prevent contracting and transmitting COVID-19. For the 22-23 School Year, Breakthrough's masking protocols will be guided by the [CDC's COVID Community Transmission Level for Cuyahoga County](#) and associated CDC masking recommendations.

In order to avoid the potential for constant changes to mask requirements, mask policy decisions at the network level will be made on a *monthly cycle* based on the latest available data and information.

CDC COVID Level	Associated Masking Protocols
Low/ Green	In general, masks are optional indoors and outdoors for staff and scholars unless required for an individual or cohort as a result of COVID-19 symptoms or exposure (see below sections).
Medium/ Yellow	Mask protocols will be determined based on network and Cuyahoga County context (e.g. evidence we are heading into vs. out of a surge).
High/ Red	Masks required indoors for all staff, scholars, and visitors. Masks optional outdoors unless required for an individual or cohort due to COVID-19 symptoms or exposure.

When required, please send your scholar to school every day in a mask that fits snugly against their face and adequately covers both their nose and mouth. [This link](#) provides additional guidance to maximize mask effectiveness. If your scholar does not come to school with a mask, one will be provided upon arrival.

COVID-19 Symptoms or Exposure

Staff and scholars who are exposed to COVID-19 are no longer required to quarantine unless they test positive.

Instead, BPS will rely on serial antigen testing to help keep staff and scholars who are symptomatic of, or exposed to, COVID-19 at school while still taking measures to identify infectious cases.



BPS will provide test kits as necessary to support families in following the below protocols. If your scholar develops symptoms of or is exposed to COVID-19 please complete [this reporting form](#) as soon as possible. A school or network team member will follow up with additional information about the next steps and how to access testing resources.

These protocols are relevant to any scholar who has not tested positive for COVID-19 within the preceding 30 days, regardless of vaccination status.

Symptom Protocols

People with COVID-19 report a wide range of symptoms, including:

- Fever or chills
- Headache
- Nausea or vomiting
- Cough
- Fatigue
- Diarrhea
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Muscle or body aches
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- New loss of taste or smell

Protocols for scholars who experience these symptoms (or any other symptoms of concern):

- **Test three mornings in a row**, starting the first day of symptoms.
 - If symptoms are still not improving after 3 days, test again.
 - Scholar who continue to test negative and have questions about their symptoms are encouraged to consult their primary care physician.
- If fever-free and feeling well enough, scholars who test negative can come to school. Scholars who do not feel well enough to be at school should stay home regardless of the cause!
- Symptomatic scholars must mask indoors and outdoors while at school and experiencing symptoms.

Exposure Protocols

Exposure to COVID-19 is defined as:

- Being within 6 feet of someone with confirmed COVID-19;
- For a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period;
- During the infected individual's infectious period (start 48 hours before symptom onset or a positive test if asymptomatic).

Protocols for scholars members who experience a household (or equivalently sustained) exposure:

- **Test in the morning 5 school days in a row.**
- Can come to school assuming tests are negative.
- Must mask indoors and outdoors while at school for 10 days.

Protocols for scholars members who experience any other exposure (including at school):

- Day 0 is the day of exposure.
- If asymptomatic: **Test on Days 1, 3, and 5.** If notified after Day 1, test as soon as possible and then follow the prescribed testing schedule.
- If symptomatic at any point within 10 days from exposure: Start testing immediately and test 3 days in a row.
- Can come to school assuming tests are negative.
- Must mask indoors and outdoors while at school for 10 days.

Note: BPS will no longer be conducting contact tracing for positive cases during periods when masking is optional. Instead, all members of the impacted individual's homeroom/cohort will be considered close contacts and required to follow the protocols outlined above.

Testing Positive for COVID-19



Protocols

If your scholar tests positive for COVID-19, please report their positive test to their school as soon as possible using [this form](#).

Protocols for scholars who test positive:

DAY 0	The first day of symptoms or the day of the positive test if asymptomatic.
DAY 1 - 5	Scholar must isolate at home.
DAY 6 - 10	Scholar should test every morning and return to school as soon as they test negative, assuming they are also fever-free, any other symptoms are improving, and they feel well enough to be at school. Tests kits are available from the school, and a school team member will coordinate the best way to get families the test kits needed for daily testing. If scholar returns to school during this window, they must mask until Day 11.
DAY 11	Latest end of isolation/return to school.

Communicating Positive Cases

All members of the Breakthrough community should refer to the [BPS COVID-19 Dashboard](#) for an updated count of active and cumulative cases by Breakthrough location. Cases will be added to the dashboard within 24 hours of school staff being notified. In addition, staff and families will receive direct communication from their school if there is a positive case in their/their scholar's homeroom or if they/their scholar are otherwise determined to have been exposed while at school.

Note: The above only applies to cases where the impacted individual was present in a Breakthrough building during their infectious period.

Responding to Multiple Cases of COVID-19

How we respond to multiple cases of COVID-19 in the same homeroom/cohort - or a surge in cases across a school or campus - will depend on the circumstances at play. School and network leaders should report any cluster of three or more cases that are believed to be the result of in-school transmission to the Cleveland Department of Public Health, which will then partner in determining action steps. In general, every available effort will be made to preserve in-person instruction for as many scholars as possible.

Questions or Concerns

If you have any questions or concerns about the protocols outlined in this document or how they apply to a specific circumstance, please contact your school's principal or Director of Operations.