

# Breakthrough Charter School Student Covid-19 Policy

Dear Parents/Guardians:

This letter is to inform you that Breakthrough Charter School has approved a policy that governs how the school system will handle COVID-19 infections in order to keep students and staff as safe as possible with the goal of in-person learning. This policy includes universal masking indoors for all students and visitors 2 years of age and up while indoors and buses regardless of their vaccination status. This policy will be in place from August 18th until September 10th. Please notify your school nurse if your child has a medical condition that doesn't allow him/her to wear a mask while at school.

After September 10, 2021, Breakthrough will "highly recommend" masks for all. The masking requirement will be reviewed before September 10th and the masking policy will be reevaluated.

- Breakthrough will adopt universal masking as recommended by the Alabama Department of Public Health and CDC as a strategy to combat the spread of COVID-19 during the school day. This practice will be in effect August 18th - September 10th, 2021 (exceptions include outdoors, Physical Education classes, recess, and documented cases of students with special needs).
- Breakthrough will follow the [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\) Order on masking on public conveyances](#) (i.e. school buses). This means that passengers and drivers must wear masks on school buses, regardless of the local policy on masks.  
Students and staff exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 will be sent home from school/work and provided guidance from the Alabama Department of Public Health.
- Breakthrough will check temperatures when a child does not feel well. A temperature greater than 99.0 will require a recheck after 5 minutes and if child's temperature is still greater than 99.0, your child will need to be sent home and follow up with your primary care physician.
- Individuals who test positive for or are diagnosed with COVID-19 must stay home for their isolation period following the onset of symptoms or the positive test result, be 24 hours without fever or fever-reducing medications, and experience symptom improvement before returning from isolation.
- Breakthrough will notify individuals who are considered "close contact" as defined in [ADPH's Back to School Guidance document](#). In the K-12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition includes students who are 3 feet or less of an infected student for longer than 15 minutes starting 2 days before the infected student began showing symptoms or tested specimen was collected. All students must be engaged in the consistent and correct use of well-fitted masks and other K-12 school prevention strategies such as increased ventilation and universal precautions must be implemented.
- It should be noted that under the updated guidance from ADPH, the agency retains the sole responsibility of quarantining individuals from school/work.
- Employees who test positive or are required to quarantine shall use their leave time.
- A student testing positive for Covid-19 must quarantine for 10 days following the onset of symptoms or specimen collection date. Student must be fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing meds and have some improvement in symptoms before returning to school.
- Non-symptomatic close contacts will not be quarantined. Parents/Guardians will be notified of the close contact exposure and the student will be monitored for signs and symptoms of Covid-19. Parents will have the option to keep their students home for 10 days from the exposure as a precaution. These days will be excused.
- If a Close Contact becomes symptomatic, we recommend that student be seen by their Primary Care Physician.
- A student may not test out of 10-day quarantine once they have tested positive for Covid-19.
- If a household occupant tests positive for Covid-19, other non-symptomatic household occupants are not required to quarantine. Please closely monitor other household occupants for signs and symptoms of Covid-19.

- Students are encouraged to bring their own water bottles and fill them at our water bottle stations as water fountains will not be in use.
- Students will eat lunch in classrooms.
- Students will not change clothes for Physical Education Class.
- Home self-test, rapid tests and 3-day covid-19 test results will be accepted.

Non-Symptomatic Students who are classified as Close Contact Exposure are **not** required to quarantine. However, you may choose to keep your student home for 10 days as a precaution. We ask you to closely monitor your child, notify your child's school and keep your child home if he/she develops any of the following symptoms:

- Fever of 100.4, especially in the morning
- Cough
- Runny nose
- Sinus congestion
- Sore throat
- Trouble breathing or Shortness of breath
- Fatigue
- Unusual symptoms, new loss of taste or smell
- Diarrhea, nausea or vomiting
- Chills, shaking, muscle pain or aches, headache

Contact your child's healthcare provider if your child or a family member experiences any of the above symptoms and follow their directives.

Students who have recovered from Covid-19 within the last 90 days and students who are fully vaccinated are at a lower risk of becoming infected with the Covid-19 virus. However, some breakthrough cases have been identified where vaccinated persons contracted and spread the virus to others.

For further inquiries or questions contact our school's Health and Wellness Coordinator, Mrs. Tiffany Johnson. We are looking forward to a safe and healthy school year!

Thank you,

**Tiffany Johnson**

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