**BLOUNT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**COVID-19 SCHOOL GUIDANCE**

August 16, 2022

**General Protocol**

* Masks are not required unless a positive individual is returning from a 5 day isolation period or an individual is a home exposure (*see below*).
* Cleaning standards for COVID guidelines will be followed.
* Students are encouraged to use water fountains as filling stations with bottles or cups.

**Procedures for Students & Staff that Develop COVID Symptoms:**

Symptoms **-** *fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.*

* Mask immediately
* Students should be sent to the school’s isolation room. Staff that exhibit COVID symptoms should notify the principal and/or school nurse.
* If COVID is suspected, the symptomatic individual will be sent home to be tested or medically assessed by their healthcare provider.
* The student/staff may return to school after having a negative test or the provider may determine that there is a diagnosis other than COVID-19.
* Sick individuals that do not get a negative test or are not medically assessed by a health care provider will remain out of school for 5 days. The sick individual may return on the 6th day by wearing a well-fitting mask for an additional 5 days.  If unable to wear a mask, it will be necessary to isolate for 10 full days.

**Procedures for Students & Staff that Test Positive for COVID:**

* Individuals that are positive must isolate at least 5 days after symptoms first appear and may return to school by wearing a well-fitting mask for an additional 5 days. If unable to wear a mask, it will be necessary to isolate the additional 5 days.
* Symptoms must be greatly improved and no fever for the last 24 hours *(without taking fever reducing medications).*

**Home Exposure**

* Students & staff (regardless of vaccination status) that live with a positive individual will no longer be required to quarantine but must wear a mask for 10 days after the last contact with the positive person.
* Individuals who do not wear a mask will have the option to quarantine during this 10 day period.
* Anyone exposed to COVID should watch for symptoms until 10 days after the last close contact with the infected person.

*Employees who isolate/quarantine must use some type of leave (sick, vacation, or personal days).*