



2020 - 2021 Community Health and Responsibility Pledge

The novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19 emerged during the 2019-20 school year and has required schools, communities, and families to reshape their daily routines and practices. Since the virus spreads mostly through infected respiratory droplets passed between humans in close contact, every community member of a school like Bement should understand the role they play in keeping themselves and the community safe. Guided by Bement's core values--[Compassion](#), [Integrity](#), [Resilience](#), [Respect](#)--this pledge lays out a set of expectations and understandings that all students, families, and employees must uphold in order to promote and preserve the health and safety of The Bement School. No set of rules or mitigation strategies will provide complete protection, just as no individual is expected to be perfect. Occasional missteps in adherence to these expectations, particularly in the case of our young children, are expected and understandable, but repeated violations by any member of the community could result in a period of separation from Bement.

Guiding Statements

I will act with [compassion](#) by acknowledging the effects this pandemic has caused on those around me.

I will act with [integrity](#) by honoring my commitment to a healthy school year and by communicating honestly about my behavior with Bement.

I will act with [resilience](#) by striving to adapt to new procedures and policies with understanding, patience, and optimism.

I will act with [respect](#) by demonstrating care for those around me and by acknowledging the importance of adhering to rules and expectations designed to keep my school safe.

As a member of the Bement community, I pledge to:

[Follow Rules and Expectations](#) implemented to prevent the spread of COVID-19 while at Bement;

[Conduct Daily Health Screenings](#) to identify common symptoms of COVID-19, including fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, muscle aches, headache, sore throat, runny nose, nausea/vomiting, or any other symptoms included on [Bement's daily screening reminder](#);

Stay Home/Keep My Child Home if symptoms of COVID-19 present and seek medical care to identify and treat illness;

Self-isolate or Quarantine as required by medical provider and/or Bement's policies after possible exposure to COVID-19;

Wear a Face Covering that meets the [CDC's standards for effective face coverings](#) while at Bement, unless explicitly allowed to remove it during mask breaks or outdoor settings deemed safe by Bement staff;

Wash and/or Sanitize my Hands frequently throughout the school day and when directed by my teacher, supervisor, or school policy;

Maintain Physical Distancing whenever possible and appropriate;

Adhere to all Safety Guidelines and Practice Common Sense Preventative Health Measures while away from Bement's campus, especially during activities that may present additional risk to myself, like club or travel sports, social gatherings, or enrichment activities;

Learn and Follow all Travel Orders from the [Commonwealth of Massachusetts](#) throughout the 2020-21 school year, including participating in testing or quarantine as required;

Communicate with Bement any possible exposure to COVID-19 or presentation of symptoms;

Be Kind, Assume Best Intentions, and Respect Privacy when engaging with other community members.

Acknowledgement of Risk

As a member of The Bement School community, I acknowledge that Bement has implemented reasonable measures to mitigate the risks associated with the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19, and I acknowledge that despite those measures, the risks of contracting or spreading COVID-19 cannot be completely eliminated. I understand that I may be exposed to or contract the novel coronavirus despite reasonable efforts by Bement and my careful adherence to rules and expectations to remain safe. I acknowledge my responsibility, as a part of this community, to honoring this pledge and doing what I can to keep myself, those close to me, and my school safe and healthy.