

COVID-19 Addendum

Updated 12/31/2021

The COVID-19 addendum is intended to cover any specific information related to the operation of the School during this world-wide pandemic. Items in the addendum supersede any items in the School Handbook. If there are items that contradict each other the addendum information takes precedence over the School Handbook.

This addendum is a living document and subject to change as health authorities, and Oakhill Day School revise safety plans.

Oakhill Day School Campus Health Protocol 21/22

Thanks to the widespread availability and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines, protocol for the 21/22 school year balances mitigation of potential risk of infection with the essential benefits of consistent academic instruction as well as social and emotional development. The policies and procedures in this document will be in place during the 21/22 school year, but are subject to change as conditions warrant.

The following are essential to achieve an effective education and mitigation of risk:

- A. **Vaccination** - At present, vaccination is the best step every person can take to defend against COVID-19, and parents assume greater risk if they do not vaccinate themselves and their children (when eligible). Based on available data at present, vaccinated students and adults are largely protected against significant threat from COVID and its variants, and our policies and procedures reflect this assumption.

B. **Stay Home when Sick** - Anyone who is sick should stay home. If you have questions about symptoms or illness, please contact Nurse Cathy Bernholtz who is acting as our COVID Coordinator once again this year.

C. **Hygiene** - Good hygiene will help protect students against illnesses of all kinds. Students will be encouraged to wash their hands frequently and properly, and hand sanitizer will be available throughout the school.

D. **Masks** - Decisions regarding mask wearing will depend on local data, current guidance, and availability of vaccinations. Oakhill will continue to strongly encourage unvaccinated people to wear masks for their own protection.

Updated 12/31/2021: Masks are not required outdoors. Caution should be maintained if crowded.

- Some form of disposable surgical mask, commercial face mask, or cloth face mask can help reduce risk of contagion.
 - Parents should prioritize comfort and appropriate fit so students can wear the masks for a length of time.
 - Masks should not be fitted with valves.
 - Cloth masks should have multiple layers.
 - Gaiters and bandanas are not effective face coverings.
- Students and adults do not need to wear masks outdoors. Caution should be taken if crowded.
- Students and adults are not required to wear masks indoors during active PE or athletics, yet will be an option for students based on level of comfort.
- **(Updated 10/25/21)** 7th and 8th grade students have the option to situationally mask within the classroom as the situation allows. Teachers have the freedom to set expectations such as wearing a mask during group work or close proximity projects. We will remain mindful of distancing when masks are not in use to reduce the need for quarantine if/when contact tracing is necessary.
- In an instance when a medical condition restricts a student or staff member from wearing a mask, they should contact the administration.

Updated Mask Policy 12/31/2021:

- a. **For Faculty and Staff regardless of vaccination status:**
 1. masks must be worn at all times while with students and colleagues
 2. masks do not have to be worn if alone in classroom/office/space
 3. masks do not have to be worn outside

- b. **Accommodations** - If a student has medical or developmental needs with regards to masking, please contact Nurse Cathy or the Head of School to discuss.

- c. **For the School Community and students regardless of vaccination status:**
 1. Situations where it is acceptable to be unmasked would be: outside, during active PE/athletics, or in instances where a student can spread out sufficiently.
 2. Situations to be cautious if unmasking would be: outside if crowded; during practices when huddled with a team or idly waiting/standing.
 3. All visitors will be encouraged to wear a mask indoors.

See Isolation and Quarantine below for more information if someone tests positive for COVID-19.

Personal Conduct - A community crisis such as this pandemic can exacerbate social suspicion, anger and incivility. Oakhill will request/require students and adults to respect the dignity of other people, and inappropriate behavior (teasing, accusations, disrespect, etc.) will not be tolerated and may result in disciplinary consequences or dismissal from the school.

Safety Measures

Social Distancing - The emphasis encourages students to be mindful of spacing. **Updated 12/31/2021:**

- Social distancing remains one of the best preventative measures for reducing the spread of COVID-19.

Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette

- Students should frequently wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, and especially before eating.
 - It's especially important to wash:
 - Before and after eating
 - Before touching your face
 - After using the restroom
 - After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
 - After handling your cloth face covering
 - Before and after recess
- When hand washing is not an option, students should use hand sanitizer.
- Students should cover their mouths when they cough or sneeze, ideally sneezing or coughing into their elbow area.

Building and Equipment Cleaning

- All buildings will be thoroughly cleaned at night, including disinfecting handrails, doorknobs, and restrooms.
- Teachers and staff will clean high touch areas throughout the day.
- Other efforts:
 - Additional cleaning staff to assist with cleaning high touch areas in commons spaces and restrooms
 - Cleaning checklist and training for classrooms teachers and instructional assistants
 - Cleaning schedules for playgrounds
 - Electrostatic sprayers (backpack and handheld) to disinfect rooms 2-3 times per week (in the evenings)
 - Door pulls for public restrooms to assist with contactless door opening
 - Clear face shields available for staff
 - Disinfectants - food-safe quality for lunchrooms with less than a minute kill time
 - Hospital-grade disinfectants
 - Additional hand sanitizer stations
 - Touchless soap dispensers for public restrooms

- Touchless faucets for public restrooms
- Filters for HVAC units to help filter out smaller particulate matter from the air
- Signs posted throughout the school reminding everyone to wash hands and how to wash hands

Water Fountains - Although Oakhill's water fountains will not be available until further notice, there is a refilling station at each fountain where water bottles can be filled. All students are encouraged to bring a clean water bottle each day.

Visitors - We look forward to welcoming parents back onto campus this year. During the school day, visitors should sign in at the main office or south building office and receive a visitor's badge. Visitors should follow all health related protocols along with the current mask policy.

Isolations and Quarantines Updated 12/31/2021

Isolation (COVID Positive)

Students, teachers, and school staff who test positive should self-isolate at home and not return to school until the following criteria are met regardless of vaccination status.

- Stay home for 5 days from the first day symptoms appeared; AND
- 24 hours with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications;
- Continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.

Quarantine

Vaccinated students, teachers, and staff identified as a high risk contact do not need to quarantine if they:

- Are fully vaccinated and remain asymptomatic OR
- Had COVID-19 illness (a positive viral test such as PCR or antigen tests) within the previous 90 days, and remain asymptomatic

It is recommended fully vaccinated persons get tested 5 days after exposure and wear a mask around others for 10 days. If you develop symptoms, get a test and stay home.

Unvaccinated students, teachers, and staff identified as a high risk contact

Option 1:

- Stay home for 5 days, wear a mask when around others for an additional 5 days.
- Recommended to test on day 5

If you develop symptoms, get a test and stay home.

Option 2:

(Test to Stay): Stay in school and participate in extracurricular activities.

Students, teachers, and staff identified as a high risk contact can continue to attend school and participate in extracurricular activities, if the following “test to stay” criteria are met:

- Remains asymptomatic
- Wears a mask consistently and correctly at all times during their quarantine period while at school.
- Receive 3 rapid antigen tests during the first seven days following exposure.

Active monitoring of persons participating in the “test to stay” for symptoms is conducted by the school throughout the duration of the 5-day quarantine period, and persons should self-isolate at home if symptoms develop.

COVID Vaccination Verification

Information will be used during contact tracing. Students and staff who show proof of vaccination will not need to quarantine. If a staff member or a student has been fully vaccinated, you may upload the vaccine verification record [here](#). COVID vaccine status will be held confidentially.

Non-Discriminating Policy

Oakhill Day School will seek diversity in its student body and welcome enrollment by students of any race, color, national or ethnic origin, gender or sexual orientation, and any other characteristic protected under applicable law. It prohibits unlawful discrimination, harassment, and retaliation on the basis of any protected category under applicable federal, state or local laws or ordinances, including but not limited to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), Title

VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 (ADEA), Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504), specifically, but not limited to, discrimination, harassment, or retaliation on the basis of sexual orientation, gender or sex, race or ethnicity, ethnic group identification, ancestry, nationality, national origin, religion, color, mental or physical disability, age, or on the basis of a person's association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics in Oakhill Day School's educational programs or activities.

Concerns or inquiries regarding sex discriminations, harassment, or retaliation can be made to Oakhill Day School's Title IX Coordinator:

[Kathryn Dodson](#)

Director of Auxiliary Services

Concerns or inquiries regarding discrimination, harassment, or retaliation involving student victims on the basis of race, disability, or any other protected category:

[Suzanne McCanles](#)

Head of School

For concerns or inquiries regarding employees or adult community members:

[Suzanne McCanles](#)

Head of School