

## BRIARWOOD AND TUTTLE SCHOOL

### 2021-2022 COVID POLICY

Updated January 3, 2022

**Changes to the local public health status may necessitate changes to our 2021-2022 Health and Safety Plan throughout the year.**

The Briarwood COVID Task Force is monitoring the guidance for schools provided by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, the Texas Education Agency, local and state officials and health departments. The Briarwood COVID Task Force will continue monitoring the status of COVID transmission in our local community via updates through the [Texas Medical Center](#) website. This will help us gain a thorough understanding of COVID-19 infection rates in our community, and we will make decisions based on the data provided on this site.

**As the community conditions and guidance change, COVID policies and procedures will adapt to meet the current needs.** This could lead to temporarily requiring more layers of prevention, such as increased use of face coverings.

The Briarwood School will comply with required practices and standards of care; however, we may implement more than the minimal requirements in order to meet the health safety standards that best serve our school community. Briarwood and Tuttle School will follow health safety protocols to keep virus transmission as low as possible in order to safely continue school in person. The cooperation of faculty and staff, students and parents will be essential to this endeavor. If you have questions about the COVID policy and procedures, please email [covidthaskforce@briarwoodschool.org](mailto:covidthaskforce@briarwoodschool.org).

The Briarwood and Tuttle School will continue a layered prevention approach to protect our students, families, faculty and staff and to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 within our school community. **COVID-19 vaccinations are strongly encouraged for all individuals who are eligible for the vaccine.**

### LAYERS OF PROTECTION

- Students and staff are asked to self-monitor for symptoms of COVID and **stay home if you are ill.**
- **To return to campus: A doctor's note clearing the individual to return will be required for any student or staff member who is absent due to illness or symptoms, regardless of a COVID diagnosis**
- Parents and staff members are required to report to the school nurse a positive COVID diagnosis within their family or a known exposure to someone who tests positive

- **NOTIFICATIONS:** The School will notify staff, students and the local health department of a lab-confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis. Name and contact information will be provided to the health department for the purpose of contact tracing.
- **CONTACT TRACING:** When a lab-confirmed positive case of COVID is reported to the school nurse, we will do contact tracing to determine risk of exposure and need for quarantine, according to the [CDC guidelines](#). Click [here for K-12 settings contact tracing guidelines](#).
- **CLOSE CONTACT** will be determined by the guidelines for K-12 settings set forth by the CDC. Click here for the [CDC guidelines for close contact](#) determination.
- Close contacts of a positive case will be required to quarantine according to CDC guidelines, depending on vaccination status or confirmed history of illness ([see timeline graphic in Quarantine section](#))
- Individuals who are considered [fully vaccinated](#) (by current definition per CDC) are not required to quarantine at this time, as long as they are not experiencing symptoms, but may but may still be screened for symptoms
- Wearing of face masks
- Social distancing with 3 feet spacing as much as possible; cohorts may be reinstated
- Meeting outdoors for PE and athletics when necessary
- Continued use of portable air purifiers in each classroom and office to increase ventilation
- Hand sanitizer or washing hands and good respiratory hygiene will be encouraged throughout the day
- **Students need to bring a reusable water bottle with them to school every day.** Bottles may be refilled during the day using bottle fillers attached to the water fountains; students will not be drinking directly from the fountain.
- NO FOOD DELIVERIES will be accepted in the front office. Delivery drivers will not be allowed into the building.
- Lunchrooms will be used for larger groups of students; however, other optional spaces will also be used to allow for more spacing between students in the lunchrooms.
- Upper School Seniors will be allowed to go off campus for lunch with parental permission. Juniors will enjoy the privilege of lunch on the patio again.

**FACE COVERINGS**

The use of face coverings is an important way that we, as a community, can protect each other by mitigating the spread of the virus. *The higher the COVID-19 threat level and community spread are, the more likely face coverings will be required on campus.*

<p>LOW Community Transmission</p>	<p>Masks will be optional for students and staff.</p>
---------------------------------------	---

<p>MODERATE Community Transmission</p>	<p>Masks will be required in certain situations and may vary depending on vaccination status.</p>
<p>HIGH Community Transmission</p>	<p>Masks will be required throughout the day for students and staff, regardless of vaccination status.</p>

- **Students and staff need to bring a face covering to campus daily.** The school will have a limited supply of disposable masks to provide to individuals who need them.
- Face coverings are not required for anyone who is outdoors.
- Face coverings must be worn to cover both the nose and mouth. Face coverings with multiple layers are best.
- Reusable cloth face coverings and non-medical grade surgical-style disposable masks are allowed. Neck gaiters must be at least 2 layers thick in order to provide sufficient protection.
- Face coverings in different colors and styles are permitted; they must be school-appropriate. No offensive, frightening or political designs, logos, or slogans will be allowed. The School reserves the right to replace a student's face covering if necessary.
- Face shields are not a substitute for masks. Vented face coverings and bandanas tied around the face are not sufficient protection and will not be allowed.

## HEALTH AND HYGIENE

- **Stay home and notify the School Nurse** if you experience any symptoms, if you have tested positive for COVID-19, or if you have known exposure or suspected exposure to an individual with COVID-19.
- Students and staff are asked to daily self-monitor for possible symptoms of COVID-19, including: feeling feverish/chills, or a measured temperature greater than 100 degrees; nausea, vomiting or diarrhea; cough or shortness of breath; new loss of taste or smell; fatigue; muscle or body aches; headache; sore throat; congestion or runny nose.
- **Staff and students who test positive for COVID-19** should stay home, and contact your medical provider. **A medical clearance is required to return to school or work**, including a 10 day self isolation with improvement in symptoms and fever-free (100.0 degrees F) without the use of fever reducers for 24 hours prior to return. **Please note, any student participating in sports will require a physician's clearance to return to physical activity.**
- Continue to practice and teach healthy hygiene, including frequent hand washing, use of hand sanitizer, and respiratory etiquette.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>QUARANTINE GUIDELINES FOR ASYMPTOMATIC CLOSE CONTACTS FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE NOT CONSIDERED FULLY VACCINATED OR BOOSTERED IF ELIGIBLE</b></p>										
Day 0	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9	Day 10
Last Day of Exposure to an Individual who tested positive for COVID-19	Stay Home and quarantine				Test with PCR or Rapid Test, if negative, can end quarantine.  If you test positive, or are symptomatic, follow Isolation guidelines	Wear a well-fitting mask around others				

## QUARANTINE FOR CLOSE CONTACTS

- You must follow quarantine if you are fully vaccinated but not boosted (completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine **more than 5 months ago**, or J&J **more than 2 months ago**).
- **If you are partially vaccinated or unvaccinated, you must quarantine.**
- If you have completed the primary series of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the past 5 months, or completed the primary series of the J&J vaccine within the last 2 months, **you do not need to quarantine.**
- If you are fully vaccinated and boosted, you do not need to quarantine, but you would need to wear a mask around others for 10 days and get tested on day 5.
- You do not need to quarantine if
  - You are considered fully vaccinated, meaning you have received all recommended vaccine doses, including eligible boosters.
  - including additional primary shots for immunocompromised people
  - Or you had a lab confirmed acute COVID-19 infection within the last 90 days and remain symptom-free; do not require testing to stay on campus.

## DISTANCE LEARNING

- Asynchronous assignments will be provided for students who are required to quarantine due to COVID.
- If a student is required to miss more than 3 days of instruction during quarantine, an individualized distance learning plan will be arranged through your child's school division director.

## **PARENTS AND VISITORS TO CAMPUS**

- THE VISITOR POLICY WILL BE ADJUSTED ACCORDING TO CURRENT COVID GUIDANCE.
- Visitors will not be allowed to enter the interior of the school without an appointment.
- Visitors are required to check in and out at the front office.
- Visitors are asked to **stay off campus if you are experiencing symptoms**, have been diagnosed with COVID, or have a recent known exposure to a positive case.
- All visitors will be expected to follow the current school requirements regarding wearing face coverings and social distancing.
- Visitors will be asked to distance from students on campus as much as possible to limit potential exposure.
- Limited, in-person gatherings may be held as long as the community transmission of COVID remains low. Each event is planned with modifications to allow for social distancing, limited contact between students and visitors, and layers of prevention in place. Face coverings may be required temporarily for larger gatherings, and some events may still be held virtually.

## **PE /SPORTS / ATHLETICS**

- Athletics will enjoy full participation in WHCAC (middle school) and TAPPS (upper school). Athletes will require a clearance from their physician to return to physical activity/sports.
- Spectators will follow the same guidelines required by visitors to campus.
- The Tuttle School will monitor the recommendations and guidelines provided by Special Olympics to determine which athletic opportunities can be provided and what safeguards must be implemented for these activities.
- PE may move outdoors, weather permitting, if COVID restrictions apply.