

2021-22 Bancroft School Health & Safety Protocols (Updated 3/4/22)

While it is impossible for us to eliminate all risks associated with COVID-19, we will continue to be guided by scientific data, aligning our protocols with guidance from the [Centers for Disease Control & Prevention](#), and the [Office of the Governor of Massachusetts](#). Adjustments to our approach will be necessary as we evaluate new information and respond to changes at the State and local levels. With all this in mind, our current plan includes the following protective measures to combat the spread of COVID-19:

Masks: As of March 14th, 2022, masks will be optional on campus except inside the Harrington Theater and Bancroft School Health Center where they will continue to be required.

As a reminder, masks should:

- Fit snugly to the face, covering both nose and mouth at all times
- Be made of washable cotton or surgical fabric of at least double thickness; masks with clear windows are acceptable if they fit properly
- Allow for breathing without restriction
- Be a basic color/pattern that will not pose a distraction to the community
- Worn properly at all times to protect yourself and others
- **NOT** be neck gaiters and scarves as these face coverings do not meet the Bancroft standard and may compromise health and safety
- Masks will **NOT** be required while outdoors

Distancing: In addition to universal indoor masking, CDC recommends schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms to reduce transmission risk. We will follow this recommendation and maintain 3 feet of distance as a general guideline within classrooms and shared spaces.

Health Screening App: We will be utilizing a mobile application called [MyMedBot](#) to help families, faculty, and staff self-screen for COVID-19 every morning and have the results go directly to our health team. All students, faculty, and staff must report this information before coming to school each day or they will not be allowed to stay on campus.

MyMedBot will pose a series of questions related to the daily health of each student, faculty, and staff member. After submitting answers to these questions, the screen will produce a GREEN or RED screen. A green screen indicates it is safe to come to school. A red screen indicates that more information is required and families should contact the [school nurse](#) and **not** come to school until cleared. You will be asked to show your green screen upon arrival at school BEFORE entering buildings.



MyMedBot enables our school nurse to easily screen for COVID-19 symptoms, communicate the latest protocol and have the data to make informed decisions. This will be a required health and safety measure for each of us each school day that will add another layer of mitigating the risks of COVID-19 and we appreciate your cooperation.

You will receive a registration email from us, which will include an invitation code and links to the Apple App Store and Google Play Store. Click on the link that works with your device to download the app for free. If you do not have access to a smart device, please let us know and we will provide you with appropriate accommodations to be able to self-report another way.

MyMedBot questions posed through the application are subject to change as we adapt and adjust to new covid-19 health and safety measures.

If you have any questions regarding MyMedBot, please contact school nurse [Liza Marzilli](#).

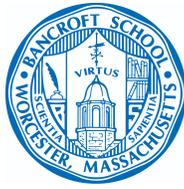
Ventilation: Last summer, we upgraded our HVAC system school-wide to provide an increased supply of outside air in accordance with [ASHRAE \(American Society of Heating, Refrigeration, and Air Conditioning Engineers\) Standard 62.1-2019](#). This upgrade included the addition of MERV-13 rated filters. In addition, we added 60 HEPA filtration units--one for each classroom. All of these units have been serviced and are in perfect working condition for this school year.

Sanitation/Cleaning/Disinfecting: We will continue with the thorough cleaning/disinfecting measures that were put in place last year:

- Classrooms and other facilities cleaned and disinfected daily
- Bathrooms cleaned and disinfected daily
- High touchpoints (door handles, railings) disinfected multiple times each day
- Continued operation of 75 new hands-free faucets in classrooms and restrooms
- Hands-free water bottle filling stations in all three divisions and athletics facilities
- Hand sanitizing units at every entry point and classroom

Cohort Model: Each division will operate independently in our cohort model to minimize contact between them. By limiting student cross-divisional interaction, we put ourselves in a better position to mitigate the chances of any significant transmission. We will, however, be able to have divisions share spaces, meaning that all divisions can now use a space like the Fletcher Athletic Center, just at different times of the day to avoid indoor contact. Faculty will also be allowed to cross divisions to teach.

Vaccination: Vaccination has proven to be a hugely helpful tool in limiting the impact and minimizing the spread of COVID-19. We are pleased that our faculty are fully vaccinated. It is critically important that all members of our community become [fully vaccinated](#) as soon as they are eligible so we can safely peel back additional layers of our COVID-19 protocols. We also



recognize that not everyone is currently eligible for vaccination, but we expect to support vaccination efforts for children under 4 years old as soon as it is possible.

Travel: CDC recommends delaying travel until you are [fully vaccinated](#) because travel increases your chance of getting and spreading COVID-19. If you are not fully vaccinated and must travel, follow CDC's [travel recommendations](#).

Visitor Policy: Visitors will be allowed on campus by appointment only and must adhere to our campus health and safety protocols including mandatory mask-wearing at all times while indoors.

School COVID-19 Testing Consent: We are asking all students, faculty, and staff to [complete this consent form](#). This consent form covers rapid antigen testing at school for anyone who develops symptoms or needs to be tested while at school. It also covers weekly laboratory PCR testing, either saliva or nasal swab testing, when we need to utilize it.

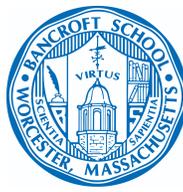
Take-Home Rapid Covid Testing: We are asking all students, faculty, and staff (or parents/guardians if a student is under 18) to complete the following [opt-in form](#) to be eligible for our nasal swab at-home antigen testing. Only those who opt-in will receive tests. **Please note that this is a different form than the testing consent form above.** Test kits contain 2 tests per box and will be handed out every other week. Please only use one test per week on Monday mornings, whether we have school or not. As with all of our other COVID-19 testing, if an individual has tested positive for the virus within the past 90 days, they are not eligible and should not participate. Only positive test results need to be reported to the school nurse and your primary care physician. Details of this new protocol and instructions on how to take the rapid test [can be found here](#).

COVID-19 Response Plan

If any student, faculty, or staff member receives a positive COVID-19 test, is having symptoms, or is determined to be a close contact, [the School Nurse must be notified](#). Below is the full list of symptoms for which caregivers should monitor their children, and staff should monitor themselves. Individuals who experience any symptoms on the list below should follow the testing and quarantine response protocol for symptomatic individuals.

COVID-19 Symptoms List:

- Fever (100.0° Fahrenheit or higher), chills or shaking chills
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- New loss of taste or smell
- Muscle aches or body aches
- Cough
- Sore throat, when in combination with other symptoms

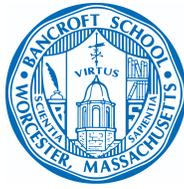


- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
- Headache when in combination with other symptoms
- Fatigue, when in combination with other symptoms
- Nasal congestion or runny nose when in combination with other symptoms

Definition Of Close Contact: Close contacts are defined as individuals who have been within 6 feet of a COVID-19 positive individual while indoors, for at least 15 minutes during a 24-hour period. Please note that the at-risk exposure time begins 48 hours prior to symptom onset (or time of positive test if asymptomatic) and continues until the time the COVID-19 positive individual is isolated. In general, close contacts should follow the testing and quarantine response protocols. **However, certain close contacts are exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols as noted below.**

The following close contacts are **exempt** from testing and quarantine response protocols:

- Updated testing guidance from DESE and DPH recommends that schools select the new option within the statewide testing program to offer weekly rapid at-home antigen tests to students and staff and discontinue contact tracing and Test and Stay programs. As such, for schools selecting this new option, individuals will no longer be identified as in school close contacts by school health professionals. However, individuals may still be identified as close contacts **outside of school settings** (e.g. as a close contact of someone who tests positive for COVID-19 in their household). In these cases:
 - asymptomatic vaccinated individuals:** While in school settings (including for sports and extracurriculars), asymptomatic vaccinated individuals remain exempt from testing and quarantine protocols. If an asymptomatic, vaccinated individual is identified as a close contact outside of school, they may return to school. Individuals should closely monitor for symptoms and follow the Protocol for symptomatic individuals if they experience any symptoms listed.
 - unvaccinated individuals:** who are identified as close contacts outside of school settings should stay home and follow the Protocol for unvaccinated individuals identified as close contacts prior to returning to school.
- Asymptomatic, fully vaccinated close contacts: Individuals who are asymptomatic and fully vaccinated or received a booster within the past 6 months with Moderna/Pfizer, are exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols. However, they should diligently wear a mask for 10 days after the exposure, as well as monitor closely for symptoms.
- Close contacts who have had COVID-19 within the past 90 days: An individual who has been previously diagnosed with COVID-19 and then becomes a close contact of someone with COVID-19 is exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols if:
 - The exposure occurred within 90 days of the onset of their own illness **AND**
 - The exposed individual is recovered and remains without COVID-19 symptoms.



If A Student Displays Symptoms at School: If a student shows signs of illness while at school, the school nurse will place the student in the medical isolation room and notify the parent/guardian. The parent/guardian will be expected to pick the student up as soon as possible to limit further exposure. If more than one student is in the same waiting room at a time, they will be seated at least 6 feet apart. Students will wear a surgical mask provided by the nurse while in the medical isolation room. Students dismissed with symptoms must contact their physician and **follow the physician's recommendations for PCR or antigen testing, quarantine/isolation, and follow-up care.**

Return to School: In order for a student, faculty, or staff member to return to school after testing positive for COVID-19, experiencing COVID symptoms, or being in close contact with a COVID-19 positive case, they must follow one of these protocols:

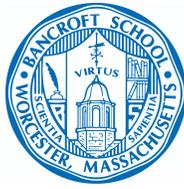
Protocol for individuals who test positive for COVID-19:

- **Duration:** Self-isolation for COVID-19 positive cases is a **minimum** of 5 days after symptom onset (day 0) or after positive PCR or antigen test (day 0), if asymptomatic.
- **Return to school:** After a minimum of 5 days, on day 6, only once they have:
Been without fever for 24 hours (and without taking fever-reducing medications);
and experienced improvement in other symptoms.
- **Following the 5-day isolation period, individuals must mask for 5 additional when around others, other than when eating, drinking, or outside.**

Protocol for asymptomatic, unvaccinated individuals identified as close contacts outside of school settings:

- **Duration:** Quarantine is at least 5 days from the date of exposure (day 0 is the last contact with COVID-19 positive individual).
- **Return to School:** After 5 days, returning on day 6, provided that they:
 - o Remain asymptomatic,
 - o Adhere to strict mask use, other than when eating, drinking, or outside, and conduct active monitoring for symptoms through day 10; and,
 - o Self-isolate if symptoms develop.Full quarantine information can be found [here](#).
- Note: If an individual has symptoms at the time they are designated as a close contact or within the 5 days following initial exposure, they should follow the protocol for symptomatic individuals. If an individual tests positive at any time, they follow the protocol for individuals who test positive for COVID-19.
- **For all those exposed, best practice would also include an antigen or PCR test for COVID-19 at day 5 after exposure. If symptoms occur, individuals should immediately quarantine until a negative test confirms symptoms are not attributable to COVID-19.**

Protocol for symptomatic individuals regardless of vaccination status:



- **Duration:** Dependent on symptom resolution and negative test results.
- **Return to School:** Individuals may return to school after they:
 - Have improvement/resolution in symptoms
 - Have been without fever for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing Medications.
 - Have a **negative** PCR or antigen test result for COVID-19.

Note: So long as the individual is not a close contact, if a medical professional makes an alternative diagnosis for the COVID-19-like symptoms, the individual may use this recommendation (e.g., for influenza or strep pharyngitis) in lieu of a PCR or antigen test.

Health Center: The Health Center is located in the McDonough building and managed by our school nurse, Liza Marzilli, who will serve as the primary point of contact for all students and parents who have health-related concerns or questions. Mrs. Marzilli can be reached via email at lmorzilli@bancroftschool.org or via phone at 508-854-9240. If at any point, based on the emerging science, data, and the guidance of health and government authorities, we feel it is advisable to adjust our protocols, we will make informed decisions and will communicate any changes as soon as we are able.

Additional Contact Information: While health-related questions should be directed to our [school nurse](#), other key points of contact are:

[Trey Cassidy](#), Head of School

[Dan Mercurio](#), Assistant Head of School

[Beth Beckmann](#), Head of the Lower School

[Matt Ganas](#), Head of Middle School, Director of the Hope Graham Program / Academic Support

[Mark Taylor](#), Interim Head of the Upper School

[Robin Silverman](#), Upper School Dean of Students

[Susie Horan](#), Director of Enrollment Management