

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN CHARTER SCHOOL-QUEEN CREEK COVID-19 MITIGATION PLAN FOR 2022/2023 SCHOOL YEAR

BFCS will ensure the recommended health and safety actions are in place. BFCS will be prepared for a safe and healthy school environment for our learners and staff through preparation, training, and continuous monitoring. Standard procedures for students who qualify for homebound or chronic ill services will be followed. Similarly, routine procedures for employee requests for reasonable accommodations due to a disability will be followed.

This mitigation plan will be in effect until the Executive Director, in consultation with the School Governing Board, considering guidance from state and federal education and public health experts, determines that the plan should be modified.

The following protocols will be implemented across all School sites.

STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES

- The Director of Education will coordinate any messages to the public regarding possible closure and other COVID-19 related information.
- The Director of Education will ensure that each site(s) has posters with messaging on handwashing and covering coughs/sneezes placed throughout school sites.
- The lead custodian at each school site will coordinate cleaning protocols, ensuring that sufficient cleaning supplies are available to the janitorial staff and, as appropriate, students and staff.
- The Director of Exceptional Student Services and 504 Coordinator will coordinate with site-based case managers to ensure that the needs of special education students and students with special needs are being met in the context of implementing these safety protocols.
- The principal in conjunction with the school nurse/health assistant will help coordinate and implement the protocols for students and staff. They will be responsible for:
 - Documenting and communicating any reported case of COVID-19 to the Director of Education.
 - Communicating COVID-19 report numbers to staff or parents/guardians who inquire through the health office.
 - Informing the Director of Education if absences of students and staff on any given day is above 10% or if there appears to be a cluster of respiratory-related illnesses.
- The school nurse or health assistant will:
 - maintain confidentiality on all student health information

- report information that a student has had a positive COVID-19 test or has become sick with a presumptive COVID-19 case to the Principal and necessary staff.
- isolate anyone exhibiting symptoms immediately, and contact the parent for pickup or send staff home.
- call 911 if there is breathing distress or other condition that warrants it.

TRAINING

- All staff will be trained to implement mitigation plan protocols.
- Parents will be directed to review on the school site website the portions of these protocols that relate to students and visitors.
- The Principal at each school site will be the point of contact. The Principal will be responsible for answering parent questions regarding the implementation of the protocols. All questions should go through this single point of contact at each site.

DAILY HOME SCREENING

It is important for families to be in full, honest communication with the school and to respect the well-being of the school community. Students will be allowed to make up work for absences due to COVID-related quarantine or self-isolation and students and parents will be educated on self-screening expectations. Students must not come to school if they have **any** of the following symptoms or if pending the results of a test:

- Temperature 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher when taken by mouth
- Sore throat
- New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (for students with chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline)
- Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain
- New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever
- New shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- New muscle or body aches or fatigue
- New loss of taste or smell

DAILY SCHOOL SCREENING

- Upon arrival at school, staff will visually screen each student before class begins. Any student with visible symptoms will be taken to the health office.
- Parents will be assured that students will have the opportunity to make up work missed due to symptoms of COVID-19.
- Schools will not give out attendance awards.

IF AN EMPLOYEE OR STUDENT REPORTS A POSITIVE COVID-19 TEST

When the Administration becomes aware that a student or staff member has a lab confirmed (i.e., a PCR or Antigen) positive test for COVID-19, the following steps will be taken:

- If the student or staff member was working in the building, any areas that a COVID-19 positive employee or student was in for a prolonged period will be closed until all areas of the space can be thoroughly disinfected.
- Students and employees who have a lab confirmed (i.e., a PCR or Antigen) positive test for COVID-19 must stay home from school (or workplace) until symptoms subside. Employees and students may return to the campus or workplace when they are fever-free and symptom-free for at least 24 hours without the support of medication.

CLOSE CONTACT

- Employees or students who may have been exposed to a lab confirmed (i.e., a PCR or Antigen) positive COVID-19 case (within 6 feet and for 15 minutes or longer, cumulatively, within a 24-hour period) will not be notified of the potential exposure.
- Faculty and staff members who would like to request close contact notifications may do so through the campus health office.
- The name of the individual who has become sick will not be disclosed.

CLEANING AND DISINFECTING

- All frequently touched surfaces, such as door handles, sink handles, drinking fountains, desks, and learning tools will be cleaned and disinfected regularly.
- Shared school supplies or equipment shared by students, will be wiped down with disinfectant by a staff member on a regular basis.
- Playground equipment, sports equipment, music equipment, and any other shared items will be cleaned regularly.
- Staff is expected to clean and disinfect workspaces during the day as needed.
- Custodial staff will be assigned schedules for cleaning of surfaces and bathrooms throughout the day.
- Nightly janitorial staff will sanitize all high-contact areas and surfaces.

TRANSPORTATION

- Bus seats and high-use surfaces will be disinfected regularly.
- School buses will maintain maximum ventilation at all times including open windows, when possible due to weather, and ventilation systems will be set on non-recirculating mode.

COMMUNAL SPACES

Playgrounds (Elementary Campuses)

- Playground equipment and classroom recess bins will be regularly sanitized.
- Classes will sanitize hands out to recess and wash hands as they return to the classroom,

Lunch Rooms

- Lunch periods may be staggered to reduce the number of students in one area.

- Outdoor eating areas will be offered if facility space and weather permits.
- Students should use the hand sanitizer or wash their hands before lunch and upon returning to the building.

Bathrooms

- Students will go into bathrooms in a group no larger than the number of stalls/urinals in the bathroom.
- Posters reminding students of proper handwashing techniques will be placed in all bathrooms.

HAND WASHING

Reinforcement through announcements, teacher reminders, and posters reminding students and staff that hands should be washed or sanitizer used frequently while at school. All students and staff will wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or will use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol at the following times:

- upon arrival at school
- after being outside for physical activity
- before and after lunch
- before leaving school for home
- after sneezing, coughing, or blowing nose
- after physical contact with other staff or students

FACE COVERINGS

Executive Order 2021-10 provides face covering as an option to students and staff. Face coverings are an option at BFCS. Students and staff should bring their own face coverings if they choose to be worn. School sites will have a supply available to provide students and staff who do not have their own coverings.

FIELD TRIPS

Scheduled field trips are voluntary and alternative instruction will be provided to students opting out of a field trip.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF SCHOOL PROTOCOLS

Parents will be offered a copy of the School Protocols via the BFCS website.