

BLOUNT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

COVID-19 SCHOOL GUIDANCE

August 16, 2022

General Protocol

- Masks are not required unless a positive individual is returning from a 5 day isolation period or an individual is a home exposure (*see below*).
- Cleaning standards for COVID guidelines will be followed.
- Students are encouraged to use water fountains as filling stations with bottles or cups.

Procedures for Students & Staff that Develop COVID Symptoms:

Symptoms - *fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.*

- Mask immediately
- Students should be sent to the school's isolation room. Staff that exhibit COVID symptoms should notify the principal and/or school nurse.
- If COVID is suspected, the symptomatic individual will be sent home to be tested or medically assessed by their healthcare provider.
- The student/staff may return to school after having a negative test or the provider may determine that there is a diagnosis other than COVID-19.
- Sick individuals that do not get a negative test or are not medically assessed by a health care provider will remain out of school for 5 days. The sick individual may return on the 6th day by wearing a well-fitting mask for an additional 5 days. If unable to wear a mask, it will be necessary to isolate for 10 full days.

Procedures for Students & Staff that Test Positive for COVID:

- Individuals that are positive must isolate at least 5 days after symptoms first appear and may return to school by wearing a well-fitting mask for an additional 5 days. If unable to wear a mask, it will be necessary to isolate the additional 5 days.
- Symptoms must be greatly improved and no fever for the last 24 hours (*without taking fever reducing medications*).

Home Exposure

- Students & staff (regardless of vaccination status) that live with a positive individual will no longer be required to quarantine but must wear a mask for 10 days after the last contact with the positive person.
- Individuals who do not wear a mask will have the option to quarantine during this 10 day period.
- Anyone exposed to COVID should watch for symptoms until 10 days after the last close contact with the infected person.

Employees who isolate/quarantine must use some type of leave (sick, vacation, or personal days).

COVID-19 UPDATE

What Happened	Stay Home?	May Leave Home?	Get Tested?	Wear a Mask
Tested Positive	Yes 5 Days	After 5 Days If Symptoms are Greatly Improved and No Fever for 24 hours <i>(without medication)</i>	Additional Test Not Required	Yes 5 Additional Days after Isolation
Home Exposure to COVID	No Unless Symptomatic	-----	If Symptoms Develop Get Tested	Yes 10 Days
Symptomatic No Home Exposure	Yes Pending Negative COVID Test or Provider Gives an Alternate Diagnosis	If Positive, may leave home after 5 days if symptoms are greatly improved and no fever for 24 hours <i>(without medication)</i> If Negative for COVID but Symptomatic, may return after symptoms are greatly improved and no fever or vomiting for 24 hours <i>(without medication)</i>	Additional Testing Not Required to Return to School	Yes 5 additional days if tested positive

Please be aware that you can develop COVID-19 up to 10 days after you have been exposed.

Individuals who do not wear a mask will have the option to quarantine during this 10 day period which begins after the last contact with the infected person.