

# BAKER

## DEMONSTRATION SCHOOL

### Covid Health and Safety Protocols Spring 2022 (Revised 3.29.22)

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*We will continue to follow guidance from the CDC, IDPH and CCDPH, in consultation with our Health Advisory Team, and will update our health and safety protocols throughout the academic year as needed to keep our students, employees and families safe.*

**Masking:** As of March 14, Baker's status changes from mask required to mask recommended indoors for K-8 students and employees. Preschool students are still required to mask indoors and teachers and students working with preschool students will also mask when with them. Students choosing not to mask should continue to bring a supply of masks with them each day.

**Distancing:** In combination with masking, students maintain three feet of physical distance wherever possible, including the library, the music room, and hallways. Six feet of distance will need to be observed in the swimming pool and the cafeteria (and when eating in other locations).

**Handwashing:** Washing one's hands for 20 to 30 seconds is an effective way to stay safe and reduce transmission. All classrooms with sinks are set up for students to handwash upon entrance to the classroom, before and after lunch, and at other times the teacher or student deems essential. Hand sanitizer is also readily available in each classroom.

**Covid-19 screening testing:** Employees and students are tested through our Covid-19 testing program, which occurs during the school day. This is one mitigation tool that we are using, but it is important to note that testing is only a moment in time, so it needs to be used with other mitigation efforts.

**Building Entry:** We ask that only students enter the school building. If parents do need to enter the school building, for a meeting or because you have a preschool student, we ask that you check into the office, show your vaccine card, and observe our masking protocols. We still ask that visitors, including parents, mask while in the building.

**Lunch:** Students will eat lunch distanced from their peers by 6ft or more.

**Water Fountains:** Please continue to send your child a water bottle with a straw each day. This will allow them to use their water bottle while masked. Our fountains have water bottle fillers for easy refilling throughout the day.

**Covid Positive Case Reporting & Contact Tracing:** We report any positive cases to Baker employees and families via email. We begin contact tracing as soon as the case is reported. Individuals who are most directly impacted by a potential exposure being notified first and a letter to

the community at-large (employees and parents) to follow. If you only receive the general message, it means the exposure was not in your child's class.

If a Baker student is a close contact but is up to date on vaccination and doesn't have symptoms, a quarantine is not necessary. If a Baker student is not vaccinated, a quarantine is necessary. [See CDC chart](#).

Should quarantine be necessary, we will communicate this information to you and will develop an eLearning plan.

**Cleaning & Sanitizing:** Regular sanitization includes all common surfaces - door handles, stair rails, and bathrooms. In order to limit additional adults in a classroom when students are present, there are cleaning supplies in each classroom for students and teachers to wipe down common surfaces.

**Indoor Air Quality/ Ventilation:** As recommended by the CDC we are using MERV 13 filter ratings with frequent changing of filters; our HVAC system ensures that clean air is delivered to occupied spaces in order to effectively dilute and remove contaminants emitted by indoor sources. That air is exhausted outside. In other words, our HVAC systems push fresh air in from the outside and pull the air out of the areas through return vents continuously (rather than recirculate the air). The air exchange rate is 12 times an hour. These are best practice recommendations for indoor air quality that are a part of our HVAC systems.

**Families should follow the following guidelines in order to support the health and safety of our Baker students and team:**

**Vaccinations:** We are strongly encouraging all eligible students to be vaccinated as soon as possible as it is the surest way to provide protection against Covid-19 and its variants. As of 1/5/22, the FDA expanded booster eligibility to individuals ages 12-17 so we encourage all of our students ages 12+ to receive their booster shot when eligible. Please note that vaccinations will be required for children who attend overnight trips.

**Symptom-free students:** All families should continue to do a daily wellness check, including temperature check, prior to sending their child to school. We are asking all of our Baker parents to take personal responsibility for this health check each morning. By sending your child to school each day, you are certifying that your child does not have any COVID-19 like symptoms - fever (100.4 F or higher), new onset of moderate to severe headache, shortness of breath, new cough, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, new loss of sense of taste or smell, fatigue from unknown cause, muscle or body aches from unknown cause.

**Sick children:** If your child has any COVID-19 like symptoms, you need to keep your child home and notify [health@bakerdemschool.org](mailto:health@bakerdemschool.org). Nurse Riggs will follow up with you.

If a member of your household has COVID-19 and you have a Baker student who does not have their primary dosage of the COVID-19 vaccination, they must stay home from school.

**Travel:** In consideration for the Baker community, we ask that you continue to follow travel guidance of the local health department. If you are traveling, please check the [Cook County Department of Public Health \(CCDPH\) guidance](#) so you can stay up to date on the appropriate steps. You do not need to report travel information to Baker.

**Quarantine and Isolation guidelines/Communicating Positive results to Baker:** IDPH has adopted the isolation and quarantine guidance of the CDC. Accordingly, please see updated guidance [here](#).

If your child tests positive for COVID, please contact Nurse Riggs as soon as possible. The Cook County Health Department doesn't accept home test results so it is important that you consult with her about confirming your child's test results. Based on the child's symptoms, severity of the case and rate of recovery, isolation time will be 5 days or more.

As your child approaches the end of their isolation period, Nurse Riggs will consult with you on the necessary information for your child's return to school.

In a situation where an asymptomatic child is released from isolation to return to school on day 6, there are restrictions for days 6-10 including lunch and snack protocols, swimming, and sports that Nurse Riggs will explain to families in this situation.

**After School Enrichment Activities and before school care:** BASE and before school care will follow the same guidelines and mitigation measures as the school day.