

Procedures for 22-23 for Exposures/Illness with Covid and Attendance Policy

After careful consultation with the Montgomery County Office of Public Health, the CHOP Policy Lab, and CDC guidelines, the following procedures will be in place for the 22-23 school year. Several procedures have changed, reflecting a shift to encourage more personal responsibility and care for the community.

First, and most importantly, please don't send your child to school when they are sick. The best way to keep our community well is to keep germs outside of the school, as much as possible.

Specific overall approach updates:

Although they are available for support, the Montgomery County Office of Public Health will no longer require individual reporting or aggregate reporting of cases.

We will not engage in contact tracing, mask to stay, or test to stay procedures.

Quarantine is no longer recommended.

Symptoms/Positive cases

If your child is having symptoms consistent with Covid, we encourage you to test them. If negative, you are encouraged to repeat test 48 hours after the first test, and follow the normal sick day policy for any illness, which is to return to school when fever free for 24 hours, and there is an improvement in symptoms.

Per CDC guidelines, if your child tests positive, they are to remain home for 5 days from either the date of first symptoms or the date of the positive test, whichever is first. They may return to school on day 6, and must wear a mask through day 10.

Exposures to Covid:

In the case where there has been an exposure to a positive case within your household, we encourage you to have your child attend school, as long as they are symptom-free, but they need to wear a mask for 10 days. We ask you to test them on day 6, or if symptoms develop. If there are multiple positive cases in your household, the need to mask may be extended and possibly to request repeat testing.

For a non-household one-time exposure, we encourage masking for 10 days, and testing on day 6.

Absence Policy:

Absences related to Covid will not count toward the 10-day student sick policy. For this reason, it is important that you communicate your child's symptoms when reporting their absence.

As always, we encourage practicing good ventilation, good hand hygiene, and good respiratory etiquette. If community transmission is high, the severity of illness increases, or transmissibility changes, mitigation strategies may need to be adjusted.

There will be continued availability of testing at BACS this year through Project ACE-IT for anyone who is interested in this option.