

## Village School Covid Safety Plan Fall 2021

The Village School successfully opened and stayed open all last school year. There were no proven cases of Covid transmission from the school. With similar care, precautions and parent cooperation, we will keep children safe and healthy again this year.

The Village School plan is based on Mass. Department of Elementary and Secondary Education guidance released in July 2021 and updated December 2021. For the full updated DESE guide, go to

<https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-desktop/protocols/protocols.pdf>

This plan has three sections:

- 1) Requirements of children, staff and parents
- 2) The general safety plan
- 3) Protocols when someone is sick
- 4) Diagnostic testing and Pooled testing

### **1. Requirements for Children**

Children get their masks wet and dirty during the school day. **All children should have 3 clean masks at school with them every day.** Please check that they have clean masks when they leave the house in the morning.

Children will wear masks when inside the building, except for eating. Children are not required to wear masks outside. Children will be given, and can take, mask breaks throughout the day, when they can go outside and breathe freely without a mask.

In car pools, in alignment with DESE guidance, children wear masks in the car with mixed family groups.

In the morning, K-6<sup>th</sup> children enter at the main recess entrance and leave their street shoes or boots on the racks inside the entrance, and proceed to their classrooms.

### **Requirements for Parents and Staff**

All parents and staff are required to wear masks when inside the building, whether or not they are vaccinated. Parents can be in the building at drop off and pick up, as long as they are wearing masks.

### **2. General Safety Plan**

Whenever possible, children will practice distancing inside, 3 ft apart with masks. Each classroom is separately ventilated and has a separate source of fresh air. Windows will be open in warm weather. Surfaces are disinfected at least once a day. Children are asked to wash hands with soap and water upon arrival in the morning, before snack, before lunch, after recess, and whenever reentering the building.

### 3. Protocols when sick or after exposure

This is a shortened version. To read the full memorandum, with many different protocols, provided by DESE and Mass. DPH, please go to

<https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-desktop/protocols/>

**As last year at the Village School, when children are sick, they must stay home. If your child comes down with a cold, please give them a Rapid test before sending them to school in the morning. Then only send them to school if you think they can function fully with a mask on, otherwise keep them home. If presenting with Covid symptoms, children must be tested and cannot return to school until they have results. When in doubt, call Rise.**

#### COVID-19 symptoms

Below is the full list of symptoms for which caregivers should monitor their children, and staff should monitor themselves.

#### 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 (not due to other known cause, such as chronic cough)
- Sore throat, *when in combination with other symptoms*
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea *when in combination with other symptoms*
- Headache *when in combination with other symptoms*
- Fatigue, *when in combination with other symptoms*
- Nasal congestion or runny nose (not due to other known causes, such as allergies) *when in combination with other symptoms*

**If your child has a runny nose, or a single non-italicised symptom above, please test them on the day symptoms appear, with the Binax rapid test. If negative, you can send them to school.** The Binax rapid test is 95% accurate on the first day of symptoms.

#### Definition of a 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 set out by DESE in late December 2021: <https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-desktop/protocols/>

### Recommended testing and quarantine response protocols

**Overview of Protocol Categories:**

- Protocol A: For individuals who test positive for COVID-19
- Protocol B: Protocol for asymptomatic close contacts
- Protocol C: Protocol for symptomatic individuals

**This list of Protocols can be found at:**

<https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-desktop/protocols/protocols.pdf>