



## BUTLER ACADEMY COVID-19 HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS

### MASKS | Students

Masks for students are optional except in cases when it is required to shorten isolation/quarantine period (see page 2).

### MASKS | Employees

Masks for employees are optional except when it is required to shorten isolation/quarantine period

### HANDWASHING

Hand sanitizer will be provided in the dining hall, classrooms, and common areas throughout the school. When possible, handwashing breaks will be built into the schedule, especially before lunch, after bathroom breaks, and when returning from recess, PE, lunch, etc.

### WHEN TO STAY HOME

Parents should monitor children and NOT send them to school if they are running a fever. Fever-reducing or other medications should not be used to mask symptoms so students can be sent to school. Per DHEC, scholars and staff will be excluded from school if they exhibit any one (1) of the following symptoms:

- Fever
- New or worsening cough
- Loss of taste or smell
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

Any child with any one of these symptoms should not attend school. If these symptoms are explainable by an underlying condition (such as shortness of breath or cough for an individual with asthma) exclusion may not be necessary. Excluded students can return to school in any one of the following three scenarios:

1. A negative viral test (PCR or antigen\*) is obtained. Home tests will be accepted, but must be accompanied by the [COVID-19 At-Home Test Verification Form](#).
2. All of these criteria are met:
  - a. At least 5 days have passed since symptoms started,
  - b. The scholar is fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication, AND
  - c. A mask is worn for days 6-10. *If a mask is not worn, a 10-day isolation period must be observed.*
3. A doctor's note is submitted documenting that no further exclusion is needed.

### POSITIVE TESTS

When a Butler Academy scholar or staff member **tests positive for COVID-19** with an Antigen (Rapid) or PCR test, we will use the following criteria to determine the **isolation period**:

**Asymptomatic, regardless of vaccination status:** Must isolate for 5 days after the date of the positive test. Can return to school on Day 6, as long as they wear a mask through Day 10. The person does not need documentation of a negative test to return to school.

**Symptomatic, regardless of vaccination status:** Must isolate for 5 days after the date that the symptoms began. May return to school on Day 6, as long as they are fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications, other symptoms are improving and they wear a mask through Day 10. The person does not need to have documentation of a negative test to return to school.

### **CLOSE CONTACTS**

Per DHEC guidance, contact tracing will no longer be a standard practice when there is a positive case. However, if the school has 10% or more of the students and staff absent due to COVID-19 (testing positive or having symptoms) during two consecutive one week periods, then contact tracing will begin immediately.

### **VOLUNTARY OR INVOLUNTARY SHUTDOWN**

Face-to-face instruction at Butler Academy may be discontinued at any time by mandate from our district, SC Department of Education, DHEC, or the governor. Butler Academy may also elect to voluntarily discontinue face-to-face instruction based on conditions within the school or our surrounding area. If this should occur, we will move to a distance learning model. For the first 2 weeks of distance learning, we will provide printable assignments that allow scholars to stay academically engaged. If distance learning lasts more than 2 weeks, we will provide each scholar with a tablet and/or chromebook in order to facilitate participation in live or recorded lessons. Students without internet connection can access Wi-Fi in our parking lot. Depending on need and availability, we will also aim to provide internet access via state-provided hotspot devices.

To ensure that all scholars continue to receive healthy and nutritious meals during a school closure, meal boxes (weekly or daily) will be provided to all families who request them.

### **ATTENDANCE & DISTANCE LEARNING DURING QUARANTINE/ISOLATION**

Per South Carolina Department of Education guidelines for temporary virtual instruction, students are required to submit completed assignments by the established deadline in order to be counted as “present.” The established deadline for submitting assignments is on the day of return from quarantine or isolation, unless other arrangements have been made with your scholar’s teachers.

Assignments are designed to be completed with minimal assistance, however, we understand that sometimes scholars need additional help. Please encourage your scholars to do their very best and reach out to the teacher if you have any questions regarding the assignments.

Scholars that are in quarantine or isolation with symptoms that prevent them from completing the assignments can make arrangements with their teachers to establish an appropriate deadline.