



Banner School Contingency Response for the Covid-19 Pandemic

2021/2022 Academic Year

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Returning to School

The Banner School will open five days a week with in-person instruction for the 2021-2022 school year. This is consistent with recommendations from federal, state, and local health agencies. The Banner School works closely throughout the school year with the Frederick County Health Department to ensure best practices to maintain a healthy campus.

While we do not anticipate a need for a full-time virtual option at this point, faculty at all grade levels are prepared to offer a form of virtual learning should it become necessary.

On Campus Learning

The Banner School focus is in-person, on-campus learning. Classrooms will continue to keep desks spaced at 3-6 ft intervals. Students in primary grades will attend specials classes in the Specials classrooms (i.e., Spanish, Art, Music). Our Middle School students will change classes for each content area. Middle School students will utilize their lockers to keep their books and other materials. Middle School students will wear their PE uniforms to school on days they have PE. Assignments will continue to be posted in Google Classroom so that students can have full access at all times.

Daily Campus School Routines Quick Guide

This Quick Guide is for your ease of reference, detailed information follows in the sections below. Families will need to complete a daily health check prior to drop off for morning extended care or school (more details on the daily health check are noted below).

- Drop-off procedures will include a temperature check
- There will be designated drop off and pick up carlines: one for the Early Childhood program, two for primary, and one for middle school
- Masks will be worn indoors whether vaccinated or not vaccinated
- Masks will not be required in outdoor spaces and teachers are encouraged to utilize outdoor space as much as possible
- Classrooms will strive for a 6ft distance, with a minimum of 3ft between desks and work areas within classrooms
- All desks will face the same direction
- Primary Students will travel to their Specials classes (i.e., Spanish, Art, Music).
- Middle school will travel to all their content area classes
- At this point, there will be no visitor access to classrooms

- Extended Care and after school sports and clubs will be available
- Lunch will occur in three shifts in the cafeteria or outdoors. Preschool-2nd grade, 3rd-5th, and 6th-8th.
- There will be Ultra-violet air purifiers in each classroom and common areas

Vaccination Policy

For the safety of our entire community, and to best protect the learning experience, Banner School has required all faculty and staff to be fully vaccinated. Any on-campus parent volunteers are required to be fully vaccinated as well.

Banner School strongly encourages all students who are eligible to be vaccinated prior to the start of the school year. This will provide for the best protection against Covid and will reduce the need to quarantine when your child waits on a Covid PCR test. We do not have a mandate for student vaccination but may consider this in the future based on guidance, availability and local conditions.

The intent in underscoring the vaccination conditions is to ensure that our community remain safe and that there are few, if any, interruptions to students enjoying and benefitting from their classroom learning experience.

Masking Policy

Masks will be required in all indoor locations on campus for all school activities regardless of vaccination status. Students should bring at least two masks to school each day to ensure there is a spare mask if necessary. A spare mask should be stored in a clean container in primary students' desks and in middle school students' lockers. Masks must be **at least two layers** thick and contain no vents on the front or side of them. They need to fit snugly over the mouth, around the nose, and under the chin. Gator masks are not acceptable masks for school use. Please check the fit of a mask at home before sending them to school.

The school will provide masks as a last resort but is not responsible for consistently providing them for students or staff. Masks may be removed in the classroom for snack breaks and in the lunchroom while sitting and eating. Lunch and morning snack break will be held outdoors as weather allows. Masks will be required for indoor athletics including physical education class and extra-curricular sports or clubs.

Guests will be required to wear masks upon entry to campus buildings. Volunteers shall wear N95 masks when working in an area with students; masks will be provided if needed.

Masks will not be required for students, staff, or guests in outdoor spaces. This includes the athletic field, playground, outdoor classrooms, and any other outdoor space. Throughout the school year teachers will be encouraged to utilize outdoor spaces as much as possible for educational purposes and for snack and lunchtimes.

Daily Health Screenings

Covid Questionnaire

The Banner School will continue to screen students for symptoms and history of exposure via our RenWeb Family Portal. Parents and staff members will be required to fill this out daily prior to arrival on campus. Here is a link to the RenWeb Family Portal login. This can be accessed through any web browser on a computer, mobile phone, or tablet.

<https://logins2.renweb.com/logins/ParentsWeb-Login.aspx>

Please contact Lela McWilliams, lmcwilliams@bannerschool.org for assistance setting up your RenWeb account or resetting your password.

Temperature Checks

A temperature check will be done by a faculty member before a student is released from their vehicle. Any student who feels ill during the day will be taken to the health room for a temperature check and screened for symptoms of Covid. If a student exhibits symptoms of Covid they will be sent home. Regardless of vaccination status, anyone who exhibits symptoms of Covid will be required to present a negative PCR test result to return to school. All guests will be screened when they check in at the office. The Banner School will use a decision aid provided by the Maryland Department of Health (see the Appendix) as a tool for determining best steps for Covid-like illness or exposure on campus.

Guidelines for fully vaccinated persons on campus:

FULLY VACCINATED persons in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID and is ASYMPTOMATIC, do not need to isolate. They need to have a Covid test but can return to school with full masking until they receive their test result.

1. If Person tests Covid-negative, they can continue on-campus attendance.
2. If Person tests Covid-positive, they need to isolate for 10 days.

Should a FULLY VACCINATED person exhibit signs of illness while on campus, they will isolate in the health room until they can go home. Parents need to have a plan in place to provide for immediate removal of a student if it becomes necessary.

1. If they test negative for Covid, they can return to school after symptoms subside and they are fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medicine.
2. If they test Positive for Covid, they will need to isolate for 10 days or until their symptoms subside and they are fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medicine.

Guidance for family exposure, including siblings will be forthcoming from the Frederick County Health Department. Policy will be updated when guidance is received.

Guidelines for non-vaccinated students:

NON-VACCINATED persons in close contact with someone who tests positive for COVID will need to quarantine for 10 days and be symptom-free before returning to school. Alternatively, they may wait 3 days after known exposure and take a PCR Covid test. If the test is returned negative, they can return to school.

Should a NON-VACCINATED person exhibit signs of illness while on campus, they will isolate in the health room until they can go home. Parents need to have a plan in place to provide for immediate removal of a student if it becomes necessary.

1. If Student tests Covid-negative, they can return to school after symptoms subside and are fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication.
2. If Student tests positive for Covid, they will need to isolate for 10 days or until symptoms subside and they are fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication.
 - a. The school must be notified so that appropriate steps can be taken for contact tracing.
 - b. Banner School works in close partnership with the Frederick County Health Department to follow the guidance regarding notification of families and the need to quarantine. Names of persons are not provided by the school in any of the information that is sent to families.
3. If a student suffers from seasonal allergies, they may provide a physician's note indicating a diagnosis of seasonal allergies for congestion, cough, and runny nose.

Guidance for family exposure, including siblings will be forthcoming from the Frederick County Health Department. Policy will be updated when guidance is received.

Travel Restrictions

The Banner School currently has no restrictions for travel within the United States

Should changing conditions and recommendations of local and federal health authorities warrant it, Banner School may update this policy for the safety of the community. Families shall be immediately notified of any change.

Covid Testing on Campus

There is no plan at this time for routine Covid testing on campus.

Gym Use/PE

PE needs and gym use require careful consideration, and as such Banner has a focus on ensuring appropriate activities, whether indoors or outside, that will allow for social distancing and minimal use of shared equipment. The curriculum will focus more this year on nutrition, general health and body positivity with each program tailored to the age of the class of students. Activities are not limited to, but may include dance, jump rope, hula hoop, and yoga. Our PE program may also include “skill camps” for traditional team sports (i.e., soccer, hockey, dribbling drills).

Assemblies & Performances

School assemblies and performances may occur from time to time during the school year. These may occur indoors or out and will be run according to our best practices mask and distancing policies.

Sports and After School Clubs

The Banner School is happy to once again be providing after school clubs for student participation. Participation is optional. School masking rules apply for all indoor after-school clubs. Any outside contracted clubs will be supervised and taught by vaccinated adults who will wear N95 masks. There will be no restrictions on mixing of student ages in after-school clubs. Outdoor sports will not have mask restrictions, but indoor practices or games will require all participants and guests to wear masks. Guidance for sports and after-school clubs is subject to change based on guidance from the CDC and state and local health agencies.

School Trips and Field Trips

The Banner School is optimistic for the possibility of field trips throughout the year. A federal mandate is still in place requiring all occupants of a bus to be masked. The Banner School will abide by school policy and policies set by the field trip venue regarding best safety practices while on a field trip.

Attendance Policy

During the course of the school year teachers, students and families will sometimes be sick. Because of Covid-19 and our priority of protecting the whole of our community, including those who are at higher risk for severe illness, we have relaxed our Attendance Policy. We will support sick or quarantined students through their academic and social needs. As such, our absentee policy will be flexible and will not penalize any students or families who need to or opt to remain quarantined or at home for health reasons.

Water Fountains

Water Fountains will not be used for direct consumption. Students need to have a refillable water bottle each day that can be refilled at the water fountain. Students will be allowed to take their water bottles with them from class to class

Cleaning & Sanitation

Banner will continue to contract with a janitorial service to clean our classrooms and bathrooms on a daily basis. High touch surfaces will be cleaned more often throughout the day. Our teachers are responsible for classroom surfaces. Students may be asked to help clean their own surfaces and will be asked to wash their hands/sanitize on a regular basis.

Air Filtration

Each classroom and common space (i.e., gymnasium or library) will have at least two ultra-violet air filtration systems in place while students are using the space. This is provided to improve air filtration and quality.

Health Care Management and Support

Banner has a long-standing commitment to the healthfulness of our students. We use delegated nurse services for our students in the Primary and Middle School Divisions (K-8). The Delegating Nurse provides services to the school throughout the summer and school year. This includes reviewing student health information, preparing care plans for students with special health care needs, overseeing the administration of medication, and consulting with our onsite Certified Medical Technicians. The Delegating Nurse is contacted as needed regarding students presenting with symptoms; and providing regular reviews and oversight of the health operations.

Students in the Preschool Division receive support through the MSDE Office of Child Care and our delegating nurse service on an as-needed basis. We have onsite support to provide first aid for health/injury needs and to administer medication as prescribed for our preschoolers.

If a student has underlying health conditions, parents/guardians should seek advice from their medical providers prior to attending school. A support plan from your child's doctor will help Banner manage their day-to-day needs on campus. A doctor's note is required for any child who has seasonal allergies or a chronic health issue that is not contagious; this will help assure the community that symptoms are not indicators of Covid-19.

Health Room

There is a dedicated Health Room so that any student who presents with fever or other Covid-like symptoms can be quarantined until they are picked up from school. This Health Room can accommodate, socially distance, and protect two symptomatic persons at a time. A student with routine health care needs, such as a need for first aid for injury or medication administration will be given resting space in our administrative office in Botkin Hall. If it is a medical emergency - 911 will be called and the student will remain in place until the EMT arrives.

Covid-19 Exposure Notification Policy

While Banner is taking every effort to protect against any viral spread through school, it is possible that a member of the community might be exposed at some point during the school year. With guidance from the Frederick County Health Department, Banner will notify parents if there is a confirmed Covid-19 case in the school and/or a reason for a family to quarantine.

Remote Learning

Banner plans to open with in-person education and begin building our classroom communities and school community in this manner. However, we realize that there may be moments when a particular student, or all students, cannot be in the physical classroom. In the event that any individual student is prohibited from attending school due to health issues/quarantine, we will provide academic support to help them (materials uploaded to student, office hours with teacher available) so they can keep pace with their classmates until they can return to campus. We are using the phrase "Remote Learner" to refer to a student who is attending school with the main body of learners but who is temporarily at home. The Banner School can still honor its commitment to smaller class sizes even during distance

learning. We have seen the benefits of social interaction and teacher support that comes with smaller classes during distance learning and will continue to improve upon that premise.

In such cases, Primary School students will have opportunities to work synchronously with their classroom and specials teachers with the exception of PE, which will have activities posted in the Google Classroom. Classwork and activities will be accessed through Google Classroom. Middle School students will access classwork and homework through Google Classroom with daily teacher check-ins, as well as additional office hours during the school week as necessary. If a class, multiple classes, or the entire school should be required to quarantine, a remote learning schedule will be in place to accommodate.

How to Prepare Your Child for Start of School

Parents and guardians need to ensure that each student (age five and above) (highly recommended for ages 3 and 4) arrives with a mask each day. As part of your child's school supplies, you will be asked to package a spare mask if child needs a replacement on any given day. The mask you send in should be sized to fit your child snugly over their noses. Our nurses have detailed the need for students to come to school in reusable masks that are laundered between use. An appropriate mask has two layers of fabric, and it shouldn't be possible to blow out a candle while wearing it. Gator masks and masks with external vent ports are not acceptable.

Make your child comfortable in his/her mask, provide a lunch that is easy to open without assistance, and send your child with shoes which do not need to be tied, to help the teachers and aides at Banner. Coaching about hand washing and covering coughs and sneezes is especially crucial and should begin and be reinforced at home.

Appendix A: Exclusion and Return Decision Aids

Decision Aid: Exclusion and Return for Persons with COVID-19 Symptoms and Close Contacts in Child Care, Schools, and Youth Camps

For the purposes of this decision aid, **COVID-19 symptoms** are any ONE of the following: fever of 100.4° or higher, sore throat, cough, difficulty breathing, diarrhea or vomiting, new onset of severe headache (especially with fever), or new loss of taste or smell. For persons with chronic conditions such as asthma, the symptoms should represent a change from baseline.

Exclude all persons (child, care provider, educator, other staff) with COVID-19 symptoms and recommend evaluation by a health care provider and testing for COVID-19 if indicated ¹	Recommendations for the person with symptoms who is FULLY VACCINATED Individuals are fully vaccinated 2 weeks after receiving either 1) both doses of a 2-dose vaccine series or 2) a single dose vaccine.	Recommendations for close contacts of the person with symptoms
Person has symptoms and positive test for COVID-19 or clinical diagnosis of COVID-19	May return when it has been at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared AND no fever for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication AND improvement of other symptoms.	All close contacts should quarantine according to MDH and local guidance except those who are fully vaccinated OR have been infected with COVID-19 in the past 90 days AND are asymptomatic.
Person has symptoms and negative test for COVID-19	May return when symptoms have improved, no fever for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication, AND applicable criteria in the Communicable Diseases Summary have been met.	Close contacts do not need to quarantine.
Person has symptoms and health care provider documents symptoms are due to a specific alternative diagnosis (ex. strep throat, otitis media, pre-existing condition such as asthma)	May return when symptoms have improved, no fever for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication, AND applicable criteria in the Communicable Diseases Summary have been met.	Close contacts do not need to quarantine.
Person has symptoms and no negative test for COVID-19 AND no specific alternative diagnosis	If no known exposure, may return when symptoms have improved, no fever for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication, AND applicable criteria in the Communicable Diseases Summary have been met. Person should have written health care provider assessment that COVID-19 testing is not indicated and risk of COVID-19 is low. If known exposure, may return when it has been at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared AND no fever for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication AND improvement of other symptoms.	Close contacts do not need to quarantine. All close contacts should quarantine according to MDH and local guidance except those who are fully vaccinated OR have been infected with COVID-19 in the past 90 days AND are asymptomatic.

¹For persons with symptoms who were previously infected with COVID-19 and recovered, follow [CDC guidance](#).

Decision Aid: Exclusion and Return for Persons with COVID-19 Symptoms and Close Contacts in Child Care, Schools, and Youth Camps

For the purposes of this decision aid, **COVID-19 symptoms** are any ONE of the following: fever of 100.4° or higher, sore throat, cough, difficulty breathing, diarrhea or vomiting, new onset of severe headache (especially with fever), or new loss of taste or smell. For persons with chronic conditions such as asthma, the symptoms should represent a change from baseline.

Exclude all persons (child, care provider, educator, other staff) with COVID-19 symptoms and recommend evaluation by a health care provider and testing for COVID-19¹	Recommendations for the person with symptoms who is NOT FULLY VACCINATED Individuals are fully vaccinated 2 weeks after receiving either 1) both doses of a 2-dose vaccine series or 2) a single dose vaccine.	Recommendations for close contacts of the person with symptoms
Person has symptoms and positive test for COVID-19 or clinical diagnosis of COVID-19	May return when it has been at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared AND no fever for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication AND improvement of other symptoms.	All close contacts should quarantine according to MDH and local guidance except those who are fully vaccinated OR have been infected with COVID-19 in the past 90 days AND are asymptomatic.
Person has symptoms and negative test for COVID-19	If no known exposure, may return when symptoms have improved, no fever for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication, AND applicable criteria in the Communicable Diseases Summary have been met. If known exposure, may return when quarantine completed according to MDH and local guidance.	Close contacts do not need to quarantine.
Person has symptoms and health care provider documents symptoms are due to a specific alternative diagnosis (ex. strep throat, otitis media, pre-existing condition such as asthma)	If no known exposure, may return when symptoms have improved, no fever for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication, AND applicable criteria in the Communicable Diseases Summary have been met. If known exposure, may return when quarantine completed according to MDH and local guidance.	Close contacts do not need to quarantine.
Person has symptoms with no negative test for COVID-19 AND no specific alternative diagnosis	If no known exposure, may return when it has been at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared AND no fever for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication AND improvement of other symptoms. If known exposure, may return when it has been at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared AND no fever for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication AND improvement of other symptoms.	Household members ² should not attend or work in a child care, school, or youth camp until the person with symptoms is able to return except those who are fully vaccinated OR have been infected with COVID-19 in the past 90 days AND are asymptomatic. All close contacts should quarantine according to MDH and local guidance except those who are fully vaccinated OR have been infected with COVID-19 in the past 90 days AND are asymptomatic.

¹For persons with symptoms who were previously infected with COVID-19 and recovered, follow [CDC guidance](#).

²These persons should not be reported to the local health department as contacts. The child care, school, or youth camp should inform the household members of these recommendations.

Appendix B: FACTS/RenWeb

FACTS, recently known as RenWeb, is our family portal. This website acts as the web-based hub for Banner faculty and staff to meet and share information with our families. Our parent/teacher/student directory is a frequently used tool and provides access to class lists and contact information. Parents and students use the website (or the downloaded app) to see homework assignments, grades and attendance. It is a platform for teachers to make announcements. Please note that FACTS is also the system for managing your tuition payment plan.

FACTS/RenWeb is where the daily Health Screening will be accessed. It can be accessed through a web browser on a computer or mobile device, or through the app (download fee may apply). The web-based version is available at <https://logins2.renweb.com/logins/ParentsWeb-Login.aspx>.

For login questions, contact Lela McWilliams, lmcwilliams@bannerschool.org

Appendix C: When to Quarantine – CDC Guidelines

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>

Appendix D: Additional References from Maryland Department of Health

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_KAXJmjHJXtaEioK2bNLhOxQdCFk5Cyh/view?usp=sharing