

2021-2022, COVID-19: What to Expect

Bishop Grimes Jr./Sr. High School will be welcoming our faculty and students back to school for fully in-person, five day a week learning. Below is a list of what you can expect at that time. There is no time frame set to any of the items below, because there is no way of predicting the course of COVID-19 & Variants at this time. COVID-19 is an ever-evolving and changing situation, therefore, this information will be reviewed and updated as necessary to be in accordance with the most appropriate information being provided. What we know about COVID-19 now, is much more than what we knew going into last year. Bishop Grimes remains committed to providing our students with the safest and least restrictive environment for learning. With every change made, communication will be made to our staff, students, families, and community. Changes will be based on local guidance, the New York State Department of Education and in accordance with the guidelines for the Catholic Diocese of Syracuse. We will provide updates, as necessary, on the COVID-19 page on our website. Our Covid - 19 Coordinator is Mr. Tom Andrews, tandrews@syrdiocese.org , please email his office with any questions, or for clarifications.

Pre-Screening

- The priority for preventing the spread of disease in the school setting is to insist that sick employees and students stay home. Additionally, students and employees should remain home if someone in the household has COVID-19 symptoms or is being tested for COVID-19. Please inform our attendance office : bgattendance@syrdiocese.org and our COVID coordinator: tandrews@syrdiocese.org if this is the case.
- Hand washing/sanitizing and avoiding touching your face, eyes, nose, or mouth are also important steps a person can take to avoid becoming sick or spreading germs to others.
- BG students, families, and staff are responsible to self-screen before coming to school. Students and employees exhibiting symptoms are prohibited from coming to school, and if they do come to school, will be sent home immediately.
- Students or staff who test positive for COVID-19, please make the COVID coordinator aware, and follow the provided guidelines from your healthcare providers before returning to school.
- Attendance will be handled on a case-by-case basis to ensure the safety and health of our students and staff.

Symptoms Impacting Consideration for Exclusion from School

The following are COVID-19 related symptoms:

- A fever of 100.4° F or greater
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell

Sanitizing

- BG has invested in additional, new, and industrial sanitizing equipment.
- Every room and office at the school will continue to have a sanitizing station.
- Everyone is required to sanitize their hands upon entering and leaving the room.
- The iPad and our new 1:1 program allows for learning and transactions between students and teachers without the exchanging of materials, papers, etc.
- Surfaces, entryways, and door handles will continue to be sanitized frequently.
- The Cafeteria will be sanitized in between lunches and after the final lunch of the day.

Masks

- Masks will be mandatory for **all students and staff indoors**, regardless of vaccination status. This comes as a requirement from the state and local county level.
 - We will continue to stay with the most current updates/changes in this regard
 - Students and Staff will **ALWAYS** have the option to wear a mask, at all times, should they make the personal choice to do so.
 - Athletics will follow the requirements from the NYSPHSAA

Testing

- As required by the county health department, weekly testing will occur for staff and students, regardless of vaccination status.
- Bishop Grimes is working with the County Health Department to ensure we will meet the testing requirements.
- Testing for events and athletics will be conducted on an as needed basis, meeting all provided standards.

Water Fountains/Facilities

- Water fountains on campus have all been replaced to allow for bottle refill with filtered water
- Students will have access to locker rooms/bathroom facilities as they need.

In the Cafeteria

- The lunch room will have seating options to suit reasonable social distancing.
- It will be thoroughly cleaned/sanitized in between all lunches

In The Classroom

- Students will have assigned seats in every class
- In situations where there is close contact between students : group work, partner labs etc. masks will be worn
- BG has invested to ensure that every classroom and office has an air purification system

Transportation

- Students will need to wear a mask and follow all rules provided by the bus company/district

Athletics

- Director of Athletics, Bob McKenney, will be providing guidelines and updates to athletic coaches, student-athletes, and families in accordance with the NYS Athletic Association, as necessary.

Events On and Off Campus

- Scheduled events such as plays, performances, banquets, field trips etc. will be handled on a case-by-case basis.
- Prior to an event, and when necessary, there will be guidelines and instructions sent and shared with parents, students, and staff involved. This is an ever evolving situation, so we want to be sure to provide our students with the best possible opportunities, based on the most updated information and guidance.

Visitor Access

- We will continue to use the white cubbies in the breezeway for any/all drop offs or needs.
- There will be no access to the building without prior appointment or clearance. This includes parents/families.
- All visitors will continue to be screened by main office.

Vaccines

- At this time, students/staff will not be required to provide proof of vaccine
- Vaccines are available and accessible to all members of our community:

12yrs + up.

- If you would like to get vaccinated, please reach out to your local pharmacy and schedule an appt.
- Information on the vaccine and more information on where to schedule an appt can be found at the state website: <https://www.health.ny.gov>