

## Bond Academy's Updated Covid Policy – Effective September 2022

We have reviewed our Covid policies and the latest government and health authorities recommendations, and made changes to our policies to reflect the changes in those directions and recommendations as they relate to Covid-19.

In our planning, we acknowledged that Covid is still an issue and without some level of management through protocols, it could significantly impact the ability to meet our overall goal of returning our school as close as possible to “normal”.

- We are in total agreement with the principle and the importance of a return to “normal” for the mental, physical, social and academic growth and the wellbeing of our students and the Bond Community overall.
- Our overall goal is to minimize risks so that students can attend school with multiple activities inside and outside the classroom, and to have staff available to teach and provide those activities and programs.
- The maintaining of a safe environment will involve the cooperation and support of all members of the Bond Community.
- In full implementation, with Covid cases manageable within the school, students and staff should be able to move about the school, only wearing a mask if they choose to wear a mask.

Covid protocols will be continued but will be less intrusive. Additional interventions available to administration could be implemented to deal with situations or circumstances that may warrant a greater intervention. The framework of our policy is outlined below:

**General:** To manage and minimize exposure of students and staff in the instructional areas and the common areas in the school.

- Encourage all staff and students **that are eligible to be vaccinated.**
- Students experiencing symptoms not related to a known medical condition should be kept home. **Do not send your child to school sick.**
- Staff should remain home if they have any symptoms.
- If a student or staff member starts to feel ill at school, they will be required to wear a mask, and arrangements will be made to have them isolate until they can go home as soon as possible.
- **We are still strongly recommending not attending school for 5 days from the onset of symptoms and/or confirmation of covid. When a student or a staff member returns to work they should wear a mask for an additional 5 days or for 10 days from the onset of the symptoms or positive test.**
- Masking is strongly encouraged in crowded indoor settings or when extended social distancing cannot be maintained. However, wearing a mask will be voluntary unless a specific intervention mandate is required.
- **Determination of the level of our Covid policies will be situational.** If there is a higher level of concerns around exposure (outbreak in a specific class or area, community alert from authorities, large enclosed events) additional levels of protection may be required (e.g. mandatory masking, separating into cohorts) until the risk level decreases.