



## Frequently Asked Questions About Brophy's Return-to-School Policy Updated: August 25, 2021

### Q1. What is the Brophy return-to-school policy?

- Consistent with all other COVID policies we have implemented during the pandemic, our current Brophy return-to-school policy is informed by guidance from health authorities and can change as information changes. This includes guidance from the [CDC](#), [The Arizona Department of Health Services](#), [Maricopa County Department of Public Health](#), [national universities](#), and local medical experts. These sources consistently and strongly recommend vaccination as the most effective way to protect people from serious illness and death.
- Based on this guidance, our most current, back-to-school policy can be found [here](#) and includes the following elements:
  - Masks will be required indoors, on campus, through Friday, September 10. Wearing masks outdoors is optional.
  - All students are encouraged to be vaccinated. Proof of vaccination is desired as quickly as possible. After the student receives his second dose, parents should complete [this form](#) (which includes uploading a digital version of your son's vaccination card).
  - Students may choose twice-weekly testing in lieu of vaccination.
  - Beginning September 13, students must either have proof of vaccine on file or participate in twice-weekly testing.
  - While proof of vaccinations is not required until September 13, effective immediately, only vaccinated students may participate in school travel **that takes place over one or more nights, regardless of geographic location** (see question three below for further details). Traveling to and from activities within the same day will not require a student to be vaccinated.

## **Q2. What informs your policy?**

- We want to reduce risk while safely expanding opportunities that were not consistently available to Brophy students during the 2020-21 school year. Our goals include optional mask-wearing, the ability to consistently and regularly attend school in-person, the restoration of school liturgies and large community gatherings, along with the ability to engage fully in extracurricular activities.
- Our policy is informed by three factors as we evaluate ways to achieve our goals:
  - Guidance from local and federal health authorities and consultation with medical experts;
  - Actions that are both sustainable and operationally feasible; and,
  - Experience from the 2020-21 school year.

## **Q3. Unvaccinated students are prevented from school travel that takes place over one or more nights; why?**

- This is an understandably disappointing solution to an operational challenge we face in trying to reduce health and safety risks, while expanding opportunities and experiences.
- What is meant by “operational challenge?” If a student – any student – becomes ill on a trip, this presents a significant complication for the chaperone to manage. In the case of COVID, the situation has the potential to become riskier and more complex quickly.
- Available data and guidance clearly and consistently show that unvaccinated individuals are at greater risk of symptomatic infection, severe illness, and for transmitting the infection to others, especially in close quarters or during prolonged exposure, such as at Manresa or in shared hotel rooms.
- Our goal is to minimize this risk. A highly nuanced travel policy is not only confusing, but difficult to implement. Our decision to limit travel to unvaccinated students is a reflection of the limitations on our ability to successfully manage severe illness while away from home.
- We are beginning the year with this policy in place; however, as we gain experience and continue to watch infection rates, we hope to incorporate unvaccinated students into overnight trips, provided we can effectively manage the logistics of doing so.

## **Q4. Please explain how twice-weekly testing will “work” in practice, why/how the timing was chosen and how to submit proof of a negative COVID test.**

- **Effective September 13, students who are unable or who choose not to be vaccinated will engage in twice-weekly testing. Students will be able to participate**

in Brophy's no-cost, on-site pooled testing program to fulfill this criteria or engage in testing on their own via a physician's office, pharmacy, or other third party provider. At this time, we are not accepting at-home tests. Details of Brophy's Testing Protocol can be found [here](#).

- CDC [recommends](#) at least once-weekly testing for students who are not fully vaccinated and are attending school in-person in areas of high transmission. Several [studies](#) from early in the pandemic showed that in colleges with students attending class in person in an area of high transmission, testing every two-three days was associated with decreased transmission on the campus.
- We will make adjustments to the frequency of required testing based on local transmission and the prevalence of COVID in our student community.

## Q5. Will you provide testing and vaccine services on campus?

- Yes. Brophy will host an on-site vaccination clinic on August 20, 2021, and will be providing free, on-site pooled COVID testing through a partnership with the Arizona Department of Health Services. Students will also have the option of off-site testing at a physician's office, pharmacy, or other third-party provider. At this time, we are not accepting at-home tests. Details of Brophy's Testing Protocol can be found [here](#).

## Q6. What is your mask policy?

- Although we ultimately hope to be able to provide an in-person experience that is entirely mask-optional through the year, we are requiring students to wear masks in all **indoor** areas on campus through Friday, September 10. Masks are optional for students in all **outdoor** areas. Our intention to make masks entirely optional as of September 13 is based on local infection rates and vaccine uptake. Vaccinated teachers and staff may remove masks during meetings when students are not present. The same policy will be applied for parent events held on campus unless otherwise noted. Our mask policy will be continually evaluated throughout the school year and is subject to change.

## Q7. What is the quarantine and isolation guidance for unvaccinated students?

- Per Brophy's [sick policy](#), all students are required to stay home if they are sick and/or have a fever (100.4 or higher).

- Students who experience respiratory symptoms must stay home and will be required to submit a negative COVID test before returning to school per guidance parents will receive from the Dean's Office.
- If any student, regardless of vaccination status, tests positive for COVID-19, his parents must immediately notify the Dean's Office and initiate a 10 day isolation period.
- If an unvaccinated student is a close contact of a confirmed COVID case and/or if any household member of an unvaccinated student tests positive for COVID, that student must stay home, [contact the Dean's Office](#), and begin a quarantine period. Current quarantine guidance for unvaccinated persons calls for a release from quarantine after 7 days presuming no onset of symptoms and a negative COVID test on day 6 or 7.
- If an unvaccinated student is a close contact of a classmate who tests positive for COVID, the student and his parents will be notified and he will need to quarantine.

## **Q8. What is the quarantine and isolation guidance for vaccinated students?**

- Per Brophy's [sick policy](#), all students are required to stay home if they are sick and/or have a fever (100.4 or higher).
- Students who experience respiratory symptoms must stay home and will be required to submit a negative COVID test before returning to school per guidance parents will receive from the Dean's Office.
- We know that breakthrough cases of COVID will occur and if a vaccinated student tests positive for COVID, his parents must [notify the Dean's Office](#) and initiate a 10-day isolation period.
- If a vaccinated student is a close contact of a confirmed COVID case, he should [notify the Dean's Office](#), carefully monitor his symptoms for 14 days, and wear a mask indoors, but quarantine is not required. If he develops symptoms, he should [notify the Dean's Office](#), quarantine, and be tested.

## **Q9. What if a student already had COVID and has antibodies, or tests positive for COVID during the course of the year? If the student has antibodies, does he still need to comply with testing and quarantine requirements?**

- We are following CDC guidance on this issue, which recognizes natural immunity for 90 days after infection. Therefore, unvaccinated students who test positive are not required to engage in testing for 90 days from the date of a positive COVID test. During this period of recognized immunity, students are able to participate in overnight school travel.

Finally, during this 90 day window, students will follow the quarantine guidance for *vaccinated students* if they are close contacts with a confirmed COVID case. Although the student does not need to wait 90 days to be vaccinated, when the 90 days expires, that student will either need to submit proof of vaccine or engage in regular testing. If guidance on natural immunity changes, we will re-evaluate our policy.

- In order to have this period of immunity recognized, a positive COVID test (PCR or Antigen) must be on file with the school. Antibody tests are not accepted at this time. If your test result is not already on file with the school, submit the positive test [here](#).