**HEALTHY AT ASSUMPTION COVID PROTOCOLS**

**FOR**

**2021 – 2022 SCHOOL YEAR**

**COVID-19 MASK POLICY**

* On December 6, 2021, AHS moved to a mask optional policy. Each Friday, AHS will assess the situation – both within the school and greater community and make a determination if a move to a mask mandate schoolwide is required for the following week. Masks will be required for certain events and activities, such as masses, assemblies, etc. and students should always keep a mask on hand in her purse, backpack, or tablet case.
* AHS strongly recommends masks for individuals who are not vaccinated to protect themselves against catching and spreading the disease.
* Those who are unable to wear a mask due to a medical condition may, with supporting documentation from their health care provider, wear a face shield in lieu of a mask.
* Per federal mandates, anyone riding on our bus or in our vans must be masked at all times even if vaccinated.
* Should the above requirements change, AHS will re-evaluate our mask policy.

**COVID-19 VACCINATION**:

* We strongly recommend that students get vaccinated against COVID. While the vaccine is not mandatory, we are encouraging students to be vaccinated not just to avoid the possibility of catching and spreading COVID but also to avoid the real risk of frequent quarantines. **Currently, only fully vaccinated individuals, who are asymptomatic, are exempt from quarantine post exposure**.
* If your daughter has been fully vaccinated, parents should submit a copy of her vaccination card which will avoid delays with trying to obtain this information from the health department. Please scan or taking a photo of her vaccination card and send it to attendance@ahsrockets.org.

**FEELING ILL:**

* Students should stay home and seek an evaluation by her health care provider if experiencing COVID like symptoms such as*:*
	+ Fever
	+ Difficulty breathing
	+ Vomiting or diarrhea
	+ Sore throat
	+ New loss of taste or smell
	+ New cough
	+ New muscle or body aches

**NOTIFICATION:**

* Students must notify our school nurse if they:
* Have tested positive for COVID-19, or
* Suspect they may have COVID-19, or
* Are under Isolation or Quarantine

**TESTING AND ISOLATION**:

* Both rapid and PCR testing are widely available for COVID-19 screening.
* Students should not return to school while COVID-19 testing is in progress under these scenarios:
	+ If they have been advised by their health care provider to undergo testing; or
	+ If they are undergoing testing because they have symptoms or believe they may have COVID-19; or
	+ If they are unvaccinated and someone in their home has suffered an exposure and is being tested for COVID-19 due to symptoms; or
	+ If they undergo a PCR test for any reason, even if it’s for peace of mind testing, they should isolate at home until they receive their test results.
* Students who test positive for COVID-19 through a non-medically proctored “at-home” test should self-isolate and obtain an additional test from a medical provider to confirm the result. A student who experiences COVID like symptoms and does not undergo testing, may not return until she has been cleared by our school nurse.

**ISOLATION:**

* Students who are COVID positive must isolate and can return to school after consultation with our school nurse and after meeting one of the scenarios below:
	+ If released by the local health department or her health care provider; or
	+ 10 days after symptoms first appeared and if fever free for 24 hours without the aid of fever-reducing medications and other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving; or
	+ If no symptoms, 10 days after a positive COVID test.

**CLOSE CONTACT DEFINED:**

* **If both individuals are wearing masks:**
	+ A close contact is defined as within 3 ft. for 15 minutes of cumulative time during the school day.
* **If one or neither of the individuals are wearing masks:**
	+ Close contact is defined as within 6 ft. for 15 minutes of cumulative time during the school day.

**QUARANTINE**:

* Fully vaccinated students do not need to quarantine following an exposure to a COVID positive individual if she is not experiencing symptoms. If she is experiencing symptoms, she must quarantine per local health department regulations.
* Unvaccinated students who are close contacts will be required to quarantine per the local health department regulations.
* Students under quarantine **must** notify our school nurse and can return to school:
	+ If released by the local health department or her health care provider; **or**
	+ After 7 days if she is symptom free and receives a negative COVID test (either PCR or rapid test), 5 days or later after the last date of exposure to the case, **or**
	+ After 10 days without testing if she is symptom free.

**PHYSICAL DISTANCING:**

* Physical distancing will be maintained to the extent possible depending on circumstances and space limitations.

**SANITATION & HAND HYGIENE:**

* Frequent hand washing and use of hand sanitizer will be encouraged throughout the day. Hand sanitizer, wipes, and cleaning supplies will be available in all classrooms and other areas throughout the school and frequent sanitizing of high touch spaces and nightly cleaning and sanitizing of the school will occur.

**COVID RELATED ABSCENCES:**

* Any absence related to isolation or quarantine for COVID will be considered an excused absence.
* Students missing school due to isolation or quarantine must check Powerschool LMS to access course information and class assignments. Participating in class virtually from home is not an option at this time.

**IDENITIFCATION, INVESTIGATION, AND CONTACT TRACING:**

* AHS is required to follow all state and local health mandates for reporting COVID-19 cases and assisting with identification, investigation, and contact tracing.

**TEST TO STAY PROTOCOL**

In conjunction with the move to a mask optional policy, AHS is adopting a “test to stay” modified quarantine program which allows **unvaccinated individuals who are exposed to COVID-19 while at school** to continue with in-person learning with repeated negative COVID-19 testing. This program is optional and eligible students may choose to quarantine at home instead of test to stay.

* Qualifications For Test To Stay. To qualify for test to stay, an unvaccinated student must:
* Have been exposed to the person with COVID-19 at school only. This strategy applies to school related exposures only and is not applicable to exposures that occur outside of school or in the community (e.g., in a household, athletic teams, extra-curriculars, social activity). For example, an unvaccinated student who is a household member of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 is not eligible for the Test to Stay modified quarantine;
* Be entirely asymptomatic, without any signs or symptoms of COVID-19;
* Wear a mask indoors when at school for the entirety of the program even if all test results are negative. The mask should fit securely over the nose and mouth; AND
* Quarantine when not at school. When not at school, the exposed student must stay home and refrain from all extracurricular activities, including sports and other activities.
* Procedure For Test To Stay: Students who meet the requirements above for test to stay will be notified by our school nurse that they are eligible for the program and must abide by the following to participate and remain in the test to stay program for their period of quarantine:
* Students must arrive at school between 7:30am and 7:45am and enter through the Theatre entrance (former main entrance) and go directly to the nurse’s office.
* Students will be tested each day of their quarantine, via rapid test, by our school nurse or designee. Rapid results will be ready in 15 minutes or less. Students will be held in the nurse’s office or a nearby holding area until results are ready. No other testing, including at home administered test kits/results, will be accepted
* Students who test negative will be released to classes by our school nurse/designee. If the student continues to test negative, she will be notified of her last day of testing and released by our school nurse from the test to stay program once she has completed her period of modified quarantine.
* Students who test positive at any time will be required to be picked up immediately by a parent/designee and should isolate at home. Covid positive students will be notified by our school nurse that they can return to school based on the following:
	+ If released by the local health department or her health care provider; or
	+ 10 days after symptoms first appeared and if fever free for 24 hours without the aid of fever-reducing medications and other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving; or
	+ If no symptoms, 10 days after a positive COVID test.
* Students who are in the test to stay program must remain fully masked (covering both nose and mouth) at all times except for lunch. The school nurse or designee will communicate to faculty and administration which students are in the test to stay program on a daily basis.
* Students in the test to stay program cannot eat at the lunch tables in the cafeteria but will eat lunch at a designated area at the counter in the cafeteria overlooking the courtyard.
* Students must quarantine when not at school and are not permitted to participate in any extracurricular activities including sports or clubs or attend any before or after school events or meetings.
* Any student who is found not adhering to the mask policy (which means both nose and mouth are fully covered) or any other requirements of this policy will be removed from the test to stay program and required to complete their remaining period of quarantine at home.

**ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS:**

This policy is a starting point in addressing issues related to students and COVID-19. Additional situations will be considered on a case by case basis and with direction of our school nurse, other medical experts if necessary, and the local health department. Assumption High School reserves the right to direct a student not to return to school or to provide a medical release from their health care provider before returning to school if AHS deems it in the best interest of the health and safety of the school community.

* In the event that the state restricts travel due to COVID, AHS may recommend that families comply with any travel ban or travel advisory in effect.
* With continuous changes related to COVID-19, these guidelines may be modified at any time based on guidance or directives from the CDC, the state of Kentucky, the Archdiocese of Louisville, or our local department of health.

**UPDATED: December 6, 2021**