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**GENERAL AND INTERIM EMERGENCY POLICY ON COVID-19 RELATED ISSUES
(2022-2023 School Year)**

A. BACKGROUND

On August 4, 2022, Governor Daniel J. McKee issued Executive Order 22-31, which extends Executive Order 20-02, declaring a state of emergency due to the dangers to health and life posed by SARS-CoV-2. On or about June 24, 2022, the Rhode Island Department of Health (“RIDOH”) issued an updated guidance for COVID-19 Prevention Strategies in PreK through 12 Schools. In addition, the Rhode Island Department of Education (“RIDE”) has directed that all local educational agencies (“LEAs”) (which includes the Barrington School Committee) must complete their “check-list” for COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies for the 2022-2023 school year by or before August 8, 2022. RIDE further has directed that all LEAs must submit their updated Back-To-School Plan to RIDE by or before August 22, 2022. All such submissions and posting must be publicly accessible.

In light of the above-referenced public health declarations and measures, and in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 16-2-9(a), including without limitation subparagraphs (a) (1), (2), (5), (8) & (24), which individually and together vest in the Barrington School Committee the responsibility of addressing the needs, care, health and wellness of the BPS’s students, staff and community members, the School Committee is reissuing a General and Interim Emergency Policy on COVID-19 Related Issues.

B. PURPOSE

This 2022-2023 COVID-19 Policy reaffirms the School Committee’s commitment to:

- Promoting and ensuring the health and safety of students and staff, and all who may come into contact with them, through reliance on science, data, and public health leadership to inform decision-making;
- Providing and maintaining to the extent possible a high-quality and effective level of educational services by operating schools and related programs for the 2022-2023 so that students can receive such programming and services in person, during the school week for the entire school year, subject to certain limited exceptions, including mandates by RIDOH to remain under quarantine or in isolation; and
- Ensuring academic support for students in general and those at highest risk educationally and socio-economically, in particular.



C. POLICY BACKGROUND AND COMPONENTS

For the 2020-2021 school year, the Barrington School Committee adopted a General and Interim Emergency Policy on COVID-19 Related Issues (“COVID-19 Policy”). On September 2, 2021, the School Committee amended that COVID-19 Policy for the 2021-2022 school year (“Amended COVID-19 Policy”). On June 16, 2022, the School Committee further amended the Amended COVID-19 Policy to reflect the current conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic and made those changes applicable through the end of 2022-2023 to include extended school year and summer school. On July 28, 2022, the School Committee readopted and reissued the Amended COVID-19 Policy to ensure that the Amended COVID-19 Policy was retroactive to September 2, 2021. The School Committee now adopts this General and Interim Emergency Policy on COVID-19 Related Issues for the 2022-2023 school year. This Policy reflects the School Committee’s decisions regarding specific aspects of the implementation of the requirements by the Rhode Island Department of Education (“RIDE”) and the guidance by the Rhode Island Department of Health (“RIDOH”) to revisit and update back-to-school plans to reflect alignment with current COVID-19 health guidance.

1. Vaccinations

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) defines “fully vaccinated” as receiving two doses of the mRNA series (“Moderna” or “Pfizer BioNTech” vaccine) or one dose of the Johnson and Johnson (“J&J” or “Janssen”) vaccine (“J & J”). The CDC defines “up-to-date” as receiving all COVID-19 vaccine boosters when and if eligible.

- All Barrington Public Schools (“BPS”) staff must be fully vaccinated as a condition of employment. The BPS Administration will consider and evaluate requests for exemptions from the vaccine mandate in accordance with federal and state law on a case-by-case basis.
- The School Committee strongly recommends that all staff and volunteers be up-to-date with their vaccinations.
- If a staff member is not up-to-date, then they shall submit to weekly COVID-19 testing on a schedule of either Monday and Wednesday or Tuesday and Thursday at their school building, with the process and expense of such testing to be covered by the BPS.
- If a volunteer is not fully vaccinated or up-to-date and works within 6 feet of adults or students in a classroom for 15 or more minutes, they must test each day they volunteer and wear a well-fitted mask at all times.



- All non-volunteer visitors, vendors, and families who are in school buildings conducting business (vendors) or attending school meetings shall be required to wear masks if spacing of six feet is not possible and if they are in a small room for 15 or more minutes, regardless of their vaccination status.

2. Quarantine and Isolation Protocols

The BPS quarantine and isolation protocols can be found in the BPS Awareness-2022-2023 COVID Back to School Plan (“Awareness Plan”), [which can be found here](#) . These protocols may change as directives and guidance from RIDOH and RIDE change over the school year.

3. Remote Teaching and Learning

Under the Awareness Plan, BPS shall provide short-term remote teaching and learning option (i.e., through Zoom) to students subject to quarantine or isolation.

4. Family and Student Privacy

BPS (which includes all staff) shall remain attentive to protecting and respecting the privacy of students and families who may be accessing instruction remotely. Student privacy rights extend to the confidentiality of student academic records, health data, economic status, and other information that may be considered protected by law. Students shall not be recorded in classrooms by audio, visual, or remote means without or, if of age, by individual students. During periods of remote learning, the privacy of students participating in online classes shall not be violated by recording them without appropriate notice, which shall be provided through the school handbooks and referenced in the following policies.

[Video and Audio Recording Policy](#)
[Technology Responsible Use Policy](#)

5. Illness and Contact Tracing

The BPS illness and contact tracing protocols can be found in the BPS Awareness Plan, [which can be found here](#) . These protocols may change as directives and guidance from RIDOH and RIDE change over the school year.

6. Operations and Plant Maintenance



The BPS operations and maintenance protocols can be found in the BPS Awareness Plan, [which can be found here](#) These protocols may change as directives and guidance from RIDOH and RIDE change over the school year.

D. DURATION

This COVID-19 Policy shall apply through the conclusion of the 2022-2023 school year, to include extended school year and summer school ending in early August 2023, unless amended and/or rescinded prior to the close of the school year as conditions of the pandemic change.

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