



Goal: To safely begin school in our building at St. Paul's with our full student body on September 3, 2020, though some students will likely need to be learning at home for health or quarantine reasons. Meanwhile, we will continue planning for the possibility of closing the building entirely and providing remote instruction to all students should local authorities or our own medical advisors recommend it. This document lays out our risk-reduction strategy for students returning to school as soon as safely possible. *Risks, however, cannot be reduced to 'zero', especially during a pandemic.* Children generally have less severe symptoms but are not immune to the disease and can transmit the virus among themselves and to others.

Why we want to return to our building as soon as possible: *Our girls need to be in school.* Physically attending The Brookewood School makes for healthier, happier, better educated girls and young women and improve girls' learning, engagement, friendships, and *immune systems.* Keeping schools closed creates significant short- and long-term problems for society, families, and individuals. Research has consistently found fully online virtual schools to produce less effective outcomes than those for students who are in brick and mortar school settings (MSDE Recovery Plan June 2020).

Our Advantages: Being a small school we face fewer challenges maintaining the recommended physical distances, adjusting our class schedule, changing how we use the building, taking advantage of opportunities to be outside before, during and after the school day with masks off (and distancing), and even holding classes outside. We will closely monitor changes in guidance at the county, state and federal levels and research on which safety procedures are most effective. Our in-person summer camps have provided us the opportunity to 'practice' safely being at school while following all relevant state guidance.

SCHOOL HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICIES

- I. Transportation: Unfortunately, we cannot safely offer our normal shuttle van transportation while maintaining recommended physical distances. If this is a hardship for any families, please contact the front office and we will try to find a way to help.

- II. Arrival at School:
 - 1) Students and Faculty will be asked to perform the following self-evaluation at home before leaving for school: Have I been in close contact with anyone who has COVID-19 or flu symptoms in the past week? Have I had a fever or felt feverish in the last 72 hours? Am I experiencing any new respiratory symptoms including a sore throat, cough, or shortness of breath? Am I experiencing any new muscle aches or chills? Have I experienced any change in my sense of taste or smell? Do I have congestion, runny nose, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea?

If the answer to any question is yes, you and your child/children are to stay home and contact your doctor for guidance on next steps.

- 2) Groups of students will be assigned particular entrances to use and scanning thermometers will be used to check temperatures. Following CDC guidance, a student exhibiting symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or with temperatures above 100.4° F will

be brought to a designated sick room until he can be picked up from school. The student is to remain home until cleared to return to school by a medical professional with documentation of the clearance provided to the school.

- 3) Families will be responsible for providing masks for their children to wear at school. The school will maintain a supply of disposable masks for emergency use.
- 4) All students, faculty, and visitors entering the building are to wear a mask covering their mouth and nose. Masks may be removed when outdoors as long as physical distancing of six feet is maintained. Please know that we will closely examine research and guidance as it becomes available, especially concerning younger students and the wearing of masks.

III. During the School Day:

- 1) Hand sanitizing stations will be found at the main entrances to the building and hand sanitizer bottles in each classroom. Staff will encourage frequent hand washing and review proper hand washing technique with students.
- 2) We are organizing student work areas to be spaced six feet apart.
- 3) When possible, students will minimize time in hallways by being directed to access different sections of the building from outside.
- 4) Class groups will be kept together for as much of the school day as possible and schedules will minimize interactions between grade divisions.
- 5) Lunch will be eaten in smaller groups as we do not plan to gather the whole school in the lunchroom. Students should plan to bring their own water bottles and prepared lunches and not share food or drink. The feasibility of offering our lunch program is under review.
- 6) Students will work with staff to sanitize desk surfaces and frequently touched items such as door handles throughout the day.
- 7) Professional daily cleaning of frequently touched surfaces will occur, using disinfectants approved by the EPA for coronavirus cleaning.
- 8) Outdoors, students and teachers may remove masks when people are appropriately distant from one another. Students will wash hands before leaving and upon reentering the school after using high-touch equipment.

IV. After the School Day:

- 1) Outside the building masks may be removed if physical distancing is maintained.
- 2) Middle School and High School Sports: A decision will be made at a later date about interscholastic sports.

V. If someone who has entered the building is confirmed sick with COVID-19:

- 1) See CDC guidance at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html#discontinue-isolation>
- 2) The sick person should isolate at home and may return to school after being cleared by a medical professional with documentation of the clearance.
- 3) The school will close for 1-2 days for deep cleaning of all classrooms and public spaces used by the infected person, AND close contacts of the infected person will remain home for 14 days after their last interaction with the infected person. Per CDC guidance a close contact is defined as someone who was within six feet of an infected person (laboratory confirmed or probable) for at least 15 minutes.

VI. If a student or staff member is exposed to someone with COVID-19 outside of school: If a student or staff member has close contact with a person who is diagnosed or presumed sick with COVID-19, that student or staff member shall remain home in quarantine for 14 days from the date of exposure.

VII. Faculty and families will be asked to sign the following waiver:

By my signature below I acknowledge and accept the risks to myself, my child(ren) and my family of exposure to severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), which is responsible for Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), and any mutation or variation thereof. I further acknowledge and accept that these risks are shared by all students, faculty and their families, and we pledge to follow all rules and guidelines set out by The Brookewood School and state and local authorities.

Parent/Guardian Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Student Name

VIII. Sources: We have consulted many sources of information in assembling this plan. The sources we have relied upon the most are:

- 1) The CDC's guidance for schools from March, 2020.
- 2) Maryland's Recovery Plan for Education, July 2020.
- 3) Harvard's School for Public Health's Schools for Health, Risk Reduction Strategies, June 2020