



2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

Introduction

The overall goal for the 2021-2022 school year is to maximize in-person teaching and learning, be responsive to student/staff needs, and keep students/staff healthy and safe.

In creating this plan we included academic administrators, operation and business administrators, teaching staff, other support staff, parents and families, consultants, UFT representatives, and the Bronx Academy of Promise board members. This plan was developed with the safety and wellbeing of the students, staff, and community in mind. In creating this plan, we considered the physical and emotional wellbeing of all members of our school community while continuing to address the need for rigorous academic instruction and ensuring educational equity. Since COVID-19 presents many challenges and uncertainties, this plan is subject to change. We will continue to keep all stakeholders informed and updated via the school website and emails as changes are implemented.

Communication/ Family and Community Engagement

Family / Community Engagement

BAOP will have regular and frequent communication with students, parents/guardians, staff, and community members. We will keep the community updated and informed using the school website. Families and students will receive emails, school-wide phone blasts, and teachers will communicate regularly using class Dojo and their Google Classrooms. Communication will be provided in both English and Spanish. All grade levels will provide families with monthly newsletters.

Parents will receive training periodically through both in person (when applicable) and live Zoom meetings.

Staff Communication

Staff will be provided with the weekly Connections, a weekly agenda, weekly check-ins and coaching meetings with the administrators, and via email.

Health and Safety

Health Checks / Screening / Testing

- Parents/ guardians will be asked to check their child's temperature before coming into the building.
- Staff, students, and all visitors will have daily temperature checks daily upon entry using no contact infra-red monitors.
- Staff and parents will be instructed to recognize signs and symptoms of illness.
- All staff and visitors will be asked to respond daily to the required NYSDOH health screening questions, which will be displayed at the entrance of the school building.
 - Staff will complete these questions electronically before entering the building.
- Students will periodically need to respond to the NYSDOH health screening questions.
- An administrator and a staff member will be assigned to monitor the daily health screening.
- DOE will be providing Covid-19 Testing to students starting in the Fall.
- BAOP will follow the NYC DOE guidance for testing of staff, specifically unvaccinated individuals.
- The school will provide on site Health and Safety Training during "August Back to School Professional Development." This training will be from ADP.

Health and Safety Inspections

- The school will allow, upon request from the UFT, one representative to do onsite health and safety inspections. This inspection shall include only the following:
 - Inspection of ventilation systems
 - PPE Stockpiles
 - Signage
 - Room Use
 - Cleaning Schedules

Health Hygiene

Healthy hygiene practices will be taught and re-taught in the school setting for both students and staff.

- Instruction on correct hand and respiratory hygiene will be provided in person, on zoom, announcements, and appropriate signage.
- Teachers will be asked to instruct their students on proper hand and respiratory hygiene.
- Signs instructing students and staff of proper hand and respiratory hygiene procedures will be posted in entrances, restrooms, cafeteria, classrooms, hallways, administrative offices, and janitorial staff areas.
- The school installed touch-free hand sanitizer dispensers, which are placed in the entrance, the cafeteria, throughout hallways, in the classrooms, and all common or shared spaces.
- Hands-free soap and paper towel dispensers are installed in all restrooms.
- A supply of tissues for every classroom will be provided to reinforce proper respiratory hygiene.
- The school purchased all necessary school supplies per student. Sharing of supplies will be prohibited.

Social Distancing

- In most cases 3 FT social distancing will be enforced. As per CDC guidance, additional preventative measures are in place should distancing need to be reduced for a period of time. (Ventilation, Universal Mask Wearing, Disinfecting/Sanitization, Desk Partitions,etc.)
- Partitions will be utilized at each student's desk to ensure social distancing.
- Designated areas for student pick-up at dismissal have been established in order to limit contact to the greatest extent possible to ensure social distancing.
- Students will remain in their homeroom classrooms and teachers will transition between their classrooms when necessary.
- Music, art, and technology teachers will go to individual classrooms to provide instruction.
- Physical education teachers will conduct PE classes outdoors weather permitting.

Field Trips, Celebrations, Extracurricular Activities

- The school will continue to monitor community transmission, vaccination coverage, screening testing, and occurrence of outbreaks to guide decisions on school trips, celebrations and extracurricular activities. The school will also continue to monitor these situations in regards to the following:
 - School-wide parent meetings such as open house and parent-teacher conferences will take place in a virtual format, such as zoom.

Face Coverings

- Due to the circulating and highly contagious Delta variant, CDC recommends universal indoor masking by all students (age 2 and older), staff, teachers, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status
- Students, faculty, staff, and visitors to the building will be required to wear an appropriate face covering when on school grounds and in the school building. Face coverings are to be worn at all times, however, students will be allowed to remove their face covering during meals and for short breaks so long as they maintain appropriate social distance.
- If a student or staff member does not have a mask, the school will provide every staff member and student masks if needed.
- The school will instruct students, parents/guardians, and staff on:
 - The proper way to wear face coverings;
 - Washing hands before putting on and after removing their face covering;
 - The proper way to discard disposable face coverings;
 - The importance of routine cleaning of reusable face coverings; and
 - Face coverings are for individual use only and should not be shared.
- Staff designated to take the student's temperature will be provided with face shields and masks.
- The kitchen staff will be required to wear both a mask and a face shield.

Management of Ill Persons

- BAOP will designate 2 rooms for school health service personnel. One room will be for healthy students to obtain medications and nursing treatments. The second room will be for isolating ill persons.
- BAOP will designate the school nurse and the operations manager to be the COVID-19 resource person.
- Students and staff exhibiting the common symptoms of COVID-19 with no other explanation for them will be sent to the school health office for an assessment by the school nurse. If a school nurse is not available, the school will contact the parent/guardian to come to pick up their ill child or send the staff member home. The most common symptoms of COVID-19 include:
 - Fever or chills (100°F or greater);
 - Cough;
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing;
 - Fatigue;
 - Muscle or body aches;
 - Headache;
 - New loss of taste or smell;

- Sore throat;
 - Congestion or runny nose;
 - Nausea or vomiting; and/or
 - Diarrhea.
- Students will wait in the designated isolation room across from the nurse's office until their parent/ guardian can pick them up.
 - Staff members will be sent home immediately if they show any of the symptoms mentioned above.
 - Students and staff who are sent home ill will be instructed that they must be seen by a health care provider.
 - BAOP will follow Education Law § 906, which provides [w]henever...a student in the public schools shows symptoms of any communicable or infectious disease reportable under the public health law that imposes a significant risk of infection of others in the school, he or she shall be excluded from the school and sent home immediately, in a safe and proper conveyance. The school nurse shall immediately notify a local public health agency of any disease reportable under the public health law⁷.
 - BAOP will follow the CDC and NYSDOH recommended guidelines by thoroughly cleaning and disinfecting the isolation room and all areas used by the person suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19.
 - BAOP will call for emergency transport (911) for any student showing any of these emergency warning signs of MIS-C or other concerning signs:
 - trouble breathing
 - pain or pressure in the chest that does not go away
 - new confusion
 - inability to wake or stay awake
 - bluish lips or face
 - severe abdominal pain
 - If a student or staff member reports having tested positive for COVID-19, school administrators or his/her designee should notify the local health department to determine what steps are needed for the school community.
 - Upon being informed of any positive COVID-19 diagnostic test result by an individual within school facilities or on school grounds, including students, faculty, staff, and visitors, the school nurse will notify the state and local health department.

- BAOP will support local health departments in tracing all contacts of the individual, in accordance with the protocols, training, and tools provided through the New York State Contact Tracing Program.
- BAOP will establish protocols and procedures, in consultation with the local health department(s), about the requirements for determining when individuals, particularly students, who screened positive for COVID-19 symptoms can return to the in-person learning environment at school. This return to school protocol will include, at minimum, documentation from a health care provider following evaluation, negative COVID-19 diagnostic test result, and symptom resolution, or if COVID-19 positive, release from isolation.
- If a person is not diagnosed by a healthcare provider (physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant) with COVID-19 they can return to school:
 - Once there is no fever, without the use of fever-reducing medicines, and they have felt well for 24 hours;
 - If they have been diagnosed with another condition and has a healthcare provider written note stating they are clear to return to school.
- If a person is diagnosed with COVID-19 by a healthcare provider based on a test or their symptoms or does not get a COVID-19 test but has had symptoms, they should not be at school and should stay at home until:
 - It has been at least ten days since the individual first had symptoms;
 - It has been at least three days since the individual has had a fever (without using fever-reducing medicine); and
 - It has been at least three days since the individual's symptoms improved, including cough and shortness of breath.

Cleaning and Disinfection

- The custodial staff at BAOP, along with the evening cleaning company, will be responsible for the cleaning and disinfection of the entire school.
- Disposable wipes will be provided to the faculty and staff so that commonly used surfaces can be wiped down before and after use, followed by hand hygiene.
- To reduce high-touched surfaces we will install touch-free amenities.
- A log will be kept that includes the date, time, and scope of cleaning and disinfection in a facility or area.
- Restrooms will be cleaned and disinfected frequently throughout the day.
- High touched surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected throughout the day.
- Shared gym equipment such as balls and hula hoops will be cleaned between uses.
- The school will undergo a deep cleaning weekly.

Facilities

Bronx Academy of Promise will promote social distancing while maintaining existing safety requirements that protect students and staff from fire or other hazards.

- BAOP will continue to conduct eight evacuations and four lockdown drills each school year while maintaining social distancing and using masks.
- Students will remain in their classrooms and teachers will transition between rooms in order to reduce the number of students in the hallway.
- Students will not eat in the cafeteria, instead in their homerooms to reduce movement and interaction outside their cohort.
- To reduce the density of congregations staff meetings will be conducted either through video conferencing or in an open well-ventilated space to ensure social distancing.
- BAOP will continue to meet or exceed minimum ventilation requirements.
- Staff will be asked to keep their classroom window open, weather permitting.

Child Nutrition

- BAOP Principal, Operations Director, school chef, and food service consultant worked together to create a plan to provide healthy meals for all students while following all DOH and NYSED safety guidelines.
- Students will be required to practice proper hand hygiene before and after meals.
- BAOP will supply all students with bottled water during breakfast and lunch rather than allowing them to use the water fountain.
- Students will be prohibited from sharing any food or beverage.
- The kitchen staff will wear disposable aprons when handling or delivering food.
- Kitchen staff will wear single-use gloves when handling or delivering all foods.
- Only kitchen staff and custodial staff will be permitted to enter kitchen areas.

Transportation

- BAOP will continue to work with the NYCDOE and OPT who are responsible for providing our students with transportation to and from school.
- Students will be trained on how to follow all health and safety guidelines while riding the school bus, as well as public transportation.