



COVID-19

MARCH 1, 2022 UPDATES

CHANGES TO THE EXECUTIVE ORDERS

Barrington Public Schools has adopted the following updates to our COVID protocols based on RIDOH and CDC guidance. We will begin implementation on **Monday, March 7, 2022**. Our ultimate goal is to allow students to learn in person to the greatest extent possible while reducing restrictions and maintaining the safety and health of students and staff.

At this time, BPS is moving to **masks optional** following the guidelines below. We are currently in the **yellow category**, and we will send out notification in the event that the district moves into the green or orange at any point in the future.



WHAT IT MEANS TO BE IN THE GREEN – LOW LEVEL COMMUNITY RISK

- ✓ Promote Vaccination
- ✓ Optimize **ventilation** in schools and on buses
- ✓ Promote **hand hygiene** and respiratory etiquette
- ✓ Maintain **isolation** and **quarantine protocols**
 - Promote the use of well-fitting **masks** for people not up to date with their vaccine/ immunocompromised.
 - Recommend but not require masks, except on busses where they are required by state executive order/RIDOH guidance
- ✓ Screen for Symptoms at home

WHAT IT MEANS TO
BE IN THE GREEN –
LOW LEVEL
COMMUNITY RISK

-School trips K-8 and overnight trips 9-12 ok to places that are not high transmission. Travel insurance is required and the district is not responsible for refunding. This language must be on all forms.

-Use of cafeteria spaces ok in 6-12. 6th grade planning to begin. Will revisit for PK-5 in 2022-2023

-No weekly asymptomatic testing for music and athletics

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE IN THE YELLOW – MODERATE LEVEL COMMUNITY RISK

- ✓ Promote Vaccination
- ✓ Optimize **ventilation** in schools and on buses
- ✓ Promote **hand hygiene** and respiratory etiquette
- ✓ Maintain **isolation** and **quarantine protocols**
- Recommend well-fitting **masks** for people not up to date with their vaccine/immunocompromised;
- Recommend but not require masks, except on busses where they are required by state executive order/RIDOH guidance
- ✓ Screen for Symptoms at home
- ✓ Consider **physical distancing**.
- Weekly screening testing for students who aren't up to date with their vaccine and participate in higher-risk activities (sports, band, etc.)

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE IN THE YELLOW – MODERATE LEVEL COMMUNITY RISK

- Consider overnight field trips to places that are not high transmission in grades 9-12; Day trips ok K-12. Travel insurance is required and the district is not responsible for refunding. This language must be on all forms.

- Use of cafeteria ok with distancing in 6-12, but continue preference for outdoor activities. 6th grade planning will begin. Will revisit cafeterias for PK-5 in 2022-2023

- Continue preference for outside activities

- Weekly asymptomatic testing for music and athletics

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE IN THE ORANGE – HIGH LEVEL COMMUNITY RISK

- ✓ Promote Vaccination
 - ✓ Optimize **ventilation** in schools and on buses
 - ✓ Promote **hand hygiene** and respiratory etiquette
 - ✓ Maintain **isolation** and **quarantine protocols**
 - ✓ Require **universal indoor masking**;
 - ✓ Screen for Symptoms at home
 - ✓ Maintain **symptomatic and screening testing**; and
 - ✓ Maintain **physical distancing** and **podding** when possible.
- Weekly screening testing for students who aren't up to date with their vaccine and participate in higher-risk activities (sports, band, etc.)

WHAT IT MEANS TO
BE IN THE ORANGE –
HIGH LEVEL
COMMUNITY RISK

- Avoid travel and overnight field trips
- Increase opportunities for outdoor dining.
- Dining in classrooms or spread out in the cafeteria.
- Pods in K-6
- Weekly asymptomatic testing for music and athletics

CONTACT TRACING

Universal contact tracing is no longer the optimal strategy to limit COVID-19 because the Omicron variant has a shorter incubation period and the highest risk of spread to others happens very early in the illness.

- Limit contact tracing efforts in schools;
- Consider everyone in the same classroom/group with someone who tests positive for COVID-19 to be exposed;
- Notify students, families/guardians of the exposure;
- Notify RIDOH when there are outbreaks (4 or more cases in one setting); and
- Reallocate resources to symptomatic testing, symptom screening, and promoting vaccination.

Positive People– Shortened Quarantine

Students and staff isolate at home for at least 5 days. If symptom-free on day 6 without fever reducing medication, they may come to school to be tested while their parent/guardian waits. If positive, they will go home. If negative, they may remain and wear high-quality, well-fitting masks at school for days 6-10, except when eating/drinking. Schools can accept a positive test, but will retest anyone reporting a negative test on day 6.

CLOSE
CONTACTS–
Unable to Mask

People who are unable to wear a mask at school should isolate and quarantine at home for a full 10 days and avoid people who are immunocompromised or at high risk for severe disease.

CLOSE CONTACTS– Not In the Home

Students and staff who are identified as close contacts to a positive case should wear high-quality, well-fitting masks for the full 10 days after exposure. We will no longer be contact tracing. If there is a positive case in a classroom the entire classroom is a close contact. Students with symptoms should remain at home. If symptoms begin in school, the school will test the student with parental permission. If the student tests positive, they will be sent home. Without permission to test, the student will be sent home.

CLOSE CONTACTS- In the Home

BPS will continue with the test to stay program for vaccinated in-home close contacts with a Rapid for 7 days and a PCR on day 5. In-home close contacts should wear a mask for 10 days after exposure.

Quarantine is still required for those who are unvaccinated with an in-home close contact.

IMPORTANT INFO

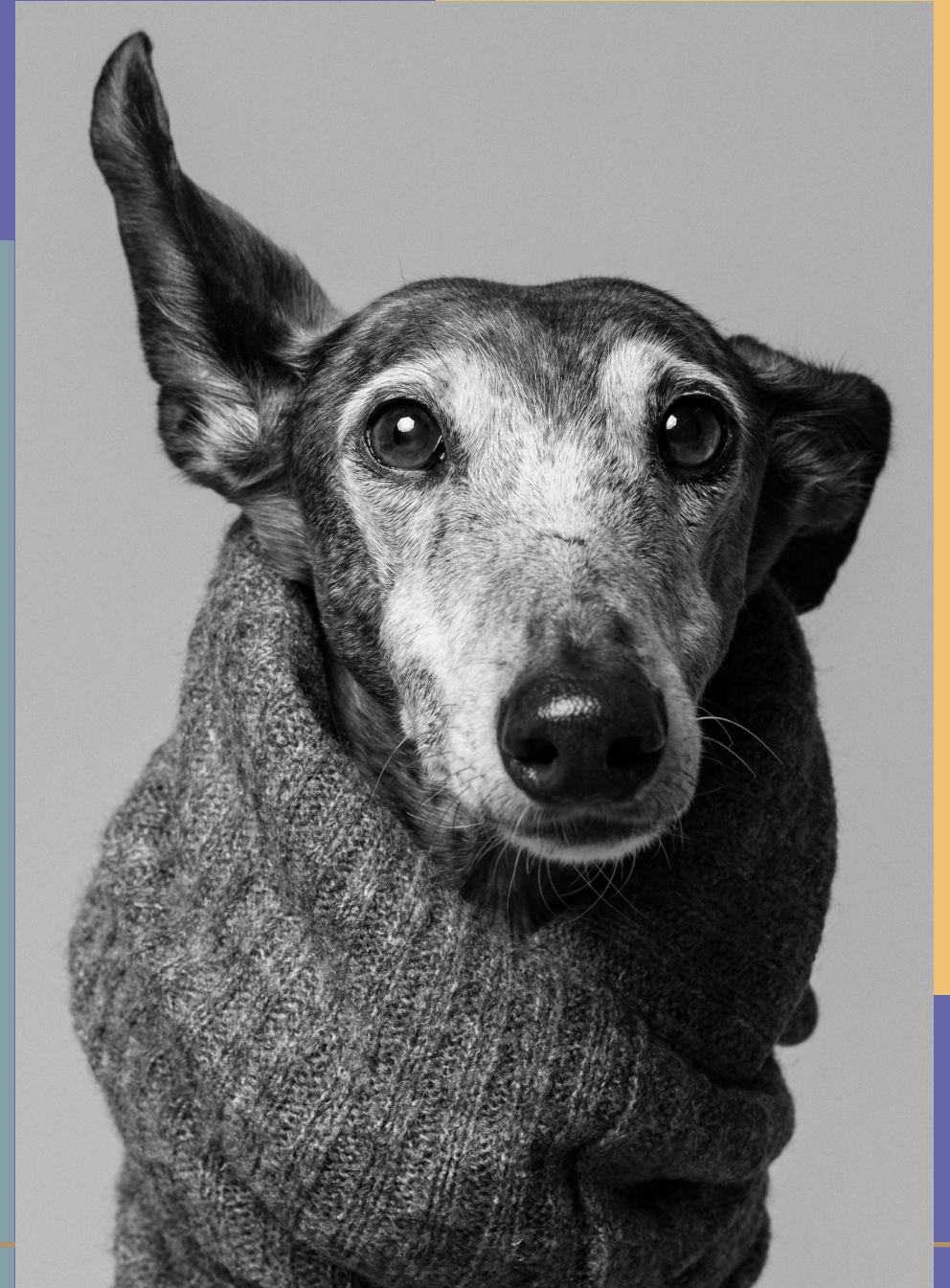
Quarantine is still required for those who are unvaccinated with an in-home close contact.

90 Day exemptions continue to be allowed for those who have tested positive.



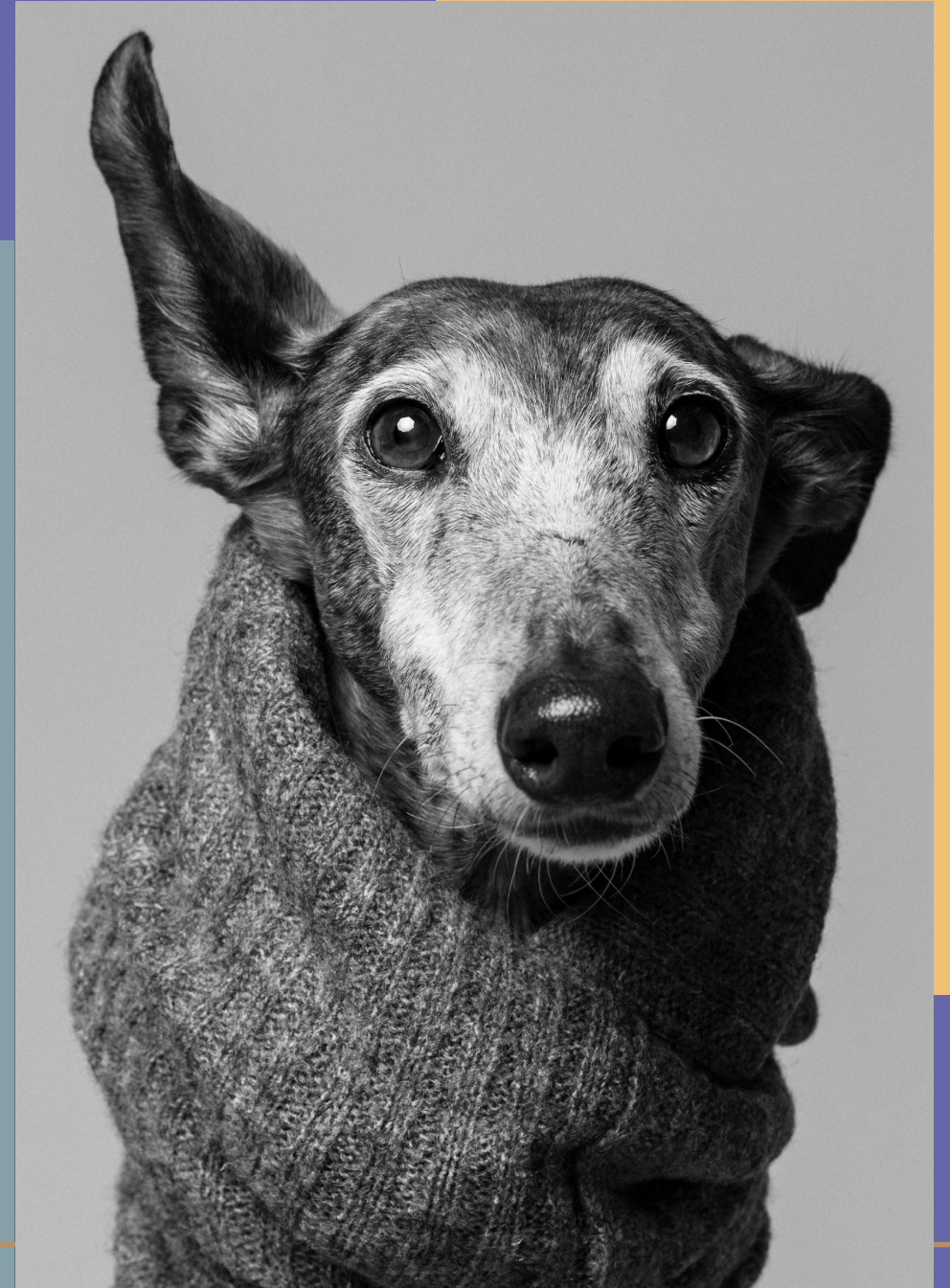
Volunteers

Volunteers must provide proof of vaccination and follow the current masking requirements. Vendors and Visitors who have not gone through the Volunteer Process must provide proof of vaccination and wear a well-fitted mask.



VISITORS, VENDORS, FAMILIES

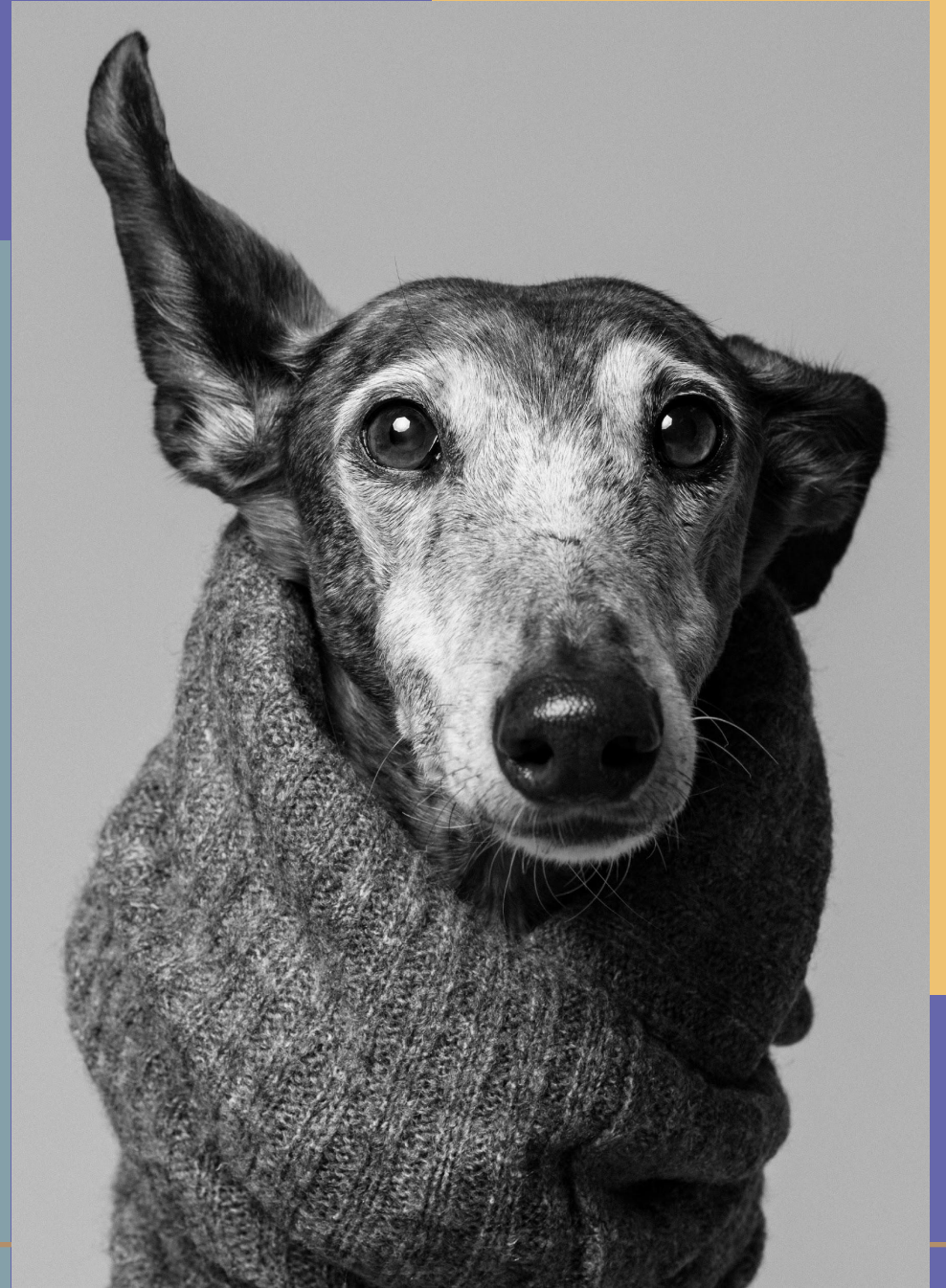
In-Person Committee Meeting Members and Family Meetings held during the school day, where 3 to 6 foot spacing is not possible,, requires masks for all participants regardless of vaccination status..



VISITORS, VENDORS, FAMILIES

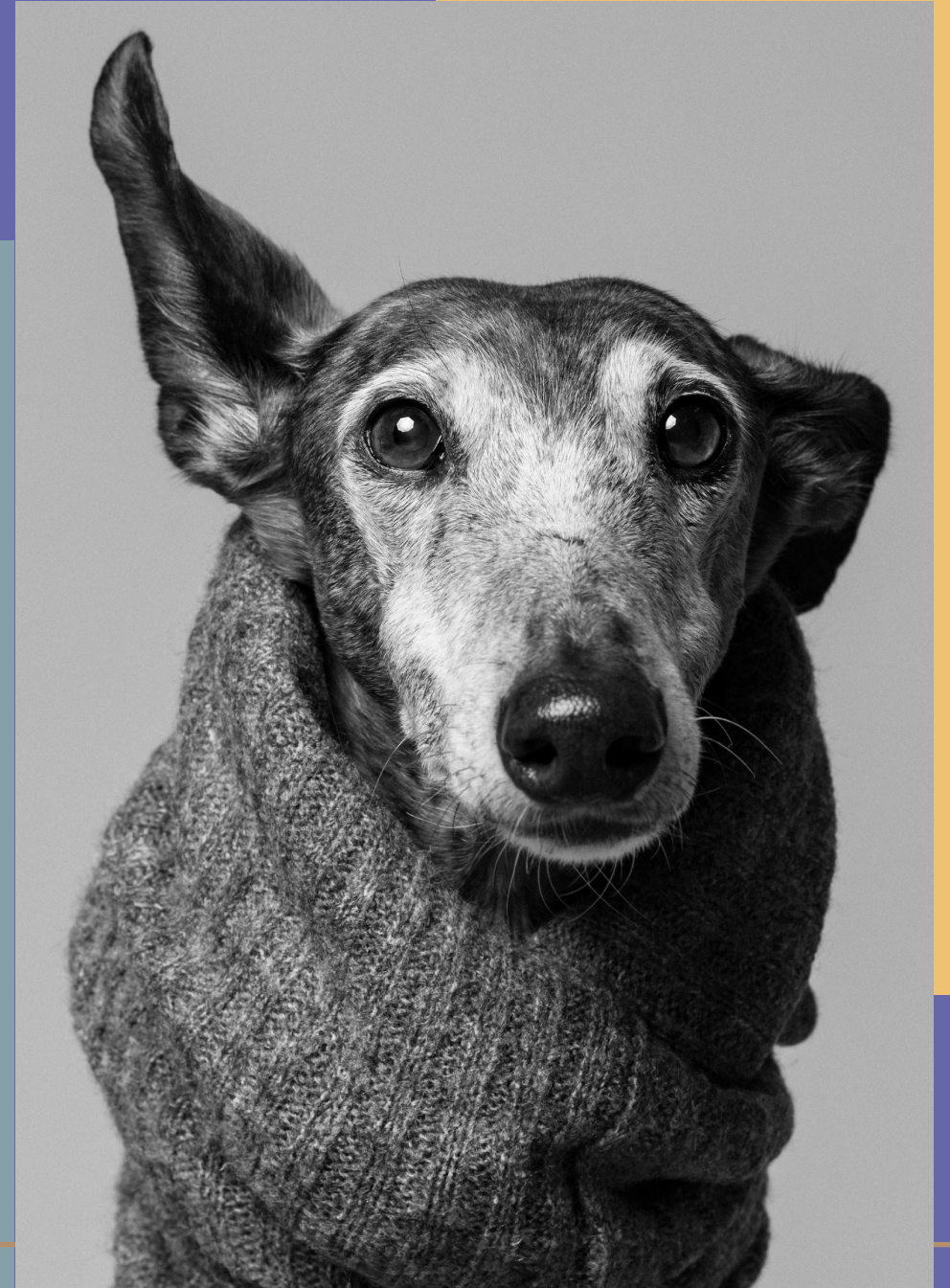
Family members who are not vaccinated may attend school events during the school day, but will be required to wear a mask. Vaccinated family members may follow the mask requirements based on transmission rates. As a reminder, those who are not vaccinated cannot volunteer, but can attend events.

Pick-ups and Drop-offs lasting less than 15 minutes may occur without proof of vaccination; however, if entering schools in session individuals must wear a well-fitted mask.



Staff

More information regarding these changes and their applicability will be provided to staff on Friday, March 4, 2022.



IMPORTANT INFO

Summary of Updated Mitigation in Pre K-12 Schools

If you are looking for a specific school-related case and vaccination data, please visit covid.ri.gov/kidsdata for state data

Or if you are interested in Barrington Public Schools' Data for Vaccination Rates and Case Counts

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1LBcAV6uTkyI0ApU7_IHUTW08M8lbGkoe4EmtfZDGm_g/edit#gid=359394886

CDC -Community Level Risk Map (We are Bristol County)
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/community-levels.html>

