



# The Birches Academy of Academics and Art COVID-19 Attendance Policy

## I. Introduction

Guided by our commitment to the health and safety of our students, The Birches Academy of Academics and Art will be following the COVID-19 guidance outlined in the State of New Hampshire’s Department of Public Health Services [CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 \(COVID-19\) SCHOOL TOOLKIT](#). Supporting the wellbeing of our students requires both families and school staff to follow important safety protocols. This policy is intended to outline the protocols The Birches Academy is following to prevent, identify, report, and control outbreaks of COVID-19 at the school.

## II. Scope of Policy

The COVID-19 policy at The Birches Academy applies to all students, volunteers, and staff at the school. Its purpose is to address COVID-19 considerations in school attendance. It does not replace any other policies that deal with school attendance.

## III. Definitions

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|--|---|
| “The School”   | The Birches Academy of Academics and Art  |
| “NUS”  | New and Unexplained Symptoms of COVID-19  |
| “Health Office”  | The Birches Academy of Academics and Art’s Health Office  |
| CONFIRMED CASE of COVID-19                                       | Anyone with <u>confirmed laboratory evidence</u> : detection of SARS-CoV-2 RNA in a clinical specimen using molecular amplification detection tests                               |
| CLUSTER of NEW-ONSET COVID-19 SYMPTOMS among students and staff. | ≥3 <u>symptomatic people</u> who are part of a related group of individuals (e.g., classroom) and who had the potential to transmit infection to each other through close contact |
| CLUSTER of COVID-19 in a SCHOOL                                  | ≥3 <u>confirmed cases</u> who are part of a related group of individuals (e.g., classroom) and who had the potential to transmit infection to each other through close contact    |
| OUTBREAK of COVID-19 in a SCHOOL                                 | ≥3 clusters of COVID-19 in the same school  |



#### **IV. Parent/Guardian Responsibilities**

- A. Before coming to school, Parents/Guardians are required to screen their child(ren) using the current daily COVID-19 screening procedure. If a child meets the criteria for isolation or quarantine or if a child is sick, please keep the child home and contact the school.
- B. Parents/Guardians are required to supply the school with a copy of COVID-19 test results upon the child's return to school.

#### **V. Staff/Volunteer/Health Office Responsibilities**

- A. Staff and Volunteer Screening - All staff and volunteers are required to screen themselves daily using the current daily COVID-19 screening procedure. If the person meets the criteria for isolation or quarantine or if is otherwise sick, they are required to stay home and contact the school.
- B. Health Office Screening of Symptomatic Person(s) - For any person that is presenting with new or unexplained symptoms (NUS) of COVID-19 while at school, the person will immediately report to the Health Office. The Health Office staff will follow procedures as currently outlined in the school's Procedure for Person with New or Unexplained Symptoms (NUS) of COVID-19.
- C. The Dean of the School or his designee will be the primary point of contact who will be responsible for coordinating with DHHS and DPHS. The Primary Point of Contact will work closely with a COVID-19 public health professional if COVID-19 is identified in the school.

#### **VI. State Reporting Responsibilities**

- A. The Health Office will notify the NH DHHS about every confirmed case of COVID-19 or any cluster of new-onset COVID-19 symptoms among students, volunteers and staff.
- B. The Health Office will report aggregate numbers of student absences on the NH DHHS ILI Reporting System for NH Schools until instructed that it is no longer necessary.