

**Blackwater Community School  
Akimel O’Otham Pee Posh Charter School Inc.**

**SY 2021-2022 Re-opening Plan**



***“Quality Education Begins Here”***

**Students return to in-person learning on March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022**

## **Purpose**

Our re-opening plan is guided by keeping in mind the health, safety, and welfare of each member of our community school, as well as their family members. The re-opening plan for Blackwater Community School/Akimel O’Otham Pee Posh Charter School (herein after “BWCS”) will address the following scenarios:

This revision in the re-opening plan reflects the requirements as mentioned in the latest Executive Order #13 released by the Gila River Indian Community Governor’s office on January 14, 2022. Section sixteen of this Executive Order makes references about School Re-opening as following:

**“Sixteenth, I hereby direct that all schools located on the Reservation shall continue to provide education to the students enrolled in each such school only through virtual classes or remote learning, and not through in person, on-site classes, and that schools may reopen on February 22, 2022 in a hybrid mode, subject to the approval of an amended school reopening plan by the Education Standing Committee and Health and Social Standing Committee. The amended school reopening plan must provide that: (a) all students attending classes in-person are fully vaccinated for COVID-19 and provide a negative COVID PCR test taken by a licensed health care provider, and taken no more than five days before the student's first day of in-person learning; (b) all administrators, teachers and school staff who have direct contact with students are fully vaccinated for COVID-19; (c) the school provides surveillance testing in coordination with and upon recommendations from the Tribal Health Department and COVID-19 Task Force and (d) virtual or remote Learning is made available to non-vaccinated students or parents who choose online learning for their child or children. To the greatest extent possible, schools should offer synchronous learning through which instructors provide instruction in real-time to students”.**

**“Seventeenth, schools in the Community may continue to provide on-site services to children with developmental delays or impairments who have specific Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) or students whose needs cannot be met through virtual learning, so long as social/physical distancing guidelines are followed, all students, staff and visitors wear face masks indoors and utilize other appropriate PPE and COVID-19 prevention measures”.**

Our School Board of Trustees had a publicly held Board meeting on Monday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022 in which the Board decided to re-open the school for in-person learning for grades kindergarten-5<sup>th</sup> grade, FACE adult ed., and preschool students who are below age 5. All returning students and staff must be fully vaccinated as defined by GRIC Tribal Health Department (THD). According to THD, a fully vaccinated individual is defined as 14 days after having received 2 doses of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine, or a single dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. In person learning will resume on March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022 and thereby keeping the virtual learning in place till then. The process of student verification of Covid 19 vaccination status will include information received through School Nurse’s office as well as from parents bringing the Vaccination cards directly to School administration. Virtual or remote learning is made available to non-vaccinated students or parents who choose online learning for their child or children. Virtual instruction will be continued for non-vaccinated students.

School may continue to provide on-site services to children with developmental delays or impairments who have specific Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) or students whose needs cannot be met through virtual learning so long as COVID-19 prevention measures are followed.

Our School Board of Trustees revised personnel policies and procedures to reflect the requirements as referenced in the Governor's new Executive Order #13. Changes such as all employees with direct contact with students must be fully vaccinated unless those employees are exempted under medical grounds as defined in the policy. All medical-based exemption requests submitted by any school employee will be thoroughly reviewed and processed (depending upon merit and authenticity of the medical condition) by HR Manager and School Principal.

School opening will abide by the guidance and recommendations from the Gila River Indian Community COVID-19 Safety Guidelines. This re-opening plan will continue to be in effect during extended learning sessions such as summer school and intersessions unless an amendment is required from the Tribal Government.

Current federal, state, and tribal government guidance may change, and it is critical to prepare for both in-person and distance learning. We fully expect plans to evolve and adapt over time as further guidance becomes available. All in-school hygiene protocols as established by higher authorities will be implemented to the extent possible as long as the risk of COVID-19 is present. All employees will be trained on best practices for maintaining and promoting the following main safety guidelines at all times:

- (i) Social distancing to the extent possible
- (ii) Frequent handwashing
- (iii) Wearing face masks
- (iv) Daily deep cleaning
- (v) Daily health screener for employees
- (vi) Daily thermal screening for students and staff
- (vii) Hand sanitizer available

It has been the on-going practice at our school to have each school employee get bi-weekly covid-19 testing provided by the Gila River Community. This practice will continue until otherwise announced. All employees are required to fill out COVID questionnaire every day before they are allowed to go into the campus. The school provides ongoing surveillance testing of students attending in person classes and staff.

### **SEL Support**

Some students may have experienced trauma over the previous year, and our staff and community partners will be ready to support those learners. The daily schedule will include additional time built in for Social Emotional Learning, and relationship building among students and their teacher. Counselors will be available at all times for crisis intervention as well as continued individual and small group counseling including family support as needed.

### **Academic Expectations**

We will continue to maintain high expectations for academic growth and competency development. In order to measure academic progress, DIBELS, NWEA, TSG and other appropriate assessments will be administered throughout the school year. Daily schedules will allow for additional time to

re-teach the standards in a small group setting to account for any additional regression in the student's learning. Class sizes may be reduced to a 20:1 ratio to the extent possible to accommodate social distancing within the classroom.

### **Incidents of Potential Exposure/Confirmed Case among Staff or Students**

In responding to incidents in which BWCS learns of potential exposure of staff or students to COVID19 or of confirmed COVID-19 infections, BWCS will follow the Tribal Health guidelines as issued and updated from time to time. Positive COVID-19 cases will be reported to the Tribal Health Department's Disease Surveillance program. BWCS's implementation of the GRHC guidelines in effect as of the date of this revision (January 2022) is summarized in the sections below. BWCS will post updates to this Re-opening Plan following changes or amendments to GRHC guidelines on the school's website ([www.bwcs.k12.az.us](http://www.bwcs.k12.az.us)).

**Scenario 1:** Student outbreak: if/when the school is notified of a confirmed positive student COVID-19 case:

- ✓ Student and all siblings residing in the same household will be sent home immediately
  - ✓ All parents of students in the affected classroom will be notified
  - ✓ Virtual learning will be in effect for quarantined students for 10 days per THD guidelines
  - ✓ Student attendance will not be effected as long as the student participates in virtual learning.
  - ✓ *See Appendix for more information*
- If a student develops COVID-19 symptoms while at school, they will be taken to a designated isolation area and parents will be notified.

**Scenario 2:** Staff member is confirmed positive

- ✓ Staff member and all household members will be sent home immediately
  - ✓ All parents of students in the affected classroom will be notified
  - ✓ Staff member will remain at home for 10 days and symptom free for 24 hours per THD guidelines
  - ✓ *See Appendix for more information*
- If an employee develops COVID-19 symptoms while at school, they will be sent home.

**Scenario 3:** Household Members of Students and Employees

- ✓ If any household member of a student or employee tests positive for COVID-19, a 10-day quarantine will be enforced based on the current THD guidelines.
- ✓ Student attendance will not be effected as long as the student participates in virtual learning.
- ✓ *See Appendix for more information*

**Local guidelines at BWCS:**

**COVID-19 Student Screening**

- ✓ Each school bus will have a monitor who will be checking the temperatures of each child before allowed to ride the bus.
  - Parents will be required to stay with their child at designated bus stops until the child is cleared to ride the bus.
  - The children who will be dropped off at school by parents will go through the same screening process before allowed to go into the classroom.
- ✓ Students showing COVID-19 symptoms or registering a temperature above 100.4 will be asked to return to their household and follow up with a doctor and must have a negative covid19 test result before returning to school.
  - Students must be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school.

### **COVID-19 Employee Questionnaire**

- ✓ If any employee circles yes on any item on the screening questionnaire or has a temperature greater than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit during the initial check in time, the following mitigation process will be initiated immediately:
  - The employee will be directed to contact the HR office for further course of action
  - A temperature of greater than 100.4 Fahrenheit will require the employee to be sent home, follow up with doctor's advice.

### **Additional BWCS guidelines provided:**

All students and staff have been provided with a digital device.

### **Employees**

- Daily health screeners (at 3 locations)
- Daily temperature checks (at 3 locations)
- Bi-weekly COVID-19 testing for all employees
- Social distancing protocols in place
- Reduced class size (20:1 ratio when possible)
- PPE-masks and gloves provided
- Training on best practices for hygiene
- Adults will maintain 3' foot distance from others and eliminate/decrease non-essential interactions
- Adults and students will be encouraged to cover their mouths when coughing/sneezing and wash hands after blowing nose, coughing, sneezing.

### **Students**

- Negative PCR test taken by a healthcare provider no more than 5 days prior to return to in-person learning . The process of student verification of negative PCR results will include information received through School Nurse's office as well as from parents bringing the PCR test results directly to School administration.
- Daily temperature checks before boarding the bus or entering the school campus
- Bi-weekly COVID-19 testing for all students (in planning phase)
- Social distancing protocols in place

- Reduced class size (20:1 ratio when possible)
- Option to enroll in remote learning
- PPE-masks provided
- Training on best practices for hygiene
- Frequent handwashing encouraged
- Hand sanitizer available
- Individual student books and supplies
- Students with disabilities will be provided needed assistance with mask use, handwashing and respiratory etiquette

### **Campus/Transportation**

- All classrooms sanitized multiple times daily
- School buses/vehicles sanitized before and after each route
- Hand sanitizer applied before and after boarding for staff and students
- Assigned seats on buses and in classrooms
- Students desks spaced out 3 feet when feasible
- All classrooms, offices, and common areas fogged daily

### **Parent Educators/Home Visitors**

- Training on best practices for hygiene
- Daily health screeners for parents
- Hand sanitizer available
- Daily temperature checks for children and families
- Disposable masks provided to each family
- Digital devices provided to each family
- Virtual visits available

### **Detailed plans for on-site learning:**

#### **Campus:**

- Brand new facility with new HVAC system that exchanges interior air every 34 minutes.
- Each classroom and office are equipped with air purifier units with HEPA filters
- Rooms and offices will be fogged every morning prior to employees or student entrance
- Frequently used surfaces (desks, door handles, restrooms, sinks) will be sanitized the night before and throughout the day
- All students and staff will be expected to wear a mask as appropriate while on campus or on the bus
- 3 feet social distance will be maintained to the extent possible
- Steps will be taken to ensure all water systems are safe after prolonged shutdown.
- Hand sanitizing stations located throughout the campus

**Visitors:** No visitors will be allowed to go into the classrooms. Parents that are checking in to the front office will be required to fill out the COVID-19 questionnaire and have their temperature taken and recorded.

#### **Morning pick up:**

- Bus monitors will check students' temperatures before boarding the bus
- Parents will be required to stay with their child at designated bus stops until the child is cleared
- Children that are dropped off at school, will go through the same screening process before allowed on campus

#### **Arrival at School:**

- Hand sanitizer will be dispersed to each student
- Prior to eating students will wash hands
- Surfaces will be disinfected after breakfast
- Students will re-wash hands after eating

#### **During School:**

- Students will remain with their grade level cohorts
- Student desks will face forward, individual shields provided and 3 feet distance enforced
- Frequently used surfaces will be sanitized throughout the day
- Before designated grade level lunch time, students will wash their hands in assigned sinks

#### **During Lunch:**

- Hands will be sanitized before lunch
- Students will get a premade tray and beverage
- Students will sit in their assigned seats
- Individual shields provided and placed 3 feet in distance when possible
- Students discard their trays
- Cafeteria tables and serving surfaces will be sanitized in between grade level cohorts
- Schools will continue to provide meals for children attending virtual classes.

#### **Recess**

- Designated areas by grade level cohort
- Hand sanitizer will be provided before re-entering the classroom

#### **Dismissal**

- Students will board buses and sit in assigned seats

#### **After School Duties**

- Teachers/staff will sanitize frequently touched surfaces and door handles
- Cleaning crew will clean and sanitize buildings and common areas

**Appendix**  
**Quarantine Instructions for Close Contacts**

Close Contact: Someone who was less than 6 feet away from an infected person (laboratory-confirmed or a clinical diagnosis) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (for example, three individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes).

Yes		No
<b>Students</b>		
<p><b>1. Are you 5 to 17 years old and fully vaccinated?</b></p> <p>You are fully vaccinated 14 days after you received a 1st and 2nd dose of a Pfizer or Moderna vaccine.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Quarantine is <u>not</u> required</b></p> <p>Additional measures should be followed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test on day 5. But test immediately if symptoms develop.</li> <li>• If positive test result, follow isolation timeframe for positive case.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Quarantine required</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stay home and quarantine.</li> <li>• Virtual learning in effect</li> <li>• Test on day 5. But test immediately if symptoms develop.</li> <li>• If negative test result and symptom-free for 24 hours and no one in home under quarantine, individual may end quarantine and return to school.</li> <li>• If positive test result, follow isolation timeframe for positive case.</li> </ul>
<b>Employees and FACE Adult Students</b>		



<p><b>2. Are you 18 years or older and fully vaccinated?</b></p> <p>You are fully vaccinated 14 days after you received a 1st and 2nd dose of a Pfizer or Moderna vaccine.</p>	<p><b>Quarantine is <u>not</u> required</b></p> <p>Additional measures should be followed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test on day 5. But test immediately if symptoms develop.</li> <li>• If positive test result, follow isolation timeframe for positive case.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Quarantine required</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stay home and quarantine.</li> <li>• Virtual learning for FACE students</li> <li>• Test on day 5. But test immediately if symptoms develop.</li> <li>• If negative test result and symptom-free for 24 hours and no one in home under quarantine, individual may end quarantine and return to work or daily activity.</li> <li>• If positive test result, follow isolation timeframe for positive case.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. Have you tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days?</b></p>	<p>Quarantine is not required</p> <p>Additional measures should be followed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you are having symptoms you should isolate until you are symptom-free for 24 hours.</li> </ul>	<p>Quarantine is required.</p> <p>Follow isolation timeframe provided by your healthcare provider.</p>

**Quarantine for Close Contacts that live in the home of a positive case**

If the close contact lives in the same home of the positive case, regardless of vaccination status, quarantine is required. Close contacts that live in the home of the positive case must follow the isolation timeframe for the positive case.

**Isolation Guidelines**

**Isolation** is used to separate people with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 from those without COVID-19.

<p><b>Table 3. Isolation Timeframes for Positive Cases</b></p>
<p>Isolation for positive cases and quarantine for the household will be 10 days from the test date. All household members (except positive case) will need to test immediately.</p> <p>➤ If their healthcare provider provides an isolation timeframe that is less than 10 days, the patients will be instructed to contact their healthcare provider for a return to work document.</p>

## Questions and Answers:

**1) Do the students have to wear masks outside activities such as recess, PE time etc.**

Children and adults should wear masks every day all day while they are in attendance. Of course, this excludes when they are eating or drinking or those children who may be under 2 years old. Children who have disabilities and who may not be able to wear masks are also excluded. (See Executive Order 13 Clause 13)

**2) If a staff member/student that is vaccinated gets a doctor's note allowing them to return to school after five days of quarantine is that allowed. Or do they have to wait 10 days?**

Employees who test positive should quarantine for 10 days. They can return to work after that time if they have had 24 consecutive hours symptom free. (See COVID-19 Guidance for GRIC Departments, Entities and Organizations pg. 6-7)