



Good afternoon Bixby families:

Please read this email in its entirety as it contains important information about our return to school next week, including some potential action steps to take now.

In light of the recent and dramatic spread of COVID-19, we have decided to implement a few enhanced risk mitigation measures as an attempt to limit the spread among our students and faculty. Please note that one of these measures is to **delay the return of students by one day to Thursday, January 6, 2022**, in order to allow adequate time for PCR test results.

Required Measures: We are asking ALL Bixby students and staff to do the following:

1. **Get a negative PCR test 1-3 days before returning to Bixby** (we will offer free testing on-site Monday, January 3, 2022, 11am-3pm).
 - a. Nasal swab and saliva tests are available. If you would like to receive a saliva test please email COVIDtesting@bixbyschool.org Unless you notify us otherwise, we will assume you prefer a nasal swab.
 - b. Register for testing at https://my.primary.health/r/Bixby?registration_type=default. PLEASE register in advance as it helps the whole process go more quickly.
 - c. If you are a medical professional and are available to help administer tests on this day please let me know (ninal@bixbyschool.org).

2. **Take a rapid test at home the morning of your return to Bixby on Thursday, January 6.** Be prepared to show a photo of the test result.
 - a. Free rapid tests can be ordered here: [Rapid At-Home testing program | Colorado COVID-19 Updates](#)
 - b. If you need a test kit OR have extra test kit(s) to share with others, please add your information [HERE](#).
 - c. Bixby has a limited number of tests available if you are unable to get one on your own.

3. **Get a negative PCR test 5-7 days after returning to Bixby** (we will offer free testing on Thursday, January 13, 2022 from 2-4pm). Register at: https://my.primary.health/r/Bixby?registration_type=default

4. If you have any [symptoms](#), stay home and notify office@bixbyschool.org
5. *If your child is NOT fully vaccinated* and has traveled and/or spent time in crowded indoor activities during the winter break, please plan to also quarantine at home for a full 7 days post event/travel.
6. If your child *IS fully vaccinated* against COVID-19, **please submit a copy or photo of their vaccination record** to Cindy in our front office, office@bixbyschool.org. We are required to collect this information as vaccination status changes the quarantine protocol in the event of an exposure.

NOTE: The CDC currently defines someone as “fully vaccinated” 2 weeks after the second dose of a 2-dose series (e.g. Pfizer or Moderna BioNTech) ([More here](#)); in order for a student to be considered fully vaccinated, they would have received their second dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine on or before December 23, 2021.

Encouraged Measures

1. **Attend the Bixby Vaccine Clinic on Wednesday, January 3 (3:00-6:00 pm)** We encourage anyone age 5 and older who is eligible to get vaccinated, and for anyone age 16 and older to get a booster shot 6 months after your second dose of Pfizer/Moderna or the J&J vaccine. *Please consult with your personal medical professional about whether getting vaccinated is advisable for you.*

Pediatric (5-11yo) first or second dose shots are available. To register for a pediatric vaccine appointment please [CLICK HERE](#)

We will also have a limited number of booster shots available for anyone age 16+. Booster shots are available on a walk-in basis. There is no pre-registration to receive a booster shot.

2. **Test regularly.** We are fortunate to have several free testing options available:
 - a. FREE at-home rapid antigen tests can be ordered here: [Rapid At-Home testing program | Colorado COVID-19 Updates](#)
 - b. FREE PCR testing is offered weekly on-site at Bixby through a partnership with COVIDCheck Colorado. Register here: https://my.primary.health/r/Bixby?registration_type=default
 - c. FREE PCR testing is available at multiple states across Boulder County and the state. Test site information is available here: <https://covid19.colorado.gov/testing>

Rationale and Considerations

Our risk mitigation plans were developed with input from our partners at Boulder County Public Health as well as our Bixby COVID Task Force (an ad hoc group of parents with relevant medical expertise). We are putting these measures into place as a proactive step to limit the spread of COVID-19 within the Bixby School community. It is not possible for us to fully prevent

everyone in our community from becoming COVID positive and/or exposed; however, we believe these measures will reduce the impact if there is an exposure. Being proactive also gives us a better shot at preserving the ability for students to attend school in person.

Having said all of this, as has been true throughout this experience, things change and are not fully in our control. Should public health guidance or our local circumstances change, we will adjust accordingly. As always, we will work hard to provide you with timely and transparent information, and appreciate all that the entire Bixby community does to stay in communication. By working together, we have been able to accomplish so much.

Please refer to our [FAQs](#) for answers to some of the questions we anticipate; we will update this regularly.

If after reading this information, you have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out to me. Thank you for your continued diligence and partnership.

Yours,

Nina

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Resources:

- CDC's "Understanding how the COVID-19 Vaccines Work" is [HERE](#)
- CDC guidance for domestic travel is [HERE](#)
- CDC guidance for international travel is [HERE](#)
- CDC guidance for safer holiday gatherings is [HERE](#)