

COVID Protocols Updated January 9, 2023

These protocols apply to any member of the BGSP community who has been or plans to be physically present at BGSP or affiliated sites (such as field placements).

- A. BGSP requires proof of vaccination against COVID, **including the new bivalent booster**, to be on the premises. Proof of vaccination must be on file in order to enter the building or participate in any BGSP activities in person, either on campus or in clinical placements. To supply proof of vaccination, send in a copy of your vaccination card, or go to <https://myvaxrecords.mass.gov/> (for MA residents) to download proof of vaccination. Students and faculty send proof of vaccination to kingb@bgsp.edu. Staff send proof of vaccination to dolang@bgsp.edu.
- B. **Masks are required at BGSP in all public spaces and classrooms.** In individual and small group meetings, masks may be removed by mutual and full consensus of all participants. Acceptable masks include KN95 and N95 masks as well as surgical masks which completely cover the nose and mouth. Cloth masks by themselves are not adequate protective masks.
- C. **If you have any symptoms of potential COVID, you should stay home – even if you think you have allergies or a cold – until you are symptom free or have a negative COVID virus test (rapid or PCR).** All BGSP classes are set up to attend remotely if you are ill. See Section E for symptoms of COVID.
- D. **If you learn you have had close contact with a person who has COVID-19:**
 1. “Close contact” is defined as being within 6 feet of someone for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.
 2. If your close contact was outside of BGSP, contact the BGSP COVID Hotline at COVIDhotline@bgsp.edu to let the COVID Response Team know that you were a close contact. *All information is kept confidential within the BGSP COVID Response Team.*
 3. **QUARANTINE.** Stay home from BGSP. You can return to campus as described below:
 - Get tested (rapid or PCR test) 5 days after the date of your exposure. If you test negative and have no symptoms, you can end your quarantine on Day 6. (Day Zero is the day you were exposed.)
 - If you don’t test, you can end quarantine on Day 7 if you have no symptoms. (Day Zero is the day you were exposed.)
 - **People returning to campus after quarantine or isolation must remain fully masked at all times through Day 10, even if others are not required to wear masks.**

Stay away from people who are at higher-risk for getting very sick from COVID-19. If you develop symptoms, get tested right away and follow the guidance for ISOLATION.

4. The COVID Response Team will follow up confidentially in order to keep track of your quarantine status, so please respond to any emails from the School. The School will not take any further action unless your close contact results in a positive test (see below).

E. If you are sick with or have tested positive for COVID-19:

1. Contact the BGSP emergency COVID Hotline at COVIDhotline@bgsp.edu. The COVID Hotline will respond and ask you to “reply” immediately with the following information:

Name

Phone number

Emergency contact person and contact information

When were you last at the BGSP campus?

Please list your classes:

Please list your other meetings:

Aside from people in those meetings, whom were you near for more than 15 minutes that day? Where else did you spend more than 15 minutes at a time?

Have you been tested for COVID-19? When and was the test negative or positive?

All information is kept confidential within the BGSP COVID Response Team.

2. **If you are sick and test positive for COVID-19**, you need to ISOLATE. Stay home until after:
 - At least 7 days since symptoms first appeared **and**
 - At least 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication **and**
 - Symptoms have improved
 - **Even after symptoms have improved, continue to wear a mask when around others through Day 10, even if you test negative.**

If you tested positive for COVID-19 but do not have symptoms, you need to ISOLATE. Stay home until after 7 days have passed since your positive test.

- **Continue to wear a mask when around others through Day 10, even if you test negative.**

People returning to campus after quarantine or isolation must remain fully masked at all times through Day 10, even if others are not required to wear masks.

Symptoms:

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. Anyone can have mild to severe symptoms. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever or chills
- 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
- Diarrhea

When to Seek Emergency Medical Attention

Look for emergency warning signs* for COVID-19. If you are having any of these signs, **seek emergency medical care immediately:**

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion
- Inability to wake or stay awake
- Pale, gray, or blue-colored skin, lips, or nail beds, depending on skin tone

Call 911 or call ahead to your local emergency facility: Notify the operator that you are seeking care for someone who has or may have COVID-19.

*This list is not all possible symptoms. Please call your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning to you.

3. The COVID Response Team will follow up confidentially in order to keep track of your isolation status and clear you for in-person attendance, so be sure to respond to any emails from the School.

F. If BGSP learns that a member of the BGSP community has had close contact with a person outside of BGSP who has COVID-19:

1. BGSP will require that person to follow the QUARANTINE protocols outlined above. The Registrar will send them links to all classes, if applicable. Staff will

follow up and take further action only if the close contact results in a positive test (see below).

2. The School will not notify anyone of that person's close contact status.

G. If BGSP learns that a member of the BGSP community is sick with presumed COVID-19 or has tested positive for COVID-19:

1. BGSP will contact all of that person's "close contacts" (class members, meeting members, and other people identified by the person in their hotline response) and let them know that they are a close contact. They will not disclose the name of the close contact. If applicable, staff will notify this person's placement site that the student has tested positive. *This will require disclosure of the person's name and health status.* **The student should also notify their placement site.**
2. BGSP will then require all close contacts to follow the QUARANTINE protocols outlined above.

H. Members of the COVID Response Team:

Dr. Jane Snyder, President
Dr. Sherry Ceridan, Faculty COVID Coordinator
Mr. Mike Fraley, Operations Manager
Dr. Briana King, Registrar
Dr. Carol Panetta, Vice President
Dr. Lynn Perlman, Dean of Graduate Studies