

Berkshire School COVID-19 Notice and Assumption of Risk

A critical component of Berkshire School's ability to open successfully and manage a residential community through COVID-19 is a series of expectations of how members of the community will live, work and learn together. Because COVID-19 infects individuals by spreading across and within close community networks, it is essential that every one of us in the community enter into a shared obligation and commitment to act prudently, safely, and in accordance with School and public health directives. COVID-19 is a highly infectious, life-threatening disease declared by the World Health Organization to be a global pandemic. There is no current vaccine for COVID-19. COVID-19's highly contagious nature means that contact with others, or contact with surfaces that have been exposed to the virus, can lead to infection. Additionally, individuals who may have been infected with COVID-19 may be symptomatic for a period of time, or may never become symptomatic at all. Because of its highly contagious and sometimes "hidden" nature, it is currently very difficult to control the spread of COVID-19 or to determine whether, where, or how a specific individual may be exposed to it. Infection of COVID-19 may result in personal injury, illness, permanent disability, and/or even death. Berkshire School is following the safeguards recommended by federal, state and local public health authorities to minimize the risks due to COVID-19, but we cannot eliminate the risks entirely. Acknowledging these risks, students are returning voluntarily to the campus of Berkshire School and assuming full responsibility for their health and risk of injury arising from possible exposure to COVID-19. Berkshire has implemented new safety rules and precautions to help protect students and others on campus. These protocols and expectations are set forth in two places: 1) the COVID-19 Addendum in the Student/Parent Handbook 2020–21 available on the Student and Parent Portals and 2) the Community Pledge posted on the School's Safe Reopening webpage. Please note, this information may be updated at any time. Students who violate any of the School's safety measures and protocols place at risk the health and safety of themselves and others in the community, and these violations consequently could result in their removal from campus housing, in-person classes, or other non-disciplinary or disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from the School. It is acknowledged that the risk of becoming exposed to or infected by COVID-19 at Berkshire School may result from the actions, omissions, or negligence of the individual themselves and others, including, but not limited to, Berkshire employees, agents, contractors, volunteers, and students. You recognize that Berkshire cannot eradicate all potential sources of COVID-19 infection on or outside the campus. You acknowledge that you have had the opportunity to ask for and/or have received information that you may need to determine the risks associated with returning to the Berkshire campus and to make an informed assumption of those risks.

I have read this form in its entirety and understand what it means. By signing this form, I affirm that I have legal custody of the Student and am authorized to sign on the Student's behalf. By signing below, I acknowledge and agree that the electronic signatures below have the same legal effect and validity as a written signature, and that this form is valid and will be given the same legal effect as a written and signed form.

Signature of Parent/Guardian #1: _____ **Date:** _____

Print Full Name of Parent/Guardian #1: _____

Signature of Student (if 18 or Older) : _____ **Date:** _____

Print Full Name of Student: _____