This guidance is being provided as of the effective date above. Best Buddies may modify this guidance, from time to time, as circumstances change. The Best Buddies COVID-19 guidelines must be followed for all in-person Best Buddies events, meetings, and gatherings.

COVID-19 is an extremely contagious virus that spreads easily in the community. Take all reasonable precautions to limit potential exposure for volunteers. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to change as infection rates rise and fall in states. There may be regional differences or developments since this guidance was published. Continue to follow local and national directives.

NOTE: Individual communities in every state may establish stricter requirements. If that is the case in your community, you must adapt these guidelines to meet those requirements.

COVID-19 Updated Vaccination Status Guidance

On July 27, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) released updated guidance on the need for urgently increasing COVID-19 vaccination coverage and a recommendation for everyone in areas of substantial or high transmission to wear a mask in public indoor places, even if they are fully vaccinated. Accordingly, Best Buddies has updated its guidelines and recommendations for in-person match meetings.

When considering whether to meet in person, or what to do together, Best Buddies International encourages you to consider the following:

- Is everyone in agreement and comfortable with meeting in-person? If not, please continue to meet virtually, BBI is not requiring in-person meetings at this time.
- Have you talked with your chapter members and their parent/guardian(s) (if applicable) about masking expectations and what types of activities and locations are acceptable?
- Is any member, or anyone in their household, at increased risk of severe illness due to COVID-19? If so, please practice the highest level of caution when deciding where/how to meet, including always wearing a mask.
- Is any member, or anyone in their household, sick or have had recent direct exposure to COVID-19? If so, please delay your in-person match outing or chapter event/meeting until it is safe and appropriate to get together.
- Have all chapter members completed the 2021-2022 Membership Application? If not, please have them complete this application immediately by visiting bestbuddies.org/join. If they have already completed the application and consent form you DO NOT need to request this information again.

If members have passed the above checks, below are Best Buddies guidelines for in-person match activities, chapter events and meetings:

- All chapter members, advisors and volunteers are encouraged to carry face masks with them on any match outing in order to comply with different masking requirements throughout each community.
- **For Fully Vaccinated Members and Matches:** If both members of a buddy pair are fully vaccinated, then they can gather outdoors or indoors without wearing a mask, including in vehicles. If anyone in the match is more comfortable with masking, please respect that and wear a mask. Please note: Best Buddies highly recommends that all members, regardless of vaccination status, adhere to the CDC updated guidance and their respective state department of public health.
• For Non-Vaccinated Members & Matches or Partially Vaccinated Members & Matches: An important part of friendship is supporting one another and modeling healthy behaviors to keep oneself and others safe. As part of this, we are strongly encouraging and recommending that everyone wear a mask while indoors in public spaces, including vaccinated adults, if any member of the match or outing is not fully vaccinated.
  o Outside: Masks are encouraged but are not required to be worn outside if everyone is able to maintain six feet of social distancing.
  o Inside Private Locations with Less than 2 Households Present: If adults are fully vaccinated, masks are not required.
  o Riding in a Vehicle: Masks are required if all adults in the vehicle present are not fully vaccinated. We also encourage limiting the number of passengers and ventilating the vehicle.

As a reminder, it is important that all chapters and members respect one another’s decisions about meeting in person, including location (indoors/outdoors), protective measures, and activities. These guidelines are minimum expectations we ask all Best Buddies members to follow.

If someone in your chapter requests more COVID-related protections than the CDC, your local public health department, and Best Buddies International are requiring (for example, everyone wearing a mask outdoors when on a match outing or asking the vaccination status of a potential match) please respect these requests or encourage the buddy pair to continue to meet virtually. If you have concerns or need support with these conversations, please let your Best Buddies staff contact know and they can provide support.

Guidelines and Recommendations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Guidelines</th>
<th>What this means for Best Buddies</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meeting &amp; Event Preparations</td>
<td>Discuss plans with members and/or families before in-person gatherings.</td>
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<td>In large group settings, members, vaccinated and unvaccinated, should wear masks to limit exposure. Larger groups are encouraged to break into smaller groups or &quot;pods.&quot;</td>
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<td>Modify games and activities to limit physical contact and allow for social distancing.</td>
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<td>At this time, outdoor spaces where social distancing can be maintained are strongly recommended for meetings/events as weather permits.</td>
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<td>Indoor spaces should allow for social distancing and be reserved when no other groups are present to limit exposure.</td>
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<td>Ensure handwashing and/or sanitizing supplies are available and used often.</td>
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<td>Disinfect high-touch surfaces often and minimize the use of shared materials.</td>
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<td>Prepackaged or individual meals and snacks are encouraged.</td>
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School Programs Event and Meeting Guidance  
Effective August 20, 2021

| Screenings—Self evaluation | Parents/guardians must determine the risks of allowing their child to attend meetings/events and determine if their child will resume in-person participation.  
Members and parents/guardians should ensure that any participant does not have a temperature over 100.4° or experienced three or more symptoms of COVID-19 in the last 10 days. Members should also not have been in contact with anyone with symptoms or a diagnosis of COVID-19 in the last ten days.  
It is recommended that all chapters have a First Aid kit available during events and meetings with a thermometer in their kit. If a member exhibits COVID-19 symptoms check their temperature immediately; if a fever is exhibited, allow ten minutes after the initial temperature reading and then retake temperature to see if it is sustained.  
If a participant exhibits COVID-19 symptoms or has a sustained fever of over 100.4° F, they will need to be isolated until they can be taken home.  
Encourage chapter members to utilize a symptom checker self-assessment tool prior to attending any in-person Best Buddies activity: CDC Facilities COVID-19 Screening. |
| Transportation | Encourage parents/guardians to drop off members individually, but when carpooling is necessary, space out members to avoid crowding and wear masks.  
Advisors and/or chapter leaders should meet the chapter members at a designated drop off location where parents can simply drive up and drop-off/pick-up. This ensures that larger groups are not gathering to wait for members. |

**Reporting and Communicating a Positive COVID-19 Test**

In the event of a COVID-19 positive test result, do not contact the parents or chapter members. Promptly contact your Best Buddies office in this situation. A staff member, will be responsible for:

- Confirming and tracing the positive tester (in conjunction with school advisors, if necessary).  
- Contacting the parents of anyone who may have been exposed (or other volunteers). In the case that a school representative wants to handle contacting parents, staff should ensure this is completed and documented on the Best Buddies incident report form.  
- Notifying a facility or school representative where a chapter has met.

Communicate to volunteers that Best Buddies staff, or an authorized school representative, will notify parents and others about a positive test result and that the tester’s identity is confidential. Remember that member and volunteer health information is private and strictly confidential and should be only shared on a need-to-know basis with applicable Best Buddies staff members authorized school representatives. To report a positive COVID-19 case to Best Buddies, please contact your Best Buddies office.