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**COVID-19 Prevention  
in Braxton County Schools  
September 2021**



**BRAXTON COUNTY SCHOOLS**  
**2021-2022**  
**Daily Operating Schedule**



**Traditional Schedule: Pre-Pandemic Normal**

**5 Full Days Per Week**

**In-Person Instruction**

**No Early Dismissal**

**No Distance Learning**



**First Day for Students K-12: Thursday, August 19, 2021**

**Preschool Students: August 25<sup>th</sup> (half of students) and 26<sup>th</sup> (half of students)**

**All Preschool Students on August 30<sup>th</sup>**

## KEY MITIGATIONS FOR SCHOOLS (including extracurricular activities)

Whether in the classroom or participating in extracurricular activities, local administrators and leaders should follow the mitigations below relevant to the latest Governor's Executive Orders and CDC guidance. Additionally, they should work closely with their local health departments to develop the necessary measures for their schools to operate safely without interruption.

These practices are important to not only guard against COVID-19, but also the spread of other infections such as the flu, and the common cold.

***The most effective mitigation strategy is the vaccination for those eligible to receive it.***



**Cleaning and disinfecting**



**Hand hygiene and coughing/ sneezing etiquette**



**Evaluate large gatherings outside of classroom/core groups**



**Social distancing according to county board guidance**



**Face coverings at county board discretion**



**Contact tracing in collaboration with local health departments**

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## MITIGATION STRATEGIES



### Social Distancing

- ✚ Best practice to prevent transmission is to maintain at least three feet of distance.
- ✚ Maximize physical distance as much as possible when moving through the food service line and while eating.
- ✚ Core groups/classrooms will be spaced 6 feet apart while seated at in the cafeteria or multipurpose rooms for lunch and waiting on bus.



## Mask Protocols

- ✚ Indoor Facilities
    - Students and employees are required to wear masks at all times.
    - Students will remove masks in cafeteria once seated for breakfast and/or lunch.
  - ✚ Outdoors
    - Students and employees are not required to wear a mask when 3 feet of social distancing can be maintained.
  - ✚ Individuals with a specialized medical condition shall provide a physician's order including medical support documentation if not able to wear a mask.
  - ✚ Masking protocols will be evaluated under the guidance of the local health department at regular intervals.
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## Transportation

- ✚ Per CDC - all employees and students (Pre-K-12) riding a school bus are required to wear a face mask.
  - ✚ All buses will be disinfected and sanitized daily.
  - ✚ Bus notes will not be accepted for students to ride home with friends or after school activities. Consistent bus ridership is vital for seating chart/contact tracing effectiveness.
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## Large Gatherings Outside of Classrooms/Core Groups

- ✚ Evaluate activities of large groups of people or activities that do not allow adequate spacing.
  - ✚ Braxton County Schools will consult with the Braxton County Health Department regarding after-school or community events.
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## Cleaning and Disinfecting

- ✚ Audit necessary materials and supply chain for cleaning, sanitizing, disinfecting, and preventing spread of disease.
  - ✚ Assign duties and responsibilities regarding cleaning and disinfecting to ensure consistency.
  - ✚ Provide adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors (e.g., paper towels, tissues, soap, and hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol) for safe use by staff and older children.
  - ✚ Ensure proper cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch surfaces on a regular basis by establishing a schedule for routine environmental cleaning and disinfecting.
  - ✚ Disinfect all shared objects on a regular basis.
  - ✚ Ensure safe and correct use and storage of cleaning and disinfecting products.
  - ✚ Limit sharing of personal items and classroom materials or provide adequate supplies for individual student use.
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## Hand Hygiene and Coughing/Sneezing Etiquette

Teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and/or the safe use of hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

- ✚ Before
    - Eating or preparing food
    - Touching your face
  - ✚ After
    - Using the restroom
    - Coughing, sneezing, or blowing nose
    - Changing a diaper
    - Caring for someone sick
    - Touching animals
  - ✚ Encourage staff and students to cough and sneeze into their elbows, or to cover with a tissue.
  - ✚ Ensure that used tissues are thrown in the trash and hands are washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or cleaned with hand sanitizer.
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## Visitors

- ✚ Braxton County Schools will limit nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations especially when there is moderate-to-high COVID-19 community transmission.



## Contact Tracing (Universal Masking)

- ✚ Students who have been vaccinated do NOT have to quarantine unless they are exhibiting symptoms.
- ✚ Quarantining students and staff who have been exposed to a person with COVID-19 is NOT required if masks are worn at the point of exposure (including extracurricular activities).
- ✚ BCS will limit potential exposures while students are eating lunch by cohorting students who eat together or by eating in classrooms. This will reduce the risk of exposure to COVID-19.
- ✚ Students who are unvaccinated will need to quarantine if within six feet of a confirmed case in high-risk areas such as cafeterias, extracurricular settings where mask are not worn.
- ✚ Braxton County Schools has hired LPNs to assist the school nursing staff with contact tracing. All contact tracing is under the direction of the Braxton County Health Department.

## QUARANTINE GUIDANCE

Students who have been vaccinated do NOT have to quarantine.



<p><b>Option 1</b> Quarantine period can end after Day 10 without testing and if no symptoms have been identified during daily self-monitoring.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Day 0*-10 quarantine for close contacts can end if no symptoms develop during daily self-monitoring without testing.</li> <li>✚ If an individual develops symptoms within the quarantine period, immediately isolate and contact the local health department to report change in clinical status.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Option 2</b> Quarantine period can end after Day 7 if someone tests negative (PCR or antigen test) and if no symptoms have been identified during daily self-monitoring. Post-quarantine transmission risk: 5%-12</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Day 0*-7 quarantine for close contact can end if COVID-19 test is negative and if no symptoms develop during daily self-monitoring.</li> <li>✚ Specimen may be collected and tested within 48 hours before the time of planned quarantine discontinuation.</li> <li>✚ Self-monitoring and mask wearing should be continuous.</li> <li>✚ If an individual develops symptoms within the quarantine period, immediately isolate and contact public health to report change in clinical status.</li> </ul>

*\*Duration of quarantine applies from the last date of exposure*

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## VACCINATION INFORMATION

Health officials are administering the Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson vaccines in West Virginia to help protect against COVID-19. Vaccines are important to:

» Protect population against virus spread and additional variants; » Reduce deaths and hospitalizations; and » Maintain critical services and acute care.

Designated as a high priority by Governor Jim Justice, school employees received the vaccine ahead of most of the general population to assist in the return of in-person instruction. This led to West Virginia being among the first states to consider educators and school personnel among essential employees.

Both Moderna and Pfizer require two rounds of vaccinations while the Johnson & Johnson is a single dose.

### Vaccine Second Dose Administration:



It is not possible to get COVID-19 from the vaccine because it does not contain a live virus. Instead, it causes the body to produce antibodies against the virus. Upon receiving the second dose, immunity usually occurs after 10 to 14 days. It is possible for an individual to be infected until full immunity occurs. Outbreak cases have occurred among those fully vaccinated, however, with mostly mild symptoms.

## #IGOTVAXXEDWV CAMPAIGN AND COMPETITION



In response to the declining rate of individuals receiving vaccinations statewide, the West Virginia Department of Education launched its #IGotVaxxedWV campaign to encourage students 12 and older to get their COVID-19 vaccine. The campaign includes a series of videos and social media graphics with testimonials from school personnel and students who share their reasons for getting vaccinated. The campaign will continue through the 2021-2022 school year to educate students about the benefits of getting vaccinated to ensure an uninterrupted school year.

The WVDE in collaboration with the Governor's Office and the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) has launched the #IGotVaxxedWV Competition to reward schools that have supported vaccinations among students and staff. The competition will run through the first week of October 2021 and will now award \$50,000 to four elementary schools, four middle schools and four high schools with the highest percentage of eligible staff and students vaccinated. The competition includes both public and private schools. Funds can be used for student-based activities and events that may have been missed or scaled back over the past two years. Once submissions are complete, data will be verified by DHHR's Division of Immunization Services. For contest information, visit [wvde.us/igotvaxxed](http://wvde.us/igotvaxxed).