

Battle Creek Public Schools

Return to Learn Plan

2021-2022 School Year

Intent: It is the intent of Battle Creek Public Schools to start the 2021-2022 school year as normal as possible in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. If we have learned nothing else as a result of the pandemic, it is that we must be prepared for the unexpected and unknown. We must be flexible and adaptable to whatever means necessary to keep our students and staff safe and in school. The following plan outlines the general guidelines and procedures BCPS will follow regarding COVID-19.

Purpose: The purpose of this plan is to provide guidance to students, staff, and parents regarding the potential COVID-19 impacts on Battle Creek Public Schools during the 2021-2022 school year. As we have learned from last year, keeping kids safely in school is the top priority. This plan also meets one of the requirements for receiving American Rescue Plan Act ESSER III funds.

Public Feedback: Anyone wishing to provide feedback or comments regarding BCPS's Return to Learn Plan can utilize the google form which is linked to the website.

This plan was created in June 2021 per requirements of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) – ESSER III grant application process. The basis for this plan comes from the Battle Creek Public Schools' 2020 reopening plan. The 2020 plan allowed our district to successfully return to in-person, face to face learning for the entire 2020-2021 school year. The creation of this plan is based on guidance from the Center For Disease Control (CDC) as well as input guidance from Elkhorn Logan Valley Public Health Department (ELVPHD) and the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE). To meet the requirements of the ARP-ESSER III grant, our return to school plan needs to address 10 areas:

- i. Universal and correct wearing of masks
- ii. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)
- iii. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
- iv. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

- v. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaborations with state, local territorial, or Tribal health departments
- vi. Diagnostic and screening testing
- vii. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities
- viii. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies
- ix. Coordination with State and local health officials. Including the needs for support and technical assistance to implement strategies consistent to the greatest extent practicable, with relevant CDC guidance.
- x. Ensure continuity of services , including by not limited to services to address students' academic needs and students' and staff social emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services.

Universal and correct wearing of masks

Protocols:

1. Face masks are encouraged for staff and students that have not been vaccinated.
2. Special face masks and bell covers will be available for band. They will be optional unless circumstances dictate a change.
3. Face masks may be required at certain times if case numbers and infection rates rise and it is deemed necessary by the administration to mitigate the possibility of virus transmission at school.

Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing

Protocols:

1. Social distancing will be practiced to the greatest extent possible and practicable. Efforts will be made to maintain a distance of 3 feet. If case numbers rise, 6 feet may be required.
2. If necessary, nonessential furniture will be removed to aid in maintaining social distance.

3. Student desks will face the same direction.
4. Physical barriers (plexi-glass dividers) may be used.

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Protocols:

1. Proper handwashing technique will be taught and encouraged.
2. Proper cough and sneeze etiquette will be taught and encouraged.
3. Hand sanitizer will be available.

Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities

Protocols:

1. High touch areas will be cleaned and sanitized frequently and routinely with disinfecting wipes and/or an electrostatic sprayer.
2. Shared supplies and equipment will be sanitized between uses.
3. HVAC filters will be changed regularly.

Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine

Protocols:

1. ELVPHD has discontinued contact tracing, isolation and quarantine due to low transmission levels and infection rates. If reinstated, BATTLE CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOLS will cooperate with all procedures and protocols.
2. Battle Creek Public Schools will follow its normal health screening procedures:
 - a. Students and staff must stay home if they are sick.
 - b. Students and staff must be fever free for 24 hours (without medication) before returning to school.
 - c. A fever is a temperature of 100.4 or above.

- d. Students will continue to be excused for COVID related absences.

Diagnostic and screening testing

Protocols:

1. Students and staff with a fever (temperature of 100.4 or above) will be sent home.
2. Students and staff that exhibit signs and symptoms of COVID will be encouraged to stay home and get tested.
3. If COVID levels rise, BCPS will consult with ELVPHD on changes to the screening and testing protocols.

Efforts to provide vaccinations at school

Protocols:

1. BCPS will consult with ELVPHD to provide the opportunity for on-site vaccinations for all staff.
2. BCPS will provide information to parents and students regarding vaccination availability within the community and surrounding area.

Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety

Protocols:

1. All IEPs and 504 plans will be followed. These plans may include specific health and safety procedures related to COVID.

Coordination with State and local health officials

Protocols:

1. BCPS will continue to communicate and collaborate with local and state health officials on a regular basis to monitor new case numbers and transmission levels.

2. BCPS will keep current with new guidance and update its return to school plan when deemed necessary.
3. This plan will be reviewed and potentially revised at least once every 6 months.

Ensuring continuity of services

Protocols:

1. The goal is to provide in-person learning for all students for the entire 2021-22 school year.
2. In-person learning will assist BCPS in addressing students' academic, social/emotional, and mental health needs via the many programs offered at school.
3. If the need arises for students to miss an extended period of time due to COVID related absences, BCPS will ensure each student stays up to date with learning. This can be done by providing a device to allow for communication with teachers and receive instruction via zoom, or other digital means.

RISK LEVELS AND GUIDELINES (From 2020-21 Reopening Plan)

****Risk levels will be determined by the superintendent in coordination with Elkhorn Logan Valley Public Health Department, the school nurse, & local health professionals.**

LOW RISK	OPEN - Normal Operations Activities - Follow NSAA Guidance, may have limited capacities MASKS - Optional	In person teaching and learning. Identified close contacts will symptom check 2 times daily and will be required to wear masks. Quarantined students will have remote access to classroom instruction.
<u>Green - Low Risk of COVID-19 Spread</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All students in grades PreK-12 will attend school in person • Masks are optional. • Social distancing is encouraged. 		

The following procedures will be in place at both BCPS buildings:

AM & PM Bus Routes and School Transportation(Activities):

- Students will have assigned seating on AM & PM Bus Routes
- School Vehicles can be utilized for activities travel with no restrictions(masks can be worn if students/staff choose to wear)

Before School:

- All students will use hand sanitizer upon entering the classroom.
- Assigned areas in commons/cafeteria before classes begin
- Breakfast will be grab and go and can be eaten in the cafeteria.

During the School Day:

- Emphasis on personal space. Social distancing will be maintained as much as possible.
- Seating will be stationary, if possible.
- Hand washing/sanitizing will be encouraged and available. Especially mid morning before recess/lunch and after.
- Student desks/tables/work areas will be disinfected/wiped down a minimum of 2 times per day.
- Parents and/or visitors are allowed - masks may be worn but not required.
- Lunch will be eaten in the cafeteria/commons area - social distancing will be encouraged.

After School:

- Students will use sanitizer prior to exiting the building or attending activities

MODERATE RISK

OPEN -Normal Operations
Activities - Follow NSAA guidance, may have limited capacities
MASKS- Encouraged

In person teaching and learning.
 Identified close contacts will symptom check 2 times daily and will be required to wear masks.
 Quarantined students will have remote access to classroom instruction.

Yellow - Moderate Risk of COVID-19 Spread

- All students in grades PreK-12 will attend school in person
- Masks highly recommended and should be worn by students and staff especially for small group instruction(students & staff in close proximity for a period of time that is greater than 15 minutes)

The following procedures will be in place at both BCPS buildings:

AM & PM Bus Routes and School Transportation(Activities):

- Students will have assigned seating on AM & PM Bus Routes. Masks will be encouraged.

- School Vehicles can be utilized for activities travel. Masks highly recommended.

Before School:

- All students will use hand sanitizer upon entering the classroom.
- Assigned areas in commons/cafeteria before classes begin
- Breakfast will be grab and go and can be eaten in the cafeteria.

During the School Day:

- Emphasis on personal space. Social distancing will be maintained as much as possible. Masks will be encouraged for small group instruction.
- Seating will be stationary, if possible.
- Hand washing/sanitizing will occur a minimum of 4 times per day. Especially mid morning before recess/lunch and after.
- Student desks/tables/work areas will be disinfected/wiped down a minimum of 2 times per day.
- Parents and/or visitors are allowed, but will be screened upon arrival(temperature). Parents and/or visitors are encouraged to wear masks.
- Lunch will be eaten in the cafeteria/commons area. Assigned seating to maintain as much social distance as possible.

After School:

- Students will use sanitizer prior to exiting the building or attending activities

HIGH RISK

OPEN - Normal Operations
Activities - Follow NSAA guidance, may have limited capacities
MASKS - Required when not able to social distance

In person teaching and learning
 Identified close contacts will symptom check 2 times daily and will be required to wear masks.
 Quarantined students will have remote access to classroom instruction.

Orange - High Risk of COVID-19 Spread

- In person learning
- Masks/face shields will be required when social distance can not be maintained.
- Students and staff may be temperature checked each day.

The following procedures will be in place at both BCPS buildings:

AM & PM Bus Routes and School Transportation(Activities):

- Students will have assigned seating on AM & PM Bus Routes. Masks will be required.
- School Vehicles can be utilized for activities travel. Masks will be required.

Before School:

- All students will use hand sanitizer upon entering the classroom.
- Students will report directly to assigned classrooms upon entering.
- Breakfast will be grab and go and can be eaten in the classroom.

During the School Day:

- Emphasis on personal space. Social distancing will be maintained as much as possible.
- Seating will be stationary, if possible.
- Masks will be required when not able to maintain social distance.
- Hand washing/sanitizing will occur a minimum of 4 times per day. Especially mid morning before recess/lunch and after.
- Student desks/tables/work areas will be disinfected/wiped down a minimum of 2 times per day.
- Parents and/or visitors are not allowed to visit during the school day.
- Lunch may be eaten in the classrooms. Lunches may be delivered to classrooms or more space will be created during lunch times to spread students out.

After School:

- Students will use sanitizer prior to exiting the building or attending activities

SEVERE RISK

School's OPEN - Normal Operations
Activities - Follow NSAA Guidance, may have limited capacities
MASKS - Required

Schools may have to be closed.
Remote/E-learning will take place if closed.
Activities will be postponed/cancelled if closed.

In person learning may continue(masks required)
Identified close contacts will symptom check 2 times daily and will be required to wear masks.
Quarantined students will have remote access to classroom instruction.

RED - Severe Risk of COVID-19 Spread

- Certain grade levels PK-12 may be excluded from attending in person.
- Elementary and/or High School buildings may be temporarily closed. If closed, students will participate in remote learning from home.
- Assignments will be graded.
- Competitions/activities with other schools/communities will be postponed/cancelled if closed.
- Outside visitors will not be permitted in the buildings when school is open.
- Masks are required when school is open.
- Additional Orange guidelines will be followed if school remains open.

