

Bedford Area School District ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan

July 20, 2021

The Bedford Area School District recognizes the COVID pandemic is a very fluid situation with numerous variables that will undoubtedly change between July 20, 2021 and the beginning of school. Given the evolving nature of this situation, the district has a continuum of plans to safely reopen with all students in full attendance. The district will continue to monitor the federal, state and local responses closer to the beginning of school and adjust its plan as necessary with the primary goal of student, staff and community safety.

In school law, the Bedford Area School District must abide by the laws, including executive orders of our state and federal government. Therefore, any plan we undertake during the school year must adhere to those laws. We state this here to clearly explain to our community, we do not have the power to unilaterally make masks voluntary or disregard other social distancing measures **if** they are required by executive order or law now or at some time in the future.

CDC Guidelines

In order to ensure the safety and security of our students and to provide the best opportunity to keep them in school the District will follow current CDC Guidelines to the extent practical. Social distancing guidelines and other mitigation layers will be maintained as possible within the constructs of a full reopening of classrooms and activities.

Continuity of Services

The Bedford Area School District intends to continue all services for all students including academic, athletic, recreational, health, and nutritional services.

Full face-to-face instruction with a full range of academic options will be maintained and encouraged. Athletics will be offered as always and all students will be encouraged to be involved in some activity beyond the classroom. Students will be monitored closely for health and emotional effects of the current situation. Services such as, Laurel Life, SAP, school counselors, and referrals to special services will be available and heavily supported. The District is also proud of our cross-curricular SEL program that is designed to support and help all students grow.

We will provide a full school nutrition program, taking advantage of appropriate available programs to be sure all students have affordable access to lunch and breakfast at school. The District also has a robust weekend backpack program providing additional nutritional options to students in need.

Even in the unlikely event of a change in delivery options, the above referenced services will be continued.

Maintaining the Health and Safety of Students, Educators, and Support Staff

The District will encourage but not mandate the wearing of masks unless otherwise required by law. CDC guidelines for social distancing will be followed by process planning and physical space coordination as closely as practical in full reopening.

We have always promoted handwashing and respiratory etiquette (Cough into your sleeve...) and will continue to be deliberate in health education. Facilities will be cleaned and disinfected daily and deep cleaning will be completed at every opportunity.

The District will continue to work with state and local health officials to assist with contact tracing and try to ensure that appropriate students stay home as necessary, as we should always do.

The District is also undergoing a variety of HVAC projects targeting the air quality and filtering abilities in our buildings to further protect students now and in the future. As always we will work with children with disabilities to provide a safe and secure environment through the IEP process and our general policies.

The District will continue to work and coordinate with local community health providers, as always, to support efforts such as testing and vaccination as appropriate and practical.

Summary

The Bedford Area School District intends to return to full time face-to-face education. Stakeholders will review and update this plan on a regular basis. We will continue to focus on every strategy to keep students safe, healthy, and fully engaged in the educational process.