

Blytheville School District

Ready for Learning Plan - Continuity of Services 2022-2023

Revised 4/11/2023

Overview of Plan

Blytheville School District is committed to providing the safest learning environment in the face of the continuing Covid-19 pandemic. The guidelines below outline our strategy for the 2022-23 school year. These guidelines are based on current conditions and the information available. All guidelines are subject to change at any time as the public health environment evolves.

In-Person Classes

We know our students learn best when they are physically present in a classroom, with a dedicated, talented teacher leading the effort. Virtual options are made available for those students with extenuating circumstances as determined by the superintendent and team.

Safety

Blytheville Public Schools will continue practicing preventative measures such as optional masking, handwashing, staying home when, and continued cleaning and disinfection of buildings. Touchless water fountains, sinks and toilets have been installed on all campuses.

Vaccinations

Students who are ages 5 and older are now eligible to receive the Pfizer vaccination. Most local pharmacies have vaccines readily available. Fully-vaccinated students or staff do not need to quarantine if deemed close contacts unless they have/develop symptoms.

Masks/Face Coverings

Although masks or other face coverings can no longer be mandated in Arkansas public schools, as prohibited by Act 1002 of 2021, the CDC recommends the wearing of masks in school settings in certain circumstances - see CDC guidance for details.

Alternate Method of Instruction (AMI)

In the event that the Blytheville School District or an individual school must modify on-site instruction and pivot to remote learning, the district or school will follow the Blytheville Public Schools approved Alternate Method of Instruction (AMI) plan. If positive cases have evolved to the point that an AMI day is necessary, the superintendent shall take the following steps:

- Report the AMI day in the LEA Insights portal. The AMI day for the school or district will also be reported in eSchool; and,
- Participate in consultations with the DESE and ADH.

Attendance Policy

For onsite days, students will be marked absent or present in accordance with district policy.

For remote learning days, parents are responsible for making sure students engage with the assigned work. Students will be marked absent for the days that they are not actively engaged in the lesson as evidenced in the learning management system.

If students are unable to engage with the assigned work on remote learning days, documentation must be provided to the school for the absence to be excused. Absences on remote learning days will be coded per the excused absences listed in district policy.

Transportation

While on buses, windows will be open or cracked if it does not pose a safety risk. We encourage cracked windows for those buses that do not have a fresh air HVAC system. Keeping windows open, even a few inches, improves air circulation. ADH and ADE also recommend maintaining as much physical distance as possible between riders on the bus. In addition, keeping siblings/household members seated together is also a helpful strategy. Blytheville's transportation staff will be working with drivers, office staff, and building administrators to help encourage social distancing.

- All buses will be cleaned and sanitized daily.

Due to COVID-19, visitors to school buildings will be limited to only those with essential school business, as determined by the building principal.

All visitors to any campus should check in at the school office upon arrival.

Parents - Eating Lunch With Children

At this time, guests will be allowed to eat lunch with students in school buildings for special events only.

Parents - Meeting With Teachers, including Special Conferences (Sped, 504, ESL)

Parents can schedule meetings with teachers - face to face or virtual.

Hand Washing/Cleaning

Blytheville Public Schools care about the safety of our faculty, staff, students, and visitors. Schools will continue to provide hand sanitizer and/or handwashing stations with soap and water at entrances. They will provide hand sanitizer and/or handwashing stations with soap and water in every classroom. Students, teachers, staff, and campus visitors should be encouraged to sanitize and/or wash hands frequently.

Ventilation/Air Circulation

All schools are equipped to provide fresh air to occupied spaces.

Nursing Preparations

The safety of the students and staff is a priority.

- Nursing stations will be disinfected regularly
- Non-touch infrared thermometers will be available

Parent information

- If a student is not feeling well, he/she should stay home
- Students need to be fever-free for 24 hours without medication before returning to school
- If a student has been exposed to someone who is positive for COVID and the student has not been vaccinated, parent should contact the school nurse and remain home for further instructions

Custodial Preparations

Blytheville Public Schools will follow these strategies in the custodial department:

- Breakfast & Lunch - Day personnel will be staggered to help with opening, clean-up from breakfast and lunch.
- Hand sanitizer - Sanitizer is available in all classrooms.
- Athletics - There are designated custodians for athletic departments and areas. We will clean and sanitize equipment between play and usage. In addition, coaches have been trained on the sanitation process to complete between cleaning times when custodians are not available.
- School Facilities will continue to be fogged as needed.

Food Service and School Meals

Blytheville is implementing the following strategies in the food services department

- Staff will continue to practice proper handwashing procedures and use single-use gloves while preparing and serving food.
- Employees with a fever are required to stay home from work.
- Kitchens, serving areas, and tables are sanitized at the end of the day and between each meal period.

Social-Emotional Learning (SEL)

1. District counselors and social workers will be available to support students, families, and teachers.
2. Character Strong SEL curriculum is used at the K-5 level for layered support and lessons around SEL.
3. Partnership with Arisa Health Counseling agency is available for crisis screening.

School-Related Activities

Blytheville Public Schools is mindful of activities associated with regular school operations that could create a higher risk for COVID-19 transmission. The district will review ADH guidance for specific activities and event protocols.

Protocol for Positive COVID Cases

Blytheville Public Schools will follow the most current recommendations by ADH and CDC regarding the following: quarantine of those exposed to someone with COVID-19 and isolation of those with COVID-19.