



113 N. COURT ST. / P.O. BOX 2027 / BUENA VISTA, CO 81211

BV SCHOOLS COVID Update - July 6, 2020

Beginning June 1-August 31, 2020, Superintendent Lisa Yates will provide a weekly update each Monday to families regarding the re-opening of schools in the fall. The written and/or video updates will be delivered via email and/or text and posted on the district website. As well, families can join a virtual meeting by Zoom each Monday at 5:00-5:45 pm to exchange information and ask questions. The intent is to have on-going and up-to-date communication with families as we look ahead to learning for our students in the fall.

NEW Information

- Overview of “Re-Opening” Schools. The BV School District is sharing an overview of our plan to return to in-person learning for the 2020-21 school year. The [Re-Opening School Letter](#) and [Academic Learning Plan](#) are linked. The letter and plan are also pasted at the bottom of this update, though viewing is best through the links. The Letter and Plan can also be found on the district website. On July 13, videos from each school will be released with more details of the Academic Learning Plan.

NEW Information

- July weekly updates continue on Monday evenings, 5:00-5:45 pm via Zoom. As we plan together as a BV Schools Family, Question and Answer time will continue. The Zoom information is below.

Information below is from 6/22/2020 as a reference and also contains login information for the upcoming virtual meeting each Monday at 5:00-5:45 pm.

- On going planning with district Re-Opening Advisory and Leadership team. Details for re-opening school continue. Teachers and staff from food service, transportation, business, HR, custodial, and principals, are working together each week to outline a plan to mitigate risk as we bring students and staff back into the buildings as well as preparing to respond should our county experience increased impacts from COVID in the fall. The district will share the draft plan with families the week of July 6. “Every Student, Every Day” continues to drive our planning in all phases. Guidance from the state is slowly being released and is aligning well with district plans.
- To date, a fall sports season is still scheduled. We are planning with the rest of Colorado school districts on accommodating for sports this year. There will be considerations for travel and spectators. Decisions will be made later in the summer as the most current data is available.

- **Monday Weekly Zoom Meeting: Each Monday, 5:00-5:45 pm**, the district will host a virtual meeting using ZOOM to keep families up-to-date on re-opening in the fall. The meeting allows time for exchange of information and questions related to the written update. Please link here to join or you can also access from the BV Schools Website.

Join Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88194973396?pwd=OXl3MTdoeElCSXFoWDRBOUkvWHFFdz09>

Meeting ID: 881 9497 3396

Password: 5it5xX

By phone: +1 253 215 8782

July 6, 2020

Guided by our on-going commitment to “Every Student, Every Day,” the Buena Vista School District is positioned to re-open our schools to in-person learning for the 2020-21 school year. Since we transitioned to remote learning in March, we have worked to balance health precautions with the education and support needs of our students. As a result of collaboration throughout this time with Chaffee County Public Health, Colorado Department of Education, and our local medical providers, and because of the dedicated and thoughtful work of our district team, we are excited to welcome our students back to our schools and committed to doing so safely.

Medical and Public Health Advisors as part of a Colorado Health Institute document (June 25, 2020) state, “Colorado children need to get back to school.... With almost 9 million cases of COVID-19 in the worldwide pandemic thus far, several issues relevant to school re-opening are beginning to emerge. First, children appear to have lower rates of infection than do older persons and, when infection does occur, are much less likely to have serious complications than adults. Second, while children (including those not showing symptoms) can transmit COVID-19, emerging evidence indicates that children are not primary drivers of transmission and that school reopening is likely to have minimal impact on transmission between students or between students and staff.” The American Academy of Pediatrics further reports in a School Re-entry document (June 25, 2020), “Schools are fundamental to child and adolescent development and well-being... and strongly advocates that all policy considerations for the coming school year should start with a goal of having students physically present in school.” The Colorado Chapter of this organization argues that “the harms of school closures, including isolation and loss of community, will lead to adverse risks that can and should be mitigated by thoughtful prevention measures to allow a return to school.”

BV Schools will implement these thoughtful prevention measures. To do so, there will be new and different practices in place; some inconvenient, but allow our students to return. In coming weeks, the district and each building principal will share details of new protocols in place. In addition to these preventative measures, the district has also prepared an [Academic Learning Plan](#) that is flexible to respond to changing health conditions in Chaffee County. This tiered response plan allows families, staff, and students to engage in high levels of teaching and learning throughout the coming school year. As a reminder, spring health conditions required an emergency response. In contrast, this school year’s process of teaching and learning will be based on high levels of engagement, competency, and connection. While we will need to remain flexible during disrupted times, we are ready to do so. It will take students, families, and staff working together with grace and commitment for us to be successful. In BV, we do these hard things together!

Andrea Carlstrom, Chaffee County Public Health Director, who is working in close collaboration with our district, provides the following message:

We should be proud of our schools for taking a proactive, inclusive approach to reopening in the most thoughtful and cautious manner. For weeks now, we have been calculating conditions and metrics that will help guide the schools in planning for several different scenarios based on the COVID-19 landscape at the time. Together, we intend on continuously assessing the situation to determine if schools should scale back to mitigate the spread of the virus. Because this is a very dynamic and evolving event, the schools, in partnership with the public health and medical community, will continue to strengthen plans and prepare for a successful school year. We all must be flexible and nimble in the upcoming days, recognizing that our entire community is impacted by school schedule changes. It is important that we all navigate the uncertain days ahead with patience, understanding, and support of our schools.

An overview of the Tiered [Academic Learning Plan](#), with the goal of “Every Student, Every Day” is linked and provided below. We understand by communicating this plan it will likely generate more questions than assurances. To that end, our scheduled weekly meetings (5:00-5:45 pm via Zoom) and written updates each Monday are in place to provide two-way communication with our families. We will also be providing video updates from the district and building leaders on July 13 with additional details of the plans. Our current

health environment is dynamic and as a result, our planning must be rooted in flexibility. The Tiered Academic Learning Plan intends to provide families, staff, and students with a framework for the 2020-21 school year. **It is designed, with the support of a County Response Team who will assess situations with us, to provide in person instruction everyday except in the most extreme health conditions regionally.**

Join us each Monday evening, 5:00-5:45 pm on Zoom to learn more. All updates, videos, and planning documents are also on the district website at <https://bvschools.org>.

It is with immense appreciation to our County leaders, our local medical providers, and district staff for their on-going contributions to creating a pathway to a careful and thoughtful return to “every student, every day” learning in our schools.

Sincerely,
 Lisa Yates
 Superintendent, Buena Vista School District

Buena Vista School District Decision Tree for School Learning 2020-21			
Developed with consultation from Chaffee County Public Health, Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidance, and tools from Colorado Department of Education (CDE)			
No to Mild Spread		HOMEBOUND Services	
<i>Protect Our Neighbor and Safer at Home Low Trend Conditions</i>			
Conditions to Determine Tier	School Response See Detailed NO/MILD Spread School Plans Here	Conditions to Determine Tier	School Response See Detailed HOMEBOUND Plans Here
No school cases, stable increases in test positives in two week averages, local hospital capacity is stable, capacity to test and trace is adequate	School in Session	Medical Provider Note stating accommodations needed due to conditions requiring student to work from home	Online "Advisor" and teacher support with online program
Confirmed positive case in school	County Response Team to determine if class, school or district Remote Competency Learning at home for 1-3 days needed. *On site childcare and learning support may be available on these days		
30% or more absent in school for 3 days in a row	Remote Competency Learning at home for 1-3 days for cleaning and assessment. *On site		

	childcare and learning support may be available on these days
Student in HomeBound Learning (more than five days out for isolation or quarantine)	School in Session with HomeBound Service to individual students

Moderate Spread

Safer at Home to Stay at Home High Trend Conditions

Conditions to Determine Tier	School Response See Detailed Moderate School Plans Here
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County Response Team consisting of Public Health, Medical Staff, and District Leadership will determine when a shift to this level is needed based on multiple metrics. There will be a period of up to three weeks to make the shift to this level. Metrics include: Hospital treatment reaching capacity, increased transmission, County Health test and trace reaching capacity	<p>PK-5 All students in school with increased distancing and protective measures in place OR 50% students in school in morning; 50% in school in afternoon. Only core subjects at K-5. Some students able to stay all day and have interventions/childcare for second half of day.</p> <p>6-12 50% students in school in morning; 50% in school in afternoon. Students attend four classes per day. Establish mindset student in school all day, just half is at home. All students log in.</p>
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Substantial Spread

Stay at Home Emergency Conditions

Conditions to Determine Tier	School Response See Detailed Substantial Spread School Plans Here
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Executive Order	Fully Remote Competency Learning
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HOMEBOUND Services

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Conditions to Determine Tier	School Response See Detailed HOMEBOUND Plans Here
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Medical Provider Note stating accommodations needed due to conditions requiring student to work from home	Online "Advisor" and teacher support with online program
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