



BATESVILLE BLUEPRINT

In conjunction with the Governor's Office, the Indiana State Department of Health, and the Indiana Department of Education. The BCSC re-entry and mitigation plans will be approved by Ripley County Health Officer, Dr. David Welsh.

Together we empower all students to believe in better.

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Questions: Email batesville_schools@batesville.k12.in.us
or visit our COVID-19 website at <https://batesvilleinschools.com/covid-19/>

Version Dated: July 28, 2021; subject to change.

SUMMARY

BCSC will be constantly evaluating two key factors:

- 1) the school's ability to maintain a safe and healthy school environment, and
- 2) the prevalence of COVID-19 in our community.

We will be working closely with Ripley County Health Office, Dr. David Welsh, who will guide us if any adjustments need to be made during the school year.

This document will provide guidance to students, parents, and other community stakeholders regarding the specific re-entry plans of the Batesville Community School Corporation.

Revisions to this document may occur based on current data.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR BATESVILLE SCHOOLS

- ❑ We plan for the school year to begin, as scheduled, with in-person classroom instruction on the first day of school, August 9, 2021.
- ❑ We anticipate providing the standard 180 days of instruction during the 2021-2022 school year. If necessary, we will review and adjust the calendar. Such adjustments may consist of virtual and/or hybrid instruction and longer or shorter breaks. These decisions will be made based on the current community health status.
- ❑ We will review all policies and procedures to provide more flexibility and remove punitive measures for absences when there is determined illness, a localized outbreak, or exposure of a contagious disease.
- ❑ Using our preparedness plan, we will establish predetermined thresholds for mitigation strategies if there are cases in our schools and/or community spread.
- ❑ All buildings will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected prior to the first day of school.
- ❑ The superintendent will be provided with health reports as necessary to review with the Ripley County Health Officer and make determinations if further mitigation is warranted. Data tracked may include, but is not limited to:
 - Reasons for student and staff absences.
 - Positive cases of COVID-19 in the schools.
 - Data regarding COVID-19 spread in the community.
- ❑ Staff will be trained on non-interventive screening procedures to help identify symptoms which may need to be addressed.
- ❑ Student and staff daily schedules will be adjusted to provide adequate time for handwashing, sanitizing desks, and other good hygiene practices.
- ❑ The school clinic will develop procedures to minimize infections and will be aggressively cleaned daily.

- ❑ Relevant training will be provided to certified staff, non-certified staff, and substitute teachers to address a variety of COVID-19 related issues, such as identifying symptoms, remote learning methods, remediation, and addressing academic losses from the spring.
- ❑ Custodial staff will be trained on effective methods of cleaning and disinfecting work and play areas and the time schedules for cleaning.
- ❑ Our visitor policy will be restrictive at the beginning of the school year and may be adjusted to reduce the number of additional individuals in the school buildings, thereby reducing the number of people students and staff are exposed to.
- ❑ Our BCSC COVID-19 website will regularly provide updates for students, parents, and stakeholders. In addition, other methods of communication may be employed to ensure that stakeholders are aware of any noteworthy developments.



BATESVILLE

BLUEPRINT

HEALTH @ HOME

STOPPING THE SPREAD

It is essential for the school community to work together to prevent the introduction and spread of COVID-19 in the school environment and in the community while still providing a quality education program.

PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

Some people can be infected with COVID-19, but show no or few signs of illness even though they are contagious and can spread the disease to others. It is also unknown how contagious people are the day or two before they begin to exhibit illness symptoms.

BCSC families can help stop the spread of COVID-19 by stressing good hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette at home.

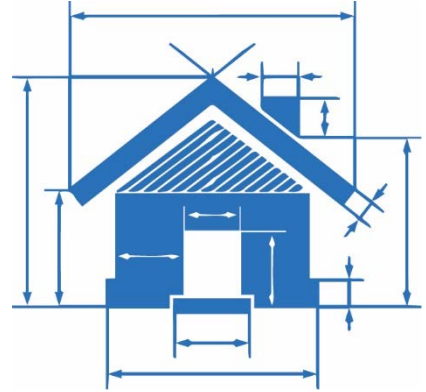
- Handwashing and avoiding touching your face, eyes, nose, or mouth are also important steps a person can take to avoid becoming sick or spreading germs to others. Families are encouraged to stress with their children thorough hand washing (for at least 20 seconds) and covering coughs or sneezes with the inside of the elbow if a facial tissue is not available.

State statute gives public school districts the authority to exclude students who have a contagious disease such as COVID-19 or are liable to transmit it after exposure (IC 20-34-3-9). In addition, the local health department has the authority to exclude students from school and may order students and others to isolate or quarantine (IC 16-41-9-1.6). As such, districts/schools are encouraged to work closely with their local health departments.

SYMPTOMS IMPACTING CONSIDERATION FOR EXCLUSION FROM SCHOOL

Parents, students, and employees should [self-screen](#) for the following COVID-19-related symptoms:

- A fever of 100.4° F or greater
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain/body aches
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell
- Congestion/runny nose
- Nausea
- Vomiting/diarrhea



Students and employees should not enter the school buildings if they test positive for COVID-19 or exhibit one or more of the symptoms of COVID-19 that is not otherwise explained. Students and employees exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 without being otherwise explained are prohibited from coming to school, and if they do come to school, they will be sent home immediately.

- If a parent tells the district/school that a student is ill, the district/school **may legally ask** the parent whether the student is exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19. It is the personal responsibility of every school family to comply with this policy and to report any symptoms to the school so any illness trends in the school populations can be appropriately addressed.

We will need to determine the vaccination status of a symptomatic individual when contact tracing.

RETURN TO SCHOOL AFTER EXCLUSION

Once a student or employee is excluded from the school environment, they may return if they satisfy the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Currently those guidelines are:

Untested

Persons who have not received a test proving or disproving the presence of COVID-19 but experience symptoms may return if the following three conditions are met:

- They have not had a fever for at least 24 hours (that is one full day of no fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers); and
- Other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved); and
- At least 10 calendar days have passed since your symptoms first appeared.

If you are in need of test site information, please reach out to your school office.

Tested Positive

Persons who experienced symptoms and have been tested for COVID-19 may return to school if the following conditions are met:

- The individual no longer has a fever (without the use medicine that reduces fevers); and
- Other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved).
- Have been isolated for 10 days and are symptom-free.

Tested Negative

Persons who have had symptoms of COVID-19 and received a negative test result may return to school when they have not had a fever for at least 24 hours (that is one full day of no fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers).

Someone in Household Tests Positive

Additionally, students and employees who have not been vaccinated should remain home if someone in the household has COVID-19 symptoms or is being tested for COVID-19. Even without symptoms, if an unvaccinated student or employee has recently had contact with a person with a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19, has someone in their home being tested for COVID-19, or has recently traveled from somewhere considered to be a “hot spot” by the CDC, BCSC may choose to exclude the student or employee from the school building and recommend that they self-quarantine for 14 calendar days. The amount of time out of school could be longer if the student then becomes symptomatic.

Quarantine and Isolation

- Quarantine must be used for unvaccinated students, teachers, and staff who have been exposed to someone with COVID-19. Close contacts, identified through contact tracing, should quarantine unless they are fully vaccinated, or have tested positive in the last 3 months, and do not have any symptoms.
 - Students, teachers, and staff who are in quarantine should stay home and follow the direction of the local public health department about when it is safe for them to be around others.

- Isolation should be used for individuals with COVID-19 illness to separate them from those who are not infected (even at home).
 - At home, anyone sick or infectious should separate from others, stay in a specific “sick room” and use a separate bathroom if available.
 - Stay home for at least 10 days following the onset of symptoms or a positive test result.

Individuals may return after 10 days as long as symptoms are improving, and they are fever free for at least 24 hours without use of fever reducing medications.

Guidance for Testing and Quarantine Options

- All fully vaccinated individuals who remain asymptomatic (even if a close contact) do not need to quarantine but should monitor for symptoms throughout the 14 days following their exposure.
- Close contacts who are unvaccinated **MUST** quarantine.

Attendance Rewards

Because it is so imperative to stop the spread of COVID-19 in our schools, any attendance award programs are discontinued. In no way do we want to encourage students who are ill to attend school.

SCHOOL BUILDING

HEALTH AT SCHOOL: PROTECTING OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Besides home-based prevention techniques, BCSC will be implementing protocols at school to protect our students and staff.



Tracking Community Spread

The superintendent will track community cases of COVID-19 and will communicate regularly with the Ripley County Health Office to determine if adjustments in the school schedule or policies need to be made to protect our school families.

Medical Inquiries

Federal law typically limits the type of medical inquiries that can be made, but given the nature of the pandemic more leeway has been given to districts/schools in this circumstance to make additional medical inquiries of staff and students than would otherwise be allowed.

- If a parent tells the district/school that a student is ill, the district/school may ask the parent whether the student is exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19.
- If an employee calls in sick or appears ill, the district/school can inquire as to whether the employee is experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms.
- If a person is obviously ill, the district/school may make additional inquiries and may exclude the person from school property.

Clinical Space for COVID-19 Symptomatic

Each school will have a space separate from the nurse's clinic where students or employees who are feeling ill are evaluated or wait for pick up. All waiting staff and students should wear a cloth face covering. Only essential staff assigned to the room may enter. A record will be kept of all persons who entered the room and the room will be disinfected several times throughout the day. Strict social distancing is required and staff must wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE). Students who are ill will be walked out of the building to their parents. If a student or staff member has a fever, for any reason, it will be district/school policy to require staff and students to be fever-free, without the use of fever-reducing medications, for 24 hours before returning to school. Additionally, all staff and students with fevers or symptoms associated with COVID-19 should be encouraged to seek medical attention for further evaluation and instructions. Students and staff may return before the 24-hour window has elapsed if they are approved to do so in writing by their healthcare provider.

Clinic Space for Non-COVID-19 Related

Students who do not display symptoms of COVID-19 can be seen and treated in the nurse's clinic. These would include students who are injured during the school day or students with special health care needs such as those with chronic health conditions (i.e. - diabetes or seizures), those requiring medical treatments (i.e. - suctioning, tube feeding, or inhalers), and those with individual health plans.

School Preparedness Plan

BCSC is required to have a preparedness plan to address challenging situations. With the COVID-19 pandemic, we will take aggressive mitigation steps when necessary. Our preparedness plan addresses these issues.

If Confirmed Case of COVID-19 on School Property

When there is confirmation that a person infected with COVID-19 was on school property, we will contact the local health department immediately. Unless extenuating circumstances exist, we will work with the local health department to assess factors such as the likelihood of exposure to employees and students in the building, the number of cases in the community, and other factors that will determine building closure.

It is the responsibility of the local health department to contact the person confirmed with COVID-19, inform direct contacts of their possible exposure, and give instructions to those involved with the confirmed case, including siblings and other household members regarding self-quarantine and exclusions. The individual who tested positive will not be identified in communications to the school community at large but may need to be selectively identified for contact tracing by the local health department.

If a closure is determined necessary, we will consult with the Ripley County Health Department to determine the status of school activities including extracurricular activities, co-curricular activities, and before and after-school programs.

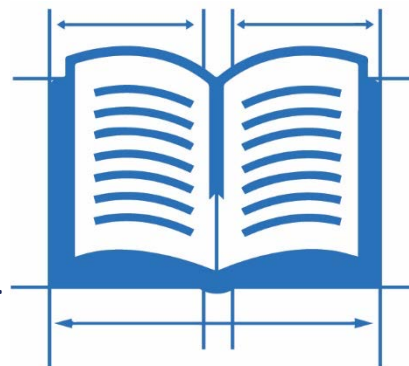
As soon as BCSC becomes aware of a student or employee who has been exposed to or has been diagnosed with COVID-19, the custodial staff will be informed, so that impacted building or bus areas, furnishings, and equipment are thoroughly disinfected. If possible, based upon student and staff presence, the custodial staff will wait 24 hours or as long as possible prior to disinfecting. However, if that is not possible or school is in session, the cleaning will occur immediately.

SCHOOL BUILDING

HEALTH AT SCHOOL: CLASSROOM/ LEARNING GUIDELINES

Safe at School

At BCSC, we will employ flexible policies and procedures to keep the school environment safe. Because the situation surrounding COVID-19 in communities is often rapidly changing, our policies and procedures may be adjusted.



Adjustments may include (list not exhaustive):

- Rearranging of classroom set-up to allow for greater space between students
- Changing the methods of instruction (virtual/hybrid/other)
- Reducing the number of people students interact with on a daily basis for overall risk reduction
- Implementing measures to decrease students congregating in one location
- Using assigned seating
- Placing social distancing reminders on the floor to remind students of appropriate space
- Reducing the amount of materials, supplies, and personal belongings going to and from school
- Reducing student exposure to high-touch, shared resources at school

Hygiene at School

BCSC will insist that employees and students wash their hands often and if soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol. Each school will incorporate key times into the school day when all persons should wash their hands.

Reinforcing healthy habits regarding handwashing is expected and guidance can be found [here](#). These key times should be done in a staggered class pattern to maintain social distancing between students and include:

- Start of the school day
- Before eating
- After using the restroom
- After blowing nose, coughing, or sneezing
- After using shared equipment

Water fountains may be utilized in schools.

The current CDC guidelines recommend the wearing of a mask in enclosed environments; however, parents and staff members are empowered to make whatever decision they feel most comfortable with regarding the wearing of masks. Masks will be optional for all staff and students on the BCSC campuses.

Cleaning at School

Custodial staff at all schools will receive training regarding how to clean and disinfect surfaces to prevent the spread of COVID-19. High-touch objects and surfaces will be cleaned more often and a more vigorous cleaning schedule will be adhered to.

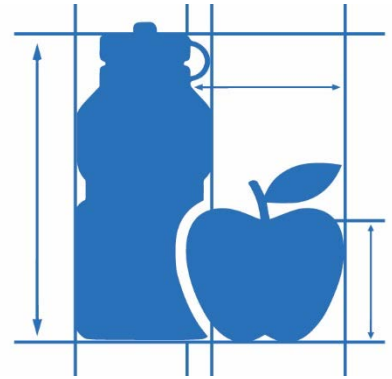
SCHOOL BUILDING

HEALTH AT SCHOOL: NUTRITION SAFETY

At BCSC, we will review our food service guidelines and adjust to keep our students as safe as we can during meals provided in our buildings.

Hand washing hygiene

Prior to any meal service, all students and staff will utilize hand washing or sanitizing to ensure safe eating practices.



Food service changes

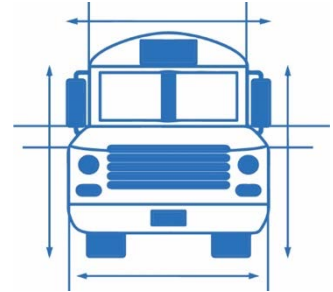
Options may include:

- Keeping lunch groups the same every day to minimize exposure
- Changing the ways meals are served
- Changing the way napkins and silverware are dispensed
- Providing PPE to all food service staff

Environmental Risk Reduction

- Employing social distancing methods to reduce transmission of germs
- Putting tape marks on the floor to encourage social distancing.
- Seating adjustments

TRANSPORTATION



The school bus is often the student's first contact with the school in the morning and the last point of contact in the afternoon. BCSC will pay particular attention to protocols used in student transportation to minimize the spread of COVID-19 and protect both students and employees.

All buses and transportation vehicles will have been thoroughly disinfected before the first day of school. In addition, we will be providing parents with the passenger expectations and the role students will play in minimizing infection prior to the start of the school year.

Bus Riding Information

- **Per CDC guidelines, masks are REQUIRED on all public transportation, including school buses.**
- All buses will have cleaning supplies available.
- Bus drivers will wear masks/face shields.
- All buses and transportation vehicles will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected vehicles before and after routes.

Training

Drivers and maintenance/cleaning staff will be properly trained regarding:

- Correct information about COVID-19, how it spreads, symptoms, and risk of exposure will be provided.
- Whom to contact if a student or the driver exhibits symptoms of COVID-19.
- The appropriate methods, tools, and products for cleaning buses, including opening doors and windows for effective circulation and to avoid extensive exposure to cleaning fumes.
- The hygiene expectations of staff.
- Using gloves when handling and disposing of trash.
- Avoiding touching surfaces often touched by passengers.

Other Transportation Considerations

- Students may be restricted to only riding their assigned bus route.
- Seats may be assigned.
- Bus stops and routes may be adjusted.

SCHOOL BUILDING

HEALTH AT SCHOOL: SPECIAL SITUATIONS

BCSC recognizes that there are certain situations that may require special attention. Areas of concern may be:

- Special education/IEP
- Classes with unique challenges, such as choir or band
- Students or staff at high-risk due to age or medical condition

If you have questions/concerns about any of these special situations or anything else not covered in this document, please see the contact information provided below.

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Questions?

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or visit our COVID-19 website at <https://batesvilleinschools.com/covid-19/>

This website will be updated frequently.