



Bellevue Public Schools

COVID-19 Continuance of School Plan for 2022-23

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Bellevue Public Schools (BPS) continues to participate in meetings/briefings with state and local health officials, metro-area school districts, statewide leaders, elected officials, and other officials to inform the district's continuance of school plan. The district is providing this updated plan for the 2022-23 school year.

BPS will continue to consult with state and local health departments to inform the district's approach/plan throughout the year. The District also **reserves the right to make adjustments to all parts of the plan**, if needed, to meet specific challenges faced by our schools to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

The District strongly encourages all students and staff members get vaccinated. Please see the information below about COVID-19 vaccines.

For information about COVID-19 vaccinations please ([click here](#)).

The district will continue to modify this plan and update our families as new information becomes available.

School District Return to School Approach 2022-23:

- The district will follow the BPS 2022-23 calendar. ([2022-23 BPS District Calendar](#))
- Bellevue Public Schools **WILL NOT** be providing students and families the At-Home learning option for the 2022-23 school year.
- A family with a student who has a severe medical condition may request homebound services by contacting their building principal. Principals will follow the BPS Homebound process to determine if an individual student is eligible for services.
- Schools will encourage physical distancing wherever possible. Schools may be directed to expand physical distancing in the event of COVID-19 outbreaks in classrooms or schools. Select classrooms or schools may be required to initiate additional COVID-19 mitigation strategies, including face masks or quarantine, if significant outbreaks occur, as directed by the Sarpy/Cass County Health Department.
- The district will implement recommended sanitation and safety measures as directed by the Sarpy/Cass County Health Department.
- Face coverings are optional for all students, staff, visitors, and spectators.
- Students and staff members are **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED** to receive a COVID-19 vaccine to protect themselves and others from the COVID-19 virus and variants.
- All school-related activities and assemblies will be permitted during the 2022-23 school year. The district will initiate COVID-19 mitigation strategies or capacity requirements when directed by local or state officials. The district will also follow any guidance or direction outlined by the Nebraska School Activities Association and other governing bodies.
- Normal visitation and building access are permitted for parents/guardians. The district may initiate limited visitation procedures to mitigate COVID-19 outbreaks at the classroom or school level if needed. Virtual meetings/parent conferences are allowed to reduce the number of visitors entering the building upon the mutual agreement of the school staff and parents/guardians.
- Designated entry and exit procedures may be established if needed to keep traffic flowing in a single direction and avoid large numbers of students at points of entry/exit.
- Parents are encouraged to monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 and keep students at home when appropriate. Parents should notify the school of any illness with COVID-19 related symptoms or diagnosis.
- All BPS facilities are open to the public. Outside groups using BPS facilities will follow any district implemented COVID-19 mitigation strategies in place at the time of use.
- School-related field trips, overnight travel, and out-of-state events will be allowed if approved by building/district administration.
- Building-level daily schedules may be modified if needed to minimize the number of person-to-person contacts each student has daily.

Bellevue Public Schools COVID-19 Health Protocols for 2022-23

Student/Employee Health Screening Protocols

- All parents should continue to screen their children daily before sending them to school following all handbook protocols under “Exclusion from School for Illness” as noted in the BPS Student and Family Handbook.
- Any student or staff member experiencing multiple COVID-19 symptoms should stay home and seek medical advice from your primary care physician to determine if COVID testing is needed. ([NALHD Isolation Guidance](#))
- The signs and symptoms of COVID-19 include:
 - Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit
 - Cough/Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Tiredness or fatigue
 - Loss of taste or smell
 - Chills or repeated shaking with chills
 - Muscle pain, Headache, Sore throat
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Diarrhea

Confirmed COVID-19 Case and Isolation Protocols

- If a student is diagnosed with COVID-19, it is recommended that they notify their school nurse as appropriate.
- BPS will collaborate with the Sarpy/Cass Health Department regarding any requirements for notification of positive cases with recommendations for isolation, exclusions, or close monitoring.
- Student/employee medical information must remain confidential. BPS will not share the name of any student/employee with a confirmed or suspected COVID-19 diagnosis

Nursing Protocols During School Hours

- BPS nurses/health paraprofessionals will implement strategies to minimize the spread of infectious diseases.
- BPS nurses/health paraprofessionals will be provided personal protective equipment (PPE) when working with students.
- Students reporting an illness to the nurse will have their temperature checked and triaged to determine the student’s individual needs.
- Parents of students with COVID-19 symptoms will be provided the district expectations and procedures when the student is picked up which would allow for the student to return to school.
- Designated staff in schools monitor absentee rates with a school-based surveillance program to track communicable disease outbreaks. Any absence rate over 10% is investigated.

Bellevue Public Schools COVID-19 Expectations for Schools for 2022-23

All schools will utilize the guidance below to develop school-level procedures unique to their buildings. BPS buildings will follow the guidelines during the 2022-23 school year.

School Entry and Exit

- Students are encouraged to arrive as close to start time as possible and maintain social distance whenever possible.
- Parents are encouraged to stay in their vehicles when dropping off/picking up students and not gather in groups outside the building as they wait for students to exit.
- Schools may continue to designate arrival/dismissal locations for students and staggered entry and exit procedures to avoid large numbers of students at points of entry and exit.
- Parents are encouraged to schedule appointments after school hours to minimize drop-offs and pickups during the school day.

Face Coverings

- Face coverings are optional for all students, staff, visitors, and spectators.
- Face coverings may become required in any school or in any classroom that experiences an outbreak of COVID-19 cases as a preventive strategy by the Sarpy/Cass County Health Department.
- All face coverings must follow dress code expectations and must not contain images or phrases that do not conform to the student code of conduct.
- Students choosing to wear masks will be provided opportunities for mask breaks as needed.

Hand Washing/Hand Sanitizing ([Click here for the CDC recommendation on hand sanitizing.](#))

- Students and staff are encouraged to sanitize their hands upon entering the building and as they enter and exit individual classrooms throughout the day.
- The district will continue to promote the use of hand sanitizer and provide hand sanitizer in all classrooms and throughout the building for student and staff use.
- Students may utilize their own hand sanitizers.
- Students will be encouraged to wash their hands frequently throughout the day.

Hallways, Lockers, Restrooms

- Each school may designate traffic flow patterns within the school to reduce face-to-face interactions in corridor spaces/stairways as students/staff move from class to class.
- Traffic flow patterns, if utilized, will be clearly indicated via appropriate signage.
- Student Locker use will be permitted. Schools may choose to stagger locker access to reduce traffic in locker areas.

Classrooms

- Elementary students may have assigned seats that they will use throughout the day in their homeroom class. Flexible grouping for instruction is allowed. Physical distancing should be encouraged wherever possible.
- Any common classroom spaces, equipment, or countertops that are shared should be sanitized as needed based upon use.
- Students will be encouraged to sanitize their hands when entering the classroom using district-provided hand sanitizer.
- Students should utilize their own individual classroom supplies as much as possible.

Breakfast/Lunch

- Students are encouraged to wash/sanitize hands upon entry to food service lines.
- Food service will modify service lines and procedures to ensure that students are not handling food until it is placed on their tray or grab-and-go container. Menus will be modified to increase the speed of the service and reduce time spent in line.
- All school meals will be served in the cafeteria.
- Schools may modify lunch schedules as needed to reduce the number of students in the cafeteria at any one time.

Health and Safety Signage and Practices

- Appropriate signage will be placed in various areas in the building to remind students of appropriate health/hygiene practices.
- Schools will promote the use of recommended best practices to keep students safe within the school and community.

Playground/Recess

- Elementary students are encouraged to sanitize hands when going out for recess and then again upon reentry to the building.

Student Transportation

- Each student will be required to remain in their assigned seats.
- Drivers will ensure maximum spacing between students when possible.
- Sanitizer dispensers have been added to each bus and students will sanitize their hands upon entering the bus.

Bellevue Public Schools COVID-19 Communications & Updates

BPS will utilize a number of means to ensure students, staff, and families are all informed of changes and updates. This will include:

- District notification system (phone, email, and text message)
- District website and social media platforms
- District Let's Talk tool – collects feedback, suggestions, questions, etc.
- Local media coverage

It is vital that all parents/guardians and staff contact information is updated and current for the 2022-2023 school year. If you've had any changes, please submit those to the district.