



Bellevue Public Schools

COVID-19 Continuance of School Plan for 2021-22

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Over the past year, Bellevue Public Schools (BPS) has participated in numerous meetings/briefings with state and local health officials, metro-area school districts, statewide leaders, elected officials, and other officials to inform the district's plan to remain in school throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The district is providing this updated plan for the 2021-22 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 recommends that all students and staff members get vaccinated once eligible. Please see the information below about COVID-19 vaccines.

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

To learn more about current CDC guidance for fully vaccinated individuals please ([click here](#)).

To review frequently asked questions about COVID-19 vaccination ([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 2021-22:

- The district will follow the BPS 2021-22 calendar. ([2021-22 BPS District Calendar](#))
- Bellevue Public Schools **WILL NOT** be providing students and families the At-Home learning option for the 2021-22 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 facemasks 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, although **STRONGLY RECOMMENDED**, for all students, staff, and visitors who are unvaccinated.
- Face coverings may become required in any school or in any classroom that experiences an outbreak of COVID-19 cases whenever recommended by the Sarpy/Cass County Health Department.
- Age-eligible 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 2021-22 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 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 2021-22

Student/Employee Health Screening Protocols

- All parents should continue to screen their children daily before sending them to school.
- 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.
- 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
 - Chills or repeated shaking with chills
 - Muscle pain, Headache, Sore throat
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Loss of taste or smell
 - Diarrhea or fatigue
- Students/staff who have been identified as having high-risk contact with a person who has tested positive will be notified in accordance with Sarpy/Cass Health Department guidance.
- BPS will utilize the Department of Health and Human Services exclusion and re-admittance protocols.
- [Department of Health and Human Services 7.7.2021](#)

Confirmed COVID-19 Case and Isolation Protocols

- If a student/employee is diagnosed with COVID-19, it is recommended that they notify their building principal/supervisor immediately. The principal/supervisor will then contact the BPS Coordinator of Public Health or Executive Director of Personnel as appropriate.
- BPS will follow the most current guidance from the Sarpy/Cass Health Department regarding any requirements for notification of students or staff of a positive case with recommendations for quarantine, 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 follow all recommendations outlined by health officials when working with students and staff.
- BPS nurses/health paraprofessionals will wear all appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE's) when working with students.
- Teachers will contact the office before sending a student who is ill to the office. Primary age students may be escorted to the office from the classroom setting.
- All students reporting to the nurse will have their temperature checked and triaged to determine the student's individual needs.
- Students with COVID-19 related symptoms will be physically distanced from others and provided a mask until parents can pick them up from school.
- Parents of students with COVID-19 symptoms will be provided the district expectations and procedures which would allow for the student to return to school when the student is picked up.
- Teachers will be provided small first aid kits for scratches, etc. to reduce traffic in the nursing office and reduce exposure to sick students.

Bellevue Public Schools COVID-19 Expectations for Schools for 2021-22 SY

All schools will utilize the guidance below to develop school-level procedures unique to their buildings. BPS buildings will follow the guidelines during the 2021-22 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.
- Schools are allowed to maintain procedures for checking in/out students that include curbside pick-up and drop-off options to reduce the number of people entering the building.
- Schools will accompany students to and from the curbside as appropriate for the grade level.
- 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, although **STRONGLY RECOMMENDED**, for all students, staff, and visitors who are unvaccinated.
- Face coverings may become required in any school or in any classroom that experiences an outbreak of COVID-19 cases whenever recommended 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

- All elementary students will have assigned seats that students 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 will 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 will be asked 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.
- Bus drivers will sanitize seats and surfaces between routes.
- Sanitizer dispensers have been added to each bus and students will sanitize their hands upon entering the bus.

Bellevue Public Schools COVID-19 Environmental Services Information

General Cleaning Expectations and Protocols

| General Cleaning Expectations | | |
|-------------------------------|--|-----------|
| Category | Area | Frequency |
| Workspaces | Classrooms, Offices | Daily |
| Appliances | Refrigerators, Microwaves, Coffee Machines | Daily |
| Electronic Equipment | Copier Machines, Shared computer monitors, TV's, Telephones, keyboards | Daily |
| General Used Objects | Door Handles, light switches, sinks, water fountains, restrooms, elevator buttons, stair handrails, etc. | Daily |
| Common Areas | Cafeteria, Library, Gyms, Common Areas | Daily |
| Student Desks/Tables | Classrooms | Daily |

- During the school day, all employees will have cleaning stations available for maintaining their space and sanitizing desks and any shared surfaces as needed.
- All custodial staff has been provided training in the district's COVID-19 standard operating procedures.
- At the end of each day, custodial staff will follow the daily disinfecting and cleaning guidance outlined in the procedures.
- District teachers and staff will be trained to properly sanitize their classrooms and office spaces during the day before using district-approved cleaning supplies.

Heating Ventilation Air Conditioning

- BPS will ensure all air filters are changed per guidelines.
- BPS will continue to bring in fresh air when possible through the district while students are in buildings.
- BPS will continue to develop a preventative maintenance program for all HVAC systems in the district to help ensure proper conditioning of air and proper airflow.

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 2021-2022 school year. If you've had any changes, please submit those to the district.