



BSUSD Safe Return to In-person Plan

Revised 7/28/21

2021-2022



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INTRODUCTION

The Coronavirus pandemic has changed nearly every aspect of our lives over the last year. It has certainly changed the way we do business. Consistent with our District's mission, we strive to provide all of our students with the tools for success in college, career, family and community life. We also strive to make our campuses as safe and welcoming as possible, creating healthy learning environments for our children to grow. This plan outlines the procedures and protocols which we have designed to reopen our schools during this serious pandemic.

In developing this plan we consulted the following:

- CDC Guidance
- CDPH COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California
- CDE Guidance on Reopening Schools
- SDCOE Reopening Checklist
- Staff/Parent/Community input

In considering the return of our students to campus, our Safe Schools Reopening Plan takes a balanced approach, valuing in-person education while recognizing that several coordinated interventions can greatly reduce, but not eliminate, all health risks to students and staff. As set forth in the plan, we seek to maximize, to the extent practicable, the practices of screening, sanitation, facial coverings, and social distancing.

This plan was developed based on the template provided by the San Diego County Office of Education, in consultation with the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services and is based on guidance articulated by the California Department of Public Health in its COVID-19 INDUSTRY GUIDANCE: Schools and School Based Programs (July 17, 2020) and COVID-19 and Reopening In-Person Learning Framework for K-12 Schools in California, 2020-2021 School Year.

This plan was revised according to updated guidance on July 28, 2021.

1. GENERAL MEASURES

Note: Changes in health conditions, guidance documents, and state/county mandates, coupled with new learnings as the plan is implemented, will necessitate changes to the plan. As such, the plan will remain fluid and subject to periodic updates as appropriate.

Contact Information

The person responsible to implement and monitor this plan is: Mark Stevens, Superintendent.
Office 760-767-5357

Email mstevens@bsusd.net

The following sources are utilized for guidance and to monitor local and regional conditions:

- County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency
Office: 619-542-4181
County Health Officer: Wilma Wooten, MD, MPH, wilma.wooten@sdcounty.ca.gov
- San Diego County Health Order
 - Education Sector Lead: Katherine Gordon, katherine.gordon@sdcounty.ca.gov
- San Diego County COVID-19 Dashboard
- San Diego County Office of Education
 - SDCOE Chief of Staff: Music Watson, music.watson@sdcoe.net , 858-295-6625
- California Department of Education
 - CDE Guidance
- California Department of Public Health
 - CDPH Guidance
 - County Variance Documents

Communication Plan

This plan is posted at: www.bsusd.net. Copies are available at individual school sites as well as the district office. All employees will be provided a copy electronically.

The school will implement the necessary processes and protocols when a workplace has an outbreak, in accordance with [CDPH guidelines](#). BSUSD will investigate any COVID-19 illness and determine if any work-related factors could have contributed to risk of infection and update the plan as needed to prevent further cases. The Superintendent will report information on positive cases to Public Health Services Epidemiology Department at: 619-692-8499.

Outside Organizations

Organizations outside BSUSD will be evaluated on a case by case basis to determine whether they can safely utilize the site or other campus resources. Every organization utilizing a BSUSD site must comply with this safety plan.

2. HEALTHY HYGIENE PRACTICES



During back to school activities and throughout the school year, students and staff will be taught/reminded to practice healthy hygiene practices. The following CDC-approved resources will be utilized:

[Handwashing \(best practice\)](#)

[Coughing and Sneezing Guidance](#)

[Coronavirus Prevention](#)

By using continual prompts, visual cues and other means, students will be reminded to:

- Use a tissue to wipe their nose and to cough/sneeze inside a tissue or their elbow
- Wash their hands frequently throughout the day, including before and after eating; after coughing or sneezing; after classes where they handle shared items, such as outside recreation, art, or shop; and before and after using the restroom.
- Wash their hands for 20 seconds with soap, rubbing thoroughly after application.
- Use hand sanitizer when hand washing is not practicable.



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Additional Measures

- The district has purchased additional portable hand washing stations that will be available throughout campus.
- Students will be taught routines for hand washing and be provided adequate time during the day to regularly wash their hands at staggered intervals.
- The district has purchased extra supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors, including soap, tissues, face coverings, and hand sanitizers. The district will continue to purchase needed materials as possible throughout the year.
- The District strongly recommends that all students and staff be vaccinated against COVID-19.

Vaccination

Vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. People who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are at low risk of symptomatic or severe infection. We encourage all staff and eligible students to receive their vaccination.

3. FACE COVERINGS

Face coverings must be used in accordance with CDPH guidelines unless a person is exempt as explained in the guidelines, particularly in indoor environments, on school buses, and areas where physical distancing alone is not sufficient to prevent disease transmission.

The district will communicate Information contained in the CDPH Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings to staff and families, including the circumstances in which face coverings must be worn and the exemptions, as well as any policies, work rules, and practices the employer has adopted to ensure the use of face coverings. These materials and links will also be available on the district's website.

- Staff are required to use face coverings in accordance with CDPH guidelines.
 - Masks are optional outdoors for all in K-12 school settings.
 - K-12 students are required to mask indoors, with exemptions per CDPH face mask guidance.
 - Adults in K-12 school settings are required to mask when sharing indoor spaces with students.
 - Persons exempted from wearing a face covering due to a medical condition, must wear a non-restrictive alternative, such as a face shield with a drape on the bottom edge, as long as their condition permits it.
 - In limited situations where a face covering cannot be used for pedagogical or developmental reasons, (e.g., communicating or assisting young children or those with special needs) a face shield with a drape (per CDPH guidelines) can be used instead of a face covering while in the classroom as long as the wearer maintains physical distance from others.

Consistent with guidance for the 2021-22 school year, schools must develop and implement local protocols to enforce the mask requirements. Students who forget to bring a mask to school will be given a disposable mask for that day. Students who refuse to wear a face covering while inside the classroom may be offered alternative placement in the school's independent study program.

All staff are required to teach and reinforce use of face coverings.

4. TEACHER AND STAFF SAFETY

Staff should follow all safety protocols in order to remain safe at work. The following provisions are recommended:

- Staff must use face coverings in accordance with CDPH guidelines and Cal/OSHA standards (see above).
- The district will conduct staff meetings, professional development, and other activities involving staff according to current CDPH and County guidelines. Meetings may be conducted virtually.
- Staff should take caution to congregate indoors in staff rooms, break rooms, and other settings when physical distancing is not possible. Common rooms will be equipped with sanitizing wipes, hand sanitizer and other materials needed for sanitary use.



5. INTENSIFY CLEANING, DISINFECTION, AND VENTILATION

Sharing

Staff are encouraged to limit use and sharing of objects and equipment in classrooms, such as toys, games, and art supplies and are encouraged to clean and disinfect between uses.

Cleaning

Staff will clean and disinfect frequently-touched surfaces at school at least daily and, as practicable, these surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected frequently throughout the day by trained staff. Frequently touched surfaces in the school include, but are not limited to:

- Door handles
- Light switches
- Sink handles
- Bathroom surfaces
- Tables/Chairs
- Student Desks

Custodial staff and any other workers who clean and disinfect the school site must be equipped with proper protective equipment as required by the product instructions. All products must be kept out of children's reach and stored in a space with restricted access. Products must be approved for use against COVID-19 on the [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\) approved list "N"](#).

Staff should ensure proper ventilation during cleaning and disinfecting. Introduce fresh outdoor air as much as possible, for example, by opening windows where practicable. When cleaning, air out the space before children arrive; plan to do thorough cleaning when children are not present. If using air conditioning, use the setting that brings in outside air. Replace and check air filters and filtration systems to ensure optimal air quality.

All water systems (for example, drinking fountains) must be made safe to use after a prolonged facility shutdown to minimize the risk of Legionnaires' disease and other diseases associated with water.

School Buses

Buses will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected daily and after transporting any individual who is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19. Drivers will be provided disinfectant wipes and disposable gloves to support disinfection of frequently touched surfaces during the day.

6. IMPLEMENTING DISTANCING INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Classroom Space

In an effort to reduce possibilities for infection and spread of COVID, the following steps will be taken:

- Prioritize the use and maximization of outdoor space for activities.
- Where practicable, maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms.
- Consider ways to establish separation of students through other means such as, partitions between desks, markings on classroom floors to promote distancing or arranging desks in a way that minimizes face-to-face contact. Partitions are still available to staff upon request.
- Redesign activities for smaller groups.

Non-Classroom Spaces

The District will follow the following practices to limit exposure and transmission of the disease by:

- Limiting nonessential visitors, volunteers and activities involving other groups on campus.
- Limiting communal activities.
- Maximize physical distance as much as possible while eating (especially indoors). Arrange for eating outdoors as much as feasible

7. TRAIN AND EDUCATE FAMILIES

Staff

The District will train all staff and provide educational materials to help prevent the spread of COVID by:

- Enhanced sanitation practices
- Physical distancing guidelines and their importance
- Proper use, removal, and washing of face coverings
- Screening practices
- How COVID-19 is spread
- COVID-19 specific symptom identification and when to seek medical attention
- The district plan and procedures to follow when children or adults become sick at school
- The district's plan and procedures to protect workers from COVID-19 illness



Parents

The District will provide educational materials to parents to help prevent the spread of COVID including:

- Enhanced sanitation practices
- Physical distancing guidelines and their importance
- Proper use, removal, and washing of face coverings
- Screening practices
- How COVID-19 is spread
- COVID-19 specific symptom identification and when to seek medical attention
- The district plan and procedures to follow when children or adults become sick at school

8. SCREENING AND TESTING

Screening

- All staff will self-screen for COVID symptoms prior to coming to work.
- Students may be screened by asking whether they have had any contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19 or whether they are experiencing any symptoms associated with COVID-19.
- Staff will self-monitor and visually monitor students throughout the day for signs of illness

Testing

The District will continue to perform COVID-19 rapid antigen tests for asymptomatic students and staff as well as point-of-care molecular tests (CUE), and laboratory confirmed PCR tests for students and staff with symptoms as part of our efforts to maintain a safe environment for our school community.

Individuals with consent will participate in weekly testing at their school site. Vaccination status may affect requirements for testing and will follow current guidance. Individual results of these tests will not be published.

9. PLAN FOR WHEN A STAFF MEMBER, CHILD, OR VISITOR BECOMES SICK

Borrego Springs Unified School District has worked with administrators, the school nurse, and county health department to develop plans for when an individual becomes sick is as follows:

- An isolation room has been identified on each campus for any individual exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19. The individual in isolation will be required to wear a mask until parent pick up or transported off campus.
 - Elementary: Multipurpose room stage area
 - MS/HS: Empty classroom
- Parents will be contacted immediately of a student exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms for pick up, and recommended to take the child to a healthcare facility for testing and/or to seek medical advice.

Symptoms include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Fatigue
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- New loss of taste or smell



Quarantine and Isolation

If a staff member starts to exhibit these symptoms during the school day they will go to the isolation room if severe and we will call a family member for transportation. If symptoms are not severe staff member may take a COVID test and/or may seek medical advice. Staff members and students with symptoms of COVID-19 infection will not return for in-person instruction until they have met CDPH criteria to return to school for those with symptoms:

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- At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; and
- Other symptoms have improved; and
- They have a negative test for SARS-CoV-2, OR a healthcare provider has provided documentation that the symptoms are typical of their underlying chronic condition (e.g., allergies or asthma) OR a healthcare provider has confirmed an alternative named diagnosis (e.g., Streptococcal pharyngitis, Coxsackie virus), OR at least 10 days have passed since symptom onset.

For fully vaccinated individuals, the following guidance (CDPH):

- Fully vaccinated individuals can refrain from quarantine and testing following a known exposure if asymptomatic.
- Get tested if experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.

Modified Quarantine for students with exposure where both parties are wearing a mask:

- Remain in school, wearing a mask as required.
- Monitor for symptoms, student must be asymptomatic.
- Test for COVID at least twice during 10-day period.
- May not attend any extracurricular activities.

For all others

- Quarantine if you have been in close contact (within 6 feet of someone for a total of 15 minutes or more) with someone who has COVID-19.
- Stay home for at least 10 days after your last contact with a person who has COVID-19.
- Watch for fever (100.4°F), cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms of COVID-19.
- Watch for symptoms until 14 days after exposure.

Additional Considerations

- The district will notify local health officials immediately of any positive case of COVID19, and exposed staff and families as relevant while maintaining confidentiality as required by state and federal laws.
- Areas will be closed off that were used by any individual suspected of being infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 and will not be used again before cleaning and disinfection.
- Students will have access to instruction when out of class, either through online options or paper packets, as required by federal and state law.
- We will follow CDPH guidelines and implement necessary processes when a school has an outbreak.

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- Student and staff cases of COVID-19 will be investigated to determine if any work related factors could have contributed to the risk of infection. Any protocols and procedures will be updated as needed and staff will be informed.
- The district will not discriminate against students who (or whose families) were or are diagnosed with COVID-19 or who are perceived to be a COVID-19 risk.
 - Policies will not penalize students and families for missing class due to COVID-19.
- The District will provide information for staff regarding labor laws, information regarding Disability Insurance, Paid Family Leave and Unemployment Insurance, as applicable to schools. See additional information on government programs supporting sick leave and worker's compensation for COVID-19, including:
 - worker's sick leave rights under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act
 - Employee's rights to workers' compensation benefits and presumption of the work-relatedness of COVID-19 pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order N-62-20, while that Order is in effect.
- School closure - Current guidelines do not contain recommendations regarding school closure. School closure may be recommended by the Local Health Officer or Superintendent depending on local circumstances.