



2022-23



As circumstances and quidance around COVID-19 change, our Return To Learn plan may be updated.

# Introductory Note

The district is required by the Iowa Department of Education to seek feedback and update our Return to Learn plan every six months. Recommendations regarding this plan are fluid and subject to change based on feedback. School operational plans will continue to be informed by the most recent local health data in partnership with the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), Polk County Health Department (PCHD), and the Iowa Department of Education (IDOE).

Governor Reynolds has clarified many of our Return to Learn procedures. This community feedback process is required to secure state and federal funds related to COVID-relief.

### Guiding Principles

- 1. Return to 100% in-person learning to support academic and social emotional needs of our students.
- 2. Implement policies and procedures that were in place prior to the pandemic to the extent possible, while implementing strategies that were used during the pandemic that proved to be beneficial.

# **Guiding Documents**

Bondurant-Farrar's Return to Learn plan has been developed following guidance from the Iowa Department of Public Health, Polk County Health Department and the following specific guidance documents and laws.

- 1. IDPH COVID-19 & K-12 School Fall Update released on August 5, 2021.
- 2. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued an Order that requires masks on school vehicles.
- <u>IDPH COVID-19 Education Update May 14, 2021</u>: Identifies that COVID-19 in the school setting should be approached like other child illnesses including the elimination of quarantine procedures for exposed students.
  <u>IDPH Common Child Illnesses and Exclusion Criteria</u>: Identifies COVID-19 as a common child illness that results in exclusion from the education setting for the positive individual.
- 5. House File 847: Prohibits K-12 schools from mandating face masks effective May 20, 2021.
- 6. Senate File 160: Requires school districts in Iowa to provide on-site learning.



# On-Site Learning (Current Plan for 2022-2023)

Full return of PK-12 students and staff to buildings. This delivery model will occur in buildings with on-site, inperson instruction for all students given application of mitigation steps described in the plan. Students will attend school everyday Monday-Friday with a 2pm, early dismissal on Mondays.



In-person instruction for all students given application of mitigation steps described in the plan.

# **Enrollment & Participation**

Students enrolled at BFCSD are expected to attend and participate in on-site learning following normal practices and procedures related to attendance, absence, illness, and other aspects of on-site learning outlined in this plan.

### Learning Environment

The classroom learning environment will return to standard mitigation operations. Examples: students working in groups, mixed cohorting, students and staff within 6 feet of each other, face coverings OPTIONAL for students and staff, etc.

### Instructional Format

Instruction will return to a standard, in-person operation focused on maximizing instruction, collaboration, and student learning.

# **Student Attendance**

Students who are unable to attend on-site will be counted absent. Parents/guardians are expected to report student absences to the building office per normal procedures.

### **Remote Learning**

Support for students unable to attend school will return to standard operations, we will do our very best to support student learning. Remote learning may not be provided for students who are sick, quarantined, or unable to attend school.



### **Extra-Curricular Activities**

We anticipate a return to normal procedures, any adjustments to extra-curricular activities will be based on current guidelines provided by the <u>lowa High School Athletic Association</u> and the <u>lowa High School Girls Athletic</u> <u>Union</u>.

# **Co-Curricular Activities**

We anticipate a return to normal procedures, any adjustments to co-curricular activities will be guided by participation guidelines provided by the <u>lowa High School Music Association</u>, other organizational bodies responsible for setting guidelines for participation, and the approach to mitigation as outlined in this document.



With questions on the district's Return To Learn plan, please:

1. Contact your building administrators with specific questions or 2. <u>Submit a question to our electronic FAQ form.</u>



# Face Coverings / Face Masks

- Face coverings are optional and supported for students, staff and visitors in school buildings.
- Disposable masks will be available in offices.

# Hand Washing Hygiene

Buildings will implement procedures and routines to provide adequate time and support for students and staff to participate in proper hand hygiene. Washing hands with soap and water is the preferred method of hand sanitation. If soap and water are not available, use of hand sanitizer is the next recommended method of hand sanitation. Hand sanitizer will be provided throughout common spaces in buildings.

# **Classroom Cleaning**

BFCSD will use electrostatic sprayers to sanitize and disinfect classrooms on a weekly basis.

# **Physical Distancing & Class Cohorts**

Physical distancing will not be required or maintained in the school setting. A priority will be placed on maximizing instruction and collaboration in the school/classroom environment. Classes will not be required to cohort and will be allowed to intermix as deemed appropriate for instruction and play.

# Visitors / Volunteers

Visitors and volunteers will be allowed in BFCSD classrooms following typical procedures and guidelines.

# **Stay Home When Sick**

All sick students and staff should stay home in accordance with existing school procedures, generally until 24 hours after their symptoms resolve.

It is important to note that the school nurse, following the guidance of the Polk County Health Department, will have the authority to exclude persons suspected of illness or proven to be ill and determine when they may be re-admitted to school.



# **Bus Capacity**

Transportation will return to standard capacity.

#### **Student and Staff Screening**

Students and staff will not be screened upon entering the bus. As always, students and staff should monitor at home for signs of illness prior to coming to school.

#### **Bus Cleaning**

High touch surfaces on the school buses and vehicles such as seats, handrails and seat belts will be disinfected weekly by transportation staff.



### **Operations**

- Food service will return to normal operations.
- Capacity and schedule logistics limit social distancing opportunities during service.
- Families are asked to contact their building administrator to request socially distanced seating during service. If requests exceed the space available, then priority will be given to those with the most severe health needs.

### Free Meals are No Longer Available

- We have enjoyed serving all of our students school meals at no-cost to you for the past two years, but our current guidance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture does not allow us to serve free meals to students in the 2022-23 school year.
- Families in need of assistance are encouraged to fill out the free and reduced meal application. Those interested in applying for P-EBT and other free/reduced fees or related programs, will need to meet income requirements to be accepted to the program. <u>Applications available at https://www.bfschools.org/Page/716</u>



# Individuals Who Test Positive for COVID-19

- Beginning January 18, 2022, the district began implementation of the CDC's recommended 5-day isolation period for students and staff who test positive for COVID-19. See next below for key points to be aware of.
- To notify the district of a positive test result, please contact your building nurse.
- Buildings will work with families of students who are in isolation to ensure they are supported academically, socially, and emotionally.

# How Long Should COVID-19 Positive Individuals Stay Home?

- If fever free for 24 hours and symptoms are improving, individuals are eligible to return to school after 5 days of isolation, but must properly mask for the remainder of the 10-day period.
  If applicable, required masking includes proper use during extracurricular activities.
- By choosing to end isolation early, families agree to their child's personal health information being shared with select building staff in order to implement required masking. Families should also understand that students who return early will have a designated eating area for the remainder of the 10-day period.
- Students who are unwilling to properly mask should not return before the 10-day period. Those who return early, but are unwilling to comply with this requirement will be sent home. We understand younger students will likely need frequent reminders regarding proper mask wearing.
- Individuals who are severely ill with COVID-19 should isolate for the full 10 days and consult a doctor before ending isolation. Students who return early and continue to exhibit symptoms will be sent home.

\*Loss of taste and smell may persist for weeks or months after recovery and need not delay the end of isolation.

# **Contact Tracing**

- The district will not contact trace unless directed to do so by Polk County Public Health or the Iowa Department of Public Health.
- The IDPH has adjusted COVID-19 surveillance to follow the influenza model; state case investigation and tracing efforts for COVID-19 now focus on outbreaks and vulnerable populations.
- Families will have the discretion to quarantine a student who has been directly exposed to an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19. This is also the case for household-related exposure.
- The district will support self-quarantined students as they would students in isolation who have tested positive.

# Notification / Dashboard

- The district will not directly notify families if their child has been a potential close contact because of privacy concerns as well as the inaccuracy of doing so at full capacity.
- As of August 23, 2022, there will not be an active district dashboard for tracking cases.

### Illness in the School Setting

- It is important that individuals stay home when feeling ill or exhibiting COVID-related symptoms.
- In accordance with existing school procedures, individuals should generally stay home until 24 hours after their symptoms resolve.
- Those who begin experiencing symptoms at school should report to their nurse for screening and will likely be sent home.



# **Overview of Updated CDC Isolation Guidance**

Families will continue to work with their child's school nurse to determine day counts and when the student will return to school.

# Days 0-5

#### Stay home for at least 5 days.

Stay home for at least 5 days and, if possible, isolate others in your home.

Wear a well-fitted mask if you must be around others in your home.

Note: Day 0 is your first day of symptoms or a positive viral test.



Timeline and

guidance for

individuals who

tested positive

for COVID-19 or

have symptoms, regardless of

vaccination

status:

Beginning January 18, 2022, Bondurant-Farrar will follow this updated CDC guidance.

# As Early As Day 6

#### Ending isolation if you had symptoms:

End isolation after 5 full days if you are fever-free for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medication) and your symptoms are improving. Continue to mask.

# Ending isolation if you did NOT have symptoms:

End isolation after at least 5 full days after your positive test. Continue to mask.

# If you were severely ill with COVID-19:

You should continue to isolate for at least 10 days. Consult your doctor before ending isolation.

# **Days 6-10**

#### Take precautions until day 10.

#### Wear a mask:

Wear a well-fitted mask for 10 full days any time you are around others inside your home or in public. Do not go places where you are unable to wear a mask.

#### Avoid travel

Avoid being around individuals who are at high risk

Source: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html

Updated: January 9, 2022



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