

BETTENDORF COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

**2021-2022** Updated 12-3-21

# Return to Learn Plan & COVID Protocol

Throughout the last two years, we as a school community have learned the importance of flexibility and resiliency. The Bettendorf Community School District (BCSD) has been committed to ensuring safe learning environments for all of our students and staff. We are **#BETTERtogether** because we believe our students, families, and staff come first.

The District is aware that the COVID-19 pandemic, especially the Delta Variant, remains present in the community. For the 2021-2022 school year, the following health and safety guidelines will be implemented to help protect students, staff, families, and our entire school community. The guidance below supplements district policies, procedures, and practices as well as individual school rules.

Thank you in advance for your support, patience and understanding as we embark on the 2021-2022 school year. If you have any questions, please email [cmiller@bettendorf.k12.ia.us](mailto:cmiller@bettendorf.k12.ia.us) or contact your building principal.

The District will continue to monitor COVID-19 rates and make adjustments as needed. **Scott County's transmission rate is currently High.**



## Table of Contents

- [Health and Safety](#)
- [Lunch](#)
- [Instruction, Curriculum, and Assessment](#)
- [Emotional Supports and Basic Needs](#)
- [Transportation](#)
- [Communication](#)

## Health & Safety

Layered prevention strategies, including washing hands, social distancing, and staying home when sick are paramount for all in the school community. The District's policy, procedures, and these enhanced health and safety guidelines apply to all Bettendorf Community School District schools and facilities, District activities, programs and events, and community use of district facilities.

## Face Coverings

HF 847, signed by Governor Reynolds on May 20, 2021, prohibits a school district from adopting or enforcing a policy that requires employees, students, or the public to wear a mask while on school property. Per guidance from the CDC and the American Pediatric Association, universal indoor masking for all staff, students and visitors to schools, regardless of vaccination status, is highly recommended. Face coverings will be available for students, staff, and visitors at each BCSD building. Staff will model respectful behavior and speak with students about appropriate behavior - whether a family chooses to have students wear masks or not.

## Vaccinations

BCSD encourages all individuals age 12 and older to get the Covid-19 vaccine. It is not required to attend, visit or work in our schools, however, it is a recommendation reflected through the guidance of CDC, Iowa Department of Health, and Scott County Health Department. For additional information on vaccinations, please visit the Scott County Health Department's website at <https://www.scottcountyiowa.gov/health/covid19/vaccine/vaccine-clinic>.

## Social Distancing

Social distancing will be implemented to the greatest extent possible; however, due to the return of all students, this will not be likely in most situations.

## Cleaning Protocols

Custodial and maintenance staff will continue with 2020-21 cleaning practices - frequently disinfecting highly touched surfaces, such as door handles and railings, as much as possible. Classroom electronics, tables/desks, and other shared items will be cleaned by custodians, staff, and students when appropriate. Restrooms and locker rooms will continue to be cleaned with hospital-grade disinfectants and cleaners. Sanitizer will be available in classrooms and other areas of the building (i.e. cafeteria, library, etc.) for staff and students to use when needed during the school day.

## Handwashing

Additional handwashing time will be built into the daily schedule. Teachers and staff will monitor students to ensure proper handwashing techniques. When hand washing is not feasible, hand sanitizer will be available.

## Additional Mitigation Strategies

Automatic paper towel dispensers have replaced hand dryers where feasible. Classroom electronics and tables will be cleaned frequently. Water stations that allow students to fill bottles will be operational as well as water fountains. Students are encouraged to bring their own water bottles to fill.

## Lockers and Cubby Spaces

BHS students have been provided with a choice to be assigned a locker for the 2021-2022 school year. Students will be able to carry a backpack with their books and school supplies throughout the school day.

BMS students will be able to access their locker at the start of the school day as they enter the building and then as they exit school for the day. Students will be able to carry a backpack with their books and school supplies throughout the school day.

Elementary students will be assigned individual cubby/lockers spaces. Students will be able to access their cubbies/lockers with teacher permission.

## Staying Home When Ill

If an individual has a fever, cough or other Covid-19 related symptoms, they will need to be isolated at home for 10 days. Individuals may return to school and their activities on day 11 if they have been fever free for 24 hours and symptoms are improving. You may return early if you obtain a negative Covid-19 test or a release from your healthcare provider to return to school or work. Students will receive assignments from teachers during the time they are gone and will not zoom into classrooms for instruction.

## Students Presenting with COVID-19 Symptoms at School

We will follow pre-COVID practices where students with a temperature over 100 or who are vomiting will be sent home. If they present multiple other [COVID-19 symptoms](#), such as new congestion/cough and sore throat, we will advise parents to reach out to their health care provider to see if testing is recommended.

## COVID-19 Testing

If you would like information regarding a COVID-19 test in Scott County, please visit <https://www.scottcountyiowa.gov/health/covid19/testing>.

## Positive COVID-19 Case

We ask that if your student tests positive for COVID-19 to call the school nurse. The Iowa Department of Public Health 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. Those exposed to COVID-19 will no longer have to be quarantined, regardless of mask usage, unless the person has symptoms. Should a family member test positive and your student is unvaccinated - remember to quarantine within your house to limit exposure to others.

For further details, please see this [COVID-19 informational page](#) from the Iowa Department of Public Health.

## Notification of a Positive COVID-19 Case at School

Effective on December 6th, we are implementing a change to our COVID communication process. Currently, we are working to identify and notify all families in grades K-12 of potential exposure to COVID as individuals notify us that they are confirmed COVID positive. At the elementary level this information is informative because students stay together in one cohort for most of the day. Due to the consistent, close proximity of students at the K-5 level, we believe it is important to communicate to families when there is potential contact for each confirmed positive case in their student's classroom.

At the secondary level, students interact with many more students throughout the day in class, over lunch, in hallways or during after-school activities. It's very difficult to identify which students may have interacted with a positive case. Therefore, we will no longer be sending notification emails to middle school and high school families. Families will still be able to visit our 2021-2022 COVID Updates and Return to Learn page on the website to review the status update with the weekly report of the number of individuals who have tested positive.

## Close Contact/Potential Exposure to Covid-19

Close contact is defined as being less than 6 feet away from an infectious person for more than 15 consecutive minutes and one or both were not wearing a face covering during the interaction. If you have a positive case in your household OR you receive notification from your students' school the guidance depends on whether you have been vaccinated as follows:

### **Unvaccinated, asymptomatic contacts are advised to stay home to monitor for symptoms**

To help further reduce risk of spreading the virus, unvaccinated persons who are exposed but remain healthy (no symptoms) are encouraged to stay home for up to 14 days to monitor for symptoms. (Individuals exposed to COVID-19 may develop symptoms from 2-14 days after exposure.) This approach can help to reduce the risk of spread to other people, especially vulnerable populations. In all cases, the individual is recommended to wear a mask when around others through Day 14 in order to minimize risk of spread.

Contact your Primary Care Provider with any questions.

### **Vaccinated contacts do not need to stay home, but should monitor for symptoms**

Fully vaccinated people with no COVID-like symptoms do not need to stay home following an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19. However, fully vaccinated people should still self-monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days following an exposure. In addition, vaccinated contacts should get tested 3-5 days after exposure, even if they don't have symptoms, and wear a mask indoors in public for 14 days following exposure or until their test result is negative.

Fully vaccinated people who experience COVID-19 symptoms should stay home, be clinically evaluated, and be tested for COVID-19 infection if clinically indicated. Fully vaccinated people should inform their health care provider of their vaccination status at the time of presentation to care.

Individuals are considered fully vaccinated 14 days after completion of their vaccination series (i.e. 2 weeks after the second dose in a 2-dose series or 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine).

Contact your Primary Care Provider with any questions.

## **Lunch**

### **Lunch**

Each school has a plan to provide the best possible social distancing while allowing social interaction during lunch.

At the elementary schools, students will eat lunch at tables with their grade level classmates.

At BHS, Juniors and Seniors will have the option to go off campus for lunch as we have allowed in the past. We will continue to allow Sophomore students to go off campus for lunch with parent permission. A form will be sent to all parents or guardians of Sophomore students. All Freshman students (along with Sophomores who remain on campus) will eat lunch in the cafeteria. Juniors and Seniors who stay on campus will eat in The Commons.

## Food Assistance

The USDA has issued nationwide waivers allowing us to provide free breakfast and lunch to **ALL STUDENTS** through the end of 2021. A la carte items will still be charged at normal prices.

The BCSD Outreach program is also available to help connect families with resources. [Learn more about BCSD Outreach services.](#)

The United Way offers a resource by phone at 211. Ask for programs to fit your needs.

## Eating Lunch with My Elementary Student(s)

During the first term, if you would like to eat lunch with your elementary student, please pick up your child to share an off-campus lunch. This is due to limited spacing.

# Instruction, Curriculum & Assessment

## 100% Online Learning Model

State legislation requires all school districts to provide 100% onsite instruction at this time. Should you have questions about a 100% online learning model, please contact your building principal.

## Making Up Missed School Work

As with any illness, we ask that you work with teachers and administrators to determine a plan to make up the missed work. Students will be given the same length of time to make up the work as the time missed while the student was absent. Students will have access to online learning platforms used in the classrooms (PK-12 will use Canvas).

## Field Trips

Field trips at the elementary and middle school will be temporarily delayed until the end of the first quarter, which is October 21, 2021.

BHS is allowing curriculum related field trips during the school day.

# Emotional Supports & Basic Needs

## Social Emotional/Mental Health Supports

We encourage you to reach out to your student's teacher. You may also contact your building principal or school counselor for additional support.

In addition to our professional school counselors, each school is staffed with a school-based mental health therapist for additional support. To learn more about this opportunity, please contact your student's school counselor.

- [Elementary Counselors](#)
- [Middle School Counselors](#)
- [High School Counselors](#)
- [Therapy Dog Program](#)

## Assessing My Student's Emotional Health

Here are few resources to help you:

- [CDC Helping Children Cope with Emergencies](#)
- [How to Ask What Kids are Feeling](#)

## Outreach Program Support

The BCSD Outreach program is also available to help connect families with resources. The focus of the Outreach program is to work alongside you and the school to make sure your child can do their best. Outreach workers are an important part of the educational team and work with school staff to provide social, emotional, and behavioral support at school and at home. Outreach referrals come directly from school counselors. The following are some ways in which the Outreach Team may assist you and your family. [Learn more](#)

### School

- Empower you to communicate your needs, opinions, experiences, or questions at school meetings, such as IEP meetings or parent teacher conferences.
- Encourage and give help with regular school attendance.
- Help you understand and support your child's educational goals.
- Advocate for you in meetings at the school and in the district to help meet your child's needs in the classroom.

### Home

- Support you as you develop and care for your child's physical, social and emotional well-being.
- Assist you in times of need or crisis with food, clothing and household items
- Connect you to agencies and services in the community that fit your needs and help you handle complex systems to use these services successfully.
- Come alongside you and help you find and use positive support systems during times of stress and change.

#### **Tammy Chelf**

Outreach Program Manager  
 (563) 359-9375 Exty. 6551  
[tchelf@bettendorf.k12.ia.us](mailto:tchelf@bettendorf.k12.ia.us)

#### **Miryam Andrews-Ohlman**

Outreach Coordinator  
 563-468-3715  
[mandrews-ohlman@bettendorf.k12.ia.us](mailto:mandrews-ohlman@bettendorf.k12.ia.us)

#### **Holly Shaw**

Outreach Worker  
 Bettendorf Middle School  
 563-940-4255  
[hshaw@bettendorf.k12.ia.us](mailto:hshaw@bettendorf.k12.ia.us)

#### **Kelley Smith**

Outreach Worker  
 (563) 468-3714  
[klsmith@bettendorf.k12.ia.us](mailto:klsmith@bettendorf.k12.ia.us)

**Shelley Hilton-Cullum**  
 Social Worker  
 Bettendorf High School  
 (563)332-7005  
[shiltoncullum@bettendorf.k12.ia.us](mailto:shiltoncullum@bettendorf.k12.ia.us)

**Marcy Vokstorf**  
 Counselor/ Drop-out Prevention Specialist  
 Edison Academy  
 (563) 359-9375 Ext. 6563  
[mvolkstorf@bettendorf.k12.ia.us](mailto:mvolkstorf@bettendorf.k12.ia.us)

## United Way

The United Way also offers a resource by phone at 211. You can ask for programs to fit your needs.

## Transportation

BCSD will provide transportation to and from school. Face coverings for students riding a bus and/or other district vehicles are highly encouraged.

## Communication

The Bettendorf Community School District uses the SchoolMessenger system to communicate with parents and staff. You do have the ability to adjust message delivery preferences or opt-out of:

- **General Notifications**
- **Early Release/No School Reminders**
- **School Delays & Cancellations Due to Weather**

Update your preferences through <https://infocenter.schoolmessenger.com> or by contacting Celeste at (563) 359-3681, ext. 3005 or [cmiller@bettendorf.k12.ia.us](mailto:cmiller@bettendorf.k12.ia.us). [Learn more](#)

### **Bettendorf High School**

Nurse: Roxanne Schmertmann  
[rschmertmann@bettendorf.k12.ia.us](mailto:rschmertmann@bettendorf.k12.ia.us)  
 School phone: 563-332-7001

### **Bettendorf Middle School**

Nurse: Donna Carlson  
[dcarlson@bettendorf.k12.ia.us](mailto:dcarlson@bettendorf.k12.ia.us)  
 School phone: 563-359-3686

### **Grant Wood Elementary**

Nurse: Carol Harris-Leingang  
[charris@bettendorf.k12.ia.us](mailto:charris@bettendorf.k12.ia.us)  
 School phone: 563-359-8277

### **Herbert Hoover Elementary**

Nurse: Lindsey Burken  
[lburken@bettendorf.k12.ia.us](mailto:lburken@bettendorf.k12.ia.us)  
 School phone: 563-332-8636

### **Mark Twain Elementary**

Nurse: Jordan Drane  
[jdrane@bettendorf.k12.ia.us](mailto:jdrane@bettendorf.k12.ia.us)  
 School phone: 563-359-8263

### **Neil Armstrong Elementary**

Nurse: Meredith Ortega  
[mortega@bettendorf.k12.ia.us](mailto:mortega@bettendorf.k12.ia.us)  
 School phone: 563-359-8275

### **Paul Norton Elementary**

Nurse: Kelly Cypher  
[kcypher@bettendorf.k12.ia.us](mailto:kcypher@bettendorf.k12.ia.us)  
 School phone: 563-332-8936