

Blue River Valley School Corporation
Covid-19 Health and Safety
Return to In Person Instruction Plan
2021-2022



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Re-Entry Committee Members

Superintendent: Trent McCormick Director of Learning and Instruction: Beth King Maintenance Director: Sam Parmley School Nurse: Anne Hughes Chartwells Food Service: Jessica Horstman Elementary Principal: Lori Dickerson Jr/Sr High School Principal: Adam Robinson Asst. Principal/AD: Steve Hoskins	Teachers: ZoeAnn Chernowsky Lisa Sharrett Beth Witham
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Resources

[IDOE In-Class Covid-19 Guidance](#)

Henry County Health Department

Re-entry Goal

The mission of Blue River Valley Schools is:

Blue River Valley students will achieve their personal best and become lifelong learners through diverse learning opportunities. This will be accomplished in a safe environment with the collaborative efforts and support of the entire school community.

Personal Best

Respect and Responsibility

Includes the entire school community

Diverse learning opportunities

Environment that is safe

We will continue to provide a safe environment for students and our staff utilizing the resources and information we are provided with guidance from our community, the local and state health department, the Indiana Department of Education, as well as the

governor's office. We will continue to evaluate the safety of our students and staff and make changes when appropriate.

Instructional Days

The instructional phases will be determined by the BRV administration in coordination with the local and state health department.

BRV will provide brick and mortar instruction with no restrictions. Families are encouraged to have their children vaccinated against the Covid-19 virus.

Virtual instruction will only be provided under extenuating circumstances and implemented through either a Case Conference or 504 accommodation.

High-Risk Phase

If BRV is placed into a category of red or orange, more restrictions may be implemented.

Health Protocol for Schools

State statute gives public school districts the authority to exclude students who have a contagious disease such as COVID-19 or are liable to transmit it after exposure (IC 20-34-3-9). In addition, the local health department has the authority to exclude students from school and may order students and others to isolate or quarantine (IC 16-41-9-1.6). As such, districts/schools are encouraged to work closely with their local health departments.

Exclusion from School for both students and staff due to Covid-19 symptoms

- A fever of 100.0 F or greater
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat

- New loss of taste or smell
- Unexplained rash
- Nausea or vomiting

Students and employees should be excluded from school if they test positive for COVID-19 or exhibit one or more of the symptoms of COVID-19 based on [CDC Guidance](#) that is not otherwise explained.

Exclusion from School for both students and staff due to close contact with a person that has tested positive for Covid-19

A close contact is considered one of the following:

- Anyone within 6 feet of someone that has tested positive for Covid-19 for a cumulative 15 minutes or more.
- Anyone who provided care at home to someone who is sick with Covid-19.
- Anyone who has had direct physical contact with a person who has tested positive for Covid-19 (hugged or kissed).
- Anyone who has shared eating or drinking utensils with someone that has tested positive for Covid-19.
- Anyone who lives or stayed overnight for at least one night in a household with a person who tested positive for Covid-19.
- Fundamentally, a close contact is anyone you think has had enough exposure to transmit infection.

The close contact criteria applies regardless of mask use, face shields, or physical barriers, such as Plexiglas or plastic barriers.

If you are a close contact from a situation at BRV, you will be notified by our corporation nurse. If you are a close contact outside of a situation at BRV, you are obligated to notify our corporation nurse.

Individuals who choose to show proof of full vaccination will not be quarantined if found to be a close contact.

Return to School for both students and staff

Once a student or employee is excluded from the school environment, they may return if they satisfy the recommendations of the CDC. Currently those guidelines are:

Untested for Illness

Persons who have not received a test proving or disproving the presence of COVID-19 but experience symptoms may return if the following four conditions are met:

- They have not had a fever for at least 24 hours ; and

- Other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved); and
- At least 10 calendar days have passed since your symptoms first appeared.
- The state [website](#) has a list of over 200 testing facilities, their location, and hours of operation. This list is updated frequently.

Tested Covid-19 Positive- Symptomatic

Persons who experienced symptoms and have been tested for COVID-19 may return to school if the following conditions are met:

- The individual has been fever free for 24 hours (without the use medicine that reduces fevers); and
- Other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved); and
- At least 10 calendar days have passed since symptoms first appeared; or

Tested Covid-19 Positive- Asymptomatic

Persons who have not had symptoms but test positive for COVID-19 may return when they have gone 10 calendar days past their test without symptoms Students may also return prior to the 10 calendar days if they are approved to do so in writing by the student’s health care provider.

Close Contact of a Person who has tested positive for Covid-19

Anyone considered a close contact is quarantined for 14 days from the last date of exposure to the person who has tested positive for Covid-19. If exposure is to a household member and the person with Covid-19 cannot properly isolate away from other people in the home, the last date of contact may be the last day of isolation for the positive person. If an individual who is a close contact becomes symptomatic, refer to the symptomatic section above.

Tested Negative for Covid-19 and not considered a close contact

Anyone who has had symptoms of Covid-19 and tested negative for Covid-19 and is not considered a close contact may return to school if all of the following conditions are met:

- The school has proof of the negative Covid-19 test results
- Fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication.
- Symptoms have resolved.
- A doctor’s note is not required to return.

Screening

The current [CDC guidelines](#) recommend screening all students and employees for COVID-19 symptoms and history of exposure. Screening will consist of self-screening, school-based screening, and/or medical inquiries.

- **Self-Screening** - Parents and employees are required to self-screen before coming to school. Students and employees exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 without being otherwise explained, are prohibited from coming to school, and if they do come to school, they should be sent home immediately. - [Covid 19 Parents Screening from Indiana Department of Health](#)

Medical Inquiries

Administrators, office staff, and the school nurse will make medical inquiries as needed.

- If a parent tells the district/school that a student is ill, the district/school may ask the parent whether the student is exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19.
- If an employee calls in sick or appears ill, the district/school can inquire as to whether the employee is experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms.
- If a person is obviously ill, the district/school may make additional inquiries and may exclude the person from school property.

Even without symptoms, if a student or employee has recently had contact with a person with a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19, has someone in their home being tested for COVID-19, or has recently traveled from somewhere considered to be a “hot spot” by the CDC, the district/school may exclude the student or employee from the school building and recommend that they self-quarantine for 14 calendar days.

Masks and PPE for Staff

- BRV staff members may wear cloth or clear protective face coverings.
- Some staff will need to wear additional PPE (i.e. health-related, custodial staff, specialized positions, etc.) when directed to do so by district/school protocol or the employee’s supervisor.

Masks and PPE for Students

- ALL BRV students may wear protective masks.
- Some students may wear additional PPE (i.e. health-related, special conditions, etc.)
- Additional accommodations may need to be made for students based on their individual health plan.
- See addendum passed on 8-24-21 regarding masks at the end of this document.

Masks and PPE for Visitors

- ALL BRV visitors will be required to complete a medical screening by office personnel until further notice.

Clinical Spaces

Covid-19 Symptomatic

All waiting staff and students can wear a cloth face covering. Only essential staff assigned to the room may enter. A record will be kept of all persons who entered the room and the room will be disinfected several times throughout the day. Strict social distancing is required and staff must wear appropriate PPE. Students who are ill will be walked out of the building to their parents. If a student or staff member has a fever, he or she must be fever-free, without the use of fever-reducing medications, for 24 hours before returning to school. Additionally, all staff and students with fevers or symptoms associated with COVID-19 are encouraged to seek medical attention for further evaluation and instructions. Students and staff may return before the 72 hour window has elapsed if they are approved to do so in writing by their healthcare provider.

The elementary Covid-19 symptomatic space will be located in the nurse's clinic.
The junior-senior high Covid-19 symptomatic space will be located in the nurse's clinic.

Non-Covid-19 Symptomatic

Students who do not display symptoms of COVID-19 can be seen and treated in the designated areas in each building. These would include students who are injured during the school day or students with special health care needs such as those with chronic health conditions (i.e. - diabetes or seizures), those requiring medical treatments (i.e. - suctioning, tube feeding, or nebulizers), and those with individual health plans.

Immunizations

State required immunizations are still required and in place for school attendance. The Covid-19 vaccination is not required for students or employees. The school nurse can assist in providing information about the Covid-19 vaccine in regards to eligibility or vaccination sites.

Preventative Measures

BRV will utilize frequent handwashing, and cleaning procedures to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

Handwashing and avoiding touching your face, eyes, nose, or mouth are also important steps a person can take to avoid becoming sick or spreading germs to others. Districts/schools will encourage that employees and students wash their hands often and if soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol.

Students and staff members are encouraged to bring water to school. We will have bottled

watered fillers available for students and staff.

More information regarding preventative measures can be found below.

- [Signs and Symptoms of COVID-19](#)
- [Handwashing](#)
- [How COVID-19 Spreads](#)
- [Cleaning Procedures and Considerations](#)
- [Proper Use of Cloth Face Coverings](#)
- [Parent Checklist](#)
 - [Symptoms of COVID-19](#)

Preventive Cleaning Procedures

- Maintenance staff will be disinfecting classrooms, shared spaces, restrooms, cafeterias, playgrounds, hallways, etc.

Mitigation Strategies

BRV has and will continue to work with our state and local health department. Although evidence shows that most children infected with COVID-19 have mild symptoms, some children will develop serious illness, especially those children at risk because of underlying health issues.

Any student, teacher, administrator or staff who is symptomatic for infection should stay home and consult their primary care provider or seek testing. The state website www.coronavirus.in.gov has a list of over 200 testing facilities, their location and hours of operation. This list is updated frequently.

If an individual in one's home has COVID-19 or is isolated because of COVID-19, those in the household should also stay home for a minimum of two weeks. This could be longer if the student becomes symptomatic.

Below is the CDC's "Interim guidance for Administrators of US K-12 and child care programs to plan, prepare and respond to coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)." This document is available on [CDC's website](#).

You will note that in the event of a documented positive case, short-term closure may be appropriate. Schools and local health departments are encouraged to keep schools open and operating as much as possible. The CDC Decision Tree has the school closing for potentially two-five days so the local health department or the Indiana State Department of Health can engage with your team to recommend further testing, cleaning, etc.; however, this health/medical review may be done on the same day as a positive case to reduce school closure time.

Recommendations about prolonged closure will depend on the level of cohorting the school has been adhering to, the community level of disease and the current burden of infection impacting your hospital systems.

Communication

Central Point of Contact for BRV: Corporation Nurse (except for media communication)

Secondary Points of Contact for BRV: Superintendent

Methods of Communication:

- Parents and guardians must have updated and accurate contact information at all times provided to the school. Parents, guardians, and/or emergency contacts are required to make a return phone call within 30 minutes of the school notifying you of a medical need. If a parent, guardian, and/or emergency contact does not return a phone call for a medical need within 30 minutes, the school is required to notify the local law enforcement so they can notify you of your student's medical need.
- Parents and guardians are required to have an accurate email address on file at all times.
- BRV will communicate via OneCall messaging, email, and social media for building or corporation level information.
- BRV will communicate student specific information via phone and/or email.

Confirmed Case on BRV Property

When there is confirmation that a person infected with COVID-19 was on school property, the district/school will contact the local health department immediately. It is important to also notify the [Indiana Department of Education](#). Unless extenuating circumstances exist, the district/school will work with the local health department to assess factors such as the likelihood of exposure to employees and students in the building, the number of cases in the community, and other factors that will determine building closure.

It is the responsibility of the local health department to contact the person confirmed with COVID-19, inform direct contacts of their possible exposure, and give instructions to those involved with the confirmed case, including siblings and other household members regarding self-quarantine and exclusions. The individual who tested positive will not be identified in communications to the school community at large but may need to be selectively identified for contact tracing by the local health department.

If a closure is determined necessary, schools should consult with their local health department to determine the status of school activities including extracurricular activities, co-curricular activities, and before and after-school programs.

As soon as the district/school becomes aware of a student or employee who has been exposed

to or has been diagnosed with COVID-19, the custodial staff will be informed, so that impacted building or bus areas, furnishings, and equipment are thoroughly disinfected. If possible, based upon student and staff presence, the custodial staff will wait 24 hours or as long as possible prior to disinfecting. However, if that is not possible or school is in session, the cleaning will occur immediately.

Transportation

Preparation and Cleaning of Buses

- Employees are encouraged to wear masks.
- Thoroughly clean and disinfect all buses and transportation vehicles before and after routes as needed.

Bus Driver and Route Requirements

- Assign students to a specific seat on each bus.
- Due to Covid-19, BRV is limiting the exposure of our students and staff within transportation. The recommendation is to have a one set bus schedule for each student. If your child needs to ride more than one bus on a regular basis, please make arrangements with the office. We will not be able to accommodate students riding buses for events such as plans with friends or last minute changes.
- Bus drivers will be required to wear masks when transporting students.

Student Requirements

- Sit in the assigned seat at all times.
- Face forward at all times.
- Students that are in the same households will be seated near each other.
- Students are required to wear masks at all times.
- Students will not be permitted to eat or drink on buses.

Special Education

Case Conferences

Students who have Individualized Education Plans will use case conferences to determine the educational needs of individual students.

Virtual instruction will only be provided via Case Conference or 504 distinction.

Building Specific Plans

Blue River Valley Elementary School

- Students will report immediately to their classroom upon arrival to school from 7:45-8:00.
- Students should sanitize their hands upon entering the classrooms.
- Students will still be offered breakfast each morning in the classroom with sanitation before and after eating.
- Teachers will be required to keep up-to-date seating charts.
- Student desks and materials may be wiped down by students and staff throughout the day.
- Students should sanitize their hands before and after lunch.
- Parents and visitors must complete medical screening by our office personnel when visiting our school during the school day.
- Parents will not be able to enter the building during arrival or dismissal procedures.
- Parents/visitors are not able to enter the building for lunch. If a student forgets his/her lunch, please notify the office via phone.

Blue River Valley Jr/Sr. High School

- Upon arrival, from 7:45 - 8:00, students will report to their homeroom.
- Students should sanitize their hands before eating breakfast.
- Breakfast will be served during homeroom.
- Teachers will be required to keep up-to-date seating charts.
- Students should sanitize their hands before walking into the cafeteria.
- Student desks and materials may be wiped down by students and staff throughout the day.
- Parents and visitors must complete medical screening by our office personnel when visiting our school during the school day.

PROPOSAL TO MODIFY BRV COVID RE-ENTRY PLAN (2021-2022)

Purpose

Due to the Covid Delta variant and rising infection rates across the state at the start of the school year, it is necessary to evaluate and modify our Covid guidelines to administer the most productive and safe learning environment for our students and staff.

Rationale

In addition to slowing the transmission rate through the use of face coverings, this 100% mask guideline proposal cuts the close contact distance down from 6 ft to 3 ft which will keep more kids in school.

Elementary (Pre-K to 6th Grade)

Effective Monday, August 30th, all students and staff members from pre-k through grade 6 will be required to wear a mask while indoors. In lieu of masks, staff may wear face shields. A student may wear a face shield if the student provides written documentation from a physician or other health care provider that demonstrates the need to wear a face shield in lieu of a mask. Mask breaks are permissible if students are distanced greater than 6 feet.

Secondary (7th to 12th Grades)

Face coverings are encouraged for students and staff in the middle and high school.

If, for a period of five (5) consecutive days, the secondary complex in the corporation has more than two percent (2%) of the total student and staff (attending in-person) population absent from attendance because of testing positive for COVID19, for a period of at least two (2) weeks, all students and staff attending the school and working in the school, shall always wear a face mask while indoors.

After two (2) weeks, masks will continue to be required while indoors until, for a period of five (5) consecutive days, fewer than two percent (2%) of the total students and staff (attending in person) population is absent from attendance because of testing positive for COVID 19. Mask breaks are permissible if students are distanced greater than 6 feet.

In lieu of a mask, staff may wear face shields. A student may wear a face shield if the student provides written documentation from a physician or other health care provider that demonstrates the need to wear a face shield in lieu of a mask.

During a period of required masking, unless otherwise restricted by administration, students may remove masks when indoors while actively participating in extracurricular activities, such as band and choir, or when engaging in strenuous physical activity.

Passed unanimously (5-0) by the Blue River Valley Schools school board on 8-24-21.