



Bellevue City Schools Reset and Restart Reopening Plan School Year 2020-21 UPDATED AUGUST 5, 2020

On July 24, 2020 the CDC released updated guidance for the reopening of schools during the COVID pandemic. The Bellevue City Schools reopening plan has been updated to reflect the CDC guidance regarding 6' of social distancing and the use of facial coverings. **Due to an increase in COVID confirmed cases in Bellevue it has been recommended by both the Huron County Health Director and Sandusky County Health Director that Bellevue City Schools open in the Blended Learning Model.** The Bellevue City School District remains committed to returning to face-to-face instruction for two days per week and remote instruction three days per week in order to maintain 6' of social distancing for the staff and students. We feel it is imperative for the safety of our staff and students to follow the updated CDC guidance and can only accomplish this with the Blended Learning Model. This will be a fluid system as we move throughout the school year in response to the virus outbreaks and community spread within our four counties and specific school district. **In order to provide some consistency for our families Bellevue City Schools is committed to staying in the Blended Learning Model for the 1st Quarter of the 2020-21 school year unless the Governor or our local health officials determine that we have to move into Remote Learning. We will reevaluate the spread of the virus at the end of the 1st Quarter and communicate with families about the 2nd Quarter, which begins on November 2, 2020.**

The Bellevue Board of Education and Superintendent recognize that a face-to-face return to school is not free of risk, therefore **we will continue to offer families who are not able to return to school an online option for educational delivery through the Bellevue City School District.** Families who have signed up for the BCS Online Learning Academy will be contacted soon and will receive additional information regarding this program.

In addition to social distancing measures, extensive cleaning and sanitation measures, UV Light systems are also being installed in the BES and BMS HVAC systems. We cannot eliminate the risk of COVID spread, but this additional safety strategy at our new buildings will assist in the reduction of the spread of all infectious disease, which will benefit our students and staff for years to come. We have also invested in sanitation fogging systems for BES, BMS, BHS, the Bellevue Athletic Field House and our Bus & Maintenance facility. **Due to the recent surge of COVID in our state and most important, in our community, the decision has been made to start school in Option #2: Blended Learning.** All students will be placed in learning groups and will attend face to face instruction at school 2 days per week with remote learning done by the teachers at Bellevue City Schools on the other days. **Every family will receive a letter in the coming days indicating what days of the week your child will attend school in person.**

With Redmen Pride,

Mrs. Schubert and The Bellevue Board of Education

Learning Model Options for the 2020-21 School Year

Decisions about learning options throughout the year will be made in consultation with local health officials and depending on the outbreak of COVID in the Bellevue community.

Based on the increased community spread of COVID in our community, the plan as of August 3, 2020 is to return to school in *Option 2: Blended Learning*. We will continue in the Blended Learning Model, with up to 50% capacity at a time attending in person school, until the end of the 1st quarter unless the Governor or local health officials recommend that we return to remote instruction. All students will be placed in a learning cohort and families will be sent a letter indicating which days each student will attend school.

Option 1: FULL RETURN TO SCHOOL

Some risk of exposure and spread. 100% return to school in the physical building and classroom. Five days per week on the regular schedule. Parents and students realize they assume some level of risk. Our goal is 3' of social distancing in the classroom with up to 6' of social distancing when possible. Face coverings are highly encouraged, as is recommended in the Health and Prevention Guidance for Ohio K-12 Schools, for students. Face coverings are required for staff, unless an exemption is met. Face covering breaks will be frequently provided whenever 6' of social distancing can be maintained or a physical barrier is in place or when outside.

Option 2: BLENDED LEARNING

High risk of exposure and spread in the community of Bellevue. Schools will consider limiting in person activities as much as possible. Schools will maintain only up to 50% capacity with the option of remote learning and face-to-face instruction in small groups. Very controlled environment limited to **small groups with a minimum of 6' social distancing**. Parents and students realize they assume a high level of risk. Face coverings are **required** for staff and students, unless a medical exemption is provided, when 6' of social distancing is not possible. Face covering breaks will be frequently provided when 6' of social distancing can be maintained or a physical barrier is in place or when outside. Schools will use extreme caution when considering athletics or extracurricular activities. Students will attend school in small groups for two days of in person instruction per week and three days of remote learning. Our students will be split into two groups in order to minimize capacity to 50% and maintain 6' of social distancing.

Monday: Remote learning for all students

Group 1: Red Schedule (Students with Last Name Starting with A-K) Attend school in person on **Tuesday and Thursday** on a regular schedule. Remote Learning on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Group 2: White Schedule (Students with Last Name Starting with L-Z) Attend school in person on **Wednesday and Friday** on a regular schedule. Remote Learning on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

All families will receive a letter in the mail confirming your child's in person learning schedule.

Option #3: REMOTE LEARNING

Severe risk of exposure and spread. Schools will consider 100% remote/ alternative learning. There are two paths for remote learning.

Remote Learning Path 1

Families may choose all remote learning for a semester or entire school year. This remote learning option is provided by the Bellevue City School District, in collaboration with North Point Educational Services Center. Students remain enrolled in Bellevue City Schools. The online learning opportunity is provided by the following vendors:

Grades K-8 Schools PLP

Grades 9-12 Apex Learning

All students will receive a chromebook, issued by Bellevue City Schools, to use during remote learning. Families may choose to switch to the Redmen Online Option at anytime with the understanding that they will stay online through the end of the semester.

Remote Learning Path 2

Family chooses to attend school and due to the COVID19 outbreak the school is forced to go to either short term or long term remote learning. Remote instruction will be delivered by the student's teacher. All students will receive a chromebook, issued by Bellevue City Schools, to use during remote learning.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

These general principles will guide each school building as we move forward throughout the school year:

1. Bellevue City Schools will implement recommended safety protocols to the highest degree possible;
2. Bellevue City Schools will work closely with the Huron County Department of Health to promote safety in all school facilities;
3. Bellevue City Schools will be transparent with all stakeholders that some level of risk will always be present when children and school employees occupy school district facilities;
4. Bellevue City Schools will take steps to ensure quality student learning will continue despite rolling short-term closures or extended school closures;
5. Bellevue City Schools will take whatever steps are necessary to physically remain open taking into account COVID spikes, moving throughout our State of Ohio Level System and enacting stricter safety protocols if necessary to avoid a complete school closure if possible;
6. Bellevue City Schools will close all school facilities and move to Remote Learning if the COVID outbreak in our community and public health officials recommend this is necessary;
7. Bellevue City Schools staff has worked throughout the spring and summer to enhance and strengthen our remote learning program and has amended the school calendar to allow for additional professional development for our instructional leaders in preparation of Remote Learning, if necessary.
8. If Remote Learning becomes necessary, Bellevue City Schools is committed to returning to face-to-face learning as soon as the health officials feel it is safe to do so rather than staying in remote learning as a long term solution;
9. Bellevue City Schools will offer an online option for families who are not able to return to our in person instructional program during the pandemic;
10. Bellevue City Schools will offer a fluid in person and online option for families who are ill or are affected by COVID and need to learn from home during a quarantine period.

The Following Health and Safety Measures Will Be In Place For All Learning Options

Caregiver Expectations

- Ensure all contact information is up to date.
- Ensure there are multiple prearranged and available methods for picking up a student from school should they become ill or exhibit symptoms of COVID-19.
- Perform daily wellness checks at home before sending students to school.
- Students with temperatures of 100 °F or greater should not be sent to school. Students may return when fever free, without medication, for a period of 72 hours or 24 hours with a negative COVID test.
- Do not send students to school if they have the following symptoms:
 - Fever or chills
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea
- Inform school staff at the beginning of the school year if students have chronic conditions that may mimic the symptoms of COVID-19 (above).
- Provide a water bottle for student use at school.
- Pay lunch fees online, if possible, to avoid the exchange of money at school.
- Provide an appropriate face covering for student use.

Families that have come in close contact with a person that has tested positive for COVID-19 should contact Huron County Public Health and follow their recommendations prior to returning to school.

Transportation

- Drivers must wear a facial covering, unless an exemption is met.
- No student in the seat behind the driver.
- Students will sit in assigned seats (to assist with contact tracing if needed).
- **Blended Learning Option: One** student per seat and, in some cases, two students per seat (if the children are from the same household). Two students per seat may be needed for extra-curricular trips.
- Districts will attempt to seat students from the same household together.
- It is **required** that students wear a face covering when riding the bus because 6' of social distancing cannot be maintained at all times. Students may wear their own face covering or one provided by the school district.
- There will be a daily sanitizing protocol for each bus in the fleet.
- Hand sanitizer will be readily available.
- If possible, parents are encouraged to transport their children to school during the pandemic.
- Parents are encouraged to stress to children standing at bus stops to social distance.

Daily Entry/Exit into School Buildings

- Temperature checks will be conducted by families prior to sending students to school. Thermometers are readily available at school for children to be checked as well.
- Wellness checks for symptoms will be conducted by families and school employees prior to coming to school.
- Anyone with a temperature over 100°F or exhibiting other symptoms should stay home.
- Symptoms include: SORE THROAT, PERSISTENT COUGH, SHORTNESS OF BREATH, LOSS OF SMELL, LOSS OF TASTE, CHILLS, MUSCLE ACHES or HEADACHE
- Staggered entry and exit to/from buildings when necessary.

Wearing of Facial Coverings During School

- School staff are **required** to wear a facial covering when 6' of social distancing cannot be maintained unless it would significantly interfere with the learning process, or when a medical exemption is met.
- Students are **required** to wear a face covering at times when 6' of social distancing cannot be maintained unless a medical exemption is met.
- Students may remove their facial covering when 6' of distance can be maintained between themselves and others, when a physical barrier is in place, when eating or drinking or when outside if social distancing is maintained.
- Frequent face covering breaks will be given when 6' of distance can be maintained, a physical barrier is in place, or when outside.
- Students may choose to wear their own school appropriate face covering or one provided by the school district.

Physical Distancing in Classrooms K-12

- Classrooms will operate at 50% capacity utilizing the maximum amount of space available in the classroom while maximizing safety protocols, such as physical desk top barriers.
- Student desks will be 6' apart.
- Teacher desks will be at least 6' away from all other desks in the room.
- When possible, student desks will all face the same direction.
- Unnecessary items will be removed from classrooms to provide more space for distancing.
- Regular hand washing will be encouraged and hand sanitizer will be readily available.
- Certain educators may move between classrooms rather than students switching classrooms.
- Field trips and large group assemblies will be cancelled for the first semester.
- Alternative options for assemblies, performances and other events will be encouraged.
- No classroom parties or treats brought in from the outside.
- Students will not share supplies and there will be no common supply areas in the classroom.
- Preschool classroom size will be reduced to a maximum of 9 students.

Physical Distancing in the Cafeteria

- Occupancy in the school cafeteria will be significantly decreased.
- The number of students at each lunch table will be limited.
- Students will social distance while standing in line and the lines will be staggered.
- Cleaning and disinfecting of all tables between lunch periods will take place.
- Seating will be assigned.
- Self-serve options will be limited.
- Students may still pack their lunch.
- Additional protective barriers will be in place for cafeteria staff and when recommended by the local health department.

Daily Cleaning of Classrooms and Common Areas

- Custodial staff will increase sanitizing of classrooms, restrooms, and common areas.
- Sanitation systems have been purchased for all buildings and fogging will take place to disinfect all hard surfaces on a daily basis.
- Ultraviolet systems will be installed in the HVAC systems at BES and BMS. This can be achieved throughout the entire building in our two new buildings. We are exploring the option of implementing the UV system in the common area HVAC systems at BHS.

Hallways and Common Areas

- Accessibility to lockers will be limited to decrease congregating in hallways.
- Students will wear a facial covering when in hallways and common areas.
- Water fountains will be converted to Bottle Filling Stations. Students are encouraged to bring their own water bottle to school.
- One way traffic in hallways when possible.

Recess

- Limited student access to certain pieces of equipment and/or restrict activities that are “high touch” and difficult to clean or maintain social distancing.
- Monitors will encourage “structured” activities such as nature walks that increase time outside while limiting students’ physical contact with others.
- Students will wash or sanitize their hands after recess.
- Entry to/from recess will be staggered to ensure social distancing.

Access to Hand Sanitizer and Washing of Hands

- We will teach, remind and encourage frequent hand washing.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms and in common areas throughout the building.

Guests and Visitors to Schools

- Visitors are generally discouraged from being in school district facilities.
- Safety protocols for visitors will be implemented.
- Visitors are highly encouraged to wear a facial covering when in school facilities.

Choir/Band Class and Marching Band

- Observe at least 6 feet or more of physical distancing.
- Encourage outdoor activities when possible.

School Offices

- Staff will wear a facial covering when interacting in close proximity to others.
- Cleaning supplies and hand sanitizer will be readily available.
- Visitors are required to wear a facial covering at all times when in school facilities.

Nurse/Clinic Area

- Ensure the workspace, door handles, countertops, seating areas, restrooms are kept clean and disinfected between students.
- Ensure physical distancing is followed when more than one student is in the clinic area.
- Students with temperatures of 100°F or more should stay home/be sent home.
- Students will be isolated that are exhibiting symptoms.
- Students exhibiting symptoms are required to wear a facial covering until they are picked up by a caregiver.
- Nurse/office staff will wear a facial covering and proper PPE when caring for students.

Students with COVID-19

Communication will be developed by the Huron County Health Department and followed by the school district.

- Health department professionals will notify parents if their child has been exposed to someone with COVID at school.
- The district will cooperate with the Huron County Health Department's work in contact tracing.
- 14-day quarantine will be required for any student who tests positive for COVID-19 and others as determined by the Health Department.
- Schools will have an isolation room to be used for students exhibiting symptoms until they can be picked-up by a parent or guardian.
- If any member of a household is diagnosed with COVID, the students from the household must remain at home for 14 days.
- Remote learning options will be made available to students who are in quarantine.
- The school district will not be allowed to identify specific students or staff who are exposed to or diagnosed with COVID due to federal privacy laws.
- Students, their parents and staff who are exposed to someone diagnosed with COVID will be contacted by the Huron County Health Department as a part of contact tracing procedures.
- Students diagnosed with COVID-19 may return to school when released by a health professional to do so.

Staff with COVID-19

- A staff member diagnosed with COVID-19 must quarantine at home for 14 days.
- Staff members will be prepared for a sub (lesson plans, assessments, etc.).
- Parents will be notified of exposed students as directed by the Health Department.
- The district will cooperate with the Huron County Health Department's work in contact tracing.
- A staff member diagnosed with COVID-19 may return to school when released by a health professional to do so.

Student Health Issues That are Not Diagnosed as COVID-19

- A student with a fever must be fever free without medication for 24 hours before returning to school unless released by a medical professional to return sooner.
- Upon returning to school, the student must report to the school nurse/office staff for a temperature check.

Staff Health Issues That are Not Diagnosed as COVID-19

- A staff member with a fever must be fever free without medication for 24 hours.

Remote Learning Information

- Bellevue City Schools will offer a remote learning option for those families who choose this is best for their family during the 2020-21 school year due to the pandemic. This option is for students in K-12.
- Families wishing to make a commitment to online learning may choose to switch to the BCS Online Option at anytime with the understanding that they will stay online through the end of the semester.
- The student may return back to face-to-face instruction from online learning at the semester break.
- If the community of Bellevue has a COVID outbreak and health officials recommend remote learning, all students will go to remote learning until the community is no longer experiencing an outbreak and public health officials recommend that it is safe to return to face-to-face instruction. This path for remote learning will be taught by the child's teacher and the child will return back to the classroom as soon as health officials have deemed it is safe to do so.
- ALL students, regardless of their remote learning path, will be issued an individual Chromebook during remote learning.
- Families who do not have internet access should contact their building principal to arrange for access.
- The remote learning curriculum will be more rigorous and will be graded during the 2020-21 school year.