



# Battle Creek Public Schools

## 2021-2022 COVID-19 Response Plan

Rev. March 1, 2022

As COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations continue to decline around the state, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) updated its mask guidance recently, removing its public health advisory on universal masking in indoor public settings, including in schools. Following the MDHHS recommendations, the district consulted with the Calhoun County Public Health Department and, following their guidance, **masks are optional for students, staff, and visitors in Battle Creek Public Schools as of February 18, 2022. Following the CDC's updated guidance on February 25, 2022, masks are now optional while riding BCPS transportation as well.**

According to MDHHS, decreases in cases and hospitalizations and increased access to vaccines, testing and treatment indicate that Michigan is entering what it terms a recovery phase of the COVID-19 cycle. **Please note that these changes will only remain in effect while our community remains in a recovery phase or better.** If the COVID-19 exposure and transmission numbers begin to reach a level of concern, requiring our community to enter a "response" phase again, we will reassess and again lean on the guidance of local health officials.

For a full list of BCPS COVID-19 protocol updates, please refer to the enclosed plan.

## MASKS



- Masks are now optional for students, staff, and visitors in Battle Creek Public Schools.
- This change also applies to athletics and other district events.
- It is recommended that individuals and families assess their own risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission — such as vaccination status and pre-existing conditions — and make choices about continuing to wear masks while at school.
- Since we know that some will choose to continue masking up as an added precaution, we ask that everyone please respect others and their decisions.

\*Students and staff are encouraged to bring their own masks each day, but district-provided masks will be available for those who need them. KN95 masks are also available to the general public free of charge at the Calhoun County Public Health Department, located in the Toeller Building downtown.

## HYGIENE



- The District will make available adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors (including soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol for safe use by staff and students, paper towels, tissues, and signs reinforcing proper hand-washing techniques).
- Portable hand sanitizing stations will remain set up at entrances and throughout school buildings.
- Hand sanitizer will be made available for all classrooms.
- Students and teachers should continue to wash their hands thoroughly and frequently.
- Informational flyers and posters will remain in bathrooms and common areas to aid in hygiene best practices.
- Building staff will be available to encourage and educate students on habits such as proper hand-washing and coughing or sneezing into elbows to help prevent the spread of germs.
- Disinfecting wipes will be made available to all classrooms to allow for disinfecting of surfaces and materials as needed.

\* If additional cleaning supplies (i.e. hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes), staff should reach out to a building secretary. Faulty equipment should be reported through the Facilities Tracker Tool.

## SCREENING FOR SYMPTOMS



- Anyone experiencing potential symptoms of COVID-19 should stay home and consider completing a COVID-19 test or contacting a family physician for guidance.
- School staff are no longer required to conduct the online health self-assessment each day. Rather, they should follow the guidance of staying home and considering a COVID-19 test or contacting a family physician for guidance.
- Staff who are unable to work due to displaying COVID-19 symptoms will be required to report this to a building principal immediately.

## CLEANING PROTOCOLS



- All areas will follow standard daily cleaning protocols.
- In response to any school-associated cases of COVID-19 in one of our buildings or facilities, a building leader will contact the BCPS Director of Facilities to schedule enhanced sanitation for areas identified.



## CLASSROOM SETUP

### ELEMENTARY CLASSROOMS

- All pre-K—5 schools will use cohorted classrooms, meaning that students will remain with their assigned class throughout the day.
- Elementary specials will be taught by cohort and will not be required to be held in the classroom.
- Breakfast and lunch will be served in each classroom.
- Students will remain with their cohorts during recess.
- In classrooms, desks, tables, and/or student workstations should be set up to allow for physical distancing as much as possible. Teachers should consider maintaining at least three feet of spacing between themselves and students as much as possible.
- In buildings without ventilation (air conditioning) systems, windows should be kept open as much as possible, weather permitting.
- Considerations will be made for students with allergy-induced asthma.
- Social distancing is encouraged as much as possible in all hallways and common areas.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL CLASSROOMS

- 6-12 schools will continue utilizing assigned seating in classrooms and eating spaces.
- Desks, tables, and/or student workstations should be set up to allow for physical distancing as much as possible.
- Teachers should consider maintaining at least three feet of spacing between themselves and students as much as possible.
- Seating charts should be maintained in grades 6-12 to help identify potential exposures.
- Classrooms in buildings without ventilation (air conditioning) systems, and that have windows that can open, will be kept open as much as possible, weather permitting.
- Considerations will be made for students with allergy-induced asthma.
- Social distancing is encouraged as much as possible in all hallways and common areas.



## IN-PERSON ASSEMBLIES, FIELD TRIPS & EVENTS

- In-person events, before- and after-school programming, field trips, and other gatherings are now permitted based on building plans and protocols.
- Some events may continue to be offered in a hybrid or fully virtual format



## VISITORS

- Parents/Guardians and visitors are permitted to enter schools following building protocols.
- All individuals entering the buildings should:
  - Assess their own risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission — such as vaccination status and pre-existing conditions — and make choices about whether to wear a protective mask.
  - Practice physical distancing as much as possible.
  - Follow other protocols put in place for building- or program-specific events.
- Anyone experiencing potential symptoms of COVID-19 should stay home and consider completing a COVID-19 test or contacting a family physician for guidance.



## MEALS

- Students in grades pre-K—5 will eat breakfast and lunch in their classrooms' cohorts each day.
- For students in grades 6—12, meal times will be staggered and seating will be arranged to provide appropriate spacing between students as much as possible.

# POSITIVE CASE RESPONSE PROCEDURES



**School Associated Case:** A probable or confirmed case of COVID-19 amongst students, teachers, staff members, coaches, volunteers, or any other person who was present on school property, or at a school function under circumstances that may result in the transmission or contraction of COVID-19 during an infectious period.

- In the event of a school associated case within one of our schools, programs, or events, BCPS will work to identify all individuals who may have potentially been exposed.
- **The families of those identified as having been potentially exposed will be alerted and asked to continue monitoring for symptoms—they are no longer required to quarantine unless symptoms arise.** If symptoms develop, the individual should remain home and consider completing a COVID-19 test or contacting a family physician for guidance.
- In accordance with guidance from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) the District will continue to update its website with school-associated cases within 24 hours of being informed by the local Health Department.

# POSITIVE CASE ISOLATION REQUIREMENTS



- Those who test positive should follow the following guidelines:
  - **Tested positive with symptoms:** Stay home and isolate for 5 full days after the first day symptoms were identified.
  - **Tested positive without symptoms:** Stay home and isolate for 5 full days after the day of the positive test.
- **On the last day of your isolation period, do you have no symptoms or are your symptoms resolving?**
  - **If yes:** you can return to normal activities on day 6 with mandatory continued use of a well-fitting mask through day 10.
  - **If no:** If you continue to have a fever or your other symptoms have not improved after 5 days of isolation, you should wait to end your isolation until you are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and your other symptoms have improved. If your symptoms are not resolving or are worsening, seek medical care.
- A school staff member will communicate the learning expectations and supports available for families of students who are learning from home.
- Staff who are unable to work due to displaying COVID-19 symptoms will be required to report this to a building principal immediately.

"**Resolving symptoms**" means your symptoms have gotten noticeably better.

Some symptoms (like fatigue and loss of smell) may last a longer time. If you have questions, please call your medical provider to discuss.

## ISOLATION: STUDENT OR STAFF IF YOU TEST POSITIVE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
You get a positive test result or start having COVID symptoms. Start isolation.					If you have no symptoms or if symptoms are resolving, this could be last day of isolation	Normal activities can resume on day 6 if no symptoms or symptoms are resolving
Day 0	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	+Day 6
						• Mandatory continued use of a well-fitting mask through day 10.
Day 7	Day 8	Day 9	Day 10	Day 11		

CCPHD recommendation: If you continue to have fever or your other symptoms have not improved after 5 days of isolation, you should wait to end your isolation until you are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and your other symptoms have improved.

If symptoms develop after testing positive, the 5-day isolation period starts over.

Source: [https://www.calhouncountymi.gov/departments/public\\_health\\_department/schools\\_covid\\_resources.php](https://www.calhouncountymi.gov/departments/public_health_department/schools_covid_resources.php)



## TRANSPORTATION

- Effective February 25, 2022, CDC does not require the wearing of masks on buses or vans operated by public or private school systems. Following this guidance, masks are optional while riding BCPS transportation.
- Opening of windows, weather permitting, is recommended to increase circulation of outdoor air, as long as doing so does not pose a safety or health risk.
- Students who become sick during the day will not be allowed to ride the bus home.
- All buses will be cleaned and disinfected on a daily basis.



## ATHLETICS

- BCPS will continue to comply with all guidelines published by the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA), Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Interim Guidance for Athletics, and the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS).



## SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

- BCPS will provide district- and building-level Student Support Teams to identify barriers to success and provide support as applicable.
- The Student Services Department will work with local public health agencies and community partners to coordinate health support for students.
- Social-emotional learning curricula at BCPS will be utilized throughout the district, including TrueSuccess character development lessons, Character Strong, and other aligned curricula aligned with The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL), which teaches the core competencies of self-awareness, self-management, responsible decision-making, relationship skills, and social awareness.
- BCPS staff can access HelpNet resources at [www.bronsonhealth.com/locations/helpnet](http://www.bronsonhealth.com/locations/helpnet)

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## DEFINITIONS

- **Quarantine**
  - The practice of keeping someone who may have been exposed to COVID-19 away from others.
  - CCPHD is not currently requiring a quarantine period for those who may have been exposed. Rather, the current recommendation is to monitor closely for symptoms, consider masking, and stay home if any symptoms arise.
- **Isolation**
  - The practice of separating people infected with the virus (both those with and without symptoms) from people who are not infected. People who are in isolation (usually for 10 days) must stay home until it's safe for them to be around others.
- **Resolving Symptoms**
  - Symptoms have gotten noticeably better. Some symptoms (like fatigue and loss of smell) may last a longer time. If you have questions, please call your medical provider to discuss.