



BCPS 21-22 Reopening Plan

A Safe and Healthy Return
to In-Person Learning

August 9, 2021

BELIEVE
in the
CHANGESM



Goals & Guidance

Our Goal

We wholeheartedly believe that students have the best opportunities to learn and grow in face-to-face school settings.

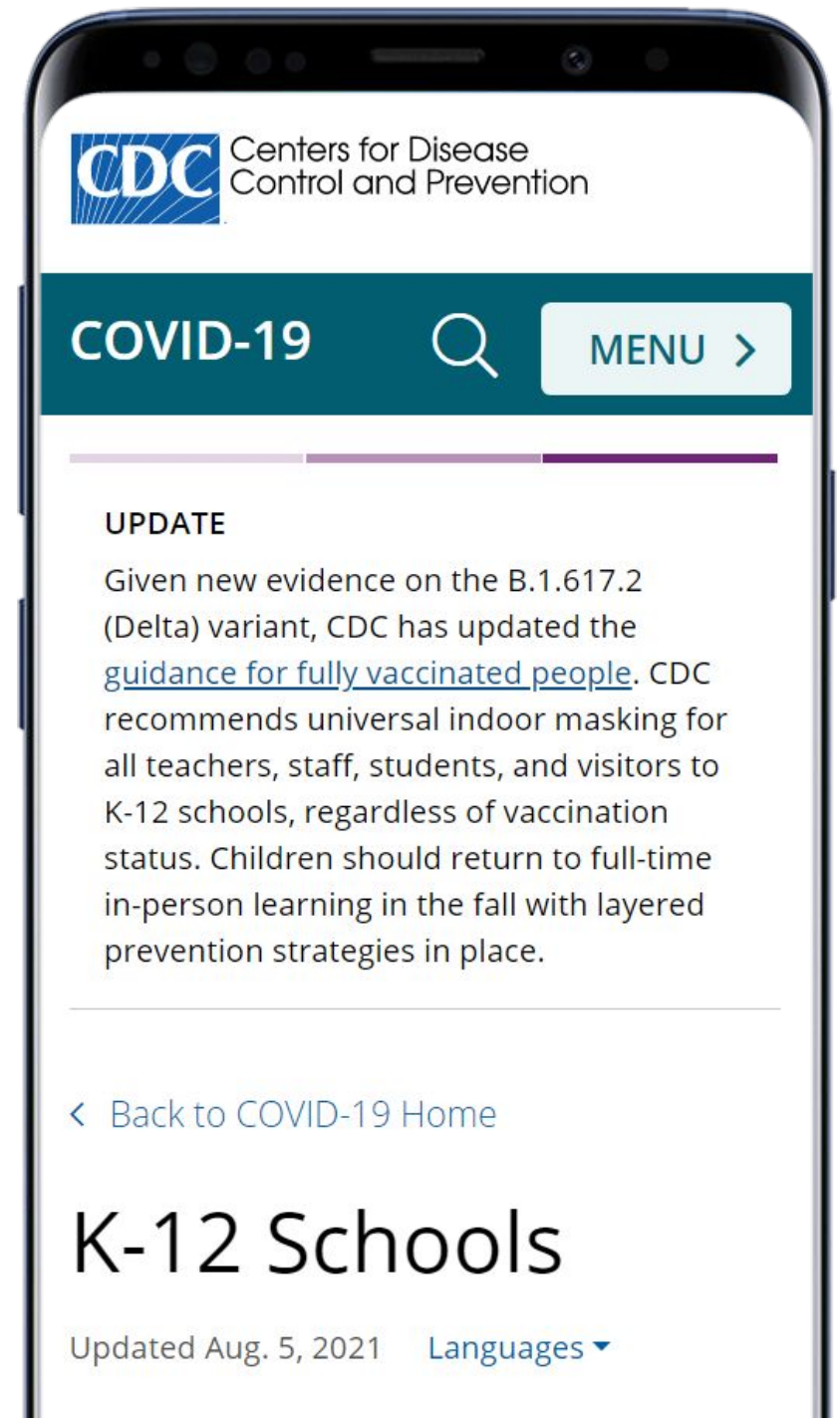
Our goal is to provide a safe, healthy learning environment for students, **minimize missed classroom time** due to quarantine requirements, and **maximize time spent with teachers and friends**.



Guidance Used to Shape Our Plan

The plan was developed based on guidance released by:

- Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC)
- American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)
- Michigan Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS)
- Calhoun County Public Health Department (CCPHD)
- Survey Data



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AAP News

AAP urges in-person learning, masking in updated guidance on safe schools

Trisha Koriath, Staff Writer
July 18, 2021



Editor's note: For the latest news on COVID-19, visit <http://bit.ly/AAPNewsCOVID19>.

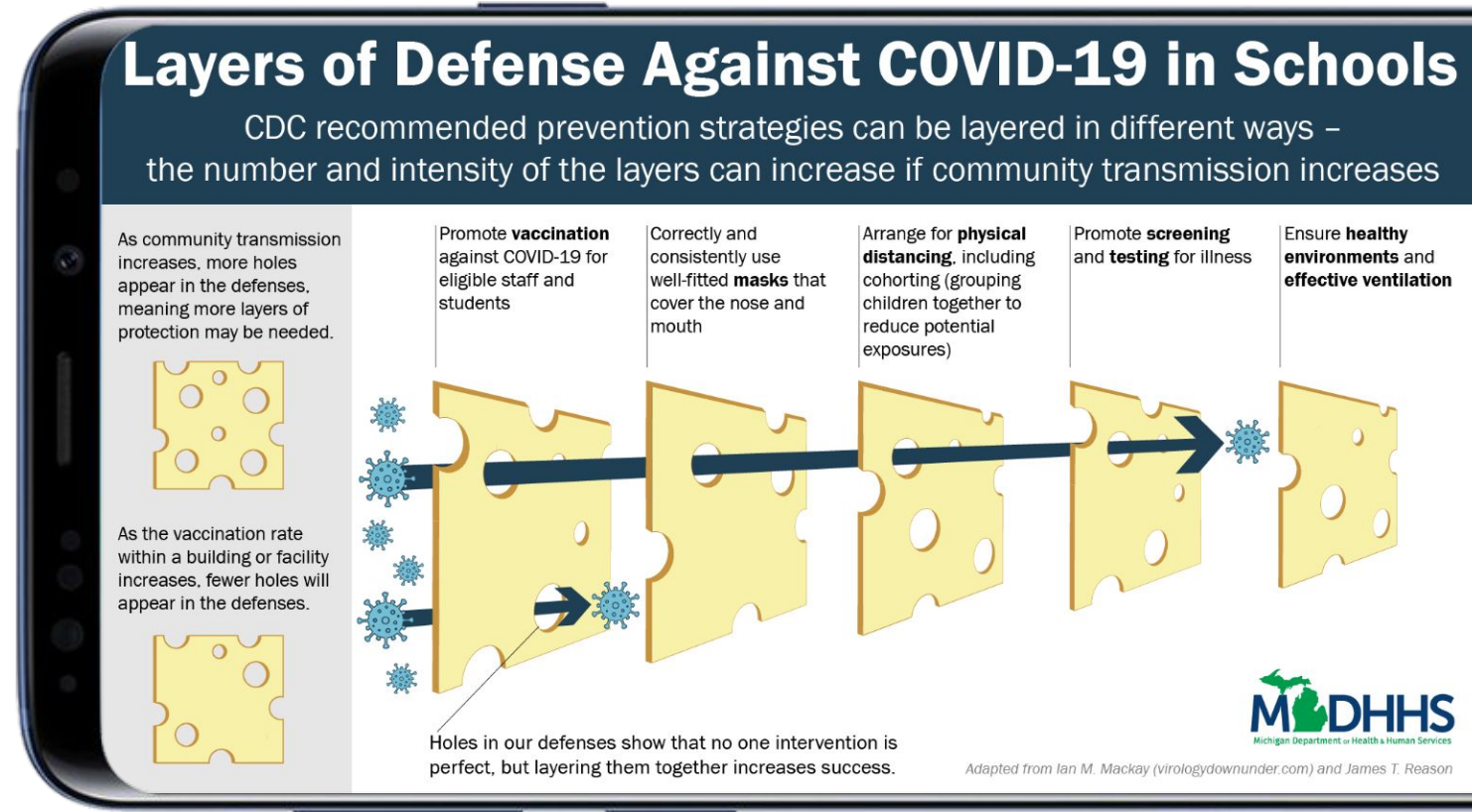
Keeping masks on in school and urging everyone who is eligible to get vaccinated against COVID-19 are among several coordinated interventions recommended in updated AAP interim guidance that strongly advocates for in-person learning during the 2021-'22 school year.

"Remote-learning highlighted inequities in education, was detrimental to the educational attainment of students of all ages, and exacerbated the mental health crisis among children and adolescents," according to the guidance.

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All, in case you hadn't heard yet the CDC has revised their mask guidance for K-12 schools. The following statement can be found at the top of the CDC guidance for K-12 schools:

- "CDC recommends universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status. Children should return to full-time in-person learning in the fall with layered prevention strategies in place."

With this latest revision the Calhoun County Public Health Department and MDHHS recommend all schools follow the latest CDC guidance when creating your back to school plans. CCPHD can no longer support plans that have optional indoor masking as a mitigation measure during low to moderate community transmission. We can discuss further if necessary at our next Monday meeting. This is again a reminder that we are still in a pandemic and information can change rapidly.

Eric Pessell, REHS, BA
Health Officer
Calhoun County Public Health Department
100 E. Michigan Ave.

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- **Survey Data**

541

Comfortable returning with: "CDC-recommended health and safety precautions in place—including masks and social distancing."

325

Comfortable returning without: "CDC-recommended health and safety precautions in place—including masks and social distancing."

782 total BCPS family responses via phone survey.

Spanish: 60

Burmese: 11

Current COVID Transmission Risk Levels

The planning in this document is anchored on the Battle Creek Public Schools Equity Imperative:

Please utilize the resources below provided by the CCPHD, State of Michigan, and the CDC.

Current county risk level updated on 8/3/2021

Indicator	Low Transmission Blue	Moderate Transmission Yellow	Substantial Transmission Orange	High Transmission Red
Total new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days ²	0-9	10-49	50-99	≥100
Percentage of NAATs that are positive during the past 7 days ³	<5.0%	5.0%-7.9%	8.0%-9.9%	≥10.0%

**County
Incidence Rate:**
67.3 per 100,000

**County
Positivity Rate:**
5.81%

Plan Overview

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- All grade levels will attend school face-to-face, Monday-Friday, beginning **Wednesday, August 25th (for grades k-12) with a half-day**. This means there will be no hybrid schedule for grades 6-12.
- K–12 students also have the option to sign up for **BCPS Virtual Academy**.
 - This program is best suited for students who are able to thrive in either a self-guided or a parent- or guardian-supported learning environment, with less frequent teacher interaction.
 - It may be ideal for families with significant health concerns.



Masks

- **Masks will be required** for all individuals inside BCPS buildings.
- Current CDC guidance recommends masks for all students and staff members, regardless of vaccinations, based on current local transmission levels and the CCPHD supports this recommendation.
- Masks are required on buses or any school transportation, following a federal mandate.

**Students and staff are encouraged to bring their own masks each day, but district-provided masks will be available for those who need them.*



Hygiene

- The District will provide adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors (including soap, hand sanitizer, paper towels, tissues, and signs reinforcing proper handwashing techniques).
- Students will be provided with school supplies to limit sharing of personal items and supplies and are free to bring supplies from home as well.



Cleaning

- Cleaning of frequently touched surfaces will continue.
- Hands-on classrooms spaces that are in use will continue to undergo cleaning after every class period.



Classroom Setup

- All pre-K—5 schools will continue to use cohorted classrooms, meaning that students will remain with their assigned class throughout the day.
 - Specials will be taught in classrooms, outdoors, and/or by cohort.
 - Students will remain with their classroom cohorts during recess.
- 6-12 schools will continue to utilize physical distancing to the extent possible, as well as assigned seating, to help limit the number of close contacts should a case arise.



Visitors

- Parents/Guardians and visitors will be permitted to enter the buildings on a limited basis.
- All individuals entering the buildings will be required to:
 - Wear a mask at all times
 - Check in and out at the front desk
 - Practice physical distancing to the extent possible
 - Follow other protocols put in place for building- or program-specific events.



Screening At Home

- Families and staff members should continue to conduct daily symptom screenings at home.
- If a student or staff member is exhibiting any potential symptoms of COVID-19, they should remain home and contact a healthcare provider.



Response Procedures

- Students or staff members experiencing symptoms or other illnesses while at school will need to go home.
- Following identification of a school associated case, the district will work with the CCPHD to contact trace, identifying other individuals who may be required to quarantine and contacting all affected families.



Meals

- Students in grades preK—5 will eat breakfast and lunch in their classroom 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 to the extent possible.

** Meal pickups may not be available this school year. If the status of meal pickup availability changes, we will announce this to the BCPS community as soon as possible.*



Athletics, Extracurriculars, and Other Gatherings

- BCPS will comply with all guidelines published by the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA), Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Interim Guidance for Contact Sports, and the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS).
- Extracurricular events and afterschool programming will be permitted, following the guidance of CCPHD.
- All indoor and outdoor gatherings must comply with current and future CCPHD guidance.



Transportation

- **Following federal requirements**, all individuals, if medically feasible, must wear facial coverings while on the bus.
- Seating charts will be used to help limit the number of close contacts should a case arise.

**Students and staff are encouraged to bring their own masks each day, but district-provided masks will be available for those who need them.*



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 includes
 - **TrueSuccess** character development lessons
 - **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.

LOOKING AHEAD

BCPS will continue to monitor transmission levels within the community and may adjust these protocols and strategies accordingly following further guidance from the Calhoun County Public Health Department.