

Bedford County Public Schools
School Health and Safety Plan
Summer 2021

Safety during the summer continuation of Bedford County schools is a shared responsibility among staff, students, and families. The following health and safety plan reflects the steps that will be expected of each community member during summer session in June and July 2021. BCPS will work closely with the local health department to respond to suspected or positive COVID-19 cases among staff and students. Changes to this plan may be required by revised governor's orders or updated VDH/CDC guidance and will be communicated on the BCPS website.

Basic Health:

1. As in phase 3, parents/guardians will be asked to conduct daily health screenings of all students. School staff will take temperatures of students presenting symptoms or returning to school after an illness. Substitute and itinerant staff will take part in health screenings upon reporting to school.
2. Staff and student handwashing will occur at regular intervals throughout the day as outlined in CDC, VDH, and DOE guidance.
3. Hand sanitizer (>60% alcohol) will be made available throughout the school as outlined in CDC, VDH, and DOE guidance.
4. Water fountains will be closed for use, and staff and students will be encouraged to bring a personal labeled water bottle.
5. Based on governor's orders and VDOE guidance, Bedford County Public Schools requires that face coverings be worn at all times in indoor school settings for all individuals age 5 or older, with the following exceptions:
 - While eating or drinking
 - While exercising or using exercise equipment
 - While playing a musical instrument, when wearing a mask or face covering would inhibit the playing of the instrument (e.g. wind instrument), if at least 10 feet of physical distancing can be maintained from other persons, whether the rehearsal or performance is indoors or outdoors.
 - Any person who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance
 - Any person seeking to communicate with the hearing impaired and for which the mouth needs to be visible
 - When temporary removal of the face covering is necessary to secure government, or medical services
 - Persons with health conditions or disabilities that prohibit wearing a face covering
6. School staff will identify isolation areas for COVID-19 symptomatic students.
7. The Supervisor of Physical and Mental Health is the district's point of contact with the local health department and will work with the Associate Director of Learner Support Services, Chief Operations Officer, Maintenance Supervisor, and Environmental

Services Coordinator to support school district efforts. The Supervisor of Physical and Mental Health, athletic trainer, or another designated trained contact tracer will serve as contact tracer for school cases of COVID-19.

8. School staff will wear proper PPE as the situation indicates.
9. As outlined in CDC, VDH, and DOE guidance, visitors and volunteers in schools will be restricted, and protocols will be developed regarding calling in advance, face covering use, and basic health screening questions. Policies will be established for hosting staff from partner agencies, student teachers, interns, and others who have had traditional roles in our schools.

Cleaning:

1. Staff will work to reduce clutter in learning areas to provide as much work space as possible.
2. Equipment, manipulatives, books, and other learning objects will be cleaned between student uses or assigned to individual students for use as outlined in CDC, VDH, and DOE guidance.
3. Staff will disinfect surfaces and floors in learning areas at increased intervals using appropriate, documented cleaning products as outlined in CDC, VDH, and DOE guidance.
4. Restrooms will be cleaned at increased intervals throughout the day using appropriate, documented cleaning products as outlined in CDC, VDH, and DOE guidance.

Student Distancing/Grouping:

1. In each school, furniture will be arranged in learning areas to achieve appropriate physical distancing of 3 feet during routine activities as outlined in CDC, VDH, and DOE guidance.
2. As outlined in CDC, VDH, and DOE guidance, students will be grouped such that they remain with a stable group of peers to the extent possible. Class changes and mixing of students in common areas will be minimized and managed. Staff rather than students will travel to different rooms whenever possible.
3. Outside learning areas will be used when possible.
4. Only limited field trips related to required school activities will be scheduled.
5. Recess will be limited to 50 students at a time as outlined in DOE guidance.
6. Students will wear masks outdoors when physical distancing of 6' cannot be maintained.
7. Staff will create staggered schedules for loading buses, getting meals from the cafeteria, using restrooms, and other functions to avoid large groupings of students as outlined in CDC, VDH, and DOE guidance.
8. Traditional safety drills that require close contact will be modified for appropriate physical distancing.
9. No student lockers will be used unless there is a documented need.
10. To the extent possible, the spaces student groups use during a day will be documented to assist with contact tracing if needed.

Transportation:

1. Parents will be encouraged to drive their children to school whenever possible. Pick up and drop off patterns will be adapted and monitored to handle the increase in vehicle traffic at school sites.
2. For those students riding buses, drivers will assign seating to include physical distancing. The number of students riding on a full-size bus will be limited to approximately 60%. This will typically be 42 students per 71 passenger bus (2 per seat). Siblings will be allowed to sit together. While this does not allow for the 3-6' physical distancing recommended by the CDC, VDH, and DOE, it is a practical plan that will reduce likelihood of virus spread and will be communicated, along with other safety measures being taken, to parents before the start of the school year.
3. Students and drivers will be required to wear face coverings as outlined in CDC, VDH, and DOE guidance.
4. Buses will contain hand sanitizer to be used upon entering the bus as outlined in CDC, VDH, and DOE guidance.
5. Drivers will clean seats and handrail surfaces between bus routes as outlined in CDC, VDH, and DOE guidance.
6. Buses will include signage reminding students of seating arrangements, physical distancing expectations, and hand sanitizing as outlined in CDC, VDH, and DOE guidance.
7. When weather allows, windows will be open to allow for better air circulation as outlined in CDC, VDH, and DOE guidance.

Dining/Meal Service:

1. Meal options will be provided to meet individual needs and physical distancing guidelines. These may include grab and go meals, cart delivery, distributed meal pick up sites, and other solutions as outlined in DOE guidance.
2. In traditional meal lines, 6' spaces will be marked for students waiting to be served as outlined in DOE guidance.
3. Dining spaces will be closed off or contain limited seating in order to allow for appropriate physical distancing. Students will eat in areas with appropriate distancing including learning spaces, outside, or cafeterias with reduced seating options.
4. Since masks are removed for eating meals and snacks, ensure that 6' of distancing is kept during these eating activities.
5. Food sharing tables will be discontinued.
6. Procedures for refilling student water bottles without unhealthy contact will be instituted.

Training:

1. Separate trainings on role-specific safe practices related to COVID-19 will be provided for the following groups not previously trained in required mitigation measures:
 - a. Students
 - b. Teachers (including specialized training for CTE, music, PE, drama, and other teachers in areas requiring unique learning activities/equipment)

- c. School nurses and back-up staff
 - d. Instructional support staff
 - e. Custodians/maintenance staff
 - f. Drivers
 - g. School nutrition workers
 - h. Coaches/Activity sponsors
 - i. Parents/guardians
2. As outlined in CDC, VDH, and DOE guidance, appropriate signage will be posted throughout school buildings to direct and remind staff and students about safe routines, procedures, and practices.

Driver's Education (based on DOE guidance):

1. Students and staff will be required to wear face coverings and encouraged to wear gloves during in car instruction.
2. Steering wheel, steering column controls, dashboard controls, seats, seatbelts, gearshift, keys, door handles and all other touched surfaces will be cleaned with appropriate materials before and after each lesson.
3. Instructors will conduct daily health screenings with all students prior to instruction.

Extracurricular Activities (based on DOE and VHSL guidance):

1. No outside, rec/travel teams will be allowed to use indoor facilities used by school teams.
2. Participants will be required to provide documentation of a current physical examination before joining off-season activities.
3. Coaches will be trained in safety practices to implement with their teams before conditioning or practices begin.
4. Coaches will conduct health screenings with all players before each training session.
5. Attendance will be recorded for practices/training sessions.
6. There should be no shared athletic towels, clothing or shoes between students. All athletic equipment, including balls, should be cleaned intermittently during practices and contests. Athletic equipment such as bats, batting helmets and catchers gear should be cleaned between each use. Weight training equipment must be properly cleaned after each use by a single individual.
7. All students must bring their own labeled water bottles.
8. Workouts should be conducted in "pods" of students with the same 5-10 students always working out together. Smaller pods can be utilized for weight training. This ensures more limited exposure if someone develops an infection.
9. When coaches are unable to maintain 10' physical distancing from players, the coach must wear a face covering. Face coverings will not be required for participants (but cloth coverings are allowed). All spectators must wear face coverings.
10. Locker room use will be limited. When locker room use is necessary, staggered schedules, physical distancing strategies, and cleaning between uses will be implemented.
11. BCPS will not provide transportation for summer athletic training.

12. Prior to an individual or groups of individuals entering a facility, hard surfaces within that facility should be wiped down and sanitized (chairs, furniture in meeting rooms, locker rooms, weight room equipment, bathrooms, athletic training room tables, etc.).
13. Individuals will be instructed to wash their hands for a minimum of 20 seconds with warm water and soap before touching any surfaces or participating in workouts, and at the end of practice. Hand sanitizer should be available to individuals as they transfer from place to place.
14. Scheduling of practices and activities must be staggered in order to provide time for appropriate cleaning.
15. Athletic directors will receive an activity-specific plan for training from each coach before activities begin.
16. Schools will follow VHSL and athletic district guidance on permitted activities, activity modifications, and spectator limitations.

Contingency Protocols:

1. If a school is notified of a positive case of COVID-19 among staff or students, school district staff will consult with the local health department. Schools are prepared to close fully or in areas of the building temporarily to allow time for proper cleaning, notification of the school community, contact tracing, and other necessary steps. Online course content and other strategies for remote learning will allow continuity of learning.