



## 2021-2022 Bushnell-Prairie City School District Returning to Learn Frequently Asked Questions

This document was developed to provide answers to common questions regarding the Bushnell-Prairie City return to learn for the 2021-2022 school year in accordance with Executive Order 2021-18. This plan may undergo revision upon changes in mandates and/or local conditions. Such changes will be communicated to the school community as soon as practical.

### **What does the Executive Order require?**

*The Executive Order requires that all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to P-12 schools wear a mask while indoors, regardless of vaccination status. It also requires schools to comply with contact tracing, isolation, and quarantining, as directed by state and local public health departments. In addition to these requirements, school districts must also implement the following:*

- *Promote and/or provide COVID-19 immunization for all eligible staff and students.*
- *Facilitate physical distancing. Schools should configure their spaces to provide space for physical distancing to the extent possible in their facilities.*
- *Implement or provide provisions for SARS-CoV-2 testing for diagnostic testing for suspected cases, close contacts, and during outbreaks, as well as screening testing for unvaccinated staff and students according to the CDC's testing recommendations.*
- *Improve ventilation to reduce the concentration of potentially virus-containing droplets in schools' indoor air environments.*
- *Promote and adhere to hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.*
- *Encourage individuals who are sick to stay home and get tested for COVID-19.*
- *Clean and disinfect surfaces in schools to maintain healthy environments.*

*While not part of the Executive Order, masks must also be worn by staff and students on district transportation.*

### **What if I am not comfortable sending my child back to school for in-person instruction?**

*There is not a remote option available this year. Please work closely with your child's teacher and building principal to see if accommodations are possible that would make your child's return to school more comfortable.*

### **What if I do not agree with sending my child to school with a mask?**

*Students, staff, and visitors without masks cannot be allowed in school buildings.*

### **My child won't wear a mask. What should we do?**

*Students or staff who have a condition or medical contraindication that prevents them from wearing a face mask are required to provide documentation from their health care provider.*

**Will students still need to have their temperature taken when they arrive to school?**

*No, staff and students are encouraged to stay home when they are sick and to get tested for COVID-19. Temperatures will not be taken on buses or upon arrival at school. While that practice was recommended and implemented last year, it does not appear in recommendations this year. Parents also did a great job of keeping sick kids home last year. No student boarding a bus or to school in the morning presented with a temperature last year.*

**Will you exclude my child from school if they are sick?**

*Consistent with past practice and in efforts to stop the spread of illness, the following procedures from the B-PC Parent Student Handbook remain in place. “Children who have a temperature above 99.6 degrees will be sent home from school. After being ill with a fever or vomiting, a child must have a normal temperature without medication for 24 hours before returning to school. If your child has been diagnosed with strep throat or pink eye, they will need to on an antibiotic for minimum of 24 hours before returning back to school.”*

*The Health Department is the agency tasked with quarantining students and staff from school for COVID-related issues. School district personnel will cooperate as needed, with contact tracing, isolation, and quarantine. Anyone quarantined from school by the Health Department must receive clearance prior to returning to school. Our District Nurse, Kristi White, is in daily contact with the Health Department to ensure that students are able to return when cleared to do so.*

**What are the social distancing recommendations for this school year?**

*If masked, the Center for Disease Control has identified social distancing as 3 feet between students in classrooms.*

**My child has been vaccinated. Can they still get quarantined by the Health Department?**

*Yes, based upon the current decision-making tree provided by the Illinois Department of Public Health vaccinated individuals may still be quarantined based upon the presence of symptoms or in situations in which individuals were not masked and not engaged in social distancing.*

**Will the District ask for our vaccination records or require vaccination?**

*No, the District will not request evidence of vaccination or require vaccination. Parents may choose to share their child’s vaccination status with our District Nurse, Kristi White or the Health Department (if contacted) if they wish.*

**What will happen if my child is quarantined by the Health Department?**

*Our elementary students will receive assistance from their classroom teacher to complete missing work. Students in grades 6-12 should coordinate the completion of missing work and arrange for times when it might be appropriate to participate in class via Google Classroom.*

**What will happen if my child’s teacher is quarantined by the Health Department?**

*The District is committed to keeping classrooms open and again this year is employing full-time substitute teachers. All efforts will be made to secure a substitute for any staff member who*

*becomes ill or is quarantined. The District will also monitor the incidence of illness or quarantine across buildings, classrooms, and buildings to respond appropriately should an outbreak occur.*

**How else will school look different this year?**

*Frequent handwashing will be encouraged. Hand sanitizer will be available in all buildings and classrooms. Teachers in our elementary and high school buildings that have boiler systems will be encouraged to keep their doors open and windows cracked (as weather permits) to promote increased ventilation. Mask breaks (previously given to our elementary students), will also be available for our junior high and high school students. Lockers will be available for students and students in junior high and high school will be able to dress for physical education. Water fountains will remain unavailable. Wall-mounted bottle stations will remain available. All students are encouraged to bring water bottles. Due to class sizes, 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be able to eat lunch in the high school cafeteria. Students in 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades will continue to eat in the junior high gymnasium.*

**Will the District be able to hold special events (homecoming, room parties, etc.)?**

*The District is committed to honoring and holding traditional special events. Events, as they approach, will be considered and planned for individually, seeking parent and student feedback.*

**How will athletics be impacted?**

*While indoors, all student athletes, coaches, and spectators are required to wear masks. The District adheres to guidance put forth by the Illinois High School Athletic Association and the Illinois Elementary School Association to ensure we remain in good standing for competitions and post-season eligibility. The District is also committed to supporting full seasons of competitive play for its student athletes and athletic programs, and will not eliminate contests and/or opponents based upon a district's decision to comply with the executive order and all related mitigations.*



**References**

*Executive Order 2021-18, Governor J. B. Pritzker, State of Illinois*

*Revised Public Health Guidance for Schools, Part 5 – Supporting the Full Return to In-Person Learning for All Students, August 2021, Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Department of Public Health*

*Bushnell-Prairie City Parent/Student Handbook*