
2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR



BSSD BACK TO school guide

BLUE SPRINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT



BACK TO SCHOOL GUIDE

The Blue Springs School District has continued to follow COVID-19 precautions to reduce the spread of the virus in our schools and facilities. District administration collaborate with local health officials and neighboring districts, and continues to follow mandates put forth by the Jackson County and Independence Health Departments.

This year, students and families must make a semester-long commitment to in-person or virtual school. By doing so, education remains consistent, connected, and thorough, and our staff members are better able to manage their workload and build relationships with students and their families.

The Blue Springs School District will continue following updates regarding COVID-19 and make changes as necessary. Mask requirements within our schools may vary throughout the semester, pending local mandates. When the County or City mask mandate expires, it is the intention of the BSSD to make masks optional. Please consider this when deciding between in-person and virtual school.

COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

People with COVID-19 have reported a wide range of symptoms – from mild symptoms to severe illness. Children have similar symptoms to adults and generally have mild illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- 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

This list does not include all possible symptoms. CDC will continue to update this list as we learn more about COVID-19. Older adults and people who have severe underlying medical conditions like heart or lung disease or diabetes seem to be at higher risk for developing more serious complications from COVID-19 illness.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>



PROTOCOL FOR FULLY VACCINATED INDIVIDUALS

An individual is fully vaccinated two weeks after their last dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines require two shots. The J & J vaccine requires one shot.

Fully vaccinated individuals who develop symptoms will be treated as if they have COVID-19 for the safety of our schools. If a fully vaccinated student or staff member has a new cough, difficulty breathing, or loss of taste/smell, or if the individual has two or more symptoms found on page 2, they will immediately be separated from others at school. A parent will be contacted to pick up their child as soon as possible. The individual with possible symptoms of COVID-19 may return to school when:

- They have proof of a negative COVID-19 test and are fever-free for 24 hours with symptom improvement
- The individual has been fever-free for 24 hours and presents a doctor's note detailing an alternate diagnosis that the school nurse and principal must first approve
- Ten days have passed, symptoms have improved, and they are 24-hours fever-free

PROTOCOL FOR UNVACCINATED INDIVIDUALS

According to the CDC, COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective in preventing the disease, especially severe illness and death. The vaccine also reduces the risk of people spreading the virus.

If a student or staff member has a new cough, difficulty breathing, or loss of taste/smell, or if the individual has two or more symptoms found on page 2, they will immediately be separated from others at school. A parent will be contacted to pick up their child as soon as possible. The individual with possible symptoms of COVID-19 may return to school when:

- They have proof of a negative COVID-19 test and are 24-hours fever free with symptom improvement
- The individual has been fever-free for 24 hours and presents a doctor's note detailing an alternate diagnosis that the school nurse and principal must first approve
- Ten days have passed, symptoms have improved, and they are fever-free for 24 hours



COVID-19 TESTS

COVID-19 tests must come from a verified testing location and include the individual's name and date administered. At-home COVID-19 test results will not be accepted.

CASE COMMUNICATION

Once weekly on Fridays, the District will inform parents of the weekly COVID-19 case counts. In addition, the COVID-19 Weekly Updates will contain a link to the BSSD COVID-19 Dashboard that will contain the case locations, along with other details.

OUTDOORS

At this time, masks will be optional outside regardless of any mask mandate.



BSSD PRECAUTIONS

CUSTODIANS WILL DISINFECT DESKS, CHAIRS, AND COMMONLY TOUCHED SURFACES.

Our custodial staff has been trained in cleaning protocols, and they have the necessary supplies and equipment to adequately clean.

Procedures to clean frequent touchpoints have been implemented for cleaning crews to disinfect critical areas daily. Inventory quantities will be regularly tracked and documented to properly supply the schools.

- Sanitizer, hand soap, and tissues are provided throughout all buildings.
- Each classroom will be provided with a spray bottle of disinfectant.
- Surgical-grade masks are available for health room staff.

Custodial staff have been instructed to prioritize the cleaning and disinfecting needs in classrooms, student and staff work areas, restrooms, and common areas first and over other custodial duties.

HVAC systems will be left on 24 hours a day and 7 days a week in order to provide the best possible air purification and circulation.

Outdoor areas, like playgrounds at schools and parks, generally require normal routine cleaning, but do not require disinfection.

Our staff will also take on additional responsibilities to increase layers of protection:

Elementary school teachers will build in time to have students periodically wash or sanitize hands throughout the day, including, but not limited to, the start of the day, before and after lunch, and following recess. Hand sanitizer will be readily available at all grade levels.

Each classroom will be supplied with a spray bottle of disinfectant.

All employees should keep their office and workspace as clean as possible by cleaning and disinfecting their workstations, surfaces they commonly use, and other touchpoints. Employees should also avoid using others' workstations, supplies, tools, and equipment.

Use technology devices for work submission instead of paper when possible.

Employees who are feeling sick are required to stay home.

BUILDING VISITORS

The Blue Springs School District will reduce the number of visitors and additional guests to our buildings to minimize the exposure to our students and staff. All guests and visitors to our buildings must wear a mask.



MEDICATIONS FOR STUDENTS:

When you have the medicine and the consent form, please arrange a time to meet with the school nurse. Masks are required.

PICKING UP YOUR STUDENT DURING THE SCHOOL DAY:

Please call when you arrive at school and let the office know that you need your child to be checked out early. If necessary, a staff member will escort your child to your car and ask that you sign him/her out for the day.

LATE ARRIVAL OF STUDENTS:

You may walk your child into the office and check him or her in. Masks are required.

LUNCH AND SCHOOL ACTIVITIES DURING THE DAY:

Unfortunately, to limit the number of adults in the building/classroom, we will not allow guests at lunch. Volunteers will be permitted on a case-by-case basis and will be required to wear a mask.

IEP/504/PARENT MEETINGS:

Meetings will be held through a virtual platform, over the phone, or in person. During all on-site meetings in our schools, all participants will be expected to wear a mask.

OUTSIDE GROUPS AND BUILDING USE:

Outside groups will be permitted on a case-by-case basis.

FIELD TRIPS:

Field trips will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

STUDENT TEACHERS:

Part of the essential function of our school is the training and development of future educators. As a part of this training, we will continue to allow preservice teachers to be a part of our classrooms. These individuals will be given guidelines to follow and will be expected to comply with all staff requirements. An agreement has been made with the colleges that send preservice teachers to enforce the same restrictions we have in place for these individuals.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS:

To continue in-person school, substitutes will be a necessary part of our learning community. We will train our substitutes and expect them to follow the same protocols of all staff to assure the greatest level of protection for students and staff.



TRANSPORTATION

- Throughout the pandemic, drivers will wear masks when students are boarding and exiting the bus. School bus aides will be required to wear face masks the entire time while on the bus. Due to a federal mandate, students will also be required to wear a mask the entire time they are on the bus. By doing so, quarantining students due to any possible exposure on the school bus will not be necessary.
- Buses will be cleaned and disinfected daily.
- Hand sanitizer will be available.
- Pending the route and demand for bus transportation, students will be seated at least two to a seat.
- Buses will be used to maximize student ridership.
- Single-day and one-day passes are not allowed due to bus capacity/limitations.
- Drivers and aides will remind students of safe riding practices. Signage will also be on the bus to remind students about safe practices regarding the pandemic.
- All personnel will be trained in sanitizing and disinfecting protocols.





STUDENT LEARNING

The CDC states that masks should be worn indoors by all individuals who are not fully vaccinated. Masks are strongly encouraged for all unvaccinated individuals in indoor public places. The District will comply with any mandates. Once those mandates expire, the District intends to make masks optional for all.

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL OF STUDENTS

Each school will develop and communicate a plan that allows for multiple entrances for students to use during arrival and dismissal. The use of multiple entrances will only apply to certain buildings where this option is feasible and safe. Students will be asked to walk directly to their classroom or first-hour class to discourage congregating in the hallways. Additional considerations for families include:

Drop students off as close to the school start time as possible and not too early to avoid the gathering of students before doors open.

Upon dropping your child off at school, please remind them that their first responsibility as they enter the building is to either wash their hands or use the hand sanitizer located at the entrance of buildings or in their classroom. Students will be expected to wash their hands frequently throughout the day.

Please be patient with district employees as they work to keep our schools safe and healthy. Arrival and dismissal procedures may take more time than in previous years. Your understanding is appreciated.

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH

Cafeteria capacity during lunch will be reduced to allow for physical distancing whenever possible. High school students will be spaced throughout their campus during breakfast and lunch. Food service employees will continue to be intentional with their selection of food and communication with teachers to ensure students with food allergies are not exposed to foods to which they are allergic. If you would like to send lunch with your child, please ensure that you are following any guidelines set forth by the classroom teacher as they relate to student allergies.

All Food and Nutritional Services staff are thoroughly trained in food safety. The Health Department routinely audits school kitchens and awards district buildings with top ratings for cleanliness. Using the public health guidelines, BSSD will offer meals for in-person students.

Additional safety measures include:

- Students will wash or sanitize their hands prior to eating.



WATER FOUNTAINS

Water fountains will be closed. Water bottle refilling stations will remain open. Please send your student to school daily with a clean, reusable water bottle.

WELLNESS CHECKS

Daily wellness check-ins will take place. Teachers will observe students and verbally check-in to make sure students are feeling well.

CALENDAR MODIFICATIONS

Nothing is certain during the pandemic. We thank you for your flexibility and patience as we work to provide the best possible education for your student. It is possible that calendar changes may be necessary. If that happens, we will do our best to give you as much notice as possible.





ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES

The Blue Springs School District plans to provide students the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities. While offering these opportunities, the district will prioritize the health and safety of students and staff.

Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) and the Greater Kansas City Suburban Conference Executive Committee may further outline guidelines as to how athletics and activities will be offered at district high schools and middle schools. As a district, we understand the importance of offering these opportunities to our students and will continue to make every effort to do so. However, we know there may be decisions made by local, state, or national organizations that may prohibit some extracurricular activities from taking place.

COVID-19 SYMPTOMS AND CASES IN ACTIVITIES AND AFTER-SCHOOL SETTINGS:

If a student who tested positive has been in contact with multiple members of the team who are unvaccinated, it may require shutting down that team or group for a specified amount of time.

The coach and/or A.D. will contact parents of the students who had close contact.

The student/coach/director will complete the Return to Play Form to return to practice/competition/rehearsal.

SPECTATORS AT GAMES, COMPETITIONS AND/OR PERFORMANCES

BSSD will review recommendations from national, state, and local health organizations while prioritizing the safety of students, staff, and families. It is possible that limited numbers of spectators will be allowed to attend games, competitions, and performances.

Live-streaming services for events will be offered whenever possible.

IN CLOSING

The Blue Springs School District will continue to monitor the pandemic. As was the case last year, plans may change at any time resulting in the need to shift and adapt through the year. When changes occur, District families will be notified. Thank you for your flexibility and understanding.

Together we can reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our schools and community. Please continue to do your part to keep our schools safe and healthy. Contact your school office with additional questions about COVID-19. We look forward to welcoming our students back on August 23.

