

RETURN TO LEARN PLAN/RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN

Bellevue CSD 2023-2024 Operational Plan

September 1, 2023

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Bellevue CSD 2021-2022 Operational Plan

September 2023

PLEASE NOTE: THE BELLEVUE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT IS REQUIRED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO UPDATE OUR RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN EVERY SIX MONTHS. RECOMMENDATIONS WITHIN THIS PLAN ARE FLUID AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE. ALL FINAL DECISIONS ABOUT SCHOOL OPERATIONAL PLANS WILL CONTINUE TO BE INFORMED BY THE MOST RECENT LOCAL HEALTH DATA IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE IDPH, IOWA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, AND JACKSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS.

Bellevue CSD will be providing full on-site instruction for all students in the district's two buildings for the 2023-24 school year. This plan will be re-evaluated and updated as necessary based on guidance from the Iowa Department of Public Health and Department of Education.

All students in grades Preschool through 12th Grade will attend on-campus for on-site instruction. Students will attend school Monday through Friday following the Bellevue CSD 2023-24 School Calendar approved in April of 2023. All students and staff will follow a typical school schedule. Remote Learning option will not be offered for the 2023-24 school year, unless there are extenuating circumstances with health concerns with the student's family documented by a medical official. The district will continue enhanced cleaning and sanitization protocols throughout the school day in each building to help prevent the spread of any illness.

- *Students unable to attend on-site for documented medical reasons will need to, along with their parent/guardian, coordinate available and appropriate learning plans with their building administrator. Medical documentation and subsequent learning plans must be approved by the Superintendent.*

On-site, In-Person Instruction

Bellevue CSD will resume using all existing classroom and resource space for instruction. Current health/safety social distancing recommended guidelines will be implemented whenever possible and accommodations will be made if/when necessary.

Temporary Remote Learning Plan

While this is not an expected outcome for the 23-24 school year, a Temporary Remote Learning plan will be implemented for up to 14 days if directed by the Iowa Department of Education and/or Iowa Department of Public Health. Such plans may be implemented at the classroom, grade, or school level based on guidance from the public health department. Student learning will continue online through the remote period. In these cases, students will be provided synchronous and/or asynchronous required online learning activities for core academic areas. Students will be provided a device and access as necessary.

HEALTH & SAFETY MEASURES

Face Coverings (face masks)

- Face coverings will be OPTIONAL for students, staff, and visitors throughout the day.
- Face coverings or masks worn must meet CDC/IDPH guidelines.
- All students and staff will be responsible for providing their own face covering if it is desired. The district will not regularly supply masks to students at this time.
- Face coverings are OPTIONAL for students and staff using district transportation (bus, vans, etc.).

Independent Health Screening

Bellevue CSD will continue to encourage daily health screening practices for students and staff. It is recommended that staff complete daily self-reporting screening of their health, while families will also be encouraged to complete health screenings for their students daily, and sending a child to school is a statement by a parent/guardian that the student is symptom-free. School health staff will screen students and staff that report symptoms during the school day.

District Health Screening Checklist for Staff & Students (IDPH Symptom Screening Guidance) According to CDC, COVID-19 symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms or combinations of symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

Or at least two of these symptoms:

- Fever
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell
- Diarrhea or other gastrointestinal symptoms

In addition, the Appendix at the end of the document includes information on “Common Childhood Illnesses and Exclusion Criteria for Education and Child Care Settings”.

Health Protocols

Healthy hygiene practices and routines will be part of each school’s schedule. Teachers and staff will support students in the proper protocols to help against the spread of COVID-19 and other illnesses.

Hand Washing/Sanitizing

As has been known for many years, health guidelines indicate that students should wash their hands for at least 20 seconds after blowing their nose, coughing, or sneezing, before/after eating, upon entering classrooms, before/after riding on district transportation, etc. Breaks will be provided for hand washing if needed. If soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer will be provided.

COVID-19 POSITIVE CASE PROCEDURES

Stay at Home Guidelines/Exclusion Criteria for Education Settings (Iowa Department of Public Health Guidance)
Students and staff who have tested positive for Covid-19 will be excluded from school for the recommended number of days from the IDPH after symptoms start. The district will follow the guidance from the Jackson County Health Department and the Iowa Department of Public Health (see appendix).

Suspected/Confirmed COVID-19 Cases - School Decision Criteria

- Symptomatic staff and students in the building will need to go to the nurse's office, schools may use an isolation space until they can safely leave the building.
- The district will coordinate with Jackson County Health Officials regarding suspected and confirmed cases.
- Close contact is defined as persons within 6 feet of a confirmed case for at least 15 consecutive minutes.
- Parents/Guardians will be contacted if their child had close contact with a positive case in school.
- Necessary information, case by case, will be logged into the district's tracking system.

Close Contact Notification: All individuals who have been in a classroom or other area of the school (including athletic fields) with a COVID positive individual will receive a personal notification. Families of students will be contacted to let them know a student or staff member with whom they have class or an extracurricular activity tested positive.

Students/staff who were in close contact as defined by IDPH will not be required to isolate and not attend school, but parents will have that option available if desired. If parents choose to have the student not attend school during this time, remote learning from the school will be available from the school for the length of time for the exposure using health department guidance. Regardless, students should be closely monitored for 14 days for symptoms such as fever, cough, trouble breathing, or loss of taste/smell. Additionally, families should consider limiting contact between these individuals and high-risk family members.

Positive Test Communication Protocol (In the event of a positive test case):

- The staff/student needs to stay home.
- The school nurse contacts Jackson County Health Officials.
- District's reporting form will be used to document.

Upon the recommendations of Jackson County Health Officials the District may notify:

- Respective District Administrators (if the case involves an adult).
- Student contact(s) (if there are recommendations relating to the student).
- Any pertinent school personnel related to the positive test protocol.

Other

- Staff members are responsible for contacting their direct supervisor upon learning of a positive test or if they have been exposed and are experiencing symptoms
- Parents and Guardians are responsible for notifying their building principal upon learning of a positive test in the family home.
- Jackson County Health Officials, if deemed necessary, will contact the school district upon any positive case.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES

Students exhibiting symptoms consistent with COVID-19, while at school, will be sent to the school nurse's office for further evaluation. Normal nurse's office procedures and treatments will continue daily. COVID-19 symptomatic staff and students may utilize an isolated space in the school building. The number of students in the nurse's office will be regulated at all times, following social distancing guidelines.

CLEANING & SANITIZATION PROTOCOLS

The district will continue preventive facilities cleaning strategies to combat the spread of disease. Strategies include an increase in the scope of enhanced daily disinfecting routines/procedures and an increased inventory of disinfecting supplies to support the scope of work. The District will use safe cleaning and disinfecting supplies approved by the FDA.

Modes of Cleaning

- Routine cleaning is performed on a regularly scheduled basis by district custodial staff assigned to that building or area. Routine cleaning includes daily cleaning and disinfecting of all restrooms, scheduled sweeping, vacuuming and auto-scrubbing of all floors, emptying trash, and other building-based tasks.
- Supplemental cleaning is also performed by regular custodial staff and others (which could include substitute custodial staff or temporary custodial staff assigned to perform cleaning over and above what is considered routine). Supplemental cleaning is focused on cleaning and disinfecting high-touch surfaces, specifically for the purpose of slowing the spread of disease.
- Personal area cleaning is performed by all employees in their personal workspace, which may include their desk, telephone, keyboard, chair, student furniture, and shared items in a classroom. This cleaning is customized to personal preference and is done using district-supplied cleaning products.
- Emergency cleaning is performed by custodial or maintenance staff on an emergency basis, in response to a particular, identified incidence of disease. The emergency cleaning plan will be implemented at the direction of District Administrators in response to an actual infection located at or attributed to a particular school or location or when directed by County or State health authorities. If the emergency cleaning plan is implemented, the Superintendent will communicate the district's plan with staff and the public.

FOOD SERVICE

Preschool – 12th Grade Breakfast and Lunch

- Students will wash/sanitize their hands before and after meals.
- Students go through designated serving lines.
- Food service personnel monitor and assist placement of items on students' trays, along with assisting students in hand-selecting and/or requesting specific items to be placed on their trays.
- Students will eat in assigned areas (cafeteria and/or classroom).
- Food/drink will not be shared.

RECESS

Preschool - 5th grade

- Hands will be washed/sanitized before and after recess.
- Assigned areas for each class and/or student cohorts may be used by schools during recess time.
- Playground equipment will be cleaned per the district's sanitation guidelines.

TRANSPORTATION

Face masks for drivers and passengers are **OPTIONAL**. As normal, students may be assigned seats on the bus going to and returning from the school. The assigning of seats may include:

- Assigned seats for all students.
- Siblings or members of the same household will sit together whenever possible.
- No guest riders.
- Buses are cleaned and sanitized on a regular basis.
- During trips, increase circulation of outside air as necessary.
- District transportation staff will clean bus interiors (or other vehicles) focusing on “high-touch” surfaces such as entrance handrail, seats, steering wheel, and door handles.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR AND CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Extra-Curricular Co-Curricular activities will be based on current guidelines provided by state governing associations (IHSAA/IGHSAU/IHSMA). Participants in activities will utilize their own water source (individual water bottles), and will not utilize common drinking areas outside of the school. This allows for fewer people gathering in an area and getting water and less opportunity for any illness to spread.

COMMUNITY USE OF DISTRICT FACILITIES

Community Groups must follow district Health and Safety Protocols including:

- Optional Face Coverings
- Independent Health Screening and Stay at Home Requirements, with an emphasis on if a participant is sick they should not attend events/practices in the facility.
- Stay at Home Requirements
- Suspected/Confirmed Cases
- Hand Washing/Sanitizing

Community groups must communicate to the district office any suspected/confirmed cases. There is no guarantee the request will be approved and the district has the authority to close facilities at any time due to failure to follow district procedures/protocols. The purpose of possibly closing facilities is to slow the spread of the disease.

RESOURCES

[Iowa Department of Public Health Guidance: Exclusion Criteria for Education and Child Care Settings](#) (Prohibits K-12 schools from mandating face masks effective 5-19-21)

[Iowa Department of Education](#) (IDOE)

[Iowa Department of Public Health](#) (IDPH)

[Centers for Disease Control](#) (CDC)

[IHSAA](#) / [IGHSAU](#) / [IHSMA](#)

APPENDIX



COMMON CHILD ILLNESSES AND EXCLUSION CRITERIA FOR EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE SETTINGS

A child should be temporarily excluded from an education or child care setting when the child's illness causes one or more of the following:

- Prevents the child from participating comfortably in activities.
- A need for care that is greater than the staff can provide without compromising the health and safety of other children.
- An acute change in behavior: lethargy, lack of responsiveness, irritability, persistent crying, difficulty breathing, or a quickly spreading rash.
- Fever with behavior change or other signs and symptoms in a child older than 2 months (e.g., sore throat, rash, vomiting, diarrhea).
- For infants younger than 2 months of age, a fever with or without a behavior change or other signs and symptoms.
- A child with a temperature elevated above normal is not necessarily an indication of a significant health problem. A fever is defined as:
 - For an infant or child older than 2 months, a fever is a temperature that is above 101 degrees F [38.3 degrees C] by any method.
 - For infants younger than 2 months of age a fever is a temperature above 100.4 degrees F [38 degrees C] by any method.
 - Temperature readings do not require adjustment for the location where the temperature is taken.
 - In education settings please refer to your district's policy regarding fever definition.

ILLNESS	EXCLUDE	RETURN TO CHILD CARE/SCHOOL
Chicken Pox	Yes.	When all blisters are crusted with no oozing (usually 6 days) and resolution of exclusion criteria.
COVID-19	Yes.	10 days after symptoms start and 24 hours with no fever and improved symptoms OR 10 days after positive test (if no symptoms).
Diarrhea (infectious)	Yes (there are special exclusion rules for <i>E.coli</i> 0157.H7, <i>Shigella</i> and cryptosporidiosis).	When diarrhea stops and health care provider and public health official states the child may return.

Diarrhea (non-infectious)	Yes, if stool cannot be contained in the diaper, or if toileted child has 2 or more loose stools in 24 hours, or blood in stool.	When diarrhea stops and resolution of exclusion criteria.
Fifth Disease	No. Unless child meets other exclusion criteria.	If excluded due to presence of other exclusion criteria, resolution of exclusion criteria.
Hand and Mouth	No. Unless child meets other exclusion criteria. Or is excessively drooling with mouth sores.	If excluded due to presence of other exclusion criteria, resolution of exclusion criteria.
Head Lice (Pediculosis)	No. Unless child meets other exclusion criteria.	Treatment of an active lice infestation may be delayed until the end of the day. Children do not need to miss school or child care due to head lice. Treatment recommendations can be found here: https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/treatment.html
Impetigo	Yes, exclude at the end of the day if blisters can be covered.	After child has been seen by the doctor, after 24 hours on antibiotic, and blisters are covered.
Influenza	Yes.	When child is fever free for 24 hours and resolution of exclusion criteria.
Molluscum Contagiosum	No. Unless child meets other exclusion criteria.	Skin disease similar to warts. Do not share towels or clothing and use good hand hygiene.
MRSA	No. Unless child meets other exclusion criteria.	Wounds should be kept covered and gloves worn during bandage changes. Do not share towels or clothing and use good hand hygiene.
Otitis Media (ear infection)	No. Unless child meets other exclusion criteria.	If excluded due to presence of other exclusion criteria, resolution of exclusion criteria.
Pertussis (Whooping Cough)	Yes.	Child may return after 5 days of antibiotics and resolution of exclusion criteria.
Pink Eye (Conjunctivitis)	No. Unless child meets other exclusion criteria.	Child does not need to be excluded unless health care provider or public health official recommends exclusion. Resolution of all exclusion criteria.
Ringworm	No. Unless child meets other exclusion criteria.	Treatment of ringworm infection may be delayed to the end of the day. Child may be readmitted after treatment has begun. Cover lesion(s) if possible. Do not share

		clothing, bedding or personal items.
Strep Throat	Yes.	When resolution of exclusion criteria and after 24 hours of antibiotic.
Vomiting	Yes.	When vomiting has resolved and resolution of exclusion criteria.

Please refer to Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards (Online Database) <https://nrckids.org/CFOC> or the Iowa Department of Public Health EPI Manual <https://wiki.idph.iowa.gov/epimanual> for guidance on specific diseases not included in this list. Contact your local Child Care Nurse Consultant <https://idph.iowa.gov/hcci/consultants> for additional information.

References:

American Academy of Pediatrics, American Public Health Association, National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education. CFOC Standards Online Database. Aurora, CO; National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education; 2020. <https://nrckids.org/CFOC/Database/3.6.1.1> (Accessed on 05212021)

Iowa Department of Public Health EPI Manual: Guide to Surveillance, Investigation, and Reporting. Reportable Disease Information. Revised 6/201