

Buhl School District #412

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

Purpose: The purpose of the Buhl School District (BSD) operational COVID-19 protocol is to provide a common framework for all schools within the BSD. Individual schools within the BSD may develop plans specific to each building based on the framework.

Goal: The goal of the BSD is to maximize face-to-face instruction in a safe environment while being prepared for remote learning when required.

2021-2022 School Year: All schools in the BSD will operate on a regular five-day face-to-face schedule. A full remote option is available for grades K-12 via Idaho Virtual Academy, Idaho Connections Academy, or other accredited online schools.

Plan Details

Revised March 2022

Health and Safety Strategies

- Face Coverings: Properly fitting face covering are optional for all staff, students, and visitors. If high community spread occurs or if Twin Falls County is designated by the CDC as a high level of transmission, face coverings may be recommended.
- PPE- Each school has access to disposable masks available in the office for use by staff, students, and patrons electing to utilize a face covering. Plexiglass barriers will continue to be used in high contact areas and at the request of staff and/or students.
- The COVID 19 vaccine is not required or tracked by the BSD for staff or students

Physical Distancing:

- Staff will have the option to maximize social distancing within classrooms and other building spaces (gym, cafeteria, auditoriums, etc.) to the greatest extent possible. CDC recommends maintaining 3 feet of physical distance between students.

Handwashing Respiratory Etiquette:

- Handwashing and respiratory etiquette will continue as it reduces the spread of all viruses
- Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette are taught and reinforced (for example, covering coughs and sneezes, handwashing with soap and water for at least twenty seconds, etc.).

- Hand sanitizer stations are readily available throughout all BSD buildings.
- Staff and students are encouraged to wash their hands often.

Healthy Facilities/Ventilation:

- All BSD HVAC systems have been upgraded to Merv 13 filters and are replaced per manufacturer recommendations.
- All BSD facilities have newly installed air purification systems
- Extra attention will be given to the cleaning of buildings with products to kill the COVID-19 virus.

Isolation/Exclusion:

- Symptoms of COVID-19 include and are not limited to: fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, the new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion, or runny nose, nausea, or vomiting, diarrhea.
 - Students and staff who exhibit one of the symptoms will be excluded from school until they have no fever and symptoms have improved for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication.
- Students who test positive for COVID-19 will be excluded from school and all school-related activities for five days from the onset of symptoms and at least 24 hours with symptom improvement without fever-reducing medication. If no symptoms exist, they will be excluded five days from the date of the positive test.
- Students who are presumed positive for COVID-19 include but are not limited to a household member having COVID-19 unless a negative test can be provided, will be excluded from school and all school-related activities for five days from the onset of symptoms. If no symptoms exist, they will be excluded five days from the last exposure to the household member with COVID-19.
- Staff who are COVID-19 positive/presumed positive will coordinate with the district office/administrators to determine when it is safe to return to work.

Diagnostic and screening testing:

- Information about testing sites is available to staff and students

Vaccination Clinics:

- A Covid-19 vaccination clinic was made available to the Buhl community during registration for the 2021-22 school year.

Continuity of Education:

- During times students are out of school with sickness or exposure, they will be able to continue in their coursework using a distance learning platform as was made available during the 2020-2021 school year. This includes the use of a learning management system allowing students to continue with their schoolwork remotely. Educators will be encouraged to provide students with support in these instances. These supports may include and are not limited to videos of lessons, recorded tutorials, videos created by other educators on the content, packets of work, or interactive digital activities.

Accommodations for Children with Disabilities:

- Students with disabilities and other health care needs are provided accommodations, modifications, and assistance based on individual needs when implementing Covid-19 safety protocols.
- Accommodations, modifications, and assistance are provided to students with disabilities and other health care needs in face-to-face and virtual education settings.

Academic Needs/Learning Loss:

- The BSD acknowledges the learning loss that has occurred because of remote learning due to Covid-19.
- Each school has developed a plan to address learning loss and accelerate learning (instructional approaches, before/after-school tutoring, credit recovery, targeted interventions, summer school, etc.).

Student Social Emotional Needs and Food Service:

- A district school counselor is available for students.
- The district counselor will provide families with resources that are available throughout the community.
- Staff are trained and implement the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS).
- Free breakfast and lunch for all students will continue.

Staff Mental Health:

- An Employee Assistance Program is available to all employees.
- The school counselor is available to assist staff members in locating resources as needed.
- The BSD will be considerate and recognize educator workloads and the importance of allowing staff to recharge when needed.

Timeline for Revision of Return to In-Person Plan:

- This plan is reviewed at a minimum every six months.
- This plan may be reviewed earlier if any of the following occur:
 - Significant increase in infection rates in the area
 - Superintendent and/or school board request
 - Information from an outside entity invites a review/revision of the plan (Idaho State Department of Education, Idaho State Board of Education, South Central Public Health Department, St. Luke's Regional Medical Center, Idaho State Governor's Office, CDC, etc.)
- There are opportunities for community/stakeholders to provide input via surveys and public input opportunities at board meetings.

Modified Schedule

- If it is determined a modified schedule is needed, students will be organized into groups A and B with each group attending school on alternate days M-W (Group A) and T-Th (Group B), with distance learning for all students on Fridays.

LEA Support and/or Technical Assistance:

- Since the onset of the pandemic in March of 2020, BSD has consulted and collaborated with other regional school districts, Idaho State Department of Education, Idaho State Board of Education, and the South-Central Health Department to develop policies, procedures, and responses to the Covid Pandemic.