

2020-2021

RETURNING TO SCHOOL DURING COVID



Brandywine School District

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Wilmington, DE 19809**

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Introduction

The Brandywine School District Returning to School in 2020-2021 Guidance is adapted from the Delaware School Health Return to School Document. It offers recommendations and considerations to support the health and wellness of both our students and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic. Consideration of the needs of the individual school building and population served is vital during planning and implementation while making allowances for modifications and adjustments to keep students and staff healthy and safe during the school day.



District and School COVID-19 Coordinators

The school nurse in each school building will serve as the COVID Coordinator at each school and should always be in close contact with the District COVID Coordinators: Beth Matthey, Coordinator of School Health Services and Lincoln Hohler, Superintendent.

Beth Matthey is Past President of the National Association of School Nurses and a Fellow in the National Academy of School Nursing.

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At A Glance

HEALTH ASSESSMENT

BSD requires that families complete a health assessment (see Appendix A) for students daily prior to coming to school or getting on the bus. **Students should not come to school if they are ill.** If students come to school ill or become ill during the day, they will be isolated to prevent potential spread of the virus, and parents/guardians will be called to pick up students promptly (see Appendix B). A note from the healthcare provider or a negative COVID test is required to return to school if the student is sent home from school sick. All staff are required to complete the health assessment online daily before beginning their workday.

MASKS AND/OR FACE COVERINGS

All staff and students in grades K-12, as well as our 18-21 year-old young adults in the S.I.T.E program, must wear face coverings in the school building. (See section on masks for additional information.)

HAND HYGIENE

Regularly scheduled opportunities for students and staff to wash their hands have been built into the daily routine. When possible, students and staff will wash their hands with soap and water. Students and staff will also have access to hand sanitizer with at least 60% ethanol or 70% isopropyl alcohol content. (At the elementary level, adult supervision will be provided when using hand sanitizer.)

SOCIAL DISTANCING

All individuals on Brandywine School District premises must maintain proper social distancing while in school buildings and on school property. Proper social distancing is defined as a six-foot or more separation between individuals. The exception is on the school bus when students will be seated three feet apart, with one student per seat.

VENTILATION

All BSD schools' HVAC systems are capable of meeting or exceeding the recommended six full air exchanges per hour requirements.

CLEANING AND DISINFECTING

High touch-point surfaces (stair railings, doorknobs, bathrooms, office counters, etc.) will be cleaned and disinfected every 15 minutes to 2 hours using an EPA-approved cleaning and disinfecting solution. Shared items will be cleaned and disinfected between students. BSD uses an EPA-approved disinfectant that effectively kills the coronavirus.

VISITORS

In general, visitors will not be permitted access to schools. The Principal may grant access based on need and purpose.

Health and Safety Directives for All Schools



These directives are inclusive of updated public health information as of February 4, 2021 and will be updated as guidance is revised by the CDC, DPH, DOE, and other State agencies.

Student Health Status and Safety Monitoring

Families are required to complete a health assessment (see Appendix A) for students daily prior to coming to school or getting on the school bus. Students will not be screened on arrival to school.

- Students who become ill at school will be seen by the school nurse. If the student is exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, the student will be isolated from other students.
- A parent or guardian will be notified **immediately** to pick the student up from school and will be advised that the student should be tested or to call the healthcare provider. (See our request for prompt pick up in Appendix B.) A note from the healthcare provider or a negative test result will be required for the student to return to school. If the student tests positive, a letter from the Division of Public Health is required to return to school

Students should not come to school if they have any of the following symptoms:

In the past 14 days, has your child been near (within 6 feet for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24 hour period) a person who has a lab-confirmed case of COVID-19, or has your child had direct contact with their mucus or saliva?

In the past 48 hours, has your child or someone in your household, had any of the following symptoms?

- Fever of 100.4 or above (or symptoms like alternating shivering or sweating)
- New cough
- New trouble breathing, shortness of breath or severe wheezing
- New chills or shaking with chills
- New muscle aches
- Sore throat
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- New loss of smell or taste, or a change in taste
- Nausea
- Fatigue
- Headache, congestion, or runny nose (with no known other cause such as allergies)

Staff Health Status and Safety Monitoring

Staff must complete the health assessment found in Google Forms, which can be accessed from the BSD Website. It must be completed daily prior to beginning work duties and responsibilities.

- Staff who become ill during the school day must notify their supervisor and the school nurse and leave the building.
- Call your healthcare provider, or if you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, you should be tested at a local testing site.
- Documentation from your healthcare provider or a negative COVID-19 test will be required in order to return to work.

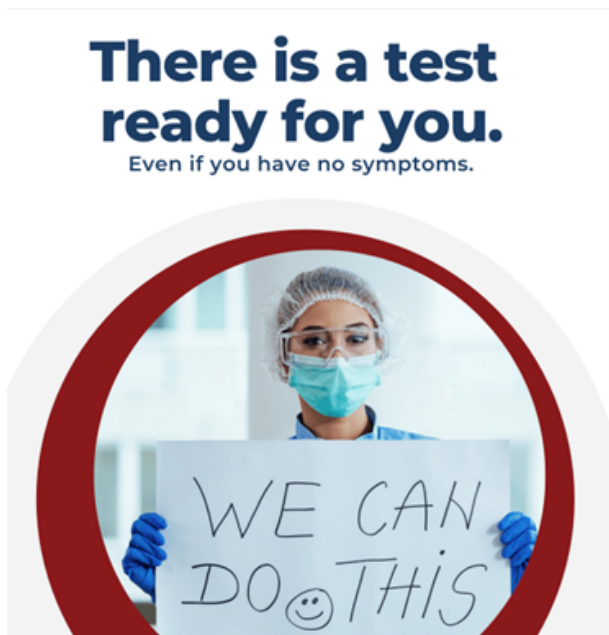
Staff should not report to work and call the school nurse if they have any of the following symptoms:

In the past 14 days, have you been near (within 6 feet for a total of 15 minutes or more in a 24 hour period) a person who has a lab-confirmed case of COVID-19, or have you had direct contact with their mucus or saliva?

In the past 48 hours, have you or anyone in your household had any of the following symptoms?

- Fever of 100.4 or above (or symptoms like alternating shivering or sweating)
- New cough
- New trouble breathing, shortness of breath or severe wheezing
- New chills or shaking with chills
- New muscle aches
- Sore throat
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- New loss of smell or taste, or a change in taste
- Nausea
- Fatigue
- Headache, congestion, or runny nose (with no known other cause such as allergies)

COVID-19 Testing



Testing for educators, staff, and students is a priority for the State. DOE and DPH will work with all schools to make testing available and convenient. While testing for both staff and students is voluntary, it is strongly recommended.

Local testing centers:

<https://coronavirus.delaware.gov/testing/#find-a-testing-location-near-you>

Hand Hygiene



Hand hygiene is important in reducing the spread of the coronavirus. All students and staff **will** have access to handwashing facilities and hand sanitizer and have time built into their daily schedules to wash their hands.

It is recommended to teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and increase monitoring to ensure adherence among students and staff.

Regularly scheduled opportunities for students to wash their hands will be provided multiple times each school day. When possible, students will wash their hands with soap and water. Students will also have access to hand sanitizer with at least 60% ethanol or 70% isopropyl alcohol content (as recommended by CDC). Hand sanitizer will be placed in areas where soap and water is not readily available (e.g., cafeterias, classrooms, gyms).

Hand sanitizer will be provided throughout the buildings. Supplies will be monitored by custodians and health staff. All staff members shall report when the supply has reached the end at a key location so that it can be replenished.

Hand Sanitizer

Parents/guardians are not required to provide permission for their student to use hand sanitizer but can indicate to the school that their student is unable to use hand sanitizer or needs assistance with self-use of hand sanitizer (DE Department of Education, 2020).



Letters to Opt Out for Hand Sanitizer

The letter to opt out of using hand sanitizer can be found in Appendix C. It is available in English and Spanish on the District website. If you do not wish your child to use hand sanitizer or your child needs assistance, please complete the form and return it to the school nurse.

Face Coverings and Masks

All staff and students in grades K-12 as well as our 18-21 year-old young adults in the SITE Program must wear face coverings in the school building, except when doing so would inhibit the individual's health.

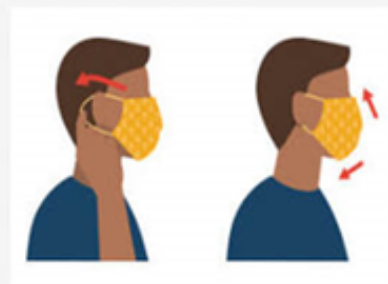
Face coverings and masks are considered source control and are not personal protective equipment. The benefit of wearing a mask is that it prevents the wearer from spreading the coronavirus to others. It helps to stop the droplets and aerosols expelled when a person breathes normally, coughs, or sneezes, from being discharged into the air and thus infecting others. While it may also provide protection for the wearer, it is required to prevent the wearer from infecting others.

Parents are responsible for providing facial coverings for students.

- Face coverings should cover the nose and mouth of the student
- 2 or 3 ply masks and cotton masks (including homemade) are acceptable
- Student's names should be written in permanent ink on their face covering/mask to avoid cross contamination.
- Masks must be worn correctly as illustrated below.

Wear your Mask Correctly

- Wash your hands before putting on your mask
- Put it over your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin
- Try to fit it snugly against the sides of your face
- Make sure you can breathe easily
- CDC does not recommend use of masks or cloth masks for source control if they have an exhalation valve or vent



Bandanas, knitted masks, and masks with exhalation valves or vents are not permitted. These masks are prohibited based on studies showing that they do not adequately reduce vapor droplet spread, and in some cases increase the ability of vapor droplets to travel. Gaiters with two layers are permitted to be worn*. Face shields without the use of a face mask are not permitted.

*CDC Update January 2021

Special Considerations

In alignment with the recommendations made by the American Academy of Pediatrics, students in Pre-K and classes with specialized populations may not be able to wear masks/face coverings to the same extent as other classrooms.

In those instances, employees must wear District-provided face shields in addition to masks/face coverings. In accordance with CDC guidance, the use of clear face shields alone is not adequate protection.

The following situations are examples that may account for the inability to wear a mask:

- Students that are unable to remove their mask due to physical disabilities
- Students whose psychological or emotional condition would be adversely impacted

The school based administrator, nurse, school psychologist, special education coordinator, OT, PT (members as appropriate) will review the student's special education records to confirm the rationale for the inability to wear a mask and record the appropriate documentation, exemptions, and additional supports as needed. These exemptions must be approved by the Building Principal. This information will be maintained by the nurse.

Staff will work with a student and family for those students who do not have the ability to wear a mask. A desensitization process will be developed and implemented to increase the time in which the student can wear a mask.

Students who have a medical condition that does not allow for the wearing of a mask must provide medical documentation from the healthcare provider to the school nurse. Staff must provide documentation to the Director of Human Resources.

For Families

Tips to help young children who may be afraid to wear a face covering:

- Wearing masks, look in a mirror with your child, and talk about it.
- Put a cloth face covering on a favorite stuffed animal.
- Decorate the face mask so it's more personal and fun.
- Show your child pictures of family, friends, and other children wearing face coverings.
- Draw a face covering on their favorite book cover.

Care of face coverings and masks:

- Cloth masks should be washed daily.
- Cloth masks can be washed with your regular laundry, using regular laundry soap and the warmest appropriate water setting for the cloth used to make the mask.
- Cloth masks can also be washed by hand using laundry detergent or soap. Rinse thoroughly to remove detergent or soap and allow to dry completely before using.



Hydration & Mask Breaks

We recognize that it may be difficult for students and staff to wear face coverings/masks continuously throughout an entire school day. Staff have been given guidance for providing brief safe face-covering breaks to balance safety with students' social-emotional wellbeing and to allow for hydration. Students will maintain a six-foot distance during all mask breaks and will be encouraged to hydrate during this time. Mask breaks should be brief. Mask breaks can and should be taken outside when the weather permits. Students are required to wear masks during outdoor recess. (*updated guidance from DPH December 10, 2020)

Staff working in an isolated office space may remove their mask when no other individual is present, but must put on a mask if joined by another individual or any time they venture outside the office space.

The District will provide staff who interact with hearing-impaired students and teachers of students first learning to read with face masks that have a clear panel that allows the staff member's mouth to be visible.

Face masks are considered attire and, as such, are subject to the terms and conditions of the BSD Code of Student Conduct for Dress Code.

Major Mask Mistakes

How **NOT** to Wear a Mask



"The Escape Hatch"



"The Earring"



"The Sniffer"



"The Stache"



"The Nose Plug"



"The Neckbeard"

Source: <https://www.rochesterregional.org/news/2020/07/how-not-to-wear-a-mask>

Social Distancing

- All individuals on Brandywine School District premises must maintain proper social distancing while in school or on school property.
- Proper social distancing is defined as a six foot or more separation between individuals.
- Social distance separation markings will be used to remind students and staff of the six feet of spacing in commonly used areas in the building.
- Classroom furniture will be limited to essential items, and classrooms will be arranged with all desks or tables facing the same direction with a layout that is the most effective for the proper functioning of the class while ensuring social distancing guidelines.
- Outdoor spaces will be used for recess, physical education, and other learning opportunities, when appropriate and the weather allows.
- Hallways, cafeterias, school offices, common spaces, and gathering points will be clearly marked to encourage six-foot distancing. Directional arrows will be used in hallways to limit traffic and assist with social distancing.
- Designated areas for pick-ups and deliveries will be established with limited contact to the extent possible.

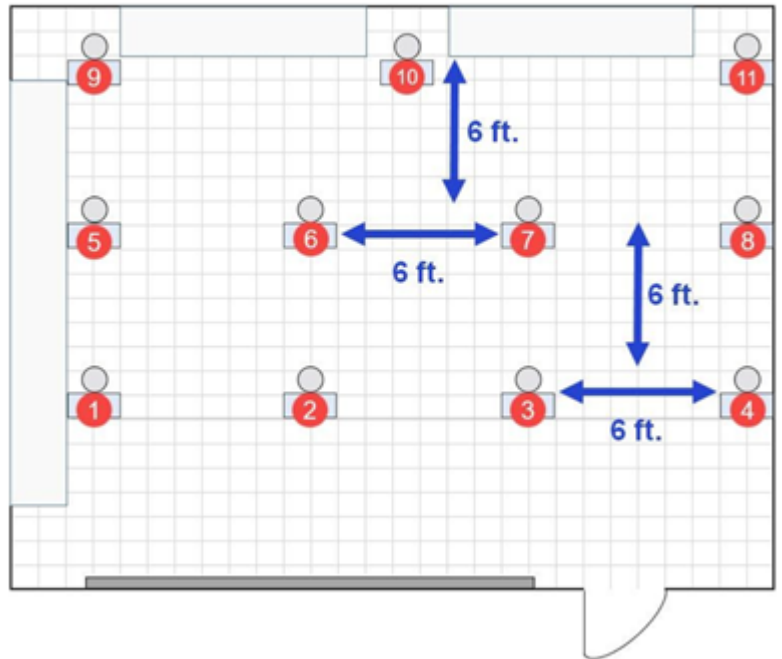
Consistent informational signage will be posted in highly visible locations in all buildings throughout the District to assist with movement within each building.

- Signage will be posted in restrooms, classrooms, offices, cafeterias, and other areas of the building that promote social distancing, hand washing/sanitizing, proper use of face masks, and how to mitigate the spread of the virus.
- Students and staff will need to pay attention to any physical guides, such as tape marking on floors or signs on walls, directing students to remain at least six feet apart from each other in lines or at other times.
- When moving through non-instructional spaces, six foot distancing must be maintained.
- Each school's master schedule will be developed to limit the number of students in each classroom to ensure the ability to allow proper social distancing. Elementary students will remain in a cohort.
- Students should carry a backpack or use a small rolling backpack or the like since cubbies and lockers will not be used.

Classroom Set-Up and Configuration

- To ensure proper social distancing, classrooms will use individual desks in lieu of shared work tables as primary seating accommodations for students.
- Space permitting, work tables may still be made available; however, students must be seated on the same side of the work table and must adhere to the six foot social distancing requirement. The work table surface must be disinfected in between users.
- All desks will be arranged facing the same directions
- Classes without desks (e.g. physical education, music, art, etc.) must ensure the six foot social distancing requirement is met in the design of their classroom spaces and seating charts.

Typical Classroom with Social Distancing Restrictions



Class Size Restrictions

- DOE reopening schools' guidance requires three feet or greater distance is to be maintained between individuals. Brandywine School District will require six feet of distance between student desks.

What is Cohorting?

Cohorting (sometimes called podding) is a strategy that schools may use to limit contact between students and staff as part of their efforts to limit transmission of coronavirus. These strategies work by keeping groups of students – and sometimes staff – together over the course of a pre-determined period of time. Ideally, the students and staff within a cohort will only have physical proximity with others in the same cohort. This practice may help prevent the spread of COVID-19 by limiting cross-over of students and teachers to the extent possible, thus:

- Decreasing opportunities for exposure of transmission of coronavirus
- Reducing contact with shared surfaces
- Facilitating more efficient contact tracing in the event of a positive case
- Allowing for targeted testing, quarantine, and/or isolation of a single cohort instead of school-wide measures in the event of a positive case or cluster of cases.

Additional Resources: [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/prepare-safe-return.html#:~:text=Cohorting%20\(sometimes%20called%20podding,case%20or%20cluster%20of%20cases](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/prepare-safe-return.html#:~:text=Cohorting%20(sometimes%20called%20podding,case%20or%20cluster%20of%20cases)

Same Cohorts

In an effort to minimize mixing and contact between students:

- In BSD, scheduling of student groups (cohorts) will be done to keep groups as independent and stable as possible, with little to no mixing of classes, throughout the school day.
- Minimizing or eliminating the mixing of student groups applies to all students that are on-site, including any specialized group permitted to come on-site due to specific need.
- Staff and students are not permitted to organize and schedule student or staff cohorts to be on campus without the authorization of the Building Principal. It is the responsibility of the Building Principal to ensure that all student and staff groups have received his or her approval, protocols are in place to avoid mixing of groups, and that those supervising groups coordinate schedules and activities to avoid mixing of groups.
- School visitation and access will be restricted. Access to any portion of the building for any reason will be at the discretion of the Building Principal or designee.

School Visitation

- All visitors must wear a face mask and maintain a six foot distance between others unless with members from the same household.
- Office personnel and Building Administrators are to restrict access to the school beyond the Main Office to only authorized personnel and essential vendors (essential vendors are defined as those with business contracts critical to the operation of the school/district).
- All visitors must sign in and answer the following screening questionnaire prior to entering the building beyond front door.

In the past 14 days, have you been near (within 6 feet for a total of 15 minutes or more in a 24 hour period) a person who has a lab-confirmed case of COVID-19, or have you had direct contact with their mucus or saliva?

In the past 48 hours, have you or anyone in your household, had any of the following symptoms?

- Fever of 100.4 or above (or symptoms like alternating shivering or sweating)
- New cough
- New congestion
- New trouble breathing, shortness of breath or severe wheezing
- New chills or shaking with chills
- New muscle aches
- Sore throat
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- New loss of smell or taste, or a change in taste
- Nausea
- Fatigue
- Headache, congestion, or runny nose (with no known other cause such as allergies)

If there are any yes responses, the visitor may not enter the building and will be asked to leave the main office.

- Parent/guardian visitation must be approved by the Building Principal and will be restricted to designated meeting rooms or offices. Parents/guardians will not be permitted to visit classrooms.
- At this time, the restriction to school visitors also applies to school volunteers. All volunteer and mentoring opportunities will be conducted virtually.
- No visitors will be allowed in classrooms. Approved visitors will be granted access to identified meeting rooms and offices only. In all cases, building administrators make the final decision as to whether a visitor will be provided access to any part of the building.
- Depending upon conditions, the District reserves the right to take the temperature of visitors prior to accessing any portion of the building. Individuals refusing to comply with the request will be denied access.

Ventilation

Air Quality and Air Exchange

The information below describes how the Brandywine School District is increasing the ventilation in each building to help control the spread of the virus.

- Outdoor Air
 - We are increasing the percentage of outside air by using our building automated control systems. All BSD schools' HVAC systems are capable of meeting or exceeding the recommended six full air exchanges per hour requirements. As the weather turns colder, this may, at times, make the building feel cooler than normal. If and when these conditions occur, students will be permitted to put on sweaters or sweatshirts to maintain personal comfort.
 - Windows should not be opened as this will affect the airflow and exchange of air by our HVAC system.
 - Fans should not be used in classrooms as this will affect airflow and exchange of air in the classroom.
- HVAC Units
 - All HVAC filters are replaced on a regular and consistent basis. The established filter replacement cycle exceeds the recommended replacement timelines.
- Suspending Efficiency Measures
 - We are running our HVAC systems in off hours when occupants are not present in order to continue the fresh air exchanges and to improve filtration to maximize air flow.
- Air Purification Systems
 - Air purification systems are being installed in all Nurse's Offices, Wellness Centers, and Main Offices. These systems provide the necessary filtration cycles recommended by CDC.

Cleaning and Sanitizing

Sanitizing, Cleaning and Disinfecting Protocols

As per the State's Returning to School guiding document, the following cleaning routines will be adhered to in all BSD schools:

- High touch point surfaces (stair railings, doorknobs, bathrooms, office counters, etc.) will be cleaned and disinfected every 15 minutes to 2 hours using an EPA-approved cleaning and disinfecting solution.
- BSD uses a product listed on the EPA's List N as an approved COVID-19 disinfectant.
- All student desks will be cleaned and disinfected prior to the start of the school day, at mid-day, after any exchanges or rotations between classes, and after students have left for the day.
- Student desks will also be cleaned and disinfected while students are at lunch or outside at recess.
- To assist in disinfecting of hard to reach areas, the District has purchased a number of cordless electrostatic disinfecting sprayers. These sprayers emit a fine mist of disinfectant that is electrically charged to better adhere and reach around objects as they are disinfected.
- Custodial teams have and will continue to receive specialized training and adjusted routines to ensure that BSD is in compliance with all DOE, DPH, and CDC cleaning guidance and best practices.

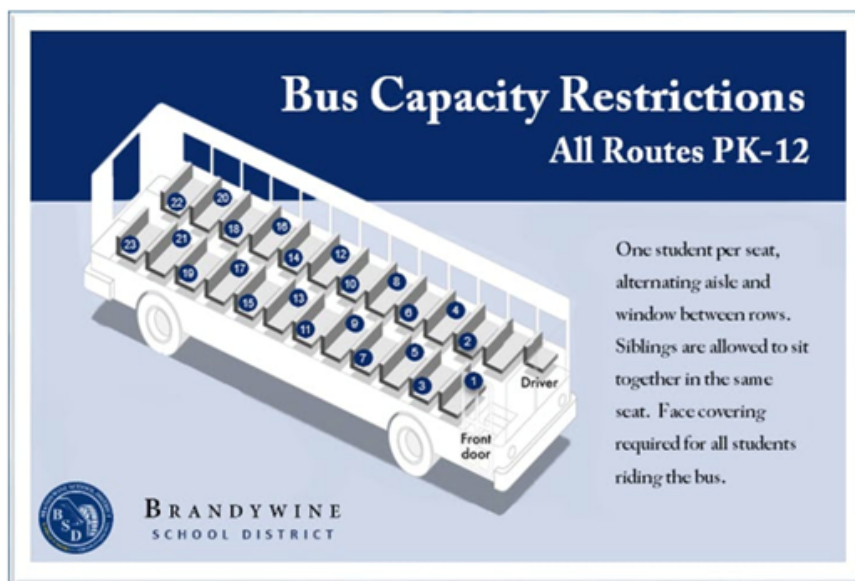


Additional Information: Keeping Pace: BSD COVID-19 Cleaning Protocols

http://www.proud2b-bsd.com/uploads/4/2/9/2/42927695/bsd_cleaning_protocols_keeping_pace_8.9.20.pdf

Transportation

- Bus capacities are severely restricted this year due to social distancing requirements. Students must be seated three or more feet apart on the school bus (one student per row in staggered fashion, if possible).
- Students from the same family may sit together in one row.
- All students riding the bus this school year will receive assigned seats.
- Drivers will disinfect bus seats and common touch points in between each bus run.
- Windows are to remain open to increase ventilation, as weather permits.
- Students are to maintain social distancing of six feet at the bus stop and as they enter and exit the bus.
- Students and staff are required to wear face coverings while on the school bus and at the bus stop.
- Students who become ill at school will not be permitted to ride the bus home from school.



General Information

Expectations

Social distancing of six feet is required in all common areas of the school. Common areas are defined as areas of the school or campus other than classrooms that can be occupied by multiple individuals. Examples of common areas include, but are not limited to:

- Cafeteria
- Hallways
- Bathrooms
- Main Office
- Nurse's Office
- Auditorium
- Library
- Computer Labs
- Playground



- Every effort will be made not to rotate students from teacher to teacher, but for teachers to rotate to students, if and when multiple teachers are involved. If, due to instructional need, students must rotate to a new class, student desks are to be disinfected prior to a new cohort of students being seated.
- Staggered class dismissal systems will be used to ensure that six feet of social distancing is accomplished.
- Breakfast meals will be delivered to students' classrooms. Students will eat their breakfast items in the classroom.
- In the event the number of students allows for social distancing during lunch periods, the cafeteria will be used. After each group, the cafeteria table and seats will be disinfected. If the number of students exceeds the capacity of the cafeteria, students will eat in their assigned classrooms or other designated area.
- All school field trips are cancelled indefinitely.
- All elementary in-person school sponsored before and after school club, group, and team activities are cancelled indefinitely. Academic related secondary clubs/teams may be permitted to assemble. All such meetings must receive prior approval from the Building Principal and must ensure capacity limits and social distancing requirements are met.

- All class parties are cancelled indefinitely.
- All in-person student and parent night events are cancelled indefinitely (e.g. concerts, PTA/PTO meetings, booster clubs, etc.). Groups may work with Building Administrators to hold appropriate events virtually. Safeguards must be in place when holding virtual meetings to eliminate potential uninvited disruption.
- Staff and student points of entry and exit will be minimized by the building principal to reduce the need for frequent disinfecting.

Handling COVID-19 Suspected, Presumptive, or Confirmed Cases

The Brandywine School District is in close collaboration with the Delaware Department of Education and the Division of Public Health. Student COVID-19 illness may be disclosed to other students and their parents if the information is shared so the identity of the student is protected. In 2008 the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1996 (FERPA) regulations were revised to clarify the “health or safety emergency exception” allowing educational agencies to disclose personally identifiable information from student education records without prior written consent to appropriate parties in the event of a health and safety emergency. Additional information is available at FERPA & Coronavirus Disease 2019.

Beth Matthey, Coordinator of School Health Services, and Lincoln Hohler, Superintendent, will serve as District COVID Co-Leads in positive COVID-19 cases involving students and staff members of the Brandywine School District. Mrs. Matthey will work directly with the building nurse, and Mr. Hohler will work with the Building Administrative team.

The Delaware Division of Public Health (DPH) considers schools a high priority and, in the event of a positive COVID case, a liaison from the Division of Public Health will work with the school nurse to support case investigation and contact tracing. The data gathered will be used to determine if other students or staff should be quarantined or tested.

We are asking parents/families to notify the school nurse if your child has a positive COVID test to help speed up the process that will contain the infection. The school nurse will gather additional information to help determine whether others may be at risk of infection.

If DPH learns of the case, an epidemiologist will be assigned to the case and will call the school nurse. DPH will identify the COVID-positive student and work with the school nurse and the student who tested positive to identify any close contacts that need to be quarantined.

The school nurse may only disclose the name of the positive individual for the purposes of assisting with contact tracing. For instance, if a young student tests positive, he or she may need a teacher's assistance in identifying close contacts.

The same process will be followed if a staff member tests positive.

Once DPH has the necessary information, they will call the individual (or a parent/guardian for a student) to determine additional contacts outside of school and whether any additional precautions are necessary. When the contact tracer from DPH calls, a return to school/work letter must be requested at that time. The Brandywine School District requires that an individual who has tested positive or has been quarantined must present a "Return to School" letter prior to returning to school. The school nurse will keep the district COVID coordinator in the loop for consistency of communication and messaging.

To request a "Return to School Letter" after quarantine or isolation, families can access this website and complete the information requested:

<https://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/qclr/ClearanceLetter.aspx>

Families may also email dph_clearance@delaware.gov to request a clearance letter.

Responding to an Ill Student or Staff Member

If a student or staff member develops a fever or becomes ill at school and the school nurse has reasonable suspicion of possible COVID-19 infection based on symptoms and complaints, the student will be placed in a designated area of isolation and parents will be called to pick up the student from school within the hour. Please refer to our Prompt Pick Up Policy in Appendix B. While in the isolation room, the students must wear a face covering. Staff members who become ill will be sent home and directed to call their health care provider.

Students sent home from school due to illness must stay home until they have been cleared by a health care provider or have a negative COVID test. Documentation of clearance must be provided to the school in order to return to school. Students and staff who test positive for COVID must present a letter from DPH indicating they are cleared to return to school.

How will I know if my child has been exposed to someone who tests positive for COVID?

Once the school is aware of a positive test result, the parents/guardians of students in the same class(es) of the individual testing positive will be notified by phone if the student is considered a close contact. Parents/guardians will be asked to pick up the student and will be required to quarantine. Quarantine means they have been exposed and must stay at home for 10 days from the date of his or her last exposure to the positive case member, or 7 days with a negative PCR or Antigen test on the 5th day after exposure, or later. (DOE guidelines effective January 11, 2021.

<https://www.doe.k12.de.us/Page/4335#q03>)

For more information: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/COVID-19-Quarantine-vs-Isolation.pdf>

- Please note that in such a circumstance, it is critical to maintain confidentiality of the student or staff member as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). For this reason, school and district officials will not disclose the identity of the individual testing positive.
- Parents/guardians of classmates who were not close contacts of the student who tests positive will be notified via a letter home and will be monitored for any symptoms at school. Parents will be asked to continue to conduct daily home screening.

Depending on the exposure, the Division of Public Health (DPH) may require individual students, cohorts of students, or the entire building population to be dismissed for a cautionary period of time, allowing officials to assess the situation and determine if an extended closure is warranted.

- The scope and duration of the school dismissals will be made on a case-by-case basis using the most up-to-date information about COVID-19 and considering the specific spread in the community.
- Any all school dismissal will automatically cancel all extracurricular group activities, school-based after school programs, and large events (e.g. assemblies, spirit nights, field trips, and sporting events).
- Students, parents, and staff of a school that has been dismissed due to a COVID outbreak are discouraged from gathering or socializing anywhere. This includes group child care arrangements, as well as public venues.
- As per DOE guidance, school attendance policies shall not penalize students for staying home ill due to COVID-like symptoms.

Who would be considered a close contact of the person who tested positive and thus required to quarantine?

- The Delaware Division of Public health defines close contact as being closer than six feet to a positive individual for a total of 15 minutes or more in 24 hours, two days prior to the onset of illness. Appropriate mask use is defined as having the nose and mouth fully covered 100% of the time.
- If someone who is positive is asymptomatic, close contact is defined as close contact 2 days prior to the positive COVID test until the time the individual is isolated.
- High-risk exposures refer to those who have had prolonged (for a total of 15 minutes in the past 24 hours) close contact with persons infected with COVID-19 who were not wearing a facemask.
- Medium-risk exposures generally include those who had prolonged (for a total of more than 15 minutes in the past 24 hours) close contact with persons infected with COVID-19 who were wearing a facemask.
- Low-risk exposures generally refer to brief interactions with persons infected with COVID-19 who were wearing a facemask.

Definition of exposure levels

1. High-risk exposures refer to those who have had prolonged (total of more than 15 minutes in the past 24 hours) close contact (less than 6 feet) with persons infected with COVID-19 who were not wearing a facemask.
2. Medium-risk exposures generally include those who had prolonged (total of more than 15 minutes in the past 24 hours) close contact (less than 6 feet) with persons infected with COVID-19 who were wearing a facemask.
3. Low-risk exposures generally refer to brief interactions with persons infected with COVID-19 who were wearing a facemask.

Isolation and Quarantine

Isolation and quarantine help protect the public by preventing exposure to people who have or may have a contagious disease.

Definitions

Isolation separates sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick. This prevents others from catching the virus.

If someone tests positive for COVID-19 they must isolate for 10 days from:

- 1) the time they first developed symptoms, or
- 2) from the date of the positive test, whichever is first.

This is the period of time when one is considered contagious to others.

Quarantine separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease in case they do become sick.

If someone is exposed to an individual with COVID-19 and is considered a close contact, they must stay at home for 10 days from the date of the last exposure, or for 7 days with a negative PCR or Antigen test on the 5th day after exposure or later. Individual must also be in contact with DPH for early clearance (DOE guidelines effective January 11, 2021).

<https://www.doe.k12.de.us/Page/4335#q03>)

For additional information: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/COVID-19-Quarantine-vs-Isolation.pdf>

COVID Testing in Delaware

<https://coronavirus.delaware.gov/testing/>

PCR Test-

- 1) Can detect those with or w/o symptoms
- 2) Nasopharyngeal swab, nasal/oral swab, saliva
- 3) Tests for COVID Genetic material
- 4) Can be a rapid test or may take several days for results

Antigen Test-

- 1) New data suggests can be used with or w/o symptoms
- 2) Nasopharyngeal swab or nasal swab
- 3) Tests for COVID proteins
- 4) Rapid results
- 5) May miss some infections

Resource: https://labtestsonline.org/sites/aacc-lto.us/files/inline-files/COVID19Infographic8.5x11.FINAL__0.pdf
<https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.11.02.20223891v2>

Student Process Map: Positive Test or COVID-19 Exposure

<p>Student Symptomatic at School or Home</p> <p>Student is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 while at <u>home</u> → Family to notify school nurse and student should not report to school</p> <p>Student is exhibiting symptoms at <u>school</u> → School nurse to evaluate symptoms at the door → If COVID-19 is suspected, the student will wait in the "Going Home Room". The family will be called and asked to pick up the student immediately. The family should call their health care provider and testing is recommended at any DPH testing site. Family can also call DPH at 211 for further assistance.</p>	<p>Student Tests Positive</p> <p>Student tests positive. Student does not report to school. Family to notify school nurse and health care provider.</p> <p>Student should isolate (remain away from others) at home in order to prevent the spread among the household.</p> <p>Siblings or other members in the household of the student who is positive should not attend school or work. (See column 3)</p>	<p>Student Exposed to COVID-19</p> <p>Student exposed to an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19.</p> <p>Family reports that someone in their household has tested positive for COVID-19.</p> <p>Student should not report to school. Family should contact school nurse(s) of the student(s). The school nurse will determine exposure risk. Based on this exposure risk, student will be asked to quarantine at home.</p>
<p>The student should isolate (remain away from others) at home until cleared by health care provider or the COVID test is negative. Family must present the negative test result or the doctor's clearance note in order for the student to return to school.</p>	<p>The school nurse will contact the family for additional information from the student about close contacts at school. The school nurse will contact the Division of Public Health (DPH). Together the school nurse, the student, the administrator and possibly the teacher will identify any close contacts of the student in school. The name of the student will remain confidential except among those listed above as we work to determine if others were exposed to the virus. These individuals will be notified of a possible exposure to COVID-19.</p>	<p>Based on exposure risk, student will be asked to quarantine at home (remain away from others). Student should be tested 5-7 days after exposure per DPH's recommendations. Testing is recommended at any DPH testing site. The family should call DPH 1-888-295-5156 to report the positive case and for guidance on quarantine.</p>
<p>If student tests positive, follow procedure in column 2.</p>	<p>Student/family will be contacted by DPH for further instructions. Student must isolate at home per DPH's guidelines until cleared by DPH. Student/family will need to submit a clearance letter from DPH to the school nurse in order to return to school.</p>	<p>Student/family must request a return to school letter for the student(s). This letter must be presented to the school nurse in order for the student(s) to return to school.</p>

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Delaware Department of Education and Delaware Department of Health and Social Services' Division of Public Health have requested that we provide you information regarding practices related to COVID-19.

We request that families complete a self-screening health assessment for each student every morning prior to arriving at school.



SECTION 1: SYMPTOMS

DO NOT send your child to school if they have, or anyone in the household has, any of the following symptoms-
DO contact the Nurse's Office to report your child's absence and symptoms.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Temperature 100.4° or higher taken by mouth (without the use of medication)
<input type="checkbox"/>	New cough
<input type="checkbox"/>	Difficulty breathing, shortness of breath or severe wheezing
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sore throat, headache, congestion or runny nose
<input type="checkbox"/>	Muscle or body aches, chills, or fatigue
<input type="checkbox"/>	Diarrhea, vomiting, nausea, or abdominal pain
<input type="checkbox"/>	Loss of taste or smell or change in taste

SECTION 2: CLOSE CONTACT/POTENTIAL EXPOSURE

<input type="checkbox"/>	DO NOT send your child to school if they have been within 6 feet of a COVID positive person for a total of 15 minutes in a 24-hour period
<input type="checkbox"/>	DO contact the school nurse and report exposure.

Additional considerations:

- Students must stay home if they are exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19 or have been confirmed to have COVID-19 or if required by DPH to isolate or quarantine.
- Keep children who are sick at home; do not send them to school. Do not send children to school with a fever of 100.4° or greater.
- Teach your children to wash their hands frequently with soap and running water for 20 seconds.
- Students in grades K-12 must wear cloth face coverings in the school building, except when doing so would inhibit the individual's health. Face coverings should be worn by preschool children except when doing so would inhibit the individual's health.
- Teach your children to cover coughs and sneezes with tissues or to cough into the inside of the elbow.
- Teach your children to practice physical and social distancing by staying at least six feet away from people other than your family.
- If you have questions, please contact your school nurse or child's primary healthcare provider.

For information or general questions on COVID-19 and prevention, visit the Delaware Health and Social Services' Division of Public Health's website at <https://coronavirus.delaware.gov/> or you can call 2-1-1 or text your ZIP code to 898-211 for deaf and hard of hearing.

Sending Home Students from School

Due to the very real COVID-19 outbreak and its continued contagious risk factors, the Brandywine School District is asking that parents/guardians come to school **promptly (within 1 hour or less)** when they are notified by the school nurse that their child is being sent home ill.

Children who develop a fever or become ill at school will not be permitted to ride on the school bus. Children sent home from school cannot return to school until they have been cleared by their health care provider. Those who have tested positive for COVID-19 will need to be cleared by Delaware Division of Public Health before returning to school.

School nurses have guidelines for sending students home. They will be using nursing judgment, and will need to send students home who exhibit signs/symptoms of COVID-19 such as:

- Cough
- Fever of 100.4 or higher
- Shortness of breath, difficulty breathing or severe wheezing
- Sore throat
- Muscle aches
- Fatigue
- Chills/Shaking
- Nausea
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- Loss of smell or taste
- Headache, congestion, or runny nose (without known other cause like allergies)
- Other symptoms such as abdominal pain or lack of appetite have been identified as potential symptoms related to COVID-19 and may prompt further screening, action, or investigation by your primary care provider.

This request for **PROMPT PICK-UP** will require parents/guardians to identify alternate adults with whom they would entrust their child's care. These adults could be friends, neighbors, relatives, etc.

The school needs notification and contact information of who will be coming for your child. This request is not only for the safety of your child, but also for the safety of all students, staff, and everyone in the building. Thank you for your understanding as we navigate through the COVID-19 crisis.

Parent/Guardian Hand Sanitizer Opt Out/Assistance with Self-Use

Dear Parent/Guardian,

This letter is to provide information related to the use of hand sanitizer and hand washing in our school. We are providing opportunities for more frequent hand washing with soap and water, and providing more opportunities to access hand sanitizer containing at least 60% ethanol or 70% isopropyl alcohol content, as recommended by the CDC.

We understand that the use of hand sanitizer may present some issues for your child.

Under the Department of Education's Emergency Order regarding Regulation 817 Medications and Treatments, parents/guardians are not required to provide permission for their student to use hand sanitizer. A parent/guardian can indicate to the school they do not want their student using hand sanitizer or that their child may need assistance with self-use.

At our school, we will continue to establish a culture of hand hygiene by:

- Daily routines for students and staff to wash hands, especially at key times like after bathroom breaks, before lunch, or after playing outside
- Providing hand sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol (as recommended by CDC) for teachers, staff, and students. Hand sanitizers may be placed near frequently touched surfaces (e.g. doors, shared equipment) and areas where soap and water are not readily available (e.g. cafeterias, classrooms, gyms).

Hand Sanitizer Unable to Use or Assistance with Self-Use in Schools:

If your child is unable to use hand sanitizer for any reason, please fill in this portion of the form and it will be forwarded to your student's school nurse.

My student, _____, is unable to use hand sanitizer.

If your student needs assistance with applying hand sanitizer properly, please fill in this portion of this form and it will be forwarded to your student's school nurse.

My student, _____, may need staff assistance with self-use of hand sanitizer.

Parent/Guardian Name (please print) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____

Form also available online in English and Spanish: http://www.proud2bbsd.com/uploads/4/2/9/2/42927695/parent_guardian_letter_hand_sanitizer_opt_out_assistance_with_self-use.pdf

Opción de Cancelación/Asistencia para el Uso Independiente de Desinfectante para Manos Para el Padre/Tutor

Estimado padre/madre/tutor:

Le enviamos esta carta para proporcionar información relacionada con el uso de desinfectante de manos y el lavado de manos en nuestra escuela. Ofrecemos oportunidades para lavarse las manos con más frecuencia con agua y jabón, y ofrecemos más oportunidades de acceder a un desinfectante para manos que contenga al menos un 60 % de etanol o un 70 % de alcohol isopropílico, según las recomendaciones del CDC.

Comprendemos que el uso de desinfectante de manos puede presentar algunos problemas para su hijo.

Conforme a la Orden de Emergencia del Departamento de Educación sobre la Reglamentación 817 Medicamentos y Tratamientos, no es necesario que los padres/tutores otorguen su permiso para que su estudiante use desinfectante para manos; sin embargo, un padre/tutor puede indicar a la escuela que no desea que su estudiante use desinfectante para manos o que su hijo puede necesitar asistencia para el uso independiente.

En nuestra escuela, continuaremos estableciendo una cultura de higiene de manos de la siguiente forma:

- Rutinas diarias para que los estudiantes y el personal se laven las manos, especialmente en momentos clave como después de las salidas al baño, antes del almuerzo o después de jugar al aire libre.
- Proporcionar desinfectantes para manos con al menos 60 % de alcohol (según la recomendación del CDC) para maestros, personal y estudiantes. Los desinfectantes para manos pueden colocarse cerca de superficies de contacto frecuente (por ejemplo, puertas, equipo compartido) y áreas donde el jabón y el agua no están disponibles (por ejemplo, cafeterías, aulas, gimnasios).

No puede usar desinfectante para manos o necesita asistencia para el uso independiente en las escuelas:

Si su hijo no puede usar desinfectante para manos por cualquier motivo, complete esta porción de este formulario y será enviado a la enfermera de la escuela de su estudiante.

Mi estudiante, _____, no puede usar desinfectante para manos.

Si su hijo necesita asistencia para la aplicación correcta del desinfectante para manos, complete esta porción de este formulario y será enviado a la enfermera de la escuela de su estudiante.

Mi estudiante, _____, puede necesitar asistencia del personal para el uso independiente del desinfectante para manos.

Nombre del padre/madre/tutor (imprimido) _____

Firma del padre/madre/tutor _____

Fecha _____

BSD Healthy Return to School

Please visit our website for more information.



<https://www.brandywineschools.org/>

<http://www.proud2b-bsd.com/>

For specific questions, please contact your child's school.

Thank you, BSD Nurses

Special thanks to Jacquelyn Kimball (Talley), Michelle Scott (MPHS/Floater), and Richele Lawson (P.S. duPont)