

Baraga Area Schools

Return to Learn and Continuity of Services Plan

2023-2024

The Baraga Area Schools will continue to prioritize full, in-person teaching and learning which provides the greatest benefit to students. Ensuring that this can happen both consistently and safely during the upcoming school year, the 2023-24 Return to Learn Plan provides detailed guidance to ensure that COVID-19 prevention and mitigation measures are implemented in a way that fosters optimal learning environments while simultaneously ensuring the health and safety for students and staff at Baraga Schools. This plan was a collaborative effort of the district administrators and staff to inform students, parents and district personnel on planning for the upcoming school year. It should be noted that this plan is a working document and likely to change as more relevant or pertinent information becomes available (data) or new strategies for addressing COVID-19 in public education. Throughout the summer and school year BAS receives updates and input from the Western UP Health Department, Upper Peninsula Health System, Copper Country ISD and neighboring districts in analyzing data, formulating strategies, and adapting protocols and procedures to best meet the safety and educational needs of all our students. The BAS COVID-19 Preparedness and Response plan is a working document and changes and information are to be reviewed as needed as part of the BAS Board of Education's regularly scheduled meetings. BAS will adhere to all CDC, MDHHS and/or MCHD orders regarding COVID-19 as they pertain to public schools in Michigan. If such an order is rescinded, BAS will default to our previous guidelines if feasible.

Online Learning As currently constructed, BAS will adhere to the following guidelines for online learning:

- Online classes will not be offered as an option to all students in grades K-12. If enough students opt for a specific class in a specific grade level, a certified BAS teacher may be assigned as a virtual instructor.
- If circumstances necessitate a classroom, building or district wide move to online learning, preK-12 students enrolled in online classes will continue in that format. All other students will receive virtual instruction from their regularly assigned teachers
- BAS will provide a rigorous and robust distance-learning program for any student affected in grades preK-12. BAS will be issuing credit and grade advancement for satisfactory completion of courses over the time of closure.
- Teachers will track student participation; monitor student wellness; grade assignments, homework and quizzes; provide feedback on student work; differentiate instruction; communicate through zoom, google meets, email, and google classroom.
- Students with IEP's, 504's and other learning plans will be provided accommodations that fit their learning needs at all times. Ancillary services will be provided to the extent staff is limited by local, state or CDC guidelines. Services such as OT, PT and speech may happen virtually if appropriate.

Please Note: This plan may change and evolve as knowledge changes surrounding current and potential variants or if the risks of severe disease, hospitalizations, or death increase. The plan may also need to vary based on in-school COVID-19 activity and

outbreaks. If such changes are necessary, transition time may be needed to allow the district or building to make adjustments to mitigation strategies. Periodically, but not more than every six months during the life of the grant, the plan will be reviewed and updates will be completed, if deemed necessary.

Supporting Documents: [MDE and MDHHS “Managing Communicable Diseases in Schools”](#)
[MDHHS Readiness, Response, Recovery Cycle](#) [CDC Community Levels](#) [Mi Safe Start Map](#)

The CDC will determine the COVID-19 community level for the county. Based on the community COVID-19 level, as determined by the CDC, Baraga Area Schools, in consultation with MDHHS and WUPHD as necessary, will determine the number of mitigation strategies to implement to foster optimal learning environments while simultaneously ensuring the health and safety of students and staff.

The district will comply with any and all local, state, and federal mandates/orders.

The following plan outlines measures for the CDC COVID-19 Community Levels of low, medium, and high.
 The levels do not apply in situations of COVID-19 outbreaks in schools, classrooms, or athletics.

Low	Medium	High
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Recommended Prevention/Mitigation Strategies:

Low	Medium	High
Instructional Format		
In-person instruction will occur.	In-person instruction will occur.	In-person instruction will occur, but some classes, grades, or buildings may be moved temporarily to remote instruction if recommended by the health department due to outbreaks and to control in-school spread.

Athletics		
Athletic practices and competitions will be permitted. MHSAA guidelines will be followed.	Athletic practices and competitions will be permitted and additional health and safety protocols as deemed appropriate may be put into place. MHSAA guidelines will be followed.	Athletic practices and competitions may be paused; if practices continue, they may focus on skills building with increased social distancing encouraged. MHSAA guidelines will be followed.
<i>Athletic testing will not be required unless mandated by the MHSAA or a local or state agency and/or a sanctioning body.</i>		
Cleaning and Disinfecting		
The district will follow regular cleaning and disinfection procedures.	The district will follow regular cleaning and disinfection procedures. Additional disinfecting procedures may be implemented in classrooms during the day as recommended: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html	The district will follow regular cleaning and disinfection procedures. Additional cleaning and disinfecting procedures may be implemented in classrooms during the day as recommended: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html
Cohorting		
Mixing of students will not be restricted.	Mixing of students may be restricted in some areas, activities, classrooms, and/or buildings.	Mixing of students may be restricted in some areas, activities, classrooms, and/or buildings.
COVID-19 Testing		
Testing will not be required but may be used as a Test to Stay (TTS) option under medium and high levels of transmission.		

Extracurricular and Field Trips		
Extracurricular activities may occur as scheduled.	Possibly Short-term dismissals and suspension of extracurricular activities and field trips may be paused.	Short-term dismissals and suspension of extracurricular activities and field trips may be paused.
Face Coverings (Masks)		
<p>Staff, students, volunteers, and visitors are recommended to wear face masks if immunocompromised.</p> <p>Face coverings may be ordered and available to every student and staff member on a daily basis. The supply of masks located on buses and in the classrooms will be monitored by staff.</p> <p>*Effective February 25, 2022, CDC does not require wearing of masks on buses or vans operated by public or private school systems, including early care and education/child care programs.</p>	Staff, students, volunteers, and visitors are recommended to wear face masks in all areas and for all activities, if immunocompromised.	<p>Staff, students, volunteers, and visitors are strongly recommended to wear face masks in all areas and for all activities.</p> <p>Districts may choose to require masks when recommended by the MMDHD, MDHHS, and/or CDC.</p>
Food Service		
Normal foodservice operations will occur.	Normal food service operations will occur. Additional health and safety protocols will be put in place as indicated.	Normal food service operations will occur. Additional health and safety protocols will be put in place as indicated.
	Gathering and Facility Use	

No restrictions on gatherings or use of facilities.	Restrictions on gathering size and/or use of facilities may be implemented. Outside agency use of facilities may be restricted.	Restrictions on gathering size and/or use of facilities may be implemented. Outside agency use of facilities may be restricted.
Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette		
<p>Hand Hygiene/Hand Sanitation and Respiratory Etiquette are expected.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate supplies of soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, paper towels, tissues, and signs reinforcing proper handwashing techniques will be provided to support healthy hygiene behaviors • Staff will teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and/or the safe use of hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. • Staff and students will cough and sneeze into their elbows or cover with a tissue. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash and hands washed immediately using proper hand hygiene techniques. • Soap and hand sanitizers will be systematically and frequently checked and refilled. 	<p>Hand Hygiene/Hand Sanitation and Respiratory Etiquette are expected as in level 1 and additional opportunities for proper hand washing will be available throughout the day. Hand sanitizing may be required when students leave or enter the classroom and other designated areas.</p>	<p>Hand Hygiene/Hand Sanitation and Respiratory Etiquette are expected as in level 1 and additional opportunities for proper hand washing will be available throughout the day. Hand sanitizing will be required when students leave or enter the classroom and other designated areas.</p>
Isolation and Quarantine		

The District will follow current guidance and recombinations of MMDHS, MDHHS, and CDC pursuant to the district's authority under MCL 380.11a(3) and Rule 325.175(2).

Meetings and Conferences

In-district/out-of-district meetings and conferences will be permitted.

In-district/out-of-district meetings and conferences may be limited, virtual, or may be suspended.

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Offices

District and building offices will be open for normal school business. Visitors and guests are allowed in buildings per district policy.

District and building offices will be open for normal school business. Prioritize visits to minimize office visitor traffic. Additional health and safety protocols may be put in place as deemed appropriate. Visitors and guests may be limited.

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Remote/Virtual Learning

The district does have a virtual option through alternative education. The district will do its best to provide resources for students who are unable to attend in person due to isolation or quarantine. If a classroom or school is closed, all students impacted by the closure may be provided remote learning opportunities throughout the closure.

Social Distancing

Feasible social distancing measures will be put in place.

Additional Social Distancing measures may be provided as able. Adjustments to school procedures, schedules, activities, etc., may be made to adjust to the social distancing requirements.

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Health Screening

Parents/guardians should conduct a daily student wellness check prior to sending students to school.

DO NOT SEND STUDENTS TO SCHOOL IF THEY ARE SICK.

See the student illness section.

All students and staff should self-screen before coming to work or school. If students/staff are displaying symptoms of COVID-19 they should stay home and monitor for 24 hours. Currently, BAS will not temperature check or screen students before entry each day.

Staff should conduct daily self-examinations, including a temperature check, prior to coming to work. If they exhibit principal symptoms of COVID-19 or have a temperature of 100.4 or greater, they should stay home.

Student Illness

Parents/Guardians are not to send children to school who are ill per PO 5713 - Immunizations and Communicable Diseases. Students exhibiting the following symptoms that are new or different/worse from their baseline of any chronic illness shall remain home or excluded from school or excluded from school until the student is symptom-free for 24 hours without the aid of medication or as indicated for their illness. (see https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdch/Managing_CD_in_Schools_FINAL_469824_7.PDF)

- Severely ill (lethargic or less responsive, has difficulty breathing)
- Fever (temp over 100.4) or feeling feverish/chills
- Cough, shortness of breath
- Sore throat
- Runny or stuffy nose (congestion)
- Muscle or body aches
- Headaches
- Fatigue (tiredness)
- Vomiting(two or more times)
- Diarrhea (two or more loose or watery stools)
- Abdominal pain
- Rash with fever
- Wearing skin sores that cannot be covered
- New loss of taste or smell

Transportation		
Normal transportation operations will occur.	Normal transportation operations will occur. Additional health and safety protocols may be put in place as deemed appropriate. Additional cleaning and disinfecting procedures will be implemented.	Normal transportation operations will occur. Additional health and safety protocols may be put in place as deemed appropriate. Additional cleaning and disinfecting procedures will be implemented.
Vaccinations		
The district is not requiring staff or students to be vaccinated. WUPHD, MDHHS, and CDC recommend COVID-19 vaccination as the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic as well as keep schools, extracurricular activities, and sports safely operational and in person		

Updated March 18, 2024