

BCSD Return to Learn Plan Overview

23' - 24'



NOTE: The information in
this and other Boone Return
To Learn documents is
fluid and subject to change.



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Table of Contents

Overview

• Planning Process	3
• Priorities	3
• Guidance Documents	3

Letter From The Superintendent	4
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Delivery Models Summary	5
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• On-Site Learning Model	6
--------------------------	---

Health and Safety Measures for On-Campus Learning	7
--	----------

• Mitigation Strategies	8
• Face Coverings	8
• Physical Distancing	8
• Hand Hygiene	8
• Illness	8
• Sanitizing & Disinfecting	8
• Meals & Snacks	9
• Playgrounds	9
• Lockers & Student Storage	9
• Health Screening	9
• Common Spaces	9
• Water Fountains	9
• Drop Off / Pick Up Procedures & Student Waiting Areas	10
• Visitors & Volunteering	10

Transportation Guidelines & Expectations	11
---	-----------

• Transportation Health & Safety Expectations	12
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Return to Learn Plan Overview

As we plan for a return to school, Boone CSD is committed to a continued focus on academic excellence as well as providing for the health, safety, and emotional well-being of students, staff, and community. The Boone CSD Return to Learn plan is designed to adhere to state legislation in addition to guidance provided by the Iowa Department of Public Health and Boone County Health respectively. This plan provides on-site learning for students during the upcoming school year. The health and safety of our students, staff, and community is always our top priority, and we designed our plan accordingly. This plan is meant to be fluid and is subject to change.

Our priorities include:

- Ensuring that basic needs are met during the pandemic.
- Providing for the health, safety, and emotional well-being of students, staff, and the community.
- Making sure that all students and families have the resources and support they need to continue learning.
- Clear and consistent communication regarding expectations and adaptations.

Guidance Documents:

The following plan has been developed following guidance from the Iowa Department of Public Health, Boone County Health Department, and the following specific guidance documents and laws.

- [IDPH COVID-19 Education Update May 14, 2021](#): Identifies that COVID-19 in the school setting should be approached like other child illnesses including the elimination of quarantine procedures for exposed students regardless of mask usage.
- [Updated IDPH COVID-19 Guidance for Fall 2021](#): Q & A regarding guidance provided by public health.
- [IDPH Common Child Illnesses and Exclusion Criteria](#): Identifies COVID-19 as a common child illness that results in exclusion from the education setting for the positive individual.
- [Senate File 160](#): Requires school districts in Iowa to provide on-site learning.



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A LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Boone Toreadors,

The Boone Community School District Return to Learn Plan is reflective of current legislation and guidance provided by several health organizations. It remains a fluid document that is meant to provide flexibility in an ever-changing environment. BCSD has utilized medical expertise from the American Academy of Pediatrics as well as Boone County Public Health to help drive the health and safety priorities present in this plan.

Boone Community School District Priorities:

- Ensuring that basic needs are met during the pandemic.
- Providing for the health, safety, and emotional well-being of students, staff, and the community.
- Making sure that all students and families have the resources and support they need to continue learning.
- Clear and consistent communication regarding expectations and adaptations.

The following plan has been developed following guidance from the Iowa Department of Public Health, Boone County Health Department, and the following specific guidance documents and laws.

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It also does not go unnoticed that each family has been tasked with making difficult decisions during the pandemic. We appreciate each family's unique experiences and needs and look forward to working together to help our students attain a safe, healthy, and rigorous educational experience. If you have any specific questions, please reach out to your child's building principal first, as they have the most specific information regarding each building's expectations.

Sincerely,

Julie Trepa
Superintendent



Delivery Model Summary



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BCSD Delivery Model

*BCSD has **one** model of learning this year, due to the expiration of the emergency proclamation by Governor Reynolds and SF 160.*

*Remote learning will **not** be provided for students who are sick, quarantined, or unable to attend school. Support for students unable to attend school will return to pre-covid operations.*

On-Site Learning Model:

This model allows all students to receive instruction on-site in school buildings. Teachers and students attend on-site Monday through Friday in this model, following a traditional bell schedule in each building. All on-campus health and safety measures (described in the next section) are followed to the best of our ability.

Enrollment & Participation

Students enrolled at Boone CSD are expected to attend and participate in on-site learning following normal practices and procedures related to attendance, absence, illness, and other aspects of on-site learning outlined in this plan.

Learning Environment

BCSD will continue to utilize mitigation strategies, such as but not limited to: recommended use of face coverings, sanitizing, frequent handwashing, increased cleaning procedures, use of air purifiers in student occupied spaces and social distancing as much as possible. The classroom learning environment will also maximize learning opportunities with strategies such as WIN time, small group learning, etc.

Instructional Format

Instruction will return to a pre-covid, face-to-face operation focused on maximizing instruction, collaboration, and student learning.

Student Attendance

Students who are unable to attend on-site will be counted absent. Support for students unable to attend school will return to pre-covid operations. Parents are expected to report student absences to the building office as per normal procedures.

Extra-Curricular Activities:

Extra-curricular activities will be based on current guidelines provided by the Iowa High School Athletic Association and the Iowa High School Girls Athletic Union.

Co-Curricular Activities:

Co-curricular activities will be guided by participation guidelines provided by the Iowa High School Music Association, other organizational bodies responsible for setting guidelines for participation and approach to mitigation as outlined in this document.

Health and Safety Measures for On Campus Learning

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BCSD has collaborated with local public health officials to develop the following health and safety measures to be implemented in all buildings across the district in the 2022-2023 school year.

Face Coverings

Boone CSD will follow current CDC guidance for face covering use.

Contact Tracing

Families can anticipate that their child may be exposed to COVID-19 during the school year. Following Boone County Health Department Guidance, as well as guidance from the Iowa Department of Public Health, Boone will not contact trace to identify individuals as “close contacts” who may have been exposed to COVID-19 in the school setting. The Boone County Health Department and Iowa Department of Public Health has identified that the district should handle COVID-19 as an everyday illness such as the flu.

COVID-19 Exposure

Individuals who believe they have been exposed to COVID-19 in or outside of the school setting should coordinate with their doctor/county health officials to identify when they may safely return to school. Families should notify the school nurse with information about return.

Illness

Individuals feeling ill should not attend school. It is possible that symptoms of illness may be a result of COVID-19. Individuals should use the following criteria to make decisions about returning to the school setting. (Criteria based on guidance from Boone County Health Department)

If an individual is ill and does not believe they have been exposed to COVID-19:

- The individual is excluded from school but may return after 24 hours with no fever and improved symptoms. Please err on the side of staying out the extra day. View [IDPH Common Child Illnesses and Exclusion Criteria](#) for other childhood illnesses and exclusion criteria.

If the individual is ill and believes they have been exposed to COVID-19:

- The student should stay home and the parent should contact their medical provider to determine next steps.

Individuals who test positive for COVID-19:

- Parents are asked to notify the school immediately and follow the most recent [COVID-19 guidance from IDPH](#) for returning to school.

Students becoming ill in school

- Students should immediately report to the school nurse.

Physical Distancing

Buildings have developed procedures to promote physical distancing to the greatest extent possible when necessary, such as the use physical reminders to promote distancing and safe traffic flow. Even with these measures, 3-6 feet of physical distancing may not be able to be maintained at all times in all spaces throughout the school day.

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Hand Hygiene

Buildings will implement procedures and routines that promote increased hand hygiene. Additional hand sanitizing stations will be installed in all buildings, and classrooms without sinks will be equipped with hand sanitizer pumps.

Sanitizing & Disinfecting

High touch surfaces will be sanitized and disinfected throughout the day as needed in each classroom by the classroom teacher. High touch surfaces in the building will be sanitized and disinfected with increased frequency by custodial staff.

Air Purification

BCSD purchased air purifiers for every classroom in the district and larger systems for common areas within each building. These purifiers will be in use again this year as well.

Health Screening

Families will be asked to screen daily for health at home. Screening will determine if a student is ill or experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and should remain at home. The following document outlines when students must be excluded from school: [IDPH Common Child Illnesses and Exclusion Criteria](#)

Meals & Snacks

Meals will no longer be provided to all students free of charge this year. Students may qualify for free or reduced price meals under the school lunch program guidelines.

Playgrounds:

Students will not be zoned or separated recess groups this year unless needs arise.

Lockers and Student Storage:

Buildings will limit the use of lockers as much as possible throughout the day. Mitigation strategies may include staggering locker/storage access times and allowing backpacks in the classroom. Secondary students may be limited to visiting lockers before and after school and at lunch time.

Common Spaces:

Use of common spaces may be limited in buildings to avoid students congregating. This includes indoor spaces such as gymnasiums, commons areas, lunch rooms, libraries and spaces outside of the building.

Student Interaction & Shared Objects:

Student interactions/play within the classroom, particularly at the elementary levels, may not always be reduced. Mitigation strategies such as hand washing, disinfecting surfaces, and recommending wearing face coverings will be utilized to the greatest extent possible when necessary. Student belongings will be separated from others and sharing common supplies will be limited to the extent possible in all classrooms. Some items may need to be shared, such as physical education equipment, art supplies, games, or textbooks, and these items will be cleaned frequently.

Water Fountains:

Water fountains will be in use and water bottles or cups will be used when possible. Additional water bottle filling stations have been installed in buildings. Students should bring their own water bottles.

Drop Off / Pick Up Procedures and Student Waiting Areas:

Buildings will share and implement plans for student drop off and pick up. Students should not arrive before and should be picked up within 15 minutes of school start and end times to avoid students congregating and best maintain physical distancing.

Visitors & Volunteers:

Visitors and volunteers will be allowed in classrooms and will be asked to follow any mitigation measures deemed necessary at the time.

Transportation Guidelines & Expectations





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BCSD Transportation Plans

The district recognizes that some families must rely on district transportation to transport students to and from school on a daily basis. For families in need of this service, [registering](#) your child for school will allow you to sign up for transportation for each child needing transportation.

Transportation Health and Safety Expectations

Screening: BCSD will not screen passengers prior to riding the bus. Families are asked to screen students for COVID-19 symptoms at home prior to arrival at any school building or school function. Families should use the BCSD COVID-19 Wellness Screener to identify if a student should attend school or a school function.

Hand Hygiene: Hand sanitation stations will be present on each school bus. Students will have the opportunity to use hand sanitizer as they enter and exit the bus.

Assigned Seating: Individual drivers will alert their riders as to the seating arrangement as needed.

Windows / Fresh Air: If weather allows, windows on the bus will be open to allow for fresh air circulation.

Food/Drinks: No food or drinks are allowed.

Passengers: Only registered riders will be allowed transportation. (Registration is not limited this year, but you must register your child for school and indicate you need transportation in order for your child to ride the bus.)

Possible Transportation Changes

BCSD currently transports all students in the district regardless of the distance from their home to school through transportation routes and in-town shuttle routes. However, Iowa law only legally requires districts to transport K-8 students that live more than two miles from the school designated for attendance and 9-12 students that live more than three miles from the school designated for attendance. If it becomes necessary to further reduce bus ridership and increase physical distancing, BCSD may need to implement a reduced ride zone to transport only K-4 students that live more than a mile from the designated school for attendance and only 5-12 students that live more than two miles from the designated school for attendance. This would eliminate the ability to run in-town shuttle routes.

Transportation Questions

Please contact the
Director of Transportation,
Mike Kennedy, at
mkennedy@boone.k12.ia.us
or 515-433-0089