Greetings BCS Families and Happy New Year:

We hope that you’ve had an enjoyable holiday break and we are looking forward to seeing all of our scholars back on Monday, Jan. 10, 2022. The first half of the school year in Birmingham City Schools has been productive and we are looking forward to finishing strong.

However, this pandemic continues to challenge all school systems and BCS is no exception. As you know, the State of Alabama and the Centers for Disease Control continue to revamp Covid-19 guidelines. You can find the most recent CDC guidelines here.

Currently, our state is experiencing a surge in the virus and the subsequent Delta and Omicron variants.

Birmingham City Schools has made the following adjustments to the isolation and quarantine guidelines to help mitigate the spread and to provide a safe and healthy environment for our students and staff. These changes will assist schools in maintaining operations in the safest capacity possible.

Positive or Symptomatic Individuals:

- Students should remain at home if experiencing Covid-19 symptoms. (sore throat, body aches, runny nose/congestion, headache, fatigue, sneezing, fever, chills, loss of taste or smell, nausea)
- A student who has tested positive for Covid-19 should remain home for 10 full days of isolation.
- Students should only return to school if symptoms have significantly improved, they are fever free for 24-hours without medication, and the isolation period has been completed.
- Students are strongly encouraged to wear a well-fitted mask at all times, on school buses and when they return to school.

Isolated/Quarantined Students Exposed to a Positive Case:

- Non-vaccinated students who have not had Covid-19 in the last 90 days should isolate/quarantine for a full 10 days. All isolation/quarantine scenarios are recommended to be tested after 5 days, even if not experiencing symptoms defined by the CDC. If symptoms occur within the last 10 days of exposure, student should stay home.
- If a student has been vaccinated and exposed, but showing no symptoms, he or she may return to school and must wear a well-fitted mask.

Sincerely,

- Dr. Mark Sullivan

Dr. Mark A. Sullivan, Superintendent
INSTRUCTION

• We will have traditional, in-person instruction and learning at each school, 5 days a week.
• Students will be allowed to make up missed work. Parents can contact their child's teacher/school for assignments.

DEVICES AND TECHNOLOGY

• The district will provide electronic devices for identified students who must quarantine/isolate.
• Hotspots will be available for students with limited or no access to the internet.
• Devices will be checked out to students at the beginning of the school year.
• Schoology will be used to facilitate technology engagement in the traditional school model including instructional support, communication, and collaboration with students and parents.

SAFETY AND WELLNESS

Social Distancing
• Students and staff will respect personal space in all school areas and activities.
• Visitors allowed on a pre-approved basis for certain scheduled activities.
• Students will have assigned seats in classrooms.

Masks
• All students, employees and visitors MUST WEAR MASKS in ALL BCS schools and facilities.

Vaccinations
• All eligible students and staff members are strongly encouraged to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

Cleaning & Hygiene
• All school areas will be cleaned and disinfected daily.
• Schedules will be adjusted to clean and disinfect common areas on a more frequent basis.
• Students and staff will be instructed to follow strict hand-washing and hygiene routines.

On The Bus
• All students will have assigned seats.
• Buses will be cleaned and disinfected after morning and afternoon runs.

Breakfast/Lunch
• Each school will decide on meal distribution on their campus to provide the most appropriate social distancing.
• Surfaces will be sanitized between meal service times.

Health Services
• All ADPH guidelines will be enforced.
• Students should be fever-free (less than 100 degrees Fahrenheit) without the use of fever-reducing medication for 24 hours before returning to school.

Athletics
• We will follow all ADPH and AHSAA policies in regards to capacity, social distancing, etc.