

Brookfield Central School District

2022-2023 Reopening Safety Plan

September 1, 2022

Summary

In developing the Brookfield Central School District 2022-2023 Reopening Safety Plan district personnel reviewed and critiqued the district's previous years plans. In addition, district personnel referenced guidance from multiple organizations including; U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), The American Academy of Pediatrics, The New York State Department of Health, the New York State Education Department and others. The Madison County Board of Health and the Madison County Department of Health were invaluable resources in the development of our re-opening safety plans and protocols.

The Brookfield Central School District's 2022-2023 Reopening Safety Plan employs multiple prevention strategies to protect all members of our school community against virus transmission. Our layered approach to reduce the risk of virus transmission includes numerous prevention strategies. The most significant of these are:

- Family and student health education, communication and coordination
- Vaccination
- Wearing masks
- Physical distancing
- Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
- Cleaning and disinfecting
- Contact tracing, isolation and quarantine when necessary

Our knowledge of the Covid-19 virus as well as all other viruses has increased significantly. As a result, we now know it is important to implement multiple mitigation strategies to contain the spread of any virus. All of those listed above are critical and together significantly reduce the risk of transmission of viruses.

We cannot emphasize enough the importance of the high level of cooperation and coordination between families and the district to continue to prevent the transmission of viruses. For example, because students and their families have followed the daily health screening procedures with fidelity, many potential exposures have been prevented. Because students and staff have followed good masking procedures, when necessary during the school day, many potential student quarantines were avoided. This type of perseverance will be necessary in order for in-person classes to continue uninterrupted in the upcoming school year.

Significant Areas

Wearing Masks

Consistent and correct mask use, when necessary, is critical to reducing the risk of transmission of viruses.

BCS will be following the recommendations of public health officials by:

- Requiring universal indoor masking for everyone when necessary.
- Masks must be made of appropriate materials and properly worn. **Please note; gaiters and bandannas frequently do not meet the criteria.**
- The district will provide appropriate masks when needed.

Physical Distancing

BCS will remain consistent with the most recent guidance from the CDC in regards to physical distancing.

Physical Distancing on the School Bus

BCS will remain consistent with the most recent guidance from the CDC in regards to physical distancing on the School Bus.

School Bus Cleaning and Disinfecting

School bus drivers will disinfect high contact touch points at the completion of each route. The interior of each bus will be disinfected and cleaned at the end of each day.

Food Service

BCS will remain consistent with the most recent guidance from the CDC in regards to Food Service and Cafeteria protocols.

Sports and Other Extracurricular Activities

It is the district's goal to provide safe interscholastic and extracurricular activities to BCS students.

School officials will use numerous factors in this decision-making process including;

- Risk category of activity
 - High risk, moderate risk or low risk
- Increased risk of transmission due to level of inhalation
- Level of intensity of activity
- Setting of the activity; indoors or outdoors
- Effectiveness of masking
- Physical closeness of participants
- Number of people at an event
- Duration of time
 - Events time
 - Travel time
 - Close contact time

Daily Health Screenings

During the 2021-2022 school year parents and students performed daily health screenings via Parent Square. Because families diligently performed daily health screenings at home every morning the risk of virus transmission in the school building was greatly reduced.

In the 2022-2023 school year students are required to stay home if not feeling well. **Students with any symptoms of illness should not come to school and should contact their health care provider and the school nurse immediately.**

District staff are also asked to stay home if experiencing any symptoms of illness.

In-Person Instruction

We believe there is greater benefit to our students engaging in, in-person instruction, as opposed to remote learning. Accordingly, BCS will be offering in-person instruction to all students in the 2022-2023 school year.

Remote instruction will only be available to students due to documented medical reasons. Appropriate documentation will only be accepted from a medical doctor and is subject to approval by the District's Medical Director.

Remote instruction for medically eligible students will be provided by certified teachers. Remote instruction would be a full day class, comprised of a combination of live instruction, prerecorded lessons, and work provided by an on-line learning program.

Public health conditions are a critical factor in maintaining in-person instruction. The district will monitor local, regional and national public health conditions daily.

The district's primary goal is to safely provide in-person instruction to all students every day. **However, families should be prepared for the district to change to remote instruction or hybrid instruction with as little as a few hours' notice, if public health conditions warrant.**

In the case of hybrid instruction students will again be grouped into blue and orange groups.

Visitors

Visitors are subject to the same guidelines as district employees and students i.e proper mask wearing, physical distancing, health screenings, when necessary.

Other

- Faculty and staff will continue to encourage good handwashing and etiquette
- Students and staff are encouraged to bring personal water bottles that can be filled at the hands-free water dispensing stations
- BCS will continue to coordinate with the Madison County Department of Health to determine contact tracing, isolation and quarantine requirements
- BCS will continue to frequently clean and disinfect high touch surfaces

The district will continually monitor these conditions and change its procedures accordingly.

Teaching and Learning:

The Brookfield Central School District's reopening plan includes a continuity of learning plan for the 2022-2023 school year. The plan prepares the district for in-person, remote, and hybrid models of instruction.

IN-PERSON All students physically return to school in September following health and safety guidelines. This determination is made due to successful virus containment and minimal or low levels of transmission.

At this time the district plans on in-person instruction for all students, except those with a documented medical exception.

REMOTE LEARNING RETURN Students with a documented medical reason not to attend school in-person would receive remote instruction.

HYBRID RETURN The district would return to a hybrid instruction if public health conditions warranted.

Students engage in a combination of in-person and remote learning based on cohorts, grouped by families and then grouped on a blue or orange day as was done previously.

Instruction will be guided by current curricular materials and units that are aligned with NYS Learning Standards. Teachers will follow the district curriculum maps, calendars, and pacing guides that ensure pacing to meet grade level standards. Teachers will interact directly with students every day in several ways. Teachers will use video conferencing to have live contact with students, as well as Google Classroom, Zoom and other applications to monitor student work, check for understanding, and know if students are completing assigned tasks. Additionally, teachers will provide office hours to students to further monitor student progress. When a student is not attending live sessions and/or completing assigned tasks, the teacher will reach out to the student and parents to offer support and problem-solving. When needed, the teacher will collaborate with school counselors, the special education teacher (if appropriate), and the building administrator for additional support for the student and his/her family. Teachers will communicate concerns with both counselors, and building administrators. Brookfield Central School's Director of Technology will monitor students' ability to connect to the internet. The District will provide devices and internet access to any family who needs it. Students who receive support services will continue to receive those services. Services will be provided in school, if students are in school, as well as remotely.

Methods for contacting the school and teachers will be communicated in several ways:

- District website and Parent Square
- District and school newsletters (printed and mailed to each home).
- Teachers' Google Classrooms
- School voicemail system which is accessible to teachers and administrators remotely
- School email

Special Education

Parents will choose their preferred mode of instruction, based on the district's reopening plan, and will be provided general and special education instruction either in combination of in-person and remote learning (hybrid), or remotely, by their general and special education teachers and related service providers. Staff will collaborate with parents to provide services to the greatest extent possible, consistent with IEPs and FAPE, and will document these services on the selected district forms and contact logs. BOCES and Out of District placements will also provide individual documentation. The District will document the following information: what programs and services will be provided to the student; what method will be used to deliver those programs and services; how progress towards goals will be monitored, if the methodology must differ from what is written in the IEP due to a public health emergency; and how program modifications and accommodations will be addressed, if the methodology must differ from what is written in the IEP due to a public health emergency.

Special education teachers and service providers will communicate with parents/guardians regarding the provision of services and the parent's selected mode of instruction or services (hybrid or remote). Teachers and/or service providers will document communication with parents/guardians. Teachers will maintain communication logs throughout the year. Progress reports will be provided quarterly to document student's progress toward IEP goals.

The Co-CSE Chairs will collaborate with parents regarding the provision of services and supports, as well as modifications and accommodations, and how those may be adjusted to reflect the setting for the students' education (i.e. in-person during hybrid vs. virtual during remote learning). Parents will receive documentation describing the provision of services in their preferred language or mode of communication.

Students attending out of district programs will be provided the options those programs develop, and the district will support those models of instruction. Out of District placement and CPSE providers will document their provision of FAPE and communicate that with the school district and CSE office, as well as parents. Providers will continue to use quarterly reporting mechanisms employed by those providers. Providers will use the Cleartrack contact log to maintain records of parent interaction and student participation in programs. The District will work with outside providers to ensure students have necessary technology/resources to access their education.

Programs and services will be provided to the greatest extent possible based on the student's IEP and the method of delivery, including adaptations to accommodations and modifications in students' IEPs to ensure access to their education. District staff can provide technical support to students. Staff will collaborate with parents to provide services to the greatest extent possible, consistent with IEPs, and will document these services, as well as any adjustments to modifications and accommodations to ensure FAPE on the selected district forms and contact logs.