

# **Brookfield Central School District**

## **2021-2022 Covid-19 Safety Plan**

**September 1, 2021**

### **Summary**

In developing the Brookfield Central School District 2021-2022 Covid-19 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 Covid-19 safety plans and protocols.

The Brookfield Central School District 2021-2022 Covid-19 Safety Plan employs multiple prevention strategies to protect all members of our school community against the transmission of the Covid-19 virus. Our layered approach to reduce the risk of transmission of the Covid-19 includes numerous prevention strategies. The most significant of these are:

- Family and student health communication and coordination
- Vaccination
- Wearing masks
- Physical distancing
- Health screening
- Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
- Cleaning and disinfecting
- Student grouping (cohorting)
- Contact tracing, isolation and quarantining

Our knowledge of the Covid-19 virus has increased significantly over the past 18 months. As a result we now know it is important to implement multiple mitigation strategies to contain the spread of the virus. All of those listed above are critical and together significantly reduce the risk of transmission of the virus.

We cannot emphasize enough the importance of the high level of cooperation and coordination that families have initiated with the district to contain the transmission of the virus. Students and families have taken this virus seriously. 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 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

A significant part of our school population are not currently eligible for vaccination. As a result, consistent and correct mask use is critical to reducing the risk of transmission of the virus.

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

- Requiring universal indoor masking for everyone. Outdoor masking will be required when individuals are not able to physically distance. When individuals are able to physically distance outdoors masking will not be required.
- Teachers will continue to implement regularly scheduled mask breaks
- Masks wearing is required while on the school bus
- Masks must be made of appropriate materials and properly worn. **Please note; gaiters and bandannas frequently do not meet this criteria.**
- The district will provide appropriate masks when needed.

When classroom occupants are physically distanced at a distance of at least six feet, teachers may request the superintendent to allow masks to be removed.

In making the decision the superintendent will consider:

- Vaccination status of classroom occupants
- Current rate of community transmission
- Current BCS Covid-19 metrics
- Activities occurring in the classroom
- Current public health officials information
- Other pertinent factors

## **Physical Distancing**

Consistent with the most recent guidance from the CDC BCS will:

- Maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within the classroom combined with indoor mask wearing. The district will also follow a cohorting strategy to mitigate risk should on occasion the 3 feet of physical distancing not be possible.
- Maintain 6 feet of physical distancing between teachers/staff and students when closer physical interaction is not required to provide instruction
- Maintain 6 feet of physical distancing between adults who are not fully vaccinated
- In chorus students will maintain 6 feet physical distancing and wear masks when singing

## **Physical Distancing on the School Bus**

Consistent with updated guidance from the CDC:

- Mask wearing is required on the school bus
- Physical distancing is no longer required on the school bus
- However, bus routes will be designed to include spacing between students
- Family members will be seated together on the school bus
- Students who frequently socialize outside the school day will be seated together with parental permission

## **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**

New York State has announced that all students will continue to be eligible for free breakfasts and lunches.

- Students will be socially distanced 6 feet for meals
- Meals will be served in the classroom, in the cafeteria and in the music room
- Meals will NOT be served in the gymnasium
- At the start of the school year students will not be able to leave the campus for lunch. This policy will be reevaluated from time to time based on current public health conditions.

## **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;

- Vaccination status of participants
- Risk category of activity
  - High risk, moderate risk or low risk
- Increased risk of Covid 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 2020-2021 school year parents and students identified many cases of students with potential Covid-19 symptoms by performing the daily health screening via Parent Square. Because families diligently performed daily health screenings at home every morning the risk of the virus transmission in the school building was greatly reduced.

In the 2021-2022 school year parents/students are required to complete daily health screenings via Parent Square prior to the student leaving their home. Parents/students will be required to electronically complete the daily health screening every Monday. **Students with any Covid-19 symptoms should not come to school and should contact their health care provider and the school nurse immediately.**

District personnel will continue to take student temperatures as they enter the building.

District staff are required to complete the daily health questionnaire prior to entering the building daily.

## In-Person Instruction

We believe that there is greater benefit to our students who engage in, in-person instruction, as opposed to remote learning. Accordingly, BCS will be offering in-person instruction to all students in the 2021-2022 school year.

Remote instruction as offered in the previous school year **will not** be available. Remote instruction will be available to students requiring remote instruction 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 through BOCES. Remote instruction would be a full day class and would be 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. The district is currently developing this plan and will notify students and their families of their grouping and the hybrid calendar the first week of the school year.**

### Visitors

The district will continue the visitor policy developed during the previous school year.

Visitors will only be allowed with prior approval of a district administrator.

Visitors are subject to the same guidelines as district employees and students i.e proper mask wearing, physical distancing, health screenings. In cases of an emergency visitors should contact the district office prior to entering school grounds.

### **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
- Students and staff should stay home when sick or displaying any Covid-19 symptoms
- BCS will continue to coordinate with the Madison County Department of Health to determine contact tracing, isolation and quarantine requirements on a case by case basis
- BCS will continue to frequently clean and disinfect high touch surfaces

Throughout the Covid-19 crisis public health conditions have changed rapidly. As a result, the district will continually monitor these conditions and change it's procedures accordingly.

## **Teaching and Learning:**

The Brookfield Central School District reopening plan includes a continuity of learning plan for the 2021-2022 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 COVID-19 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 through BOCES.

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

Students engage in some combination of in-person and remote learning based on cohorts, grouped by families and then grouped on an blue or orange day as was done in 2020-2021.

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 schools and teachers will be communicated in several ways:

- District website
- 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:**

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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 COVID-19 emergency; and how program modifications and accommodations will be addressed, if the methodology must differ from what is written in the IEP due to the COVID-19 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.