



BELLE PLAINE

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Safe Reopening Plan

December 20 -- 2021-2022

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A. COVID Safe Reopening Plan Introduction

Belle Plaine Public Schools continues to be committed to providing a safe and healthy workplace for all of our staff, students, and community. To ensure we have a safe and healthy workplace, Belle Plaine Public Schools has developed the following COVID-19 Safe Reopening Plan as we come to the conclusion of COVID-19 pandemic. Our goals are to work towards returning to a sense of normalcy and help students who have fallen behind during the pandemic, all while taking the necessary precautions needed to prevent a resurgence of COVID-19 in our workplaces and communities.

The COVID-19 Safe Reopening Plan is administered by our District Leadership Team and members of our Districts Medical staff, who maintain the overall authority and responsibility for the plan. However, all are equally responsible for supporting, implementing, complying with, and providing recommendations to further improve all aspects of this plan. Belle Plaine Public Schools is serious about safety and health and protecting all. Student, staff, and community involvement is essential in developing and implementing a successful Safe Reopening Plan.

Belle Plaine Public Schools Safe Reopening Plan follows the industry guidance developed by the state of Minnesota, available at the Stay Safe Minnesota website (<https://staysafe.mn.gov>), which is based upon Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), Minnesota Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MNOSHA) statutes, rules and standards, and Minnesota's current executive orders.

B. Preventative Measures

Know-How It Spreads

- The current vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is now available for students age 12 and above.
 - At this point, there will be no requirement to prove a person has been vaccinated. This would be subject to change by state or federal order.

Wash Your Hands Often

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing.
 - Before touching your face
 - Before eating and preparing food
 - After using the restroom
 - After handling your cloth face covering
- If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and run them together until they feel dry.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

Cover Coughs and Sneezes

- Always cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze
- Immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

Clean and Disinfect

- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily. This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, etc.

Monitor Your Health Daily

- Be alert for symptoms. Watch for fever, cough, shortness of breath or other symptoms of Covid-19.
- Stay home if you're sick.
- Follow CDC guidance if symptoms develop.

C. Health & Safety Guidance

Handwashing

All are instructed to wash their hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water frequently throughout the day, but especially:

- At the beginning and end of their shift
- Anytime they leave and return to the building
- Prior to and after any mealtimes
- After using the restroom

Hand sanitizer dispensers have been placed in various locations throughout the buildings and in the doorway of each classroom for use when water and soap are not readily available. Employees should avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

Face Coverings

Face coverings in the Belle Plaine Public Schools ***will be optional but encouraged*** for all students and staff when in our buildings. Face coverings ***are required*** by Federal Law for students who ride public school buses under current federal order. [How to Wear Cloth Face Coverings](#)

Types of Face Coverings

- Types of face coverings can include:
 - A paper or disposable mask
 - A cloth mask
 - A neck gaiter

- A scarf
- A bandanna
- Or a religious face covering
- A face covering should cover the nose and mouth completely. The covering should not be overly tight or restrictive and should feel comfortable to wear.

Social Distancing

We are using the current ESSER II dollars to keep class sizes small which will allow for fewer students to be in homeroom classrooms. This will allow both for distancing and more interactions between individual teachers and students to help with some of the loss of learning that has occurred.

OSHA Health Office Protocol

All symptomatic students who enter the health office will be encouraged to mask and will be isolated while waiting for pick-up. Isolation space will be cleaned after each use. Health office staff will be masked when working with ill students (surgical grade masks will be available for all staff working in the health office.) Aerosol generating procedures, such as nebulization, will be discouraged for use at school. If such procedures are necessary they will be a backup option, such as to an inhaler, or only used in an emergency situation.

D. Cleaning & Disinfecting

Appropriate and effective cleaning and disinfectant supplies have been purchased and will be available in each room. All classrooms will be provided with disinfectant spray, paper towels, and hand sanitizer.

Workplace building and ventilation protocol:

Operation of the building in which the workplace is located, includes necessary sanitation, assessment, and maintenance of building systems, including water, plumbing, electrical, and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems. The maximum amount of fresh air is being brought into the workplace, air recirculation is being limited, and ventilation systems are being properly used and maintained through our HVAC control system.

E. Screening Protocol

The following procedures are being implemented to assess student/staff/visitor health status prior to entering the school and for families and employees to report when they are sick or experiencing symptoms.

Students

Families are required to self-monitor their children for signs and symptoms of illness. Students exhibiting any symptoms are to stay home from school. Families should contact their respective school administrator to report the student's illness and keep us informed if the condition worsens. Belle Plaine Public Schools encourages families to contact their medical provider to determine the need for testing if students exhibit multiple symptoms of COVID-19.

Daily Home Screening for Students, please check for these symptoms each morning.

[Daily Home Screening Sheet](#)

Staff

Staff will be required to self-monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 as above for students.

[Daily Home Screening Sheet](#)

F. Guidelines for Students/Staff Exhibiting Signs & Symptoms

Belle Plaine Schools will continue to encourage families to follow the Minnesota Department of Health COVID-19 guidelines for people in Schools, Youth, and Child Care Programs decision tree.

If a student is absent from school due to illness or COVID-related symptoms, they **will not** be joining synchronous lessons. Students in PreK-6 should connect with their teacher regarding missed schoolwork or opportunities to do school work at home. Students in 7-12 can access Schoology to get updates on classroom activities and assignments. There will be no options this year for synchronous learning. Students are encouraged to communicate with teachers via email to request further support.

Students that are present in school and become symptomatic should be seen in the health office and when sent home have the option of taking an over the counter at home test kit with them to test at home. Questions, contact your school's health care office.

G. Guidelines for Students/Staff Who Have Potentially Been Exposed

Belle Plaine Schools will send case notification letters to families if there has been a possible exposure at school. Students who are living with a positive case in their household will be encouraged to complete a quarantine. The length of the quarantine will be decided by the parents and health office staff based on MDH guidance and each individual situation. Individuals who are fully vaccinated and are symptom free may continue to attend and follow guidance for vaccinated individuals. Positive cases will be required to isolate for 10 days based on state and federal recommendations.

H. Notification Procedures

Belle Plaine Schools will send a symptoms notification letter to parents if there has been a possible exposure. Positive cases will be required to isolate for 10 days based on state and federal recommendations.

I. Data Privacy

Belle Plaine Public Schools is subject to and complies with the laws and regulations associated with the privacy of medical information as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). To ensure compliance with these laws and regulations, administrators, supervisors, and other employees are prohibited from revealing the name or any other private information about the individual who has reported COVID-19 symptoms or who has been tested for COVID-19, regardless of the result, with anyone besides those who absolutely need to know (i.e. Human Resources). Only the individual may share information about themselves if they so choose. Administrators, supervisors, and other employees are prohibited from sharing any private information under any circumstance, regardless of whether the information is widely known.

J. Communications

This Safe Learning Plan was posted on our District Website on June 20th for the public to review and comment.

Regular communication will be provided to parents/guardians and other known visitors regarding our health and safety protocols. Employees, students, and other visitors to the building will also be advised not to enter the workplace if they are experiencing symptoms or have contracted COVID-19.

The Director of Facilities will monitor how effective the plan is by requesting feedback and concerns from employees as well as personal observation. Modifications will be made as necessary. All employees should take an active role and collaborate in carrying out the various aspects of this plan, and update the protections, protocols, work practices, and training as necessary. This COVID-19 Preparedness Plan has been certified by Belle Plaine Public School administration and the plan was made readily available to staff. It will be updated as necessary by the Covid Committee Team.

Instructions will be communicated to all staff, subs and other visitors, if necessary regarding 1) social distancing protocols and practices; 2) drop-off & pick up; 3) practices for hygiene and respiratory etiquette; 4) requirements regarding the use of face-coverings and/or face-shields by workers staff, students and visitors. All staff, students, and visitors will also be advised not to enter the workplace if they are experiencing symptoms or have contracted COVID-19.

Although building-specific protocols may vary slightly between buildings, all of the above guidelines should be utilized.

While these are guidelines in place for employees while at work, it is also important that employees continue to follow recommended guidelines and continued enhanced sanitary practices while away from work as well, for the safety of themselves and their co-workers

K. Continuity Of Services

Belle Plaine Schools is committed to ensuring that all students have access to quality education and support services. The following will be part of our Safe Back-To-School Plan:

Learning Models:

1. All students will return to in-person learning five days per week
2. Families who decide not to participate in in-person learning for the 2021-22 school year will have the option for online learning through our cooperative partner Southwest Metro Intermediate School District. For more information about Southwest Metro's online learning program please contact Amy Wood or Sarah Geller at 952-873-2403.
3. Additional teaching and support staff will be available to students for academic support and to assist with learning recovery.

Food Service:

Student meals will be provided at no charge for the 2021-22 school year. Students will eat lunches in their cafeterias or common areas. A la carte and additional meals can be purchased as well (A la carte is only available at the Junior/Senior High School).

Mental Health Services:

Mental health services will be available to all students in all grades in their respective buildings through a systemic approach. Students will receive daily education about mental health through Second Step (K-6) and Move This World (7-12). In addition, we will provide counseling/social work services in every building. If the counselors/social worker identifies a therapy level need the District provides a full-time licensed mental health therapist on-site five days per week. If the therapist is not able to provide the level of support needed we offer a full-time day treatment program called Reflections through Southwest Intermediate School District.

Internet:

The District will continue to provide hotspots for families with little or no internet at home at no charge. Access will be prioritized first to those traditionally underserved and/or underrepresented students.