



2021-2022 Addendum: COVID 19 Safety and Protection Protocols

As of 8/31/21—Some items subject to change.

Buffalo Public Schools will adopt a multilayered approach to safety and protection for our staff and students as recommended by our Medical Team, the AAP, CDC, & ECDOH

Masks

Masks are required for all individuals inside school buildings regardless of vaccination status. When outside, masks may be removed if activities are designed to keep students socially distanced for most of the time. Exemptions during RED ZONE periods will not be considered for in-school instruction. Exemptions during ORANGE ZONE periods will be considered by the District Medical Advisory Team for vaccinated persons with documented medical needs.

Social Distancing

Schools will adhere to the CDC distancing requirement of a minimum 3 feet among individuals when inside. If principals need assistance in designing a particular activity under this requirement, they must troubleshoot the activity with their Associate Superintendent. (See *Cafeteria Use* below.)

Cleaning and Sanitizing

Cleaning protocols are unchanged from our rigorous 2020-2021 Re-opening Plan. We have ample PPE, sanitizer, masks, face shields, gowns, gloves, surface cleaning supplies, temp scanners, etc.

Personal Hygiene

Students and staff will be provided every opportunity to properly wash their hands throughout the school day. Training of children to ensure coughing and sneezing etiquette, and to keep hands away from their face will continue.

Ventilation

Schools shall follow all current ventilation protocols, including mechanical and natural ventilation where appropriate. Exhaust fan repair and/or replacement is in process.

Daily Health Screening for Staff

Current protocols for staff shall remain in place. All temp check protocols previously in place for staff shall continue, including accompanying wellness questions upon entering the building each day.

Cafeteria Use

Cafeterias may be used as long as students are able to minimally distance at 3 feet apart when masks are removed for eating. In order to schedule this, Principals may need to create a combination of in-classroom lunch periods and cafeteria periods for students. Cleaning protocols are unchanged from 2020-2021 re-opening plans.

COVID 19 Isolation Room

All Isolation Room protocols previously in place shall continue.

COVID-19 Testing

Schools will conduct the more accurate and less invasive 24-hour turnaround mandatory Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) weekly testing for COVID-19. 30% of all consented staff and students will be tested each week pursuant to current permission procedures. We will continue to report COVID cases nightly and then follow all ECDOH guidelines for contact tracing.

Contact Tracing

All contact tracing protocols previously in place shall continue. ECDOH will establish updated protocols for 2021-22. In all classrooms, lunchrooms, busses, etc. children shall be assigned seats to assist ECDOH with contact tracing and quarantine decisions.

COVID-19 Vaccinations

The District has offered its school buildings to serve as vaccination centers for the community. The District has also offered to serve as a pilot district for in-school vaccinations for children during the regular school day. The District strongly urges and expects all staff to be fully vaccinated. Children are safer when the adults who care for them are vaccinated.

Immunizations

Within 14 days of the first day of school, parents must show proof of their child's up-to-date vaccinations, or provide a valid medical exemption from vaccinations.

Yellow Bus Transportation

To address the national bus driver shortage, the District is examining minimally adjusted scheduling to cover all bus runs. Masks shall be required for all riders.

NFTA Bus Transportation

Students shall follow the established safety guidelines determined by the NFTA.

HR Protocols for C19 Staff Sickness

All HR procedures for C19 previously in place shall continue.

Signage

Prominent signage will be placed throughout District facilities reinforcing the main elements of our safety protocols.



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SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Instruction

Beginning Wednesday, September 8, all students will attend school full-time, in-person, five days per week. Exemptions for specific medical reasons will follow the District's updated requirements for Medical Leave Instruction. The BPS instructional model will emphasize the need to accelerate student learning by teaching with rigorous grade level curricula.

Technology

The BPS Information Technology department is working to provide the most positive user experience for staff and students. Computer devices are currently undergoing a thorough sanitization process and being prepared to provide secure student access to grade appropriate instructional resource tools for a phased-in redistribution for the start of school. **Devices that have not been returned from the 2020-2021 school year or summer school instruction must be returned to the district immediately.** These devices must be sanitized and reimaged in order to distribute to students for the upcoming school year. Students who have not returned a device will not be issued a new device until the one on record is returned. Devices should be returned to 1515 S. Park Avenue, Monday through Friday between 10am - 4pm.

New computer devices have been purchased and are expected to arrive in the District by late fall. Our IT team is advancing the work necessary to deploy, maintain, and harden the infrastructure and security of information technology resources to meet the District's instructional and business needs.

Physical Education Classes

Wherever possible, Physical Education classes should be conducted outside in acceptable weather. When classes are conducted inside, students will be masked. Teachers should make specific efforts to establish properly distanced mask breaks for students (in groups or as a class) during inside activities.

Varsity Athletics/Other Athletics Programs

The District will participate in our regular program of Section VI Varsity sports. All other athletics programs normally in place in the District shall re-launch September 8. All COVID 19 safety protocols previously in place for all BPS sports programs shall continue.

After School Programs

The BPS After School Program is on hold until further notice. We will keep parents updated about a possible fall phase-in of After School Programming following a month of transportation services for our regular day program.

Saturday Community School Programs

Saturday Community School Programs in collaboration with Say Yes Buffalo are scheduled to begin phasing in throughout the District in mid-September. All COVID 19 safety and protection protocols in place shall continue.

Field Trips

Until further notice, field trips will not be scheduled. High School student internships, work assignments, or other release programs shall commence on schedule on September 8.

Parent Pick-Up

Current Parent Pick-up procedures shall remain in place until further notice. Specific procedures may vary by school and will be closely monitored by the Associate Superintendents for School Leadership.

Volunteers, Community-Based Partners, Say Yes Staff

The District is planning a fall start date which will phase in non-employee partners on a limited case-by-case basis.

Infinite Campus Parent Portal

Infinite Campus Parent Portal provides real-time access to class schedules, attendance, assignments, grades, and contact information for teachers. High school parents can also monitor their student's progress toward meeting graduation requirements. Parents will need a unique access code to access their child's account. For instructions and a how-to video to set up your account, visit <https://www.buffaloschools.org/Page/2380>.

Applying for Medical Exemption

Parents may request a medical exemption for remote instruction by providing medical documentation on a physician's letterhead, signed by a medical professional, explaining why the student medically needs remote-only instruction. Any student granted a medical exemption will be enrolled in concurrent (remote) learning.

Requests **must** be emailed to:

medicalexemptions@buffaloschools.org or submitted via U.S. mail to Dr. Sharon Brown, Assistant Superintendent for Student Support Services; 427 City Hall, Buffalo, N.Y. 14202.

Please see attached document for further information about students who qualify for participation in Remote Learning. [BPS 2021-22 Remote Learning Plan](#)

Click below for further guidance from the ECDOH:

<https://www2.erie.gov/health/sites/www2.erie.gov/health/files/uploads/pdfs/2021-2022-ECDOH-school-guidance.pdf>