

# **Lewis J Bennett HS of Innovative Technology Re-Opening Plan 2021-22 School Year**



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**“Work Hard, Have Fun and Celebrate Success!”**

## ***BPS 2021-2022 Addendum: COVID 19 Safety and Protection Protocols***

### **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. New computer devices are being purchased and 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 October. 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.

**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/Students**

Current protocols for staff/students 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.

**Isolation Rooms**

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 staff and students will continue to be randomly 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.

### **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.

## **School Vision for opening during the Covid-19 pandemic**

*Goal:* to create a school that would allow students to return to full in-person learning, five days per week.

### **Academic Considerations**

Use technology and the school programs to deliver instruction for face-to-face students while ensuring the focus of our school's Innovative Technology focus.

#### **Program**

- Full day
- Follow the school's master schedule as written
- Related Services and Counseling – services will continue as usual per district guidelines
- Breakfast/Lunch
  - Breakfast-meals will be “grab and go”. Students will pick up their breakfast and walk to their homerooms. They will eat during the homeroom period.

- Lunch- Cafeteria will hold lunches for all students who are in attendance each day. Social distancing will be followed. A third lunch period has been scheduled to accommodate this.
- Students' desks are arranged based on the Cannon Designs recommendation to maintain 3 feet distance between desks. All desks face the front of the room.
- The teacher will ensure students are following all CDC guidelines
  - Wearing of mask at all time while in the classroom and moving throughout the school building.
  - Students are 3 feet distance from one another.
  - Desks are arranged facing the same direction.
- Paraprofessionals will be used to assist in the instruction and monitoring of students
- Mask breaks will be taken at breakfast and lunch.
- P.E. classes will be held outdoors, weather permitting.

### **Social Emotional Learning**

- Classes will continue our implementation of learning circles consistent with Restorative Justice.
- PBIS components are embedded into the instructional program.
- Conduct daily calls to families of concern.
- Maintain records of supports for students and data to reflect on their progress both for academics and emotional needs.

### **Communication Plan**

Regular and ongoing communication regarding the evolution of this plan and the implementation process will occur as follow:

- School Webpage – updates as needed
- School Messenger – updates as needed
- Daily - Staff Bulletins
- Monthly - Faculty Meetings, Building Committee Meetings

### **SCHOOL SAFETY**

Due to Covid-19 Policies, changes have been implemented to ensure the safety of our students, staff and families. It is essential for all staff and students to remain home if experiencing any symptoms of Covid-19.

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose

- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

### **Visitors Policy**

During this time, visitors will be kept to a minimum in our building. Parents will only be allowed to enter if a student getting picked up early or to pick up a sick child. No longer will parents be allowed to come into the office, unless the office staff permits it for extenuating circumstances. Any visitor who does come into the building must be wearing a mask and will have to report to the office immediately, after having their temperature taken by the thermoscanner located at the entry. Any visitors from the district will have to adhere to the policy as well before traveling through the building for any reason.

### **Daily Covid Wellness Screener & Random Covid testing**

Staff will still be required to complete the COVID-19 screener questions. Staff will be provided a health screener link to be completed daily prior to entry into the school.

Students are no longer required to complete the daily health screener.

We are required to randomly test 30% of our consented staff and students. Staff will need to consent in order to be tested. A PCR, non-invasive nasal swipe test will be used with results in 15 mins. A schedule will be communicated, and coverage will be provided for teachers.

### **CDC Guidelines**

#### **Masks**

Students & Staff will be required to wear a mask at all times while riding the bus and while in the school building. Students & Staff may remove mask for breakfast and lunch. A mask will be provided for any students who does not have their own.

**Mask/Face Shield Exemption Request:** The following protocols are in place for parents/caregivers requesting mask/face shield exemptions:

- ALL medical exemption requests are emailed to: [medicalexemptions@buffaloschools.org](mailto:medicalexemptions@buffaloschools.org) OR U.S. Mail to: Medical Exemption Office, 427 City Hall, Buffalo, N.Y. 14202
- Persons with a documented medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents them from tolerating a face mask or shield covering.
- This may include students:
  - who are not able to remove a mask independently (ex. May have cerebral palsy, etc.),
  - whose face covering could obstruct their breathing and/or,
  - that are hearing impaired or communicating with a person who is hearing impaired, where the ability to see the mouth is essential. (Note: a face shield or mask with a clear mouth must be considered before moving to an exemption.)

### **Considerations:**

- The Medical Review Advisory Team request feedback regarding the mask/face shield exemption requests from a building administrator within a 24-48 hour time frame to avoid processing delays.
- Principals and the School's Nurse will be informed of all approvals for mask exemptions.
- Families will be notified, via the Division of Student Support Services, of all approvals and non-approvals for mask exemptions.
- All requests for medical exemptions will be considered on an individual basis.
- The parent/caregiver will be required to provide:
- Up to date (within 60 days) signed medical documentation on doctor's letterhead stating the specific diagnosis (reason) why the student must be considered for a mask face shield exemption. The signature must be from a practicing: Licensed Independent Practitioner (LIP) including a Doctor of Medicine (MD), Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO), Physician Assistant (PA) or a Certified Nurse Practitioner (CNP).
- It should also state if they are able to wear a face shield as an alternative and if not, the reason why. The LIP must be someone who provides ongoing care for the child.
- Documentation will be reviewed by a Medical Advisory Team and/or Legal Counsel to determine if the mask exemption will be granted.
- Approved students will be provided a mask exemption pass so that others are aware of their approved mask exemption.
- The vast majority of students with an underlying medical condition/disability including asthma can safely wear a mask.

**The Buffalo Public Schools retain the right to revert to a universal masking policy at any point deemed necessary.**

### **Social Distancing**

Students & Staff will be required to maintain 3 feet between other individuals. Students & Staff will be expected to move throughout the building while maintaining a 3 foot distance.

### **Temperature Screening**

Students & Staff will have their temperature taken upon entry to the school building.

- Students & Staff with a temperature of 100.4 will report to the clinic for additional screening.
- After an assessment by the school nurse, students & staff will either be returned to class or sent home.
- Students & Staff will remain in the isolation room (located in the nurses' suite) should they have symptoms.

### ***30% testing Plan and Point Person-clinic***

Staff and students will be randomly tested. Parents of students will be contacted before testing and may refuse the test. If a parent refuses, the student cannot be denied instruction and will return to the classroom. Staff will also be randomly tested as well. Anyone who is directly involved in testing will have proper training.

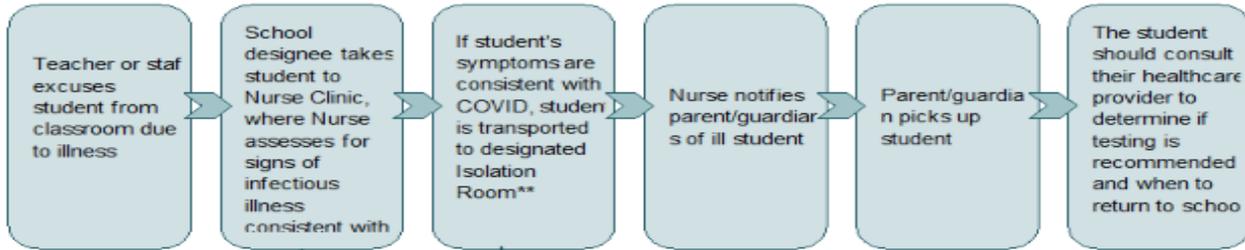
### ***Thermal Scanner(s)***

Scanner(s) will be placed at the entrance of the main door.

### **Illness during the school day**

- After an assessment by the school nurse, students will either be returned to class or if needed a parent will be notified to pick up the child.
- The students will remain in the nursing clinic until picked up.
- After an assessment by the school nurse, students will either be returned to class or if needed a parent will be notified to pick up the child.

### What to do if a Student Becomes Sick at School



\*\*If multiple ill students must be placed in the same isolation room/area, ensure mask use and that they maintain at least 6 feet of distance between them.

\*The presence of any of the symptoms below generally suggests a student has an infectious illness and should not attend school, regardless of whether the illness is COVID-19. For students with chronic conditions, a positive screening should represent a change from their typical health status.

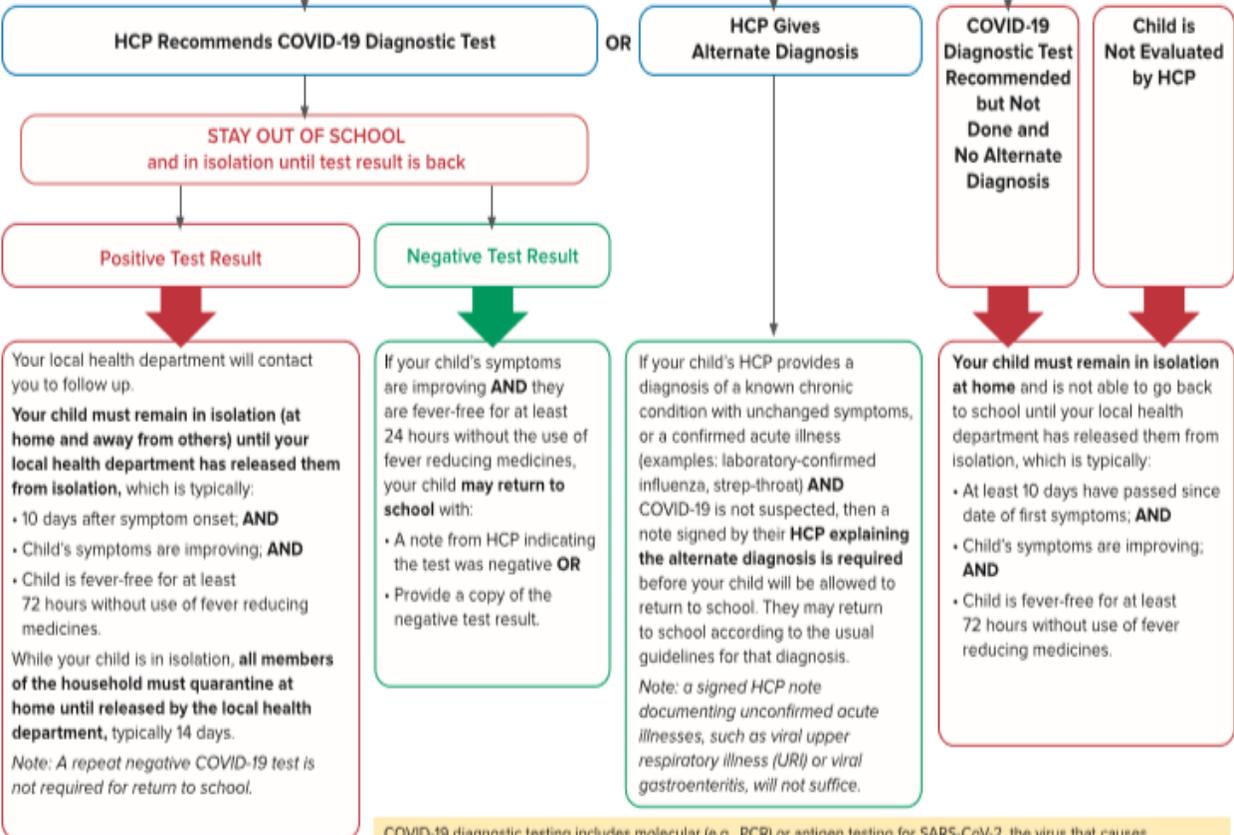
- Temp of 100 degrees F or higher
- Sore throat
- Cough (for students with chronic cough due to allergies or asthma, a change in their cough from baseline)

Source: [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov) (accessed 01/14/2021)



# My child has COVID-19 symptoms. When can they go back to school?

HEALTHCARE PROVIDER (HCP) EVALUATION FOR COVID-19 (can be in-person or by video/telephone as determined by HCP)



COVID-19 diagnostic testing includes molecular (e.g., PCR) or antigen testing for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. Diagnostic testing may be performed with a nasopharyngeal swab, nasal swab, or saliva sample, as ordered by the health care provider and per laboratory specifications. At times, a negative antigen test will need to be followed up with a confirmatory molecular test. Serology (antibody testing) cannot be used to rule in or out acute COVID-19.

### ***Entry and Departure times***

Students may enter at 7:35 a.m. for breakfast or 7:50 for those not attending breakfast. Students will enter and exit through the main entrance doors. Dismissal begins at 2:49 pm.

## **Logistics and School Protocols**

### **a. Faculty**

- Upon arrival at the school building in the morning, all staff will undergo a health assessment.
- Faculty and staff will enter and pass through the thermal scanner.
- Staff temperatures will be taken. If staff temperature is 100.4 degrees or above, staff will be directed to leave the building immediately and notify administration immediately.
- Staff will wear face coverings at all times when traveling within the school building and when supervising and instructing students.

### **b. Student Arrival & Dismissal for Buses**

#### **Arrival**

- Students will walk through temperature scanners upon entering the building.
- Scanners will be monitored by identified school personnel.
- Should a student have a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher, they will be escorted to the isolation room to be screened by the school nurse.
- Students will wear masks.

#### **Dismissal**

- Dismissal will begin at 2:49 pm
- Students will wear masks.

### **c. Late Arrivals**

- Students who are late to school will enter through the front entrance.
- Students must have a face mask on prior to being admitted into the building.
- Students will have their temperature checked before they are allowed to go to their classroom.

### **d. Hallways**

- All persons are to wear face coverings at all times when traveling within the school building

#### **e. Breakfast and Lunch**

Breakfast-meals will be “grab and go”. Students will pick up their breakfast and walk to their homerooms. They will eat during the homeroom period.

Lunch- Cafeteria will hold lunches for all students who are in attendance each day. Social distancing will be followed. A third lunch period has been scheduled to accommodate this.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **Cleaning Procedures**

***Q: How often are the bathrooms going to be cleaned? What about bathrooms in the classrooms?*** A: Bathrooms will be cleaned two times per day (midday and afterschool).

***Q: Who is responsible for cleaning the shared space between teachers using the same equipment, computer, IWB pen, desk, etc., between classes?***

A: It is advisable for teachers that share work space to have their own items in the classroom. If there is a need to utilize common equipment, teachers can use the sanitizing wipes that have been provided to wipe down the items, similar to the way that sanitizing wipes are used to wipe down carts in grocery stores. A hydrogen peroxide solution will be provided to staff.

#### **Random Testing**

***Q: Who will be giving the test and what tests will we use?*** A: The nurse will use BinaxNOW Rapid Testing.

***Q: Who will be administering the tests at the School?*** A: The school nurses will be conducting the tests in the school building.

***Q: Where will buildings administer the tests?*** A: The District will have uniform procedures, but the buildings will have discretion in operationalizing the testing. In most cases the testing will occur in the nurse’s office.

***Q: Will parents have to OPT IN for their child to be COVID tested? If so, when and how?*** A: Yes, a parental consent form will be shared with the schools to send home, and an electronic version will be developed for parents to complete to consent to having their child(ren) tested.

***Q: If a student was found to be positive and was in a classroom with other students, then what happens re: contact tracing communication and quarantine for students and staff that were in the classroom with that student?*** A: The Erie County Department of Health will follow up with families and will advise district staff and school leaders of the necessary protocols.

***Q: What happens when you have two students that have tested positive - can students be in the same isolation room until they are picked up?*** A: Yes, as long as social distancing and mask rules are followed.

***Q: Will parent consent for COVID-19 testing have an expiration?*** One consent per test or testing period? **A:** The parental consent does not expire unless the parent revokes consent in writing.

### **Isolation Room-TLC Room**

***Q: What happens if someone says yes to questions on COVID-19 symptoms (students and staff)?*** **A:** Students and/or staff will need to immediately report to the nurse's office for further assessment.

***Q: If a child is in isolation and no one picks them up ... how will they get home?*** **A:** If a parent or approved caregiver is unable to pick up the student, and all other contacts and possibilities have been exhausted, 9-1-1 should be called for medical assistance and follow up. This may result in the child being taken to a medical care facility for assessment and treatment.

***Q: Who is responsible for escorting and monitoring the students in the isolation area?*** **A:** School Leaders will need to identify staff members to monitor the isolation room. There will be safety protocol training and PPE equipment provided, and assurance that the room identified as the isolation room will be well ventilated and spacious enough for the staff member to maintain the CDC's recommended social distancing guidelines. All persons identified will receive training and PPE equipment according to NYSDOH guidelines to ensure their safety. Supplemental Health Care and the District have ordered PPE equipment for staff who will supervise the isolation room.

### **Masks**

***Q: Will the district require students who cannot wear a mask to have a district created mask exemption form completed by their physician and on file in their school based medical file.*** **A:** Students who cannot wear a mask due to a documented medical condition may wear a face shield.

***Q: How are mask wearing and social distancing violations to be handled from a disciplinary point of view?*** **A:** In the code of conduct addendum, progressive disciplinary measures will happen in a restorative manner, starting with a teacher having a conversation with the student and progressing to a referral to the SST and an administrator. If non-compliance continues, the principal may have the student reassigned to remote learning to ensure the safety of all in the building.

***Q: Can teachers wear face shields instead of masks?*** **A:** Masks are required, though a shield can accompany the wearing of a mask. There may be special accommodations for some teachers if it is medically recommended or professionally needed to perform their jobs (ex. speech teachers)

### **Human Resources**

***Q: What is HR plan/ support for teachers that must quarantine?*** **A:** Staff are cleared to return with either a negative test or a statement from the Erie County of Health or a physician that they have completed their mandatory quarantine period.

