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**Belle Valley School District #119 Plan for Safe Return to In-Person
Instruction and Continuity of Services**
August 4, 2021

Introduction

This plan has been developed in accordance with the American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) and the Illinois State Superintendent of Education declaration of July 27, 2021; is aligned with guidance provided by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); and addresses adjustments needed in response to evolving COVID-19 pandemic circumstances.

School strategies in this plan may be modified or removed based upon local conditions, levels of community transmission (i.e., low, moderate, substantial, or high), local vaccine coverage, and consultation with local public health officials to determine the prevention strategies needed. School officials will communicate any changes in plans to staff members, students, and parents through the district's regular communication platforms.

Creating and maintaining a safe environment for Students, Teachers, and Staff during an evolving COVID-19 pandemic

1. Mask Use

- Unless exempt by CDC Order, passengers and drivers must wear a mask on school buses. This is a CDC mandate.
- On August 4, 2021, the governor of Illinois mandated that all public and private schools require that masks be worn indoors for all students, teachers, staff and visitors regardless of vaccination status. **Note: If at some future point in time the governor lifts this order, we will post new guidelines for mask use in the building.**
- Mask use is highly recommended outdoors during activities (e.g., participating in outdoor play, recess, physical education, sports, extra curriculars) that involve sustained close contact with other people who are not fully vaccinated, particularly in areas of substantial to high transmission.

- If the governor’s mask mandate is lifted, school staff are to model support for and encourage students to be supportive of people who continue to wear a mask as a personal choice or because of a personal medical reason.

2. Physical Distancing

- To the extent possible within school and classroom structures so that it does not exclude students from full day in-person learning, school staff are to help students commit to physical distancing as much as possible by:
 - arranging furniture, play spaces and naptime materials to model and reinforce physical distancing of at least 3 feet, to the extent possible.
 - providing assigned seating for students and encourage students to remain in these seats to the greatest extent possible; and
 - developing marked paths of travel in classrooms and corridors.
- School staff will maximize physical distance as much as possible when moving through food service lines and while eating indoors. Aside from the cafeteria, additional spaces for mealtime seating MAY be utilized when available and feasible (e.g., weather permitting).
- Physical distancing measures are to be applied in an equitable manner that does not perpetuate academic, racial, or other tracking (e.g., separating people into fully vaccinated and non-fully vaccinated cohorts).

3. Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette

- School staff will monitor and reinforce frequent handwashing and respiratory etiquette by:
 - continuing to teach handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
 - assisting young children with handwashing.
 - reminding everyone in the facility to wash hands frequently.
 - using hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol (for teachers, staff, and older students who can safely use hand sanitizer) when handwashing is not possible.
 - continuing to teach respiratory etiquette (e.g., covering coughs and sneezes); and
 - providing adequate handwashing and hand sanitizer supplies that are safely stored (up, away, and out of sight of young children and used only with adult supervision for children under 6 years of age).

4. Facility and Transportation Cleaning, Disinfection and Ventilation

- School custodial staff and transportation staff will continue to clean surfaces daily. To further reduce the risk of spreading infection, these staff will also use disinfectants on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency COVID-19 “List N” to disinfect spaces occupied by someone who tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 24 hours.
- Maintenance staff will continue to regularly replace school ventilation system filters.
- When possible, staff will open doors and have activities, classes, or lunches outdoors when circumstances allow.
- When it does not pose a safety risk, transportation staff will keep vehicle windows open at least a few inches to improve air circulation.

5. Contact Tracing in Combination with Isolation and Quarantine

- Students and staff who have symptoms of infectious illness, such as influenza (flu) or COVID-19, should stay home and contact their healthcare provider for testing and care.
- Individuals in our school environment who show symptoms of COVID-19 are to immediately report to or be escorted to the school's health care professional's office to be either sent home or be quarantined in the school's supervised safe area while awaiting pickup/evaluation. Students and staff are required to wear masks while in the safe area. Parents should ensure that ill students are picked up from school within 30 minutes of being notified. Ill students will not be allowed to ride the school bus to return home.
- Students and staff who are not fully vaccinated should quarantine after a recent exposure to someone with COVID-19.
- Fully vaccinated people who were in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 but do NOT have COVID-19 symptoms are not required to quarantine, but the CDC recommends testing 3-5 days after exposure and wearing a mask in public for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result.
- Student absences related to a COVID-19 isolation or quarantine will be recorded as excused, with proper documentation. To ensure continuity of services, schoolwork missed during such an absence may be requested; social, emotional, mental health, or other needs will be provided in accordance with a student's IEP or 504 Plan. Parents of students who have social, emotional, mental health, or other needs outside of an IEP or 504 Plan should contact their child's principal to discuss those needs. Remote instruction will only be made available for non-vaccinated or vaccine ineligible students who are under quarantine as directed by the local health department or the Illinois Department of Public Health.
- To the extent allowable by privacy laws and other applicable laws, school health care professionals will continue to collaborate with St. Clair County Health Department officials to confidentially provide information about people diagnosed with or exposed to COVID-19, including making notifications to staff and parents as soon as possible regarding those who were in close contact of someone in the school who tested positive for COVID-19.
- The school will inform the school community of outbreaks while maintaining student and staff confidentiality rights.
- Students and staff suspected of having COVID-19, whether they were tested or not, are to follow the CDC guidelines to determine when they can return to school.
- Following quarantine, students and staff returning from illness related to COVID-19 are to call to check in with the school's health care professional.

6. Promoting Vaccination

- Respectful of peoples' varying levels of vaccine confidence, those who want to get vaccinated against COVID-19 can visit [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) to find out where they can get vaccinated in our community.

7. Disabilities or Other Health Care Needs

- Parents of students who need accommodations, modifications, or assistance related to COVID-19 safety protocols, disabilities, underlying medical conditions, or weakened immune systems should contact their student's principal to address their need(s).
- Staff members who need accommodations, modifications, or assistance related to COVID-19 safety protocols, disabilities, underlying medical conditions, weakened immune systems, or a sincerely held religious belief or practice (covered by Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964) should contact their school's principal to discuss their need(s). Staff members with weakened immune systems are advised to contact their healthcare professional about the need for continued personal protective measures after vaccination.

8. Visitors

- Nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations with people who are not fully vaccinated are discouraged from visiting schools.

9. Collaboration with Public Health Officials

- District officials will continue to collaborate and consult with St. Clair County Health Department officials throughout a pandemic on various logistics and decision-making including, but not limited to, school health and safety protocols, contact tracing, vaccine clinics, and emergency school closings.

10. Plan Review

- Through the FY2021-2022 school year, this plan will be reviewed as needed and revised as appropriate after seeking and considering IDPH input. Revisions will address the most recently updated safety recommendations by the CDC and will be made publicly available on the district's website.

Please read below for the remote learning plan for eligible students

Remote Learning Plan

Belle Valley School is returning to a regular school calendar for the FY 2021-2022 school year. The Illinois State Board of Education has not granted public schools the remote learning option unless you meet the qualifications listed below. Any student with a medical diagnosis that prevents them from attending school should reach out to the building principal as soon as possible.

Qualifications for remote learning:

- Per the Illinois State Board of Education, remote Learning may only be offered to students while they are under mandatory quarantine from a local public health department AND
- To those students who are not eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine

Ensure and verify student participation in a remote learning day:

- During remote learning, students will be provided standard based assignments and/or activities from the teachers that equates to at least 5 hours of participation. The 5 hours of instruction will be accomplished through a combination of instruction and student work. The work will be assigned to the students on the remote learning day(s) and will be due back to the teacher or staff member by the assigned due date. Assignments will be graded and will count towards the student's quarterly grade.

Verification of daily student attendance:

- Student's daily attendance will be recorded through completion of their work.

Ensure appropriate learning opportunities for all students

- All teachers will be available by email, Google Classroom, or other preferred modes of communication for assistance and feedback. Parents and guardians also may contact teachers using these or other previously established methods of communication. Students may be permitted to take their Chromebooks home if necessary. The assignments will be posted on Google Classroom and completed work may be submitted electronically when feasible.

Special needs students:

- Students in special education programs under Article 14 of the Illinois School Code, students with 504 plans, and other special needs student populations will be addressed on an individual case-by-case basis.

Transition from Remote Learning:

- Upon completion of an IDPH quarantine, students will turn in all remote assignments and lessons that accrued over the course of the extended absence and return to in-class instruction.