

Blooming Prairie Public Schools COVID-19 Handbook - Families

The Blooming Prairie School District is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for our students and staff. To ensure that, we have developed this plan in response to the COVID-19 pandemic utilizing guidance offered by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), Minnesota Department of Education (MDE), the Center for Disease Control (CDC), and Governor Walz's office. We are all responsible for implementing this plan and our goal is to mitigate the potential for transmission of COVID-19 at our schools. This requires full cooperation among students, staff, and families. Only through a cooperative effort, can we establish and maintain the safety of our school facilities.

This plan addresses the three learning scenarios laid out by Governor Walz; In person learning for all, hybrid learning, and distance learning.

All In-Person Learning

Traditional, face to face learning with modifications for social distancing and extra safety precautions.

This scenario may be implemented if local, regional or state COVID -19 metrics continue to stabilize or improve.

Hybrid Learning

A unique combination of Distance and All In-Person Learning.

This plan limits the number of students in a classroom to ensure 6 feet social distancing.

This scenario may be implemented if COVID-19 metrics worsen at the local, regional or state level.

Distance Learning

Teacher directed online learning for all students.

This scenario may be implemented if local, regional, or statewide COVID-19 metrics worsen significantly enough to require the suspension of the All In-Person or Hybrid plan.

*In all plans, there is an option for students to participate in distance learning. It is our responsibility to provide a quality and safe education for all families in our school community.

Hybrid Learning Schedules

- Students in Pre-K will follow the normal Schedule.
- Students in grades K-6 will attend every day (Monday-Friday).
- Students in grades 7-12 will be split to 50% capacity based on last name and will follow an A(Awesome) and B(Blossom) schedule.
 - Last name A-L will attend school on Monday and Tuesday, distance learn on Wednesday-Friday.
 - Last name M-Z will attend school on Thursday and Friday, distance learn Monday-Wednesday.
 - Wednesday will be a cleaning day with no students in the high school building.
 - *Some expectations will be made to accommodate blended families and educational needs.*
 - **All 7th grade students will come on Sept. 8th – 18th, except Wednesdays.**

- **The Hybrid scenario for 7th-grade students will begin on Sept. 21st (more information will be shared at 7th grade orientation).**

With each scenario, there are specific expectations in place to protect the health and safety of our buildings, our staff, and our students.

These expectations address:

- Screening for employees and students
- Masks/Face coverings
- Face Shields
- Handwashing/respiratory etiquette
- Cleaning
- Social Distancing
- Water/Backpacks
- Classrooms
- Transportation
- Office
- Nurses Office
- Grading/Attendance
- Technology
- Visitors
- COVID Illness/Exposures
- Distance Learning Expectations

In All Learning Scenarios

Screening for employees and students

Students:

The CDC does not recommend universal screening of symptoms (screening all students) to be conducted by schools. However, we encourage families to do the following:

- Complete a wellness check prior to coming to school (verification of no fever, illness, COVID symptoms, etc.) [MDH Daily Screening Checklist](#)
- Students who are sick should not attend school in-person.

Students who have been home sick will be screened by the school nurse upon returning to school. This screening will include 5 health questions and a temperature check.

Staff:

Staff will complete a wellness check prior to coming to school each day.

[MDH Daily Screening Checklist](#)

Masks/Face coverings

Per Governor's Executive Order 20-81, face coverings are generally required for all students (ages 5 and above), staff, and other persons present in any school building, or riding on school transportation vehicles. A mask or face covering can include a paper or disposable mask, cloth mask, neck gaiter, scarf, bandanna, or a religious face covering. A face covering must cover the mouth and nose completely. In addition:

- Students arriving without a mask/face covering will be provided with one.
- Students refusing to wear a mask/face covering will go to the office, building principals will contact parents.
- Students will be asked to Distance Learn if refusing to wear a mask.
- Those seeking a medical exemption from wearing a mask must provide a doctor's note.

Blooming Prairie Public Schools, with the support of the State of Minnesota, will provide a mask for every student and staff member in our buildings.

Masks/Face coverings are required for all staff and students when:

- Entering and exiting the building
- In the hall or within 6 feet of someone
- In common spaces, bathroom, office, classrooms (moving about)

Masks/Face coverings may be temporarily removed when:

- Eating and drinking
- Engaging in indoor physical activity (e.g., during recess, after school sports, or when exercising in the gym) where the level of exertion makes wearing a face covering difficult.
- In classes or activities held outdoors if maintaining 6 feet social distancing.
- Engaged in indoor practices or performances involving singing, acting, public speaking, or playing musical instruments where a mask/face covering cannot be used while playing that instrument. Performers should maintain 6 feet or greater of physical distance from others while participating in the activity to the extent possible and should replace face coverings as soon as the activity is completed.

Staff may remove masks/face coverings in the following scenarios:

- When working alone in their offices, classrooms, vehicles, or other job locations.
- When working in communal spaces (e.g., at desks or in cubicles) that have barriers such as plexiglass or cubicle walls between employees that are above face level.

[MDH Guidance on the Use of Face Coverings](#)

***Masks/Face coverings must meet school policy for dress code. See student handbook for information.**

Face Shields

A student in grades kindergarten through 8th grade may wear a face shield when wearing a face covering is problematic. Students in grades 9-12 must wear a face mask unless there is a medical diagnosis which is approved by administration.

Staff may wear a face shield when presenting/teaching and when at least 6 feet from students. Staff will need to wear a mask/face covering when moving throughout the classroom, helping individual students, and moving throughout the building.

Handwashing/Respiratory Etiquette

- Students and staff will be instructed to wash hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water frequently throughout the day, but especially prior to mealtimes and after using the restroom.
- Students and staff will sanitize hands upon entering and exiting classrooms, the cafeteria, and gym areas.
- Students and staff will cover their mouth or nose with their sleeve or tissue when coughing or sneezing and to avoid touching their face with their hands. Tissues should be disposed in the trash and hands sanitized immediately.

Cleaning

- High touch areas will be cleaned multiple times during a school day by school staff.
- Classrooms will have specific safety protocols in place to maintain clean learning environments.

Social Distancing

Staff and students will be encouraged to maintain 6 feet social distance whenever possible. Signs will be displayed throughout the building stating the number of people allowed in specific spaces as well as where people should stand to wait. The cafeteria will have marked seating options that allow for safe distancing.

*In the hybrid model, 6 feet social distancing will be strictly enforced in all locations.

Water/Backpacks/Lockers

Students will only be allowed to use their locker before school and after school. Class materials will be carried to and from class in a backpack. Water fountains will only be used for water bottle filling stations which can be found throughout the school building.

Classrooms

Desks will be spaced out as far as possible with all students facing the same direction.

*In the hybrid model, desks will be 6 feet apart and room capacity will be at 50%.

Transportation

- In-person Learning for all – Bus routes will run normal routes. Students will be required to wear masks while on the bus.
- Hybrid Model – Busses will run at 50% capacity. Students in town on the east side of HWY 218 will be transported. Students on the west side of HWY 218 will not. Bus routes will be adjusted as needed and families will be notified of any changes necessary.

Office

Families are encouraged to make online payments whenever possible. In addition, student absences and tardies will be reported via email or a phone call. We will not accept hand-written notes.

Nurses Office

Students will be triaged in the classroom to determine level of sickness. If deemed necessary, a student will be sent to the nurse's office and to be assessed more completely. If any student presents symptoms consistent with COVID-19, they will be immediately quarantined, and the parent(s)/guardian(s) will be contacted to arrange a timely pick-up. Students who do not have COVID-19 symptoms will be treated as necessary.

Grading/Attendance

Grading:

The grading policies will return to normal. Teachers in the high school will grade on the traditional scale, A-F and students will be expected to meet grade-level expectations in all classes. At the elementary, grading will return to the previously approved methods of 1-3 and A-F dependent on grade level expectations.

Attendance:

Attendance will be taken every day in all learning scenarios much like it has in the past. In addition:

- Hybrid or Distance Learning Model- high school students are required to check in with each teacher during their regularly scheduled class time. Elementary students will have attendance taken one time in the morning and one time in the afternoon.
- **High school students in the hybrid or distance learning model must be present and on time for all their classes during the day to be eligible to participate in programming after school (athletics and activities). The only exception is if the student is ill or has a conflict that has been communicated to the high school office and appropriate teaching staff.**

Failure to be present during scheduled class time will count as an absence for that class. See attendance policy for more information.

Technology

Students in grades K -12 will have 1 to 1 access to a device. Families needing internet support should reach out the building principals and internet access will be provided.

Visitors

No visitors will be allowed in either school building.

Guidelines for Students Exhibiting Signs and Symptoms of COVID-19

The following guidelines may be implemented *when a student becomes ill with COVID-19 symptoms*. Depending on the exact circumstances of a student's illness, modifications may be implemented on a case by case basis.

1. If the student *has not been tested* for COVID-19, they may be asked to stay home from school for 10 days from the onset of symptoms and may return to school once they are fever-free (without the use of fever reducing drugs) and symptom free for 24 hours.

Families are encouraged to contact their medical provider to determine the need for testing.

2. If a student **tests negative** for COVID-19, they may be asked to stay home from school until they are fever-free (without the use of fever reducing drugs) for 24 hours and any other symptoms improve significantly.
3. If the student **tests positive** for COVID-19, they will be asked to follow the guidance of the Minnesota Department of Health and stay home for at least 10 days from the onset of symptoms. The student may return to school if it has been 10 days from the onset of symptoms, if their symptoms have subsided, and they have been fever-free (without the use of fever reducing drugs) for 72 hours.

Guidelines for Students Who Have Potentially Been Exposed to COVID-19

The following guidelines may be implemented when a student has potentially come into contact with someone who has or could have COVID-19. Depending on the student's circumstance, modifications may be implemented on a case by case basis. For the purposes of this section, the Minnesota Department of Health defines "close contact" as being less than 6 feet from someone for 15 minutes or more, typically sharing living arrangements with and/or having a close relationship with.

1. If a student has had "close contact" with a known positive COVID-19 case and/or has been notified by the Minnesota Department of Health to quarantine, the student will be asked to stay home from school for at least 14 days from the last contact with the positive case. If the student exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 within the 14-day period, the student should continue to stay home from school and follow the guidelines listed above.
2. If the student has had "close contact" with a suspected positive COVID-19 case awaiting test results, the student may be asked to stay home from school and the family should monitor their health status until the results return. If the results of the "close contact" return as a positive result, the student will be asked to continue to stay home from school and follow the above guidelines. If the result of the "close contact" returns a negative result and the student is feeling well, the student may return to school.
3. If the student has had "close contact" with a suspected positive COVID-19 case who is not being tested, the student may be asked to stay home from school and their family should monitor their health status for 14 days from the last contact with the suspected positive case.
4. **If the student has had contact or "close contact" with someone who has had contact or "close contact" with a known or suspected positive COVID-19 case**, the student may continue to go to school but the student must practice social distancing, good hygiene, and continue to monitor their health status often.
5. If the student has **had contact (but not "close contact") with a known or suspected positive COVID-19 case**, the student may continue to go to school but the student must practice social distancing, good hygiene, and continue to monitor their health status often.

Distance Learning Expectations (Hybrid and All Distance Learning Models)

High School

- Teachers will be available during contracted, regular school hours:

- Monday-Thursday – 7:50 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
- Friday – 7:50 a.m. – 2:50 p.m.
 - Teachers may not immediately respond outside of contracted time.
- Classes will follow the regular class schedule and students and staff are expected to connect during each class period. Connections include (but are not limited to):
 - Live Zoom instruction
 - Recorded Zoom instruction
 - Time sensitive assignments
 - Email communications
 - Class “virtual” discussions
- Attendance will be taken each period, please see the attendance information above for a more detailed description.
- The grade scale will be consistent with our normal grading system (A-F), with the same rigor as in class instruction.
- Students will abide by classroom and digital expectations as laid out by their individual classroom teachers. All district and school rules apply to distant learning.
- Student assessments may require a proctor if taken outside the school building.
- Students will use school issued devices to complete all tasks.
- Families with limited or no internet access must contact the high school office to request additional supports.
- Students will be expected to use email and Zoom to appropriately communicate with teachers during the school day.
- Teachers will update JMC at least once a week.

Elementary School

- Teachers will be available during contracted, regular school hours:
 - Monday-Thursday – 7:50 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
 - Friday – 7:50 a.m. – 2:50 p.m.
 - Teachers may not immediately respond outside of contracted time.
- Classes will follow the regular class schedule and students and staff are expected to connect with each student on a daily basis. Connections include (but are not limited to):
 - Live Zoom instruction
 - Recorded Zoom instruction
 - Time sensitive assignments
 - Email communications
 - Class “virtual” discussions
 - Phone calls
- Attendance will be taken each day, please see the attendance information above for a more detailed description.
- The grade scale will be consistent with our normal grading system with the same rigor as in class instruction.
- Students will abide by classroom and digital expectations as laid out by their individual classroom teachers. All district and school rules apply to distant learning.
- Student assessments may require a proctor if taken outside the school building.

- Students will use school issued devices to complete all tasks.
- Families with limited to no internet access must contact the elementary office to request additional supports.
- Students will utilize Seesaw, Schoology, and or Zoom to appropriately communicate with teachers during the school day.
- Teachers will update JMC at least once a week.

Please note this is a working document and information is fluid. Updates will be made as more information is communicated to us.