



Bryson Independent School District
**RETURN TO
SCHOOL
PLAN**
In-Person Learning

8-7 - 2020

--Subject to change with local and state guidelines.--

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Introduction and District Priorities

As a school district, Bryson ISD looks forward to welcoming students back to school on **August 12**. Despite the challenges with COVID-19, our district will continue to provide an excellent education to our students, including both in-person and remote learning environments. As the public health crisis continues, we plan to open the 2020-21 school year with a focus on the health, safety, and well-being of our staff, students, and community.

Bryson ISD is planning for two different instructional environments, our plan follows recommendations for school opening and operations provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Texas Education Agency, and state and local health officials.

Bryson ISD will be providing an **Instructional Plan** separate from this document that provides a thorough description and procedures associated with the **Remote Learning Option** available to students to begin the 2020-21 School Year. Students participating in **extracurricular activities** will need to attend school in person to participate unless the district goes to remote learning.

The situation with COVID-19 is continuously changing, as are the protocols and measures needed to keep students and staff safe. Plans will remain flexible to accommodate potential changes and these guidelines may be modified as needed. As adjustments may be necessary throughout the coming school year, it will be our priority to keep the community informed of those changes and updates. The Bryson ISD website and Bryson ISD Facebook page will provide you with the most up-to-date information.

Please note, health guidance cannot anticipate every unique situation. As a result, Bryson ISD will continue to consult available

guidance through governmental agencies and other relevant information to monitor the situation. The district will comply with applicable federal and state employment and disability laws, workplace safety standards, and accessibility standards to address individual needs.

It is important to remember the virus that causes COVID-19 can be spread by infected persons who have little or no symptoms but are still contagious. The person they infect may become seriously or fatally ill. Especially vulnerable are persons 65 years of age or older with pre-existing health conditions, placing them at higher risk. Because of this threat's hidden nature, Bryson ISD expects all employees, students, and families to follow these practices rigorously. Because of the hidden nature of this threat, Bryson ISD expects all employees, students, and families to rigorously follow these practices.

Communication

The designated communication team regarding all COVID19 related issues at Bryson ISD will consist of the following personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please direct those to our designated team.

Superintendent Greg London

Principal Gary Kirby

Student Services Director Debbie Hearne

Athletic Director Jason Briles

Preparation for Opening of School

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides guidance, recommendations, and resources to assist with plans and protocols for health and safety. Before schools re-open, Bryson ISD will implement health and safety procedures that include:

- Ensuring adequate supply inventory. (e.g., PPE, cleaning supplies, hand sanitizer, etc.)
- Cleaning with products approved by governing authorities and per guidelines from the Environmental Protection Agency.
- Ensuring compliance with CDC, Health and Human Services, the Texas Education Agency, and other jurisdictional policies.
- Providing communication of procedures and expectations upon entering facilities and throughout buildings. 3

Guidelines for Screening and Quarantine

Screening Requirements

- Staff will be required to complete a self-screening process before entering a Bryson ISD building. The district may require further screening of employees, at any time, based on the current state and federal guidelines.
- A Parent or Guardian will be required to screen their children for COVID-19 symptoms each day before sending them to school. Additional screening may be conducted during the school day for students.
- Parents must not send a child to school if they have COVID-19 symptoms (as listed in the glossary portion of this document).
- Parents must not send a child to school if they are lab-confirmed with COVID-19. Parents can opt for the child to receive remote instruction during this time.
- Staff and Students should not enter campuses or district buildings if they recently begun experiencing any of the following in a way that is not normal:
 - Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
 - Loss of taste or smell
 - Cough
 - Difficulty breathing
 - Shortness of breath
 - Fatigue
 - Headache
 - Chills
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Shaking or exaggerated shivering
 - Significant muscle pain or ache

- Diarrhea
- Nausea or vomiting

Has a confirmed case of COVID-19 or has been in close contact with a person with a confirmed case of COVID-19. These individuals must follow all isolation and quarantine guidelines from the local health authority or their physician.

Has a household member awaiting COVID-19 test results or is awaiting their test results. Teachers will monitor students and refer them to the campus office if symptoms are present.

Quarantine Requirements

- For students displaying symptoms of COVID-19 or are feeling feverish, the campus office personnel will provide a clinical assessment to determine if a student needs to be sent home.
- Students who are ill will be separated from their peers and be picked up within 30 minutes and no later than 1 hour from the time the campus has contacted the parent/guardian.
- If an individual who has been in a school is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, the school must notify county health authorities, employees and parents, in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations, including confidentiality requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
- Schools must close off areas heavily used by the individual with the lab-confirmed case (student, teacher, or staff) until the non-porous surfaces in those areas can be disinfected.
- Staff members displaying COVID-19 symptoms will follow district protocols, including isolation from students and other staff members.
 - Students and staff who have tested positive for COVID-19 will be permitted to return to school when:
 - They are 24 hour fever-free without using fever-reducing medication.
 - Improved symptoms (cough, difficulty breathing, etc.).
 - 10 days have passed since symptoms began.

Identifying Possible COVID-19 Cases on Campus

- Any student who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school until the student can be picked up by a parent or guardian.
- Clean the areas used by the individual who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school (student, teacher, or staff) as soon as is feasible.
- Students who report feeling feverish will be given an immediate temperature check to determine if they are symptomatic for COVID-19.

Required Actions if Individuals with Lab-Confirmed Cases Have Been in a School

1. If an individual who has been in a school is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, the school must notify its local health department, in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations, including confidentiality requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
2. Schools must close off areas that are heavily used by the individual with the lab-confirmed case (student, teacher, or staff) until the non-porous surfaces in those areas can be disinfected, unless more than 7 days have already passed since that person was on campus.
3. Consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, schools must notify all teachers, staff, and families of all students in a school if a lab-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers or staff who participate on any on campus activities.

Personal Protective Equipment / Face Masks

- Counties with 20 or more active COVID-19 cases must adhere to the Governor's Executive Order regarding the wearing of face coverings during school hours.
- Jack County currently has LESS THAN 20 active COVID-19 Cases as of 7-18-2020
- At this time, Bryson ISD students and staff will have the freedom to wear protective equipment if desired, but it is not required.
- Bryson ISD plans to promptly adhere to the following requirements regarding the wearing of face masks IF Jack County active COVID-19 cases exceed 20 or more.
- Mask Requirements, if necessary:

- Masks include non-medical grade disposable face masks, cloth face coverings (over the nose and mouth), or full-face shields to protect eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Students over the age of 10 will wear face coverings in hallways, common areas, and upon arrival and dismissal.
- It may be impractical for students to wear masks or face shields while participating in some extracurricular and co-curricular activities.
- Students will not be required to wear face coverings while eating and drinking.
- Students and staff will be provided a standard Texas Education Agency issued reusable face covering. Families are requested to supply a student face covering should the one provided by the school become unusable or lost.
- Face masks will be appropriate for a school setting.
- Individual needs regarding face coverings will be addressed on a case-by-case basis. Requests for accommodations should be submitted to the campus principal.

Visitors to Campus

Visitors will be screened and questioned regarding symptoms and be denied access if any symptoms are reported or witnessed.

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- UIL and school-sponsored activities will be considered essential, and all government required social distancing measures will be strictly enforced. UIL guidelines will be enforced and can change at any given time, just as all governmental requirements.
- If activities can be staggered, every effort will be made to decrease crowd sizes.

Hand Sanitizing and Washing

Hand washing guidelines indicate that students should wash hands for at least 20 seconds after blowing their nose, coughing, sneezing, before eating, and entering classrooms. Breaks will be provided for hand washing.

- Supervised handwashing will be enforced for our youngest of students, with every opportunity to encourage proper techniques to all our students.
- Multiple hand sanitizing opportunities will be available for Bryson ISD employees and students throughout the campus in locations such as the office, classroom, lunchroom, etc.

District Cleaning and Disinfecting

Frequent cleaning and disinfection will support a healthy learning and work environment for students and staff.

Daily Campus Cleaning

- Each classroom and restroom will be cleaned and disinfected.
- Students will be expected to clean their area when entering a room used by other students. ● All high-touch areas will be disinfected throughout the day.
- Cafeterias will be disinfected between breakfast and lunch periods.

Restrooms

- Staff should supervise and limit the number of students that enter the bathroom at one time to comply with Texas Education Agency recommendations and social distancing.
- Increased disinfecting will occur throughout the school day. Staff and students must wash hands with soap and water prior to exiting the bathroom. Proper handwashing techniques will be taught to all students and consistently reinforced.

School Arrival and Dismissal

Arrival at School

- The school doors will open at 7:30 am. Please do not drop your child off at school before 7:30 am. ● Students should be dropped off at the auditorium unless they attend junior high athletics. A school employee will be at the front door of each campus to greet the students upon arrival.
- Upon arrival, students will go straight to the designated areas assigned by the Campus Principals. ● Screened parents of PreK-1st students are the only parents allowed to walk students to classrooms.

Dismissal from School

- The Campus Principals will designate staggered dismissal groups.
- Staggering the groups of walkers, car riders, bus riders, or grade level will help manage student movement in the building and decrease the risk of potential crowding outside at dismissal time.
- Separate exits will be utilized for car riders, bus riders, walkers.
- Bryson ISD employees will monitor all designated exits.

Bus Transportation

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Although the district is implementing the safety protocols and disinfecting, families are encouraged to drop students off, carpool, or walk with their students to school to reduce possible exposure on buses.

- Students will be required to use hand sanitizer upon boarding the bus.
- Bus windows will be open, as permitted by weather, to allow outside air to circulate.
- The CDC warns us that buses may be a location where COVID19 is mostly spread. Therefore, the CDC suggests that students be seated by family or socially distanced as much as possible on bus routes.
- Bryson ISD urges families to drop off and pick up their children at school or carpool with close contact families if possible, to reduce potential virus exposure on buses. If this is not possible, please know that if your normal mode of transportation is the bus, it is always available.
- Buses will be thoroughly cleaned after each trip, focusing on high-touch surfaces such as seats, steering wheels, knobs, and door handles.

Cafeteria Breakfast and Lunch

- Based on social distancing guidelines, Bryson ISD will have four breakfast and lunch periods. ● Bryson ISD Teachers and Staff will monitor the cafeteria and hallways to promote social distancing practices. ● Physical distance will be provided around each occupiable seat.
- Hand sanitizing will be available in the cafeteria before students enter the cafeteria line.

Standard Classroom Procedures

Classroom protocols and procedures will include expectations regarding social distancing applicable to the classroom square footage.

- Teachers and Staff will ensure high-touch areas in the classroom are wiped down between classes. Each classroom will be outfitted with the following:
 - Refillable alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
 - Access to disinfectant to sanitize working surfaces.
 - Whenever possible, students and staff will maintain consistent groupings of people to minimize the spread of the virus.
 - The use of outdoor space for learning will be considered when possible.

Water Fountains

A reusable water thermos will be made available to every student from Bryson ISD.

Students

- Students are expected to bring their reusable water bottle for use throughout the day and are expected to take water bottles home to be cleaned daily.

Parents

- Parents are asked to secure a reusable water bottle for their child to bring to school daily.
- Parents are asked to assist students, as needed, to clean water bottles daily.

Teacher/Staff

- Teachers and Staff will demonstrate how students should fill water bottles instead of drinking directly from the water fountains.
- Teachers and Staff will monitor that students take water bottles home to be cleaned.

District Health and Safety Training

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Bryson ISD will provide instruction to students on appropriate hygiene and other mitigation practices adopted by the local school district. These practices include covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue, and if not available, to cover a cough or sneeze with their elbows. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash. Then, hands washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or hand sanitizer should be used.

Safety Training for Protocols & Procedures

- Students**
- Students will participate in training specific to newly adopted health and safety protocols.
 - All students will be trained on information about COVID-19 screening, identification of symptoms, prevention of spread, and sanitation of work areas.
 - If a student is experiencing symptoms, they need to notify a teacher immediately.

- Parents**
- Parents are asked to talk to their students about COVID-19 symptoms and prevention strategies.

- Teacher/Staff**
- Teachers attend training and develop classroom procedures consistent with TEA, District, and CDC guidance.
 - All staff will be trained on COVID screening, identifying symptoms, preventing spread, and sanitation of work areas.
 - All staff will monitor students that exhibit symptoms and will be required to notify the campus office if a student is showing any symptoms.

Glossary/Description of Terms

COVID19 Symptoms and Close Contact Definition

New Guidance 8-3-2020

Have they recently begun experiencing any of the following in a way that is not normal for them?

- Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
- Loss of taste or smell
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Shortness of breath
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Chills

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- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Shaking or exaggerated shivering
- Significant muscle pain or ache
- Diarrhea
- Nausea or vomiting

Close contact is defined as being directly exposed to infectious secretions by:

New Guidance 8-3-2020

This document refers to “close contact” with an individual who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19. The definition of close contact is evolving with our understanding of COVID-19, and individual scenarios should be determined by an appropriate public health agency. In general, close contact is defined as:

1. being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on); or
2. being within 6 feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes; however, additional factors like case/contact masking (i.e., both the infectious individual and the potential close contact have been consistently and properly masked), ventilation, presence of dividers, and case symptomology may affect this determination.

Either (a) or (b) defines close contact if it occurred during the infectious period of the case, defined as two days prior to symptom onset to 10 days after symptom onset. In the case of asymptomatic individuals who are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, the infectious period is defined as two days prior to the confirming lab test and continuing for 10 days following the confirming lab test.

