

## Boone County Schools School Recovery Guidance for 2021-2022 School Year

*All content contained in the BCS School Recovery Guidance is subject to change as additional information about the spread and prevention of COVID-19 is known. In addition, directives may evolve as they are received from Governor Jim Justice, public health officials, and the West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE). Boone County Schools must be prepared to alter this guidance to comply with any new directives and to best safeguard student learning and the health of our students and employees.*

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As we plan for the opening of school 2021-2022, it will be necessary to continue many of the protocols and procedures established last school term that are designed to reduce the spread of COVID-19. As a school system, Boone County has developed the following protocol based on guidance provided by the West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE). The full WVDE School Recovery Guidance can be found on the BCS Website at: <https://boonecountyboe.org> or at: <https://wvde.us/covid19/>

Boone County Schools will implement and/or continue to practice the following mitigation and prevention strategies while recognizing the most effective mitigation strategy is for staff members and students 12 years of age or older to be vaccinated. Safety measures designed to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other illnesses include:

- Cleaning & Disinfecting
- Handwashing & Coughing / Sneezing Etiquette
- Social Distancing to the Greatest Extent Possible
- Face Coverings / Masks
- Contact Tracing

It continues to be critical that we follow best health practices so our students can be at school learning in-person and being engaged with their teachers and peers.

***The most effective mitigation strategy is the vaccination for those eligible to receive it.***



## **Transportation**

- Bus operators are encouraged to wear a face covering during all times that students are on the bus. However, bus operators are required to wear a face covering / mask any time that students are entering or exiting the bus.
- Unless medically waived, students in grades PK – 12 are required to wear face coverings at all times while on the bus.
- While transporting students and when parked, windows will be lowered at least one level, weather permitting, in order to encourage the flow of fresh air on the bus.
- Hand sanitizer will be available and encouraged to be used.
- To the extent practical, when boarding the bus, students will proceed toward the rear of the bus and sit in the last available seat.
- Generally, no more than 2 students will be seated in a seat. Children from the same family or residing in the same home will be permitted to sit 3 to a seat, depending on bus seating capacity. Siblings and students that board the bus together will be seated in the same area of the bus.
- Students will remain seated, with hands to themselves, from the time they board the bus until disembarking.
- When arriving at school, students will disembark, one seat/row at a time, in an orderly fashion beginning at the front of the bus and proceeding to the rear of the bus.
- Bus operators shall fully clean and disinfect the buses on a daily basis.
- Seating charts will be maintained to assist with contact tracing.
- Students who exhibit COVID-19 symptoms at school will not be transported home by bus at the end of the school day.

## **School Facilities: General Practices**

- In order to implement the recommended guidelines from the CDC, Boone County Schools will require universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors, regardless of vaccination status. If requested, face coverings will be available for students and staff.
- When in the classroom, face coverings are required for all students and staff members.
- Unless medically waived, students in grades PK – 12 are required to wear a face covering in the classroom and in congregant areas.
- All staff members shall wear a face covering inside the school facility when in congregant areas.
- Those authorized to sign students out of school will be restricted to the visitor vestibule area or office area and not provided access to other areas of the school.
- Symptom screening of all visitors and approved volunteers entering the building will be conducted. The screening may include an interview, questionnaire, or temperature screening. All visitors shall wear a face covering / mask.
- All students, staff, and visitors will enter/exit the building only through designated points of entry or exit.
- When entering the building, students will proceed directly to classrooms or designated staging areas.

- While moving through the facility, students are expected to observe social distancing to the extent possible, follow designated directions, keep their hands to themselves and refrain from unnecessarily touching surfaces and lockers.
- Students will be taught and encouraged to use proper handwashing techniques.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided in all classrooms.
- Staff and students are encouraged to cough and sneeze into their elbows or to cover with a tissue.
- Students will be issued, or bring from home, all supplies and shall not share the supplies with other students. Any classroom equipment or materials required to be used by multiple students will be sanitized on a regular basis.
- All student desks shall be faced in the same direction and be as socially distanced as practical.
- Classroom seating charts will be maintained to assist with contact tracing.
- Students will not drink directly from water fountains. Each school will be provided with bottled water or equipped with a water bottle filling station. Students will be encouraged to bring a reusable water bottle from home for their personal use.
- Recess and physical activity periods outside will be scheduled for specific classrooms on a rotating basis, keeping students in a particular classroom or grade level together. Students will not be required to wear face coverings / masks when they are outside the school. Physical activities or time for social interaction will be designed to encourage social distancing and eliminate contact. For inside physical activity, and when social distancing can be maintained, face coverings / masks will not be required.
- School-wide assemblies and/or programs should be limited, if possible.
- Each school will establish a designated space for symptomatic individuals that will not be used for any other purpose.

### **Food Service**

- Food service employees shall wear face coverings at all times to the greatest extent possible.
- Cafeteria tables and high touch services shall be sanitized after each meal service period.
- Hand sanitizer shall be provided in the cafeteria.
- Students waiting in the serving lines will be encouraged to maintain proper social distancing.
- Cafeteria seating will be spaced to the extent practical.
- Using additional spaces outside of the cafeteria for mealtime seating can help facilitate distancing.
- Cafeteria seating charts will be maintained to assist with contact tracing.
- Other areas of the school may be identified as places for students to consume their meals in order to maintain social distancing.

# DON'T FEEL WELL? STAY HOME

If you have the symptoms below,  
let your family and teachers know.



**COUGH**



**FEVER**



**SORE  
THROAT**



## **Custodial Services**

- Day-shift custodians shall regularly check the restroom facilities to assure that soap and paper towels are available in each restroom.
- Day-shift custodians shall sanitize high-touch surfaces throughout the facility regularly during the school day.
- Evening-shift custodians shall sanitize high-touch surfaces in classrooms, computer labs, and common areas each night.

## **Extra-Curricular Activities**

- As per WVSSAC Guidelines

## **Contact Tracing & Quarantine Guidance**

- Parents are encouraged to monitor their children for symptoms and to keep students at home if they are ill. (Refer to the WVDE Wellness Poster)
- Contact tracing for students and employees will be completed with the assistance of the Boone County Health Department.
- Vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. Students and staff who would be exposed to a positive case of COVID-19 and are vaccinated DO NOT have to quarantine.
- A “close contact” is identified as someone who has been in close range (6 feet or less) to someone testing positive for COVID-19 for a time period of 15 minutes or longer. If unvaccinated, this “close contact” will be required to quarantine.
- For the classroom setting, the close contact definition for those who are unvaccinated excludes students who were in the three to six feet range and were wearing a mask.
- In Option 1 for Quarantining: The quarantine period can end after day 10 without testing and if no symptoms have been identified during daily self-monitoring.
- In Option 2 for Quarantining: The quarantine period can end after day 7 if someone tests negative (PCR or antigen test) and if no symptoms have been identified during daily self-monitoring.

## **Schoology**

- The Boone County Board of Education approved the purchase and utilization of Schoology which will serve as the Learning Management System throughout the 2021-2022 school year. Schoology is a platform where teachers may upload lessons and/or assignments for students and students may upload completed assignments for teachers after the completion of such.
- This platform will also be utilized to enhance communications between parents/guardians, classroom teachers, the school and the school district.
- In the event of a closure of schools related to COVID-19, Schoology will be the platform used by all teachers to upload lessons, assignments and provide instruction for students in a remote fashion.

## **Communications**

This guidance is subject to change based on new directives from Governor Justice, the West Virginia Department of Education and/or public health officials. Any changes regarding the BCS School Recovery Guidance will be announced via the following:

- School Messenger Announcements
- Log-in for student and parent BCS Schoology accounts
- Posting of updated information on the Boone County Schools website found at: <https://boonecountyboe.org>
- Boone County Schools Twitter at: **@BCS\_WV**

## **Review of Guidance**

The members of the board of education retain the authority to take specific actions in response to particular health related matters. Those actions include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following:

- To close individual classrooms or schools when a specific health need related to the classroom or school is identified. Such closures shall be of a limited duration, related to the specific health need of the classroom or school and made in conjunction with local health officials.
- Revisit this guidance at any time during the 2021-2022 school year and make revisions to the same based on applicable data.