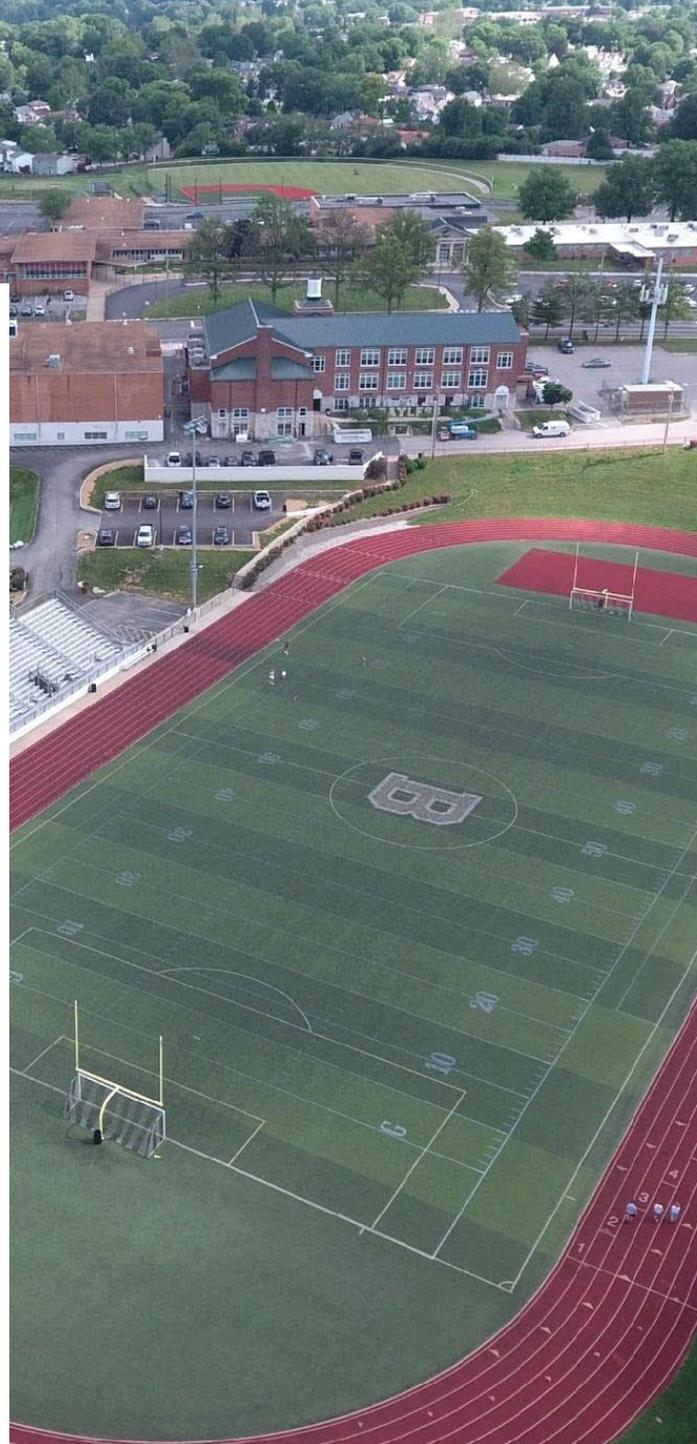


Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

JUNE 22, 2021

Bayless School District
St. Louis, Missouri



Safe Return to In-Person Instruction

Introduction

Bayless School District is committed to the health, safety and welfare of our students, teachers, staff, parents and community. The COVID-19 pandemic has presented BSD schools with challenges that the leadership continually strives to overcome through thoughtful practice and communication with our parents and community. We are committed to helping parents and community members stay informed about changes to instructional programming and extracurricular activities. The guidance below outlines the strategies and information BSD relies upon to make decisions in real time to keep our students safe and learning during these confusing times. As always, BSD seeks current and relevant information from Federal, State and County government health authorities to inform decisions. In addition, Bayless relies on its nursing staff and medical consultants to assist leadership better understand its approach to reducing the effects of COVID-19 on our students, staff and community. **As of June 23, 2021, DESE has indicated that school closures or hybrid models will likely not need to be utilized in the 2021- 2022 school year.**

As always, BSD will share news and/or changes that affect its school community with the school community at the earliest possible opportunity. If you have additional questions or concerns, please feel free to contact your child's building principal.

“Let our advance worrying become advance thinking and planning.” – Winston Churchill

COVID-19 Mitigation and Prevention

Strategy and Response Chart

The chart below provides some common strategies used to help mitigate and prevent the spread of COVID-19 at Bayless schools. For each strategy listed, BSD may enlist a variety of responses to implement the given strategy. As was experienced this past year, the impact of the pandemic on the district was constantly changing. This document is meant as a general overview depicting the range of responses the district may implement should conditions warrant or governmental requirements mandate the need to employ them.

Bayless COVID-19 Mitigation and Prevention Strategy for 2021-2022	
COVID Reduction Strategy	District Responses
Physical Distancing Determine when to implement physical distancing restrictions like: social distancing, learning cohorts, or suspension and/or limitation of campus activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximize personal distance between people in an effort to minimize transmission risk. Make rules consistent with Federal (CDC), State and Local (St. Louis County Department of Health) directives and recommendations. Response may range from no personal space limitations to implementation of cohorts, all virtual instruction, limitation of sports, limitation of campus activities or suspension of in-person instruction.
Determine when universal and correct wearing of masks is required.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement mask, or suspend mask requirement policy, in a manner consistent with Federal (CDC), State and Local (St. Louis County Department of Health) directives and recommendations. Reinforce correct wearing of masks for students, faculty and staff.
Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teach universal precautions and reinforce the importance of handwashing and covering coughs and sneezes. Provide sanitizer and tissues.
Clean and Maintain Healthy Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide routine and systemic cleaning of classrooms, offices and common areas. Increase cleaning in “high-touch” areas.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide staff with resources needed to assist in maintaining cleanliness in its workspaces. • Review HVAC improvements consistent with Federal (CDC), State and Local (St. Louis County Department of Health) directives and recommendations.
Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement contact tracing consistent with Federal (CDC), State and Local (St. Louis County Department of Health) directives and recommendations. • Report findings as required by Federal, State or local health departments. • Suspend contact tracing if not required by Federal, State or local health departments.
Diagnostic Screening or Testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide information regarding testing available at local health care providers.
Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bayless participates in and advertises local vaccination events as information becomes available to our system.
Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bayless, through the Special School District of St. Louis County, provides accommodations as necessary or as mandated by Individualized Education Plan.

Frequent COVID-19 Related Questions

What should I do if my child is sick?

If your child is sick, please keep your child home. Please call your child’s school and report the illness symptoms your student is experiencing to the attendance secretary. Call your child’s health care provider for advice on managing your child’s illness.

How can my child and family stay well?

To help prevent the spread of illness, follow these important tips:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

-
- Avoid touching your face, eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
 - Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
 - Stay home when you are sick.
 - Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
 - Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Will my student be penalized for staying home from school when sick?

No. BSD wants its students to be at school. However, when they are sick, they should remain at home.

What measures are you taking to prevent the spread of illness?

Bayless has a variety of contingency plans in place to prevent the spread of illness - from modifying instructional delivery systems to increasing the disinfection of schools, including surfaces and buses. We routinely remind students and staff about the need for good hand hygiene and to cover their coughs and sneezes.

Are students given opportunities to wash their hands during the school day?

Students have the opportunity to wash their hands during the school day. In locations where access to soap and water is limited, and in each classroom, alcohol-based hand sanitizer is also available.

How will the Bayless School District determine when it might be necessary to close a school(s) or use a hybrid instructional model?

Bayless School District will continue to follow guidance from the St. Louis County Health Department and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Closing schools, or changing to a part-time or cohort model, would most likely be at the recommendation of public health authorities in the region or at the direction of elected local or state leadership. It is also possible that the Superintendent and Board of Education would make the decision to close schools if there were not enough healthy staff members available to work. There may also be a situation where specific schools would close while others remained open. BSD tracks student and staff illnesses in our schools on an ongoing basis and this information is posted via the COVID19 dashboard on the District's website.

What do Bayless School District's cleaning procedures entail?

BSD's Facilities Department uses a broad-spectrum disinfectant, which is known to be effective in killing most viruses. The buildings are staffed daily by custodians who work to keep our schools safe and clean. In addition, each night during the week, a custodial crew cleans the school buildings, including offices, classrooms, restrooms, and common areas like hallways, cafeterias and gymnasiums. During the day, custodians regularly wipe down surfaces such as tables, doorknobs, and drinking fountains. *First Student* bus drivers routinely disinfect the school buses as well.

Can and/or should students and staff wear masks at school?

Bayless will continue to follow guidance from the St. Louis County Health Department and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention regarding mask usage.

As of June 23, 2021, public health authorities have limited the recommendation regarding universal masking, generally. Currently, our school buildings require mask usage. This position will be re-evaluated and shared with parents and community members prior to August 15, 2021.

Any person wishing to wear a mask for the purpose of reducing the spread of illness is welcome to do so.

If staff or students have been exposed to someone with known COVID-19, are they prohibited from attending school?

We follow the guidance provided by public health authorities. According to the CDC, COVID-19 spreads through prolonged contact with individuals who have a confirmed COVID-19 case. Prolonged contact has been defined as being within six feet of an infected person for 15 minutes or more. If you or a family member do come in direct contact with an individual who is symptomatic, please call your primary care physician. If you do not have a family doctor, call the St. Louis County Department of Public Health at 314-615-0500.

Where can I find more information about COVID-19?

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

[Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services](#)

[St. Louis County Department of Health](#)

Continuity of Services Plan

In-Person Instruction

Students K-12 are on campus in-person each day. A traditional schedule is used with health and safety precautions in place.

- Full capacity, in-person classes, activities, and events
- Students may mix between classes and activities
- Students and teachers share some objects (books, learning materials, computers etc.)
- Students, teachers and staff may follow additional steps to protect themselves and others (i.e., face masks, social distancing, hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette based on health department guidance)
- Regular cleaning and disinfection of frequently-touched surfaces

In-Person learning will be used when there is minimal threat to our students and staff, or upon guidance for safe operations by Federal, State or County health authorities.

Hybrid Instruction

Students K-12 may be divided into cohort groups or assigned alternating schedules for the purposes of limiting the number of people on campus at any given time. This allows teachers and student to continue in-person learning on a part-time basis and achieve the following:

- Small, in-person classes and activities
- Reduces numbers in community spaces including outdoors; requires alternating schedules
- Limits mixing of student groups (i.e., cohorts) and teachers throughout/across school days

-
- Students and teachers do not share objects
 - Students, teachers and staff follow steps to protect themselves and others including proper use of face masks, social distancing, hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette based on health department guidance
 - Regular cleaning and disinfection of frequently-touched surfaces

Hybrid instruction may be used when there is evidence of moderate to high levels of community spread and/or upon other guidance for safe operations by Federal, State or County health authorities. **DESE has indicated that hybrid models will likely not be utilized in the 2021-2022 school year.**

Full Virtual Instruction

In the unlikely event of a district-wide, or school-wide closure, all students participate in full-time distance learning from home with the exception of small-group interventions that may meet on campus.

- Students and teachers engage in virtual-only activities and events.
- This instructional method may be used when there is a governmental stay-at-home order or health department recommendation due to high levels of ongoing community spread or other emergency. This method may also be used if high numbers of quarantine cases prompt a temporary building closure, or in any setting for where quality of student learning cannot be met in-person or under the cohort model system.

MOCAP Option

Families who would like their child to remain off-campus for the full school year should contact the school office for a *Virtual Academy* application. *Virtual Academy* courses meet all Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) requirements and will be taught by Missouri certified teachers. Additional information can be found in BSD Policy IGCD and Procedure IGCD-1.

Methods of Instruction

Additional Information on Hybrid and Full-Virtual Models

Instructional methods will be selected based on what is most effective for interacting with students to provide instruction and developmentally-appropriate feedback. Teachers will use a combination of whole group, small group, and individual synchronous and asynchronous lessons either in-person or virtually depending on community conditions. Teachers will use a combination of electronic resources, textbooks, books, teacher-created lessons, manipulatives, and other resources to further learning. Supply pick-ups and drop offs will be scheduled as needed to ensure that all students have the materials necessary to learn.

Staff members will regularly monitor engagement and work completion to ensure that all students are making adequate progress. Guidance counselors and social workers will also monitor student needs and connect students and families to resources as needed. Regular assessment will be conducted by teachers to determine individual instructional needs. Students who need support will receive targeted interventions and have access to before and/or after-school tutoring. Students will also be able to access gifted, ELL, special education, and other specialized services throughout all methods of instruction.

Parents will be engaged as partners to help educators understand and meet student needs. Communication will include email, phone calls, video conferencing, conferencing, newsletters, surveys, *Infinite Campus*, *Google Classroom*, *Parent Square*, and other forms of communication.

Plan Review and Revision

When appropriate, the district will periodically review and revise the *Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan*. The review and revision process will include consultation with stakeholders as required by law.