



## COVID-19 Policies and Procedures

Though rates have declined in the past year, it is still essential for the school community to work together to prevent the introduction and spread of COVID-19 in the school environment and in the community. The policies and procedures outlined here are designed to keep staff and students as safe as possible, while still allowing all to return to in-person learning.

State statute gives public school districts the authority to exclude students who have a contagious disease such as COVID-19 or are liable to transmit it after exposure (IC 20-34-3-9). In addition, the local health department has the authority to exclude students from school and may order students and others to isolate or quarantine (IC 16-41-9-1.6). As such, Bethel Park Elementary will work closely with our local health departments and will ensure the following procedures are being followed.

The guidelines provided here reflect the most recent data and local/state/federal guidance on COVID-19 safety and precautions. These measures are subject to change in response to changing community or inter-school occurrence of the virus.

### **pilotED's Symptoms Impacting Consideration for Exclusion from School**

Students and employees will recognize the following COVID-19-related symptoms as leading to potential exclusion from the school environment:

- A fever of 99.5° F or greater
- Repetitive Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell

### **Positive Case Considerations**

After a confirmed, positive test, the following protocols will be followed:

- Confirmed Student Case
  - A student may return to school after only 5 days of quarantine IF they have no symptoms OR they had mild symptoms which have resolved OR they receive a negative test.
  - The start of quarantine should be counted from the first day of symptoms (this may be earlier than the positive test).
- Confirmed Staff/Teacher Case
  - A staff member may return to school after only 5 days of quarantine IF they have no symptoms OR they had mild symptoms which have resolved OR they receive a negative test.

- The start of quarantine should be counted from the first day of symptoms (this may be earlier than the positive test).

### **Masking Considerations**

Masking at Bethel Park Elementary is used as a preventative measure when community spread and positivity is high. Currently, Bethel Park Elementary has no school-wide masking requirement. Masking may be required or recommended at various points in the year, based on rates of community infection and spread.

Students and families may choose to mask if they see fit. Masks will be provided at the main office for any students or adults that may need them.

Bethel Park Elementary will adhere to CDC guidelines for masking based on community and in-school levels. Metrics may include, but are not limited to:

- >500 daily cases per 100,000 residents - measured from Marion County

### **Quarantine/Closure Scenarios**

- Whole-Class Quarantine:
  - In-school policies for COVID-19 have been designed to keep students within their homeroom to the maximum extent. This allows for us to quarantine select classes in the event of numerous confirmed cases.
  - Classes will be quarantined for a period of 7 days in the event of:
    - >5 positive cases within the class within a period of one week
    - 50%+ of students out synchronously with COVID-like symptoms
- School Closure:
  - A whole school closure will occur only in extreme situations, and when Bethel Park administration feels we can no longer adequately operate the school safely (due to limited staff) or protect our staff and students from illness (due to community spread).
  - School Considerations:
    - 15+ positive cases across all students and staff with a period of one week
    - 30%+ of all students and staff out synchronously with COVID-like symptoms
  - School may also be closed due to any state-wide stay at home orders.

### **Home Learning Considerations**

It is the goal of Bethel Park Elementary to safely instruct all students in the school environment, and therefore we will not have a virtual option for students in the 2023-24 school year. While we believe that bringing in-person instruction school-wide is in the best interest of our students, it does limit at-home learning capacity required by quarantine due to exposure or illness. .

In the event of prolonged absence from school, computers will be made available for short-term rental for families. Though virtual lessons will not be provided, this will allow students to access other virtual learning platforms. Additionally, students will

receive their workbooks and selected reading to address content missed while they are absent.

## **Changes to the Student Experience**

- Bus Transportation to/from School
  - Students within the same family will be seated together;
  - Buses will be disinfected on all seats/high-touch surfaces weekly;
  - Parents/students are encouraged to observe social distancing while waiting for the bus at their designated stop.
  
- Hallways
  - Students will walk single-file or one-behind-the-other, at an arm's length apart;
  - Classes must remain on one side of the hallway;
  - There is to be absolutely no touching of walls, water fountains, others or objects in the halls.
  
- Water Fountains
  - Students will be encouraged to utilize water bottles over drinking fountains;
  - Each student should bring a water bottle that will be filled each day using the new no-touch water bottle fillers at each water fountain;
  - Water bottles should stay at school; limited water bottles/cups available for students in need.
  
- Washing Hands
  - Employees and students must wash their hands often and if soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol;
  - Incorporate at least 4 key times into the school day when all persons should wash or sanitize their hands;
  - If washing in the bathroom, adhere to bathroom times and utilize sanitizer the other times. These key times should be done in a staggered class pattern to maintain social distancing between students and include times such as:
    - Start of the school day
    - Before eating
    - After using the restroom
    - After blowing the nose, coughing, or sneezing
    - After using shared equipment
  
- Using the Bathroom
  - Students must wash their hands with soap for at least 60 seconds;
  - Bathrooms should be sanitized after every classroom use.
  
- Lunch - Cafeteria
  - Sanitizer will be provided for all students before picking up lunch;

- Lunch blocks will be staggered to limit the number of students in line for lunch at a time;
- All tables will be sanitized following each lunch block.
- Recess
  - All students wash hands before and after recess;
  - Shared materials will be sanitized weekly.
- Courtyard
  - All students must wash hands before/after any activities in the courtyard;
  - Only one class should be in the courtyard at a time;
  - Materials and chairs will be disinfected weekly.

### **Changes to Team Member Experience**

- Arrival
  - Clock-in using the iPad clock-in system at each yellow door entrance; use hand sanitizer before and after clocking-in/-out
- Nurse's Station
  - Staff are encouraged to check their temperature if feeling ill;
  - Masks will be available for use if feeling ill;
  - COVID tests may be available if feeling ill.
- Materials
  - PPE will be provided for staff and students that need it;
  - Cleaning materials can be obtained from the front office (additional materials may be ordered upon request).

### **Changes to the Parent/Visitor Experience**

- Arrival/Dismissal/Visits
  - All visitors must be coordinated ahead of time with teacher/staff;
  - Outside/sidewalk visits are encouraged;
  - Masks will be provided upon entering the building if needed.
- Dismissal-Specific
  - Car rider parents remain in the car;
  - Walker parents remain on the outside

**Locations for Important Cleaning Supplies**

<b>Hand Sanitizer</b>	<b>Wipes</b>	<b>PPE</b>
Hallways (6)	Classrooms	Family Resource Center
Clock in/out Ipads	Conference Rooms (Red Hall and Green Hall)	Nurse's Station
Keurigs (Nest/Green Conference Room)	Nurse's Station	Main Office
Gazebo in Courtyard	Printers	Operations Closet
Family Resource Center		
Water Coolers (Nest/Green Conference Room)		
Cafeteria		
Nurse's Station		