



# **Brewton City Schools 2020-2021 School COVID19 Re-Opening Plan**

## **Introduction**

The Brewton City Schools Board of Education and Office of the Superintendent realize the importance of serving our students and employees while maintaining as safe an environment as possible. Much information has been appraised in order to evaluate what actions are needed to resume face to face academic, athletic, and art related school programs. The resumption of activities also includes guidance from the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH), the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the American Academy of Pediatrics, and other federal and state recommendations concerning best health practices. While we realize that we cannot, nor can anyone, anticipate every challenge that may lie ahead for us in the 2020-21 school year, it is our goal to carry out clear, actionable steps that can be implemented by our faculty, staff, administrators, and students.

As we approach the beginning of school and throughout the 2020-21 school year, the office of the Superintendent and School Principals will continue to provide information and guidance to our faculty, staff, students, and parents. It is clear that our situation is not static and thus will call for deletions and additions to those practices implemented as may be necessary. While the 2020-21 school year will be unlike any we have experienced before, the goal will be to make every attempt to facilitate engagement that enriches the experiences of our students while best protecting the health of the entire Brewton City Schools Family.

## **Disclaimer**

The information provided in this document does not, and is not, intended to constitute legal advice. Instead, all information, content, and materials available in this document are for general information purposes only. Information in this procedures document may not constitute the most current legal regulations. All liability with respect to action taken or not taken based on the contents of this document are hereby expressly disclaimed. The content in this document is provided “as is.” No representations are made that the content is error free. The document is not an exhaustive list of every action that Brewton City Schools will need to return to or remain at school. Guidance provided by the Alabama State Department of Education is neither mandated nor required for use. Brewton City Schools has the authority and flexibility to meet their individual needs and be responsive to the community.

## School Calendar Adjustment

After much consideration, the school calendar will be amended (if approved by the board) in order to help the faculty and staff meet the increased expectations and duties caused by COVID-19 to include, but not limited to, the areas of ongoing professional development, virtual online/learning, transportation, child nutrition, nursing, and general academic preparation. Due to COVID-19, the amount of preparation in all areas has magnified for faculty and staff prior to the arrival of school by students. This constituted a need to provide faculty and staff with the two (2) additional teacher work days on the front end of the calendar. Furthermore, the school calendar is still subject to change during the school year depending on the upward or downward trend of COVID-19 and the resulting impact.

Please note the following in relation to the approved 2020-21 school calendar and the following rationale listed.

1. Teachers will report to school on Monday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> with professional development days on August 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>.
2. All students who choose the traditional school option will report to school beginning on Monday, August 10<sup>th</sup>.
3. Face-to-face instruction for students will occur five (5) days a week.

## School Closures

- Targeted School/System Closure
  - Individual schools, through the office of the Superintendent, can implement targeted school closures for the individual classroom, the school building, or the entire system if/when necessary. These closures can be for 24 hours and up to five (5) days.
- Extended School(s)/School System Closure
  - When a school(s) or the school system is closed for a period of more than one week, an extended school(s) or school system closure shall be approved by the Board of Education.

## Return to School Protocols

### 2020-21 Registration for School

- Use the following link to register your child for the 2020-2021 school year:  
<https://forms.gle/EEidXQgR5cRXbyPv8>
- Every student should register as a “traditional classroom student” or a “virtual/remote learning student” by July 24, 2020.
- Regardless of which option is chosen, all students should register through the online Google Form located on the BCS Facebook page and BCS website. Parents of students are asked to complete the online registration form by July 24<sup>th</sup> for planning purposes. Registration by this date will greatly enhance the ability of the school and teachers to make appropriate preparations.
- All schools are open for student registration. Please contact the main office at the appropriate school.
- Brewton City Schools is currently still enrolling Out-of-District students. Please contact the main office at the appropriate school.

### Traditional and Virtual/Online Learning Options

- All students in the Brewton City School System have the option to choose Traditional Learning or Virtual/Online Learning.
- For students who choose the Traditional Learning option, the classes will look very similar in appearance to those of past years. Every attempt will be made to ensure as normal a school year as possible in the safest environment possible.
- For students who choose the Virtual/Online Learning option, Brewton City Schools will provide a virtual curriculum that the students will complete at home.
- Regardless of the choice of instructional delivery, each student will be classified as a BCS student and receive the full benefits of their membership as a student within the system. For example, a virtual/online student can participate in athletics or be in the band.
- All students in grades Pre-K through 12 will be assigned an email address with the domain of @trmiller.org.
- BCS will identify the technology needs of each student in the system in relation to virtual/online learning (whether it is chosen by the individual at the beginning of the year, occurs on an individual basis during the year, or becomes the method of instruction for all students during the year due to a school or system shutdown).
  - Students who have a reliable computer and/or reliable internet will be allowed to use their own devices/connectivity.
  - Students who do not have a reliable computer will be provided with such on a case by case basis.
- Students who choose the virtual/online option at the beginning of the school year will be assigned a virtual teacher who is a certified teacher with the BCS.

- Students who choose the online option at the beginning of the school year should:
  - For Elementary school students, remain in the online format in increments of no less than 9 weeks.
  - For Secondary school students, remain in the online format for no less than one semester.

## **Morning Arrival/Afternoon Dismissal**

- Students (car riders) shall arrive at school no earlier than 7:30 a.m.
- As a general rule, students will report to their homeroom at 7:30 a.m. unless otherwise instructed by school employees of their school's procedures.
- Afternoon dismissal procedures and times will be provided by individual schools.

## **Bus Transportation**

- Brewton City Schools will operate buses for transportation in a traditional manner. However, parents are encouraged to transport their children to/from school whenever possible.
- Parents should perform a health check on students prior to loading the bus. Students who are sick should not ride the bus.
- Hand sanitizer will be available for students when loading the bus.
- Students from the same household should sit with one another.
- Students should face forward at all times and remain in their assigned seat.
- Bus drivers shall wear a face mask while driving the bus.
- Students are required to wear a face covering during transport.
- At the conclusion of each route, drivers will sanitize buses with specific focus on frequently touched areas (i.e. hand rails and tops of seats).
- Between morning and afternoon routes, windows on the buses will be left open (weather permitting) in order to circulate air while buses remain on the bus yard.
- During transport, windows will remain down when feasible (weather must be taken in to consideration).

## **Health Checks**

- All students (with the assistance of their parents/guardians) and employees should conduct a daily self-check before coming to school/work each day.
  - Home is the first point of the screening continuum. Brewton City Schools will educate and support families in identifying the symptoms that indicate students should stay home. Families should self-report symptoms of illness.

- Students who exhibit signs of potential COVID symptoms or are sick in general should refrain from attending school. Students with a temperature of greater than 100.4 should not report to school.
- Employees who exhibit signs of potential COVID symptoms should contact their supervisor immediately.
- Upon arrival at school, or at any other time during the school day, students and staff may be subjected to temperature checks with a no-touch thermometer. Any student or teacher with a temperature of greater than 100.4 will be sent to the school nurse for further assistance and/or observation.

### **Students with Potential COVID Symptoms**

- Students identified with potential COVID symptoms will be placed in a designated area near the nurse's office with supervision and with a facial covering.
- Nurses will wear PPEs when caring for these students.
- A parent/guardian will be called to transport the student home.
- Students who are diagnosed with COVID 19 by a physician must test negative or be quarantined for 14 days and be asymptomatic (fever free) for 3 days before returning to school. Students who test positive for COVID 19 should provide a doctor's excuse to include the approval by the health care professional to return to school.

### **Employees with Potential COVID Symptoms**

- Employees identified with potential COVID symptoms will be sent home.
- Employees who have tested positive for COVID-19, who have been quarantined by a healthcare provider, who are experiencing symptoms related to COVID-19, or who are required to care for an individual who has been quarantined should not report to work, and should instead notify your immediate supervisor as soon as possible.
- Employees who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 should not return to work until cleared by a physician.
- Communication by/from the Central Office and individual schools in the case of a positive COVID-19 test will follow the APDH and CDC guidelines.

### **Health Services**

- Signage throughout the building should include healthy handwashing and hygiene information, encouragement to wear facial coverings, and six-foot social/physical distancing.
- All faculty, staff, students, and individuals who have direct, sustained contact with faculty, staff, and students should immediately contact the Office of the Superintendent if they reside in a household in which someone has been determined to be positive for

COVID 19. Contact can be made at [scampbell@brewtoncityschools.org](mailto:scampbell@brewtoncityschools.org) with Nurse Samara Campbell as the main point of contact.

- When necessary, contact tracing will be conducted by the Alabama Department of Public Health. Brewton City Schools asks that all parties cooperate with determining contact tracing points of those who are infected.

## **Classroom Procedures**

- Cleaning and/or sanitizing supplies will be provided and be available for use for each classroom by BCS. Individual schools may request, but not require, additional supplies from each household.
- Students should use hand sanitizer provided upon entering the classroom and as needed while in the classroom. Opportunities for handwashing during the day shall be provided.
- Personal belongings should be placed in a designated area if available.
- To the extent possible, students should sit in rows.
- As a general rule, student supplies should not be shared. When sharing is necessary (i.e., in P.E. classes students may share a ball), sanitizing steps will be taken by each school.
- Individual schools will implement additional procedures relative to their individual school needs.
- Procedures for electives and activity classes will be provided at each individual school (i.e. playground use, Art classes, Drama, Band, etc.)

## **Transitions During School**

- To the extent possible, where there are multiple doors for entrance and exit, consider one door as the entrance and one as the exit.
- Walk to the right in the hallways to keep a one directional path for students and employees.
- Post directional signage and signage for six-foot spacing in the hallways.

## **Procedures for BCS Guests on Campus**

- While the school system welcomes guests to school, it is highly recommended that guests make contact with persons on campus through remote connection (email, phone, Zoom conferences, etc.)
- Access to schools by outside guests may be limited based on current levels of risk as determined by the Office of the Superintendent in cooperation with school based administration.
- When allowed, guests on campus are required to wear face coverings and may be subject to temperature screening.

## **Travel / Gatherings / Assemblies**

- All field trips for students are canceled until current risk levels allow for their resumption. Local trips/travel for students are permitted (i.e., buses going to career tech campus)
- All gatherings/assemblies are subject to current information/guidelines from the ADPH/CDC/AHSAA/ALSDE and other relevant entities/organizations. Thus, there may be limitations and/stipulations to gatherings/assemblies within the BCS for the 2020-21 school year. Such information concerning gatherings will be provided prior to each event on a consistent basis to the public.

## **Athletics / Extra-Curricular Activities**

- Currently, all athletic teams are observing rules and regulations provided by the Office of the State Superintendent given on June 1 (activities for athletes began on June 8). These rules and regulations will remain intact until further guidance is provided by the AHSAA.
- These rules and regulations apply to all extra-curricular activities to include band. However, there will be additional measures implemented for the band in consultation with the Alabama Music Educators Association.
- AHSAA athletic events requiring bus transportation to away games (to include fall sport teams, band members, and cheerleaders) are scheduled at this time, but are subject to change. Guidelines for transportation to away events will be provided by each sport.

## **Child Nutrition**

- Brewton City Board of Education, each local school, and the Child Nutrition Program will follow all guidance from USDA, ALSDE, and ADPH regarding safe operating and food service procedures. The Child Nutrition Program will adhere to current USDA school nutrition guidelines and practices.
- For lunch meal service, schools will keep the number of students in the cafeteria to 50 percent occupancy. Other areas of potential meal service include the classroom, outside (weather permitting), or any other area the principal may have available. A rotation schedule can be made to accommodate classrooms. However, it may be essential to transition to all in-classroom dining.
- Parents/Visitors will not be allowed to visit and dine with their students until it is determined that the current risk levels allow for such visits.
- NO "home-made" food or beverage items will be allowed for a class or group of students for consumption (i.e. birthday parties, holiday parties, etc.). Only store-bought items may be delivered to the school office for such events.
- Meals will be available for pick-up by Virtual/Online Learners upon request.

## **Sanitization and Cleaning / Custodial Staff**

- At the main entrance and selected secondary entrances based on each campus, hand sanitizer will be available for use. Upon entering the building, all individuals should use the hand sanitizer provided by BCS.
- All restrooms shall have running water, hand soap, and paper towels provided. The CDC asserts that the temperature of the water does not have an effect on microbe removal. Thus, cold or lukewarm water is sufficient for handwashing. Furthermore, the recommendation is to wash hands for 20 seconds (sing the Happy Birthday song two times).
- High touch areas such as door knobs/pulls, table tops, railings, countertops, etc. will be regularly cleaned during the time that schools are in session.
- BCS will provide professional development for all custodial and CNP staff focusing on guidance for cleaning and disinfecting.
- BCS will change air filters regularly.
- BCS will audit necessary materials and supply chains for cleaning and disinfection supplies.
- Water fountains will be operational and cleaned systematically. Students are encouraged to bring water bottles from home to keep with them throughout the day. Hands-free water bottle filling stations will be installed at various locations on each campus.
- Hospital-grade sanitizing misters have been purchased for the daily disinfection of each school.

## **Wearing of Face Masks on Campus**

- Students in grades 3-12 and all employees will be expected to wear face coverings when social distancing guidelines cannot be consistently maintained (arrival/dismissal, change of classes, entering the lunchroom, small group work, etc).
- Face coverings may include face shields, medical masks, N95 masks, neck gaiters, cloth masks, and anything that may be provided by the state or district. Neck gaiters may be worn but should be worn properly over the face or around the neck when not in use.
- All face coverings, when used, should be in compliance with the BCS Student Code of Conduct in terms of graphics, logos, etc.
- BCS realizes that face coverings are a topic of much discussion and will monitor guidance and requirements for the ADPH, CDC, and State/Local governments. We may adjust our expectations periodically based on new guidance or health orders.