

Bethalto Community Unit School District #8

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

2022-2023 School Year

PLEASE SEE THE RETURN TO LEARN PLAN ADDENDUM

[BCUSD#8 Return to Learn Plan Addendum_7/28/2022](#)

Please note the addendum above contains the most recent mitigation strategies the district is using. If there is contradictory information below, please refer back to the addendum for the most recent information.

ORIGINAL DATE APPROVED BY BOE: JULY 29, 2021

UPDATED & APPROVED BY BOE: FEBRUARY 14, 2022

UPDATED & APPROVED BY THE BOE: JULY 28, 2022

Maintaining Health and Safety

Section A – Masks

The Bethalto School District recognizes the arduous nature around the topic of wearing masks in schools. The District also recognizes the parent(s) and guardian(s) responsibility for the health and safety of their own children. At this time, masks are optional for our students.

There may be times during the school year, due to increased positivity or quarantine rates in the specific buildings within the district, that a mandatory mask policy will be implemented for a short time until transmission decreases. We will monitor and share information regularly, just as we have done throughout the pandemic.

Section B – Physical Distancing

A primary prevention strategy for all students is to continue to practice social distancing during times of high COVID levels. Students will not be expected to social distance unless we reach high COVID numbers and a decision is made to social distance by the administration.

Section C – Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette

In accordance with CDC guidelines, <https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html>, staff, students, and visitors are encouraged to frequently wash hands for 20 seconds with soap and water or use a hand sanitizer. Students are recommended to frequently wash/sanitize their hands. Students and staff are reminded to use proper etiquette when they sneeze or cough.

Section D – Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities, Including Improving Ventilation

Bethalto CUSD8 will continue to clean and maintain our facilities.

Cleaning

- COVID-19 approved disinfectants will continue to be used in all spaces.
- Surfaces and common spaces will be cleaned daily.

- Hand sanitizing stations are available in schools.
- Students are encouraged to bring hand sanitizer with them to use at school.

Student Health

- If your student is sick, please keep him/her home.
- Students will wash and sanitize hands often.
- If a student is sent home from school with COVID-19 symptoms, the parent will be informed of next steps for return to school.

Transportation

- Students that are ill should not be permitted on the bus by the parent.
- The driver will maximize the circulation of outside air to the extent practicable.
- No notes will be accepted for a student to ride with another student on a bus other than their assigned bus for any reason.
- Parents are encouraged to educate their students on positive behavior on the bus and at bus stops, including all general safety rules.
- Buses will be cleaned regularly.

Extracurricular Activities

- Schools will offer extracurricular activities consistent with student, classroom, and school building guidelines.
- Before and after school programs will operate when school is open to students.

Athletics

- Health and safety guidelines for athletics are provided by the IHSA. BCUSD8 will follow Board Policy and the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan approved by the Bethalto Board of Education.

Section E – Contact Tracing

- Keeping students in school is a primary focus of the District's plans. At this time, we will not be notifying close contacts when a student tests positive at school. We ask that all parents monitor their students at all times and request testing if they believe their child may be symptomatic for COVID.

Section F – Diagnostic and Screening Testing

The Bethalto School District will continue to ask parents to keep their student(s) home that are exhibiting symptoms. Keeping students and adults out of school when they are sick remains the number one way to prevent the spread of any illness. All parents are asked to ensure they are not sending sick students to school. If a student is sick, they need to notify the school nurse immediately. Staff members will be asked to do the same.

As a district we will continue to provide antigen testing for our students and staff who are symptomatic. If your child is symptomatic, your school nurse can help set up an appointment.

Section G – Efforts to Provide Vaccinations to School Communities

The CDC and IDPH continue to promote vaccination as the leading health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. Vaccination remains the most effective way to keep our students safe and in-person throughout the school year.

Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible, will continue to be shared.

Section H – Appropriate Accommodations for Children with Disabilities with Respect to Health and Safety Policies

The district will work to ensure that the specific needs of students with disabilities are addressed regarding any necessary health accommodations in the classroom, as it relates to in-person instruction.

Ensuring Continuity of Services

Section A – How will the LEA (Local Education Agency) ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to students’ academic needs.

The district has been open for in-person instruction since March of 2021. The district will continue to offer the academic programs it did prior to the onset of the pandemic. The district continues to evaluate students’ progress and provide academic interventions during the school day to those students in need. In addition, the district provides tutoring in a variety of ways across the district.

For the 2022-2023 school year, Bethalto Community Unit School District #8 will be in-person, five days a week, for all students in grades PreK-12. BCUSD8 will address Learning Loss among students and implement evidence-based activities to meet the comprehensive needs of students using our Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) model.

Section B – How will the LEA (Local Education Agency) ensure continuity of services, including students’ and staffs’ social, emotional, mental health needs

The district remains focused on mental health concerns and will continue coordinating programs through the School Counseling and Social Work Programs.

Social and Emotional and Mental Health Needs:

- The district utilizes Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) K-12.
- The district will continue implementing a new, more extensive universal Social-Emotional Learning Curriculum and will continue to expand upon mindfulness K-12.
- Students periodically take a universal screening survey via Fastbridge, SAEBRS, to measure and track emotional intelligence development.
- Staff periodically fill out an assessment on students in their classes via Fastbridge, SAEBRS, to provide feedback on students’ social-emotional needs.
- The district has a nurse in each school, social workers and/or school psychologists in our schools, as well as school counselor(s) in our 6-12 schools.
- We already have a section of our website that is designated for social emotional learning supports.

Student Health:

- The district employs a full-time nurse in each school building.
- We will continue to monitor student health as we did before and during COVID to ensure we are meeting CDC and IDPH guidelines, as well as Board policy and the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan.
- Bethalto School district provides a full-time athletic trainer to support student health during extracurricular activities. The trainer assists in the assessment, identification, and assessment of illness.

Section D – How will the LEA (Local Education Agency) ensure continuity of services including any other student needs.

Bethalto School District will remain vigilant in the efforts to identify other student needs as they emerge and respond to them in a timely fashion. All plans will continue to be followed for Individual Health Plans, 504 Plans, and Individualized Education Plans (IEPs).

- Students will continue to receive their specialized instruction and related services (if applicable) through special education teachers and related service providers.
- School teams will follow district guidelines and safety precautions.

Public Comment

Section A – How did the district seek public comment on its plan?

This plan was originally created in July of 2021. The district will continue to assess and adjust procedures in accordance with state and local guidelines. The plan will be reviewed at least semi-annually. Public comment was also welcomed at the July 29th, 2021, Board of Education meeting as well as the February 14, 2022 and the July 28th, 2022 Board of Education meeting and during all Board Meetings in the Public Comment portion of the meeting. The plan, as well as an addendum, has also been posted on our website for public comment. Parents and community members are welcome to email return@bethalto.org with their comments and feedback.

Section B – How will the district ensure the plan is understandable for parents?

The district has adopted the basic plan template provided by the Illinois State Board of Education. Following local Board approval, the plan will be posted on the district website. The plan will be posted in English but copies in other languages will be made available upon request to the Superintendent. Accommodations will also be made to provide the information in alternate forms to address the needs of parents with disabilities as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

LINK TO PRESENTATION ON PROPOSED SPENDING:

[GRANT INFO](#) (last updated May 2021)