



Good afternoon BHM Families,

As parents prepare to send their children back to school in a few weeks and our teachers and staff are busy getting the classrooms and schools ready for the return of students, we want to provide information to everyone regarding in-person learning and an online learning option for students as well as the district's COVID protocols. The following COVID information is based on guidance from the CDC, the Minnesota Department of Health and the Minnesota Department of Education.

## **BHM 2021-2022 COVID Protocols**

### **Face Coverings**

The CDC recommends masking for all people in the school setting, including teachers, staff, students and visitors to schools, regardless of vaccination status. While BHM will not require masks for students or staff or anyone entering the school buildings, anyone who wishes to wear a mask may do so.

- *All people are required by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and a Presidential Executive Order to wear face coverings on all public transportation, including school buses.*

### **Physical distancing**

There is no longer a minimum distancing requirement. Physical distancing will be encouraged and maintained when and where it is possible throughout the school day.

### **Handwashing and respiratory etiquette**

Students will be encouraged to wash their hands often. Hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol) will be available for student and staff use. Proper respiratory etiquette (covering coughs and sneezes) will be modeled and reinforced.

### **Ventilation**

Ventilation is an important factor in minimizing the transmission of COVID-19 indoors. BHM will continue to increase airflow via HVAC and air filtration systems to bring in more fresh air as was done for the 2020-21 school year.

### **Cleaning and disinfection**

Enhanced cleaning and disinfection protocols will continue which includes regular cleaning as well as disinfection of high-touch and high-traffic areas. Cleaning products will be available for staff to use throughout the day.

### **COVID-19 testing**

COVID-19 testing will not be required to attend school or participate in activities. Testing will not be conducted onsite. The State of Minnesota has made no-cost testing available to everyone through a number of testing options, such as [community testing sites](#) and the [Test at Home program](#). Many healthcare providers and pharmacies also offer no-cost testing.

## **Vaccination**

COVID-19 vaccinations are encouraged for staff and students who are eligible. They will not be required, and the district will not ask for vaccination status unless the circumstances require it. Students and staff may sign up for a COVID-19 vaccine appointment at local clinics, hospitals and pharmacies if interested. Minnesota also has several large-scale community vaccination sites for those 12 and older.

## **Staying home when sick and getting tested**

Staff and students will continue to monitor their health and should stay home if they are demonstrating symptoms of COVID-19 or any infectious diseases.

- Students who become ill during the day should report to the health office. If needed, they will be sent home after parents or guardians have been contacted by the health assistant.

## **Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine**

- People who test positive for COVID-19 will be required to stay at home (isolation) until it has been at least 10 days since they first felt sick or tested positive, symptoms have improved, and they have had no fever for at least 24 hours without using medicine that lowers a fever. Household members will not need to quarantine unless they also develop symptoms or test positive for COVID-19. Parents are asked to monitor household members closely.
- Confirmed positive COVID-19 cases will continue to be reported to MDH.
- Elementary families will be notified if there is a positive case in their child's classroom. However, quarantines will not be required of classmates as long as they are symptom free.
- Secondary students will not be notified of close contacts with positive cases due to the availability of vaccinations and the number of individuals/classes middle and high school students come in contact with and share.
- Should there be spread of COVID-19 due to close contact among students/staff in school, the District may need to institute required quarantine measures as it did in 2020-21.

## **Sports and Activities**

BHM Activities Departments will follow guidelines and requirements from the Minnesota State High School League. Athletic Directors and coaches will continue to provide information to students and families.

## **Online Learning Option**

An online learning option is now available through BHM Schools. This is not to be confused with the Distance Learning model provided last year. You can find more information about the program, which is provided in a K-12 format, at [E-Learning Enterprise](#)

We are excited to welcome students to a new school year this September and look forward to providing them opportunities to *dream, believe and achieve*. Hope you enjoy these last weeks of summer!



Scott Thielman, Superintendent  
BHM Schools

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