

July 23, 2020



POPLAR BLUFF
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Return to Learn - Summer 2020

A re-entry plan for the PB-RI School District

Introduction:

Schools in our community were impacted in an unprecedented way by the emergence of the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2), the causative agent of COVID-19. The profound negative impact of the loss of in-person schooling on the wellbeing of children has been well documented and thus we are preparing for the return to school for the 2020-2021 school year.

However, we must be attentive that this public health crisis has not ended. Adults, particularly those who are older and those with underlying health conditions, are at increased risk of serious illness from COVID-19. Our schools need to be prepared to reduce the chance that anyone will acquire this infection during the school day and armed with a protocol to respond to a case of infection. Our schools must be poised to adapt to new emerging information in order to create a safe and robust educational experience. Although planning for this “new normal” may create some inconveniences, if we work together as a community, we will help ensure that our students, staff, and faculty will stay healthy and will reduce the chance of significant educational disruptions.

Social Distancing:

Social distancing of at least 6 feet remains one of the best preventative measures for reducing the spread of COVID-19. It is recognized that this cannot be accomplished at all times, and distancing of at least 3 feet has been shown to reduce infections. While children are unlikely to exhibit serious symptoms from COVID-19, social distancing helps prevent the spread to adults—especially those who may be at high risk.

Screening:

Parents and caregivers should screen children for symptoms at home, before coming to school, in accordance with the following checklist:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Headache
- Muscle Aches
- Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea
- New loss of taste or smell
- New runny nose or congestion
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Sore Throat
- Close contact with a person with COVID-19 in the last 14 days

This list is subject to change as new symptoms of COVID-19 are identified. The district will work with healthcare partners to provide updated information as it becomes available.

Parents should assess their children for fever daily. Students with symptoms should not attend school and parents should consult their healthcare provider and follow CDC considerations regarding their return to school. For students who are diagnosed with COVID-19, either by a laboratory test or based on their symptoms, return to school is permissible when the student is at least 10 days from symptom onset, has had three days with no fever, and has improving symptoms. Return to school for children with an alternate diagnosis is at the discretion of their healthcare provider and/or the school nurse. Children with known close contact with COVID-19 (or an adult with symptoms compatible with COVID-19) should stay home for 14 days from their last contact and until return to school is approved by the local health department in accordance with the CDC guidance.

Students should not come to school if they feel sick. At-home screening reinforces that decision and reminds families how important that choice is, as it helps to further protect other students, school staff members, and communities as a whole. Performing a daily screening before a student leaves for school also reduces the likelihood that a student will have to be isolated at school and sent home after experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.

Attendance incentives have been removed from our building handbooks throughout the school district.

On-site Screening for students:

Protocols have been developed by district nursing staff to screen students who self-refer or are referred for symptoms. The district will not, at this time, engage in mass screenings as they create unsafe bottlenecks of traffic at entry points into the facilities.

Screening for Staff Members:

Health data continues to reveal that adults are much more likely to spread the novel coronavirus than children, unlike other viruses (e.g. influenza) where children are more likely to transmit the virus to others. Staff members will be screened upon entry to the building each day, and that screening will include a temperature check.

Face Coverings - PPE:

Face coverings are an important strategy to reduce transmission of the novel coronavirus, primarily by reducing the spread of infection from the wearer to those around. Face coverings are recommended in all settings but are not required at this time.

Intentional Flexibility:

Our re-entry plan has been drafted to allow the district very intentional flexibility in responding to the needs of the community as they relate to our current situation, as well as to circumstances as yet unforeseen.

Our tiered plan will allow the district flexibility to operate within a combination of precautionary measures to meet the needs of our students.

Remote Learning Option:

As a corollary to the flexibility in our re-entry plan, the district has partnered with Accelerate Education to provide a comprehensive, district-supported, remote learning solution.

The curriculum will parallel the pacing and organization of our seated option. It will be implemented by parents and guardians with the support of district personnel.

Informational meetings will begin at the end of July 2020. Enrollment will begin shortly after those meetings have taken place.

RETURN TO LEARN PLANS

A

- Seated School with Health Precautions
 - All classes take place in school buildings
 - Extra Cleaning and Safety Protocols throughout the district
 - Building/Age specific procedures as determined by the needs of the respective students.
 - Procedures in place for responding to reported and suspected illness

B

- Modified School - Blended Learning
 - Phased steps that can be taken in response to limit the transmission of illness - but keep our schools open.
 - All classes take place in school buildings
 - Visitors in district may be limited
 - Large gatherings will be canceled or postponed
 - Classes may be organized into cohorts
 - District may elect to operate at reduced daily student capacity

C

- Remote Learning - AMI
 - In the event of a closure all instruction will be done remotely.
 - No classes will be held on campus
 - All large gatherings and events will be canceled
 - Devices will be distributed as needed

Overview:

The Poplar Bluff R-I School District has taken steps to prepare for the health, wellness, and safety for all students and staff as we prepare for the 2020-2021 school year. The information listed below outlines the general guidelines and expectations for each location/service. Decisions will be made in coordination with local and state guidelines.

Transportation**Plan A:** Seated School Instruction with Health Precautions

- Buses will run with normal capacity
- Buses will be cleaned and sanitized
- Bus drivers have been properly trained in COVID safety measures
- Hand Sanitizer will be available on all buses
- It is recommended that parents transport students to school in personal vehicles

Plan B: Modified School - Blended Learning

- Students will be separated on the bus where feasible
- Buses will be cleaned and sanitized after each use
- Buses will have hand sanitizer available
- Bus drivers have been properly trained in COVID safety measures
- Students will be encouraged to practice social distancing while waiting for the bus; remain in the car if possible until the bus arrives
- If the district elects to operate at reduced daily student capacity family groups will all have school on the same cycle to facilitate transportation.
- It is strongly recommended that parents transport students to school in personal vehicles

Plan C: Remote Learning - AMI

- Transportation would not be needed during Plan C with online instruction

Arrival/Dismissal

Plan A: Seated School Instruction with Health Precautions

- Arrival/Departure locations will be provided with physical distancing protocols when attainable
- Procedures will vary between buildings based upon the respective need/age of the students

Plan B: Modified School - Blended Learning

- Arrival/Departure locations will be provided with physical distancing protocols when attainable
- Common areas will be restricted where feasible

Plan C: Remote Learning - AMI

- Students will not be on campus during Plan C

Breakfast & Lunch

Plan A: Seated School Instruction with Health Precautions

- All tables and chairs will be disinfected between each lunch shift
- Students will be seated with spacing per current guidance from the Butler County Health Department, based upon available space in the respective cafeteria

Plan B: Modified School - Blended Learning

- All tables and chairs will be disinfected between each lunch shift
- Breakfast and lunch may be on alternating schedules keeping students in cohorts with some classes eating in their classrooms to provide physical distancing options and reduction in the number of individuals present at one time.
- Lunch schedules may be altered to limit the number of students in the cafeteria at one time
- Seating in cafeterias may be configured to minimize students facing each other during meals

Plan C: Remote Learning - AMI

- Students will not be on campus during Plan C

Classroom

Plan A: Seated School Instruction with Health Precautions

- Students will be observed for illness prior to starting class and referred to nurse if necessary
- Appropriate measures will be taken for cleaning
- Time will be built into the day for frequent handwashing
- Cloth or fabric furnishings have been removed from classrooms
- Additional spacing will be provided in classrooms where available
- Multiple sanitizing stations have been placed throughout the schools
- Students will be encouraged to maintain distance from each other in the school and taught appropriate hygiene/COVID practices
- Personal water bottles will be encouraged as drinking fountains will have limited availability

Plan B: Modified School - Blended Learning

- Physical distancing strategies will be implemented based on the feasibility of the unique space and needs of each school
- Students will be encouraged to maintain distance from each other in the school and taught appropriate hygiene/COVID practices
- Students will keep their own supplies for use in the classroom
- Personal water bottles will be encouraged as drinking fountains will have limited availability
- Time will be built into the day for frequent handwashing
- Appropriate measures will be taken for cleaning
- Students will be observed for illness prior to starting class and referred to nurse if necessary

Plan C: Remote Learning - AMI

- Students will participate in online virtual instruction or will be provided offline apps and activities during Plan C

Transitions

Plan A: Seated School Instruction with Health Precautions

- Passing periods will be based on a regular bell schedule

Plan B: Modified School - Blended Learning

- Passing periods may be on an alternating schedule
- Movement throughout buildings may be limited or reduced by organizing classes into cohorts in which teachers change classrooms but students stay in the same location throughout the day.

Plan C: Remote Learning - AMI

- Students will not be on campus during Plan C

Playgrounds

Plan A: Seated School Instruction with Health Precautions

- Hand washing/sanitizing upon re-entry to the building
- Frequently used playground hard surfaces will be cleaned routinely

Plan B: Modified School - Blended Learning

- Students may be in cohorts while on playgrounds
- Hand washing/sanitizing upon re-entry to the building
- Frequently used playground hard surfaces will be cleaned routinely

Plan C: Remote Learning - AMI

- Students will not be on campus during Plan C

Cleaning/Hygiene

Plan A: Seated School Instruction with Health Precautions

- Cleaning with approved products to disinfect frequently touched hard, non-porous surfaces such as counters, tabletops, stair rails, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, drinking fountains, and any other surfaces that are visibly necessary
- Hand sanitizer will be available at most exterior doors
- Students and families will be provided with information on best practices for hygiene during the school day and upon arriving at home
- Personal water bottles will be encouraged as drinking fountains will have limited availability

Plan B: Modified School - Blended Learning

- Cleaning with approved products to disinfect frequently touched hard, non-porous surfaces such as counters, tabletops, stair rails, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, drinking fountains, and any other surfaces that are visibly necessary
- Hand sanitizer will be available at most exterior doors
- Students and families will be provided with information on best practices for hygiene during the school day and upon arriving at home

Plan C: Remote Learning - AMI

- All buildings, classrooms, and offices will be sanitized and cleaned

Health Services

Plan A: Seated School Instruction with Health Precautions

- School nurses will provide health and safety training/materials to faculty and staff
- Required staff self-screening
- Encourage parents to screen students at home prior to sending to school
- If you have medications for your child, please schedule a time with the school nurse to drop it off
- Enhanced health and safety protocols are in place to determine when faculty and staff may return to work after an illness
- Comprehensive procedures are in place for isolation of impacted individuals, tracking of illnesses, and returning to school after an illness

Plan B: Modified School - Blended Learning

- School Nurse Procedures
- Evaluation of Symptoms Flowcharts
- School nurses will provide COVID safety training/materials to faculty and staff
- If you have medications for your child, please schedule a time with the school nurse to drop it off
- Required staff self-screening
- Encourage parents to screen students at home prior to sending to school

Plan C: Remote Learning - AMI

- Nurses and counselors are available online and by phone during school hours for support and guidance

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Plan A: Seated School Instruction with Health Precautions

- PPE is recommended, but not required, for all students and staff.

Plan B: Modified School - Blended Learning

- Utilization of PPE will be recommended but optional for students in accordance with guidance from the Butler County Health Department
- Utilization of PPE will be optional for staff but may be required in accordance with guidelines from the Butler County Health Department
- Staff working with medically fragile students may be required when in direct contact or when a barrier is not feasible

Plan C: Remote Learning - AMI

- Students will not be on campus during Plan C
- Staff who are on campus will wear protective PPE in accordance with current guidelines from the Butler County Health Department

Visitors

Plan A: Seated School Instruction with Health Precautions

- Guests will be allowed into district facilities in compliance with current policy and guidance from Butler County Health Department.

Plan B: Modified School - Blended Learning

- Nonessential visitors may be limited
- Lunch guests or volunteers may not be allowed in the building
- Meetings and conferences should held via phone or video-conferencing

Plan C: Remote Learning - AMI

- Buildings are closed to outside visitors and guests

Action Plan if Confirmed Case

- Contact Health Department and communicate with the public based on Health Department's recommendation
- Identify student exposure in relation to direct contact with others and facility exposure
- Address possible student/adult exclusions
- Address the infected space using proven practices
- Perform targeted cleaning and disinfection of frequently touched hard, non-porous surfaces such as counters, tabletops, stair rails, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, drinking fountains, and any other surfaces that are visibly necessary
- Inspect areas to determine readiness for re-entry
- Consult with Health Department prior to re-entry