



Vision Statement

Blue Ridge is the heart of our community, a family of diverse members committed to ensuring a purposeful, creative learning environment within a caring, collaborative culture for all. We are rich in tradition, achievement, and innovation. We are BR!

The Blue Ridge Unified School District #32 has established standards, protocols, and procedures to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus among students and employees.

Despite measures to enhance our students and staff's health, safety, and welfare to reduce the spread of Coronavirus, the District cannot guarantee that you will not become infected with COVID-19.

District Reopening Plans

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Blue Ridge Unified School District

COVID-19 Protocols for Re-Opening Schools

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) recommend that reopening decisions be driven by the current prevalence of COVID-19 in the community. Additional information is provided by the Department of Education's website: <https://www.azed.gov>

The protocols that follow do not address whether a district should reopen but instead include recommendations for mitigating risk once the decision to reopen has been made. The protocols are guidelines—specifically implemented to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus and enhance school safety.

The following protocols are to be implemented across all district sites. Standard procedures for students who qualify for homebound or chronically ill services will be followed, as will routine procedures for employee requests for a reasonable accommodation due to disability.

STAFFING ASSIGNMENTS

Dr. Mike Wright will coordinate all messages to students, parents, staff, and the community regarding reopening, possible closure, and other COVID-19-related information at the district level. The Superintendent will ensure that each site has posters with messaging on handwashing and covering coughs and sneezes located throughout. Post posters at site entrances remind individuals not to enter if sick.

The principal will coordinate social distancing protocols (when possible and space allows), including ensuring facility setup and implementing the protocols.

Mr. Jeff Akins coordinates the implementation of cleaning protocols at each site, including ensuring sufficient cleaning supplies are available to the janitorial staff and, as appropriate, other staff.

At each school, a site administrator, another designee will coordinate and implement the protocols outlined in the **Protocols: Employees** section of this document to screen staff. That individual will be responsible for:

- Communicating any reported case of COVID-19 among the school population to Dr. Mike Wright, and Mary Ford (Human Resources)
- informing Dr. Wright if absences of students and staff on any given day appear to be a cluster of respiratory-related illnesses.

MS. Rebecca Frazee coordinates with site-based case managers to ensure students with special needs are being met in the context of implementing these safety protocols.

In conjunction with district administration, athletic directors and coaches will develop protocols incorporating applicable revised 2021-22 SY Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA) and CDC recommendations for athletic activities.

COMMUNICATION

Communication

Before students returning to campus, parents will be directed to review a copy of the District's plan on our website at <https://www.BRUSD.org>. Each school site and office will provide protocols relating to students and visitors. As part of this process, the District will attempt to communicate with all parents outlining the symptoms for which parents must screen each morning. This information also expects students not to be sent to school or placed on the bus if they exhibit any symptoms.

Each school site will identify a person as the designated COVID-19 point of contact, which will be communicated to parents before the first day of school. This person will be responsible for answering parent questions regarding the implementation of COVID-19 protocols.

PROTOCOLS: STUDENTS ON CAMPUS

Protocols are established based on community monitoring that reveals low levels of community spread of COVID-19. These practices are put in place as part of a general scale-up of operations.

Daily Health Screenings

At home

Inform students and parents that students must not come to school if they exhibit any of the following symptoms:

- fever of 100.4 degrees or higher, or chills;
- shortness of breath or difficulty breathing;
- muscle aches;
- sore throat;
- headache;
- fatigue;
- congestion or runny nose;
- cough;
- vomiting;
- diarrhea; or

- new loss of taste or smell.

Additionally, information is provided to parents via registration documents, the school website, and email reminders. Such efforts improve student health screening for the above symptoms each morning, self-report symptoms, and keep students at home if any symptoms are present. Such students can make up school work, provide the school principal or director is informed in advance.

Bus Transportation.

Depending on weather conditions, we will work to maintain maximum bus ventilation at all times, including open windows. Our buses' ventilation systems are set to non-recirculating mode.

- When buses are near or total capacity, we encourage students to wear cloth face coverings on a school bus unless a health condition prevents doing so.

All buses have signage communicating that students should not enter the school bus with any COVID -19 symptom.

Students suffering from chronic conditions such as allergies or asthma. In that case, parents must inform the school of that condition. After notifying the appropriate staff member of such instances, students with symptoms can ride the bus.

At school

Upon arrival at school, elementary-age students are tested upon arrival. All JHS and HS students proceed directly to the student's first-period classroom.

A staff member will take temperatures with a non-contact thermometer before students or staff members entering the school. Any person with visible symptoms of runny nose, cough, shortness of breath, or vomiting, or one who has a fever at or above 100.4 degrees, will be taken to the health office. Parents are contacted to retrieve their child in all cases of symptoms except for the following:

- Suppose the student has a runny nose and the nurse/health aide observes no other symptoms. In that case, the nurse/health aide will contact the parent to inquire whether the student has had any other signs or has been any COVID-19 exposures in the home. If not, the student may return to class.
- Suppose the student has health information on file that confirms a diagnosis of asthma or other respiratory conditions. The nurse/health aide observes that there are no other symptoms. In that case, the nurse/health aide will contact the parent

to inquire whether the student has had any other signs or has been any COVID-19 exposures in the home. If not, the student may return to class.

MASK-WEARING IS NOT REQUIRED FOR STUDENTS OR TEACHERS. Face coverings at work are optional for all other staff members.

Physical Distancing

Our schools, including classrooms and other facilities, do not have the physical space to achieve meaningful physical distancing. Therefore, students or staff concerned about contracting the virus are encouraged to wear a mask and be vaccinated.

Drop-off/Pickup procedures.

Each school will resume its customary procedures regarding the drop-off and pickup of students. Parents wishing to take a picture with their child on the first day of school are asked to park their vehicle and proceed to the area designated outside of the school set up to allow parents to take photos. We respectfully ask parents Not to walk their children to class.

Learning Spaces

For all grades, when possible, students are spread out to the extend the classrooms space permits.

When possible, desks face the same direction rather than facing each other. Large tables are used when desks are unavailable and for junior high and high school students.

Students might be grouped to work together. When possible, incorporate technology to facilitate group work and group learning appropriate for the student's age, subject, and capabilities.

Shared/Common Spaces

Guidelines for specific communal spaces are given as follows:

Hallways: Mark hallways with adhesive tape to direct students to stay on one side of the hallway for each direction of travel. Where possible, given the school layout, certain hallways may be designated one-way.

Playgrounds

Playground equipment is sanitized throughout the day and at the school day end. Students are group by grade and age, with no limits placed on the number of students allowed on the playground at once.

Lunchrooms

Each school will return to its customary lunchtime procedures within the distribution of meals and the seating and supervision of students.

Restrooms.

Students are permitted to use restrooms. Efforts are made to limit the number of students in the bathrooms. And, space is created between students (when possible) during handwashing. Additionally, posters are displayed reminding students of proper handwashing techniques.

Front offices.

Plexiglass dividers are installed in front of the attendance desk. These implements remain in place.

Hand Washing

Require all students to wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol at the following times:

- upon arrival at school (or use hand sanitizer if there is no sink in the classroom),
- after being outside for physical activity,
- before and after lunch,
- before leaving school for home, and
- after sneezing, coughing, or blowing the nose.

Student Belongings/Materials

For younger grades and where possible, require that student belongings be kept in individual bins or cubbies labeled with each student's name. Belongings should be sent home for cleaning each day.

The sharing of school supplies and personal items among students is discouraged. If a school supply or piece of equipment shared by students must be sanitized after each use.

Trips and Activities

Field trips and largescale gatherings return for the 2021-22 School Year. Our schools comply with the protocols established by the District and the Athletic Interscholastic Association (AIA) for high school and junior high athletics. Student-Athletes school contact their coaches regarding participation requirements.

Specialized Classes

Some classes, such as science labs, choir, band, PE, and others, may require alternative plans to limit contact and share supplies and reduce respiratory droplets' spread.

PROTOCOLS: EMPLOYEES

Protocols are established based on community monitoring that reveals low levels of community spread of COVID-19. These practices are put in place as part of a general scale-up of operations.

Exposure Assessment and PPE

Each campus and district facility has been evaluated to determine whether PPE is necessary for specific positions to limit the spread of COVID-19. If a job is determined to require PPE, this equipment is supplied at no cost, with training provided to ensure proper use.

Visitors to School

The District returns to its standard protocols regulating access to our schools and classrooms. Volunteers and visitors are welcomed to access our schools and facilities.

Daily Screening Review

Employees are prohibited from working onsite if they exhibit any of the following COVID-19 symptoms outlined in this document. Staff testing positive for the virus must not return to work for at least 10 days and be symptom-free.

Additionally, each employee's temperature is taken by a designated staff member, wearing appropriate PPE. Employees report to work via a non-contact thermometer.

Thermometers are cleaned between uses according to the manufacturer's instructions.

If an employee's temperature is at or above 100.4, they are sent home. Employees must self-report any symptoms that develop during the day and must remain home if they exhibit any of the symptoms identified above while away from school.

Handwashing

Employees must wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol at the following times, at a minimum:

- upon arrival at school;
- after being outside for student physical activity;
- before and after lunch;
- after sneezing, coughing, or blowing nose; and
- after physical contact with other staff or students.

Cloth Face Coverings/Vaccinations

Staff members may wear cloth face coverings, but they are not required. Employees are strongly encouraged to be vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

Water fountains are disabled and are being replaced with fill stations. This step minimizes the risk of waterborne pathogens that cause illnesses such as Legionnaires' Disease.

Disposable water bottles are available for students and staff members on request and within each classroom and office area.

Daily cleaning and disinfecting are arranged for frequently touched surfaces in work areas, such as door handles, sink handles, drinking fountains, desks, and learning tools.

The playground, sports equipment, and any other shared items (if used) are cleaned routinely.

The janitorial staff is scheduled to increase the cleaning of surfaces and bathrooms throughout the day and after school.

Assemblies may be held at all schools during and after school hours.

PROCEDURES FOR COVID-19 SYMPTOMS OR A POSITIVE TEST

If a person becomes sick with COVID-19 symptoms or reports a positive COVID-19 test, the procedures listed below should be followed:

1. Immediately report the situation to the principal, the HR Director, and Superintendent. Confidentiality must be maintained to the greatest extent possible.
2. If an employee develops COVID-19 symptoms at work, separate the employee from all other students, staff, or visitors, then decide to send the employee home safely. If the employee can self-transport, have the employee leave the site. If the employee cannot safely self-transport, contact a family member, friend, or another method of transport to get the employee home or to a health care provider. If the employee appears to be in medical distress, call 911.
3. If a student develops COVID-19 symptoms at school, separate the student from all other students and staff, except for one staff member to supervise the student. Have this staff member wear PPE or a cloth face covering and maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from the student at all times, unless there is an emergency. Immediately notify a parent or emergency contact to pick up the student and call 911 if the student appears to be in medical distress.
4. Close off any areas that were exposed to the symptomatic employee or student for a prolonged period. Wait 24 hours before cleaning and disinfecting those areas. During that time, if available, open windows or outside doors to increase air circulation. After 24 hours, thoroughly clean and disinfect all surfaces in the area, per CDC guidelines.
5. Determine whether other employees or students may have been exposed to the symptomatic individual within 6 feet and for a prolonged time (typically longer than 15 minutes). If so, notify those individuals (or, in the case of students, their parents) of the potential exposure. DO NOT disclose the name of the individual who has become sick. Notification should recommend that exposed individuals monitor their health carefully, contact their health care provider if possible, and self-quarantine if any symptoms develop.
6. Employees or students who have developed COVID-19 symptoms or had a positive COVID-19 test may not return to the site until either of the following two scenarios has occurred:

Scenario one

- At least three days (72 hours) have passed since recovery, which is defined as (a) resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; and (b) improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
- At least ten days have passed since the first symptoms emerged.

OR

Scenario two

- There has been a resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; and
- There has been an improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
- The individual received negative results of an FDA emergency-use-authorized COVID-19 molecular assay to detect the virus from at least two consecutive respiratory specimens collected ≥ 24 hours apart (total of two negative samples).