

Battle Creek Public Schools

COVID-19 Response Plan Summary

Fall 2023

According to MDHHS, decreases in cases and hospitalizations and increased access to vaccines, testing and treatment indicate that Michigan has entered what it terms a recovery phase of the COVID-19 cycle. Please note that these changes will only remain in effect while our community remains in a recovery phase or better. If the COVID-19 exposure and transmission numbers begin to reach a level of concern, requiring our community to enter a "response" phase again, we will reassess and again lean on the guidance of local health officials.



MASKS

- Masks are now optional for students, staff, and visitors in Battle Creek Public Schools.
- It is recommended that individuals and families assess their own risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission — such as vaccination status and pre-existing conditions — and make choices about continuing to wear masks while at school.



TRANSPORTATION

- Effective February 25, 2022, CDC does not require the wearing of masks on buses or vans operated by public or private school systems. Following this guidance, masks are optional while riding BCPS transportation.
- Students who become sick during the day will not be allowed to ride the bus home.



SCREENING FOR SYMPTOMS

- Anyone experiencing potential symptoms of COVID-19 should stay home and consider completing a COVID-19 test or contacting a family physician for guidance.



VISITORS

- Parents/Guardians and visitors are permitted to enter schools following building protocols.
- All individuals entering the buildings should:
 - Assess their own risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission — such as vaccination status and pre-existing conditions — and make choices about whether to wear a protective mask.
 - Practice physical distancing as much as possible.
 - Follow other protocols put in place for building- or program-specific events.



IN-PERSON ASSEMBLIES, FIELD TRIPS & EVENTS

- In-person events, before- and after-school programming, field trips, and other gatherings are now permitted based on building plans and protocols.
- Some events may continue to be offered in a hybrid or fully virtual format.



ATHLETICS

- BCPS will continue to comply with all guidelines published by the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA), Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Interim Guidance for Athletics, and the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS).



POSITIVE CASE RESPONSE PROCEDURES

- **The families of those identified by the school as having been potentially exposed will be alerted and asked to continue monitoring for symptoms—they are no longer required to quarantine unless symptoms arise.** If symptoms develop, the individual should remain home and consider completing a COVID-19 test or contacting a family physician for guidance.
- In accordance with guidance from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) the District will continue to update its website with school-associated cases within 24 hours of being informed by the local Health Department.



POSITIVE CASE ISOLATION REQUIREMENTS

- We continue to recommend the CDC's most recent guidelines regarding isolation and precautions. For the most up-to-date information, please visit the CDC's website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/>