



New Berlin CUSD #16
Safe Return to Learn Plan*
July 21, 2022

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Updated October 20, 2021
Reviewed and Updated February 17,
2022 **Complete Update July**
21, 2022

This updated plan supersedes all prior COVID-19 plans adopted by New Berlin CUSD #16. **All New Berlin schools will be open fully for in-person learning for all student attendance days for the 2022-23 school year.** Information below was taken from IDPH & ISBE Joint Summary of CDC's Operational Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in Schools.

Mask Use

There is no requirement currently in place mandating masks in schools or on school buses. Wearing a [well-fitting mask](#) consistently and correctly reduces the [risk of spreading the virus](#) that causes COVID-19. Universal indoor mask use is recommended at a high COVID-19 Community Level. Anyone who chooses to wear a mask should be supported in their decision to do so at any COVID-19 Community Level, including low. At a medium COVID-19 Community Level, persons who are immunocompromised, at high risk for severe disease or have household or social contacts at high risk for severe disease, are to talk to their healthcare provider about whether they need to wear a mask. At a high COVID-19 Community Level, universal masking indoors in public, regardless of vaccination status is encouraged but not required. Persons who are immunocompromised are encouraged to wear a mask or respirators that provide protection. Masks continue to be federally required in healthcare settings and for healthcare personnel including school nurse's offices.

Physical Distancing

Physical distancing measures are to be done in an equitable manner that does not perpetuate academic, racial, or other tracking (e.g., separating people into fully vaccinated and non-fully vaccinated cohorts) and so that it does not exclude students from full day in-person learning.

Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette

School staff will monitor and reinforce frequent handwashing and respiratory etiquette by

- continuing to teach handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds;
- assisting young children with handwashing;
- reminding everyone in the facility to wash hands frequently;
- using hand sanitizer when handwashing is not possible;
- continuing to teach respiratory etiquette (e.g., covering coughs and sneezes).

Facility Cleaning, Disinfection and Ventilation

School teaching staff, custodial staff and transportation staff will continue to clean surfaces daily, and between classes/routes to the extent possible. To further reduce the risk of spreading infection, these staff will also use disinfectants to disinfect spaces occupied by someone who tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 24 hours. Maintenance staff will continue to regularly replace school ventilation system filters. In addition, staff can use child-safe fans, and have activities, classes, or lunches outdoors when circumstances allow.

Transportation

School transportation will be offered to all students. To assist parents who are driving to work and want to transport their own child/ren, each school building will be open at 7:35 am for parent drop off. Each principal will communicate instructions and procedures for drop off locations.

Contact Tracing in Combination with Isolation and Quarantine

New Berlin Schools employs two school nurses to assist with student health needs. Students and staff who have symptoms of infectious illness or COVID-19, should stay home and contact their healthcare provider for testing and care. Staying home when sick can lower the risk of

spreading infectious diseases, including the virus that causes COVID-19, to other people. For more information on staying home when sick with COVID-19, including recommendations for mask use for people experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19, see [Quarantine and Isolation](#).

Universal case investigation and [contact tracing](#) are no longer recommended for COVID-19. If a student/employee tests positive for COVID-19, they must stay home for a minimum of 5 days after the first day of symptoms or the specimen collection date from positive viral test for asymptomatic persons. Individuals may return to school after five days if asymptomatic or if fever-free without fever reducing medication for 24 hours, diarrhea/vomiting have ceased for 24 hours, and other symptoms have improved, and any coughing has significantly subsided. The updated ISBE/IDPH guidance provides that individuals may return after 5 days if they have consistent masking upon return. Based on the current state of litigation, individuals will be encouraged to wear a mask and, to the extent possible, maintain 6 feet apart when eating/mask off.

Student absences related to COVID-19 isolation or quarantine will be recorded as an excused absence. To ensure the continuity of services, school work missed during such an absence can be requested and made up in accordance with the school's policy; social, emotional, mental health, or other needs will be provided in accordance with a student's IEP or 504 plan should contact their child's principal to discuss needs.

The updated guidance from ISBE/IDPH provides that unvaccinated close contacts should quarantine for five days and mask for an additional 5 days and fully vaccinated individuals should wear a mask for 10 days after exposure. However, it is our legal opinion that schools should not implement mandatory exclusion for asymptomatic individuals or require masks at this time.

Collaboration with Public Health Officials

District officials will continue to collaborate and consult with the Sangamon County Health Department officials throughout a pandemic on various logistics and decision-making including, but not limited to, quarantines, school health and safety protocols, screening testing, contact tracing, vaccine clinics, and emergency school closings.

Diagnostic Testing

If supplies are available, New Berlin Schools will offer voluntary diagnostic testing which is intended to identify current infection in individuals and should be performed on anyone that has signs and symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and/or following recent known or suspected exposure to the virus that causes COVID-19. Schools and ECE programs can promote and offer [diagnostic testing](#) for people with symptoms of COVID-19 or who came into close contact with someone with COVID-19. If people who have COVID-19 are identified early and isolated at home, schools and ECE programs can help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Choice of viral [tests](#) can include laboratory-based testing, [point-of-care](#) rapid testing, or [self-testing](#).

Promoting Vaccination

Students will be required to meet health, dental, and vision examinations as required by state law. New Berlin Schools promotes staying up to date with all routine vaccinations. The school nurses will offer the annual flu vaccination clinic in October. Respectful of peoples' varying levels of vaccine confidence, those who want to get vaccinated against COVID-19 can visit [vaccines.gov](#) to find out where they can get vaccinated in our community.

Disabilities or Other Health Care Needs

Parents of students who need accommodations, modifications, or assistance related to COVID-19 safety protocols, disabilities, underlying medical conditions, or weakened immune systems should contact their student's case manager and/or SASED Administrator to discuss the need(s).

Staff members who need accommodations, modifications, or assistance related to COVID-19 safety protocols, disabilities, underlying medical conditions, weakened immune systems, or a sincerely held religious belief or practice (covered by Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964) should contact their school's principal to discuss the need(s). Staff members with weakened immune systems are advised to contact their healthcare professional about the need for continued personal protective measures after vaccination.

Continuity of Services and Other Student Needs Students' Academic Needs

All students will return to school five (5) days a week of in-person instruction. All students must meet all graduation and statutory requirements for curriculum (i.e. Constitution examination). For students with medical issues that require them to remain home for a non-quarantined longer period of time, that student would be eligible under Section 14-13.01(a) of the School Code. School Code indicates that services are to be provided when a homebound or hospitalized student is unable to attend school due to a condition certified by a medical statement that indicates that the student will or is anticipated, due to the student's medical condition, to be out of school for a minimum of 10 days of school with at least two days at a time multiple times during the school year for two weeks or more or on an "ongoing intermittent basis," which are expected to total 10 days or more. The required paperwork is available from each building principal.

Students' and Staff Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs

The district employs two district social workers. They will address issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Families have been asked to provide appropriate information to the school to help identify where mental health is needed for individual students. The district has a partnership with Lincoln Prairie Behavioral Health Center. Additional support may be made available through reference to an outside agency partner. For employees, the district has an Employee Assistance Program.

In addition to these resources, Safe2Help Illinois is available to students and parents. This is a safe and confidential way to report any student safety concerns. The Helpline can be accessed by calling 844-472-3345, texting SAFE2, or emailing HELP@Safe2HelpIL.com.

The National Suicide Prevention Hotline is available 24 hours a day for any person that is in a suicidal or emotional distress. Call 800-273-8255 to connect with a crisis center.

Food Services

Food service program will continue to offer breakfast and lunch to all students in accordance with USDA.

Plan Review

Through September 30, 2024, this plan will be reviewed no less frequently than every six months and revised as appropriate after seeking and considering public input. Revisions will

address the most recently updated safety recommendations by the CDC, provided in an alternative format accessible to parents who are individuals with a disability as defined by the ADA, and made publicly available on the district's website.