



**New Berlin CUSD #16**  
**Safe Return to Learn Plan\***  
**July 20, 2024**

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**\*Required by the American Rescue  
Plan Act - (ESSER III)/Required by  
ISBE through September 30, 2024**

**Original Plan Approved July 15, 2021  
Updated August 19, 2021  
Updated September 23, 2021  
Updated October 20, 2021  
Reviewed and Updated February 17, 2022  
Complete Update July 21, 2022  
Reviewed February 16, 2023  
Complete Update July 20, 2023  
Reviewed January 17, 2024  
**Complete Update July 18, 2024****

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 2024 - 25 school year just like the past two school years.** Information below was taken from CDC and IDPH in the summer of 2023 and contains updates based on the public health emergency declaration expiring on May 11, 2023.

### **Mask Use**

There is no requirement currently in place mandating masks in schools or on school buses.. Anyone who chooses to wear a mask should be supported in their decision to do so. 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.

Due to the public health emergency declaration expiring on May 11, 2023, national reporting of certain categories of COVID-19 public health surveillance data (community transmission levels) is discontinued as well as masking requirements in healthcare settings, including school nurses 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. 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 7:40 am for parent drop off. Each principal will communicate instructions and procedures for drop off locations.

### **Student Absences**

New Berlin Schools employs two school nurses to assist with student health needs. Students and staff who have symptoms of any infectious illness, including COVID-19, should refer to the student handbook and stay home if applicable. They should contact a healthcare provider if concerned that testing and/or treatment are needed. 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, please consult with your physician and/or the IDPH website:

Student absences will be related to COVID-19 isolation or quarantine will be recorded as an excused absence and may require a doctor's note in accordance with the student handbook.. 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 on exposure to COVID-19 is to follow the CDC's recommendations at [CDC Guidance](#)

### **Collaboration with Public Health Officials**

District officials will continue to collaborate and consult with the Sangamon County Health Department officials when questions arise.

### **Diagnostic Testing**

For no-cost COVID- 19 testing, please consult the IDPH/CDC website at <https://testinglocator.cdc.gov/Search>.

### **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 <https://www.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 are to be in-person five (5) days a week. 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 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](mailto: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 to nine 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.