

Plan for the Reopening Of Bland County Public Schools

In Response to COVID-19

July 15, 2020

INTRODUCTION

On March 13, 2020, Virginia's governor closed all public and private schools throughout the Commonwealth in response to the spread of COVID-19. With this announcement, our dedicated faculty, staff and administrators developed and implemented new methods, procedures and routines to ensure the continuity of learning for our students as we completed the 2019-2020 school year remotely.

Over the past few weeks, task force teams have been diligently working to develop a plan for reopening Bland County Public Schools (BCPS). This document is intended to provide information concerning the health, safety, academics and instruction at BCPS. We hope this document is a helpful resource. To stay updated on the most recent information, please visit our district webpage (www.bland.k12.va.us) and follow our Bland County Public Schools Facebook page.

As a reminder, please note that this plan is current, but information concerning COVID-19 is constantly changing. For this reason, this plan may be revised and updated. Please contact your school or the School Board office with questions or concerns about the content of this plan.

SECTION 1: HEALTH & SAFETY OF STUDENTS, STAFF & VISITORS

PHASES AND TIMELINES

BCPS will follow The Phase Guidance for Virginia Schools as communicated by the governor concerning the implementation and timelines of the phases. This information will be communicated to employees, students and parents before implementation.

GUIDANCE IF EXPOSED TO COVID-19

If you or someone you have been in close contact with has been exposed to the virus, please do the following as recommended by the CDC.

1. Self-quarantine in a specific area away from others in your home.
2. Contact your healthcare provider, BCPS Human Resources (employees only) and your immediate supervisor (employees only).
3. Your supervisor will co-ordinate with BCPS Human Resources to determine the next appropriate action.
4. In case of an emergency, call 911



SOCIAL DISTANCING

Social distancing has been scientifically proven to be an effective means to prevent the spread of infection. All BCPS employees, students, parents and visitors must practice social distancing by staying 6 feet away from each other whenever possible. Physical contact with others should be discouraged.

Each school will develop a plan for traffic flow throughout the building by marking the office, hallways, cafeteria and other communal area floors to maintain social distancing.

Social distancing will be practiced in the classrooms. Students will be arranged so that they are 6 feet apart. In instances where 6 feet social distancing cannot be followed, masks will be required.



PERSONAL WORKSPACES AND CLASSROOMS

All employees should disinfect their personal workspaces throughout the day as needed paying special attention to areas that are most likely to be touched.

BCPS will have alcohol-based hand sanitizer available throughout the schools. Cleaning sprays and disinfecting wipes will also be available. Teachers and staff clean frequently touched objects and surfaces workspaces/classrooms daily. Custodians will clean and disinfect during designated cleaning times as well.

SHARED WORKSPACES

Access to shared workspaces such as the office, conference rooms, and copy rooms will be limited and social distancing guidelines will be followed at all times. Signs will be posted indicating capacity.

SIGNAGE

Each school will display CDC signage promoting safety measures related to COVID-19.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

BCPS employees will utilize PPE to minimize exposure to COVID-19. This may include and is not limited to:

- Face masks and face shields
- Gloves

Teachers, staff and students will be required to wear a mask if they must be closer than 6 feet.

In addition to practicing social distancing and utilizing PPE, everyone should remember to practice the following preventive measures as well.

- Wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol when hand washing is not an option.
- Use a tissue to cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze or cough/sneeze into the inside of your elbow.



EMPLOYEE SCREENING AND PROTOCOLS

All BCPS employees will be required to complete a self-screening daily to hopefully reduce the risk of exposure and help prevent the spread of COVID-19. This self-screening will include a temperature reading and an evaluation of the following symptoms:

- Known contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19
- Temperature of 100 degrees or higher/Feeling feverish
- Coughing
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills and/or shaking with chills
- Muscle Pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Loss of taste and/or smell
- Diarrhea

TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

BCPS will discontinue staff travel to conferences, workshops and other professional development activities until further notice unless pre-approved by the Superintendent.

TRANSPORTATION



BUS PROTOCOLS

- Bus drivers must disinfect the bus immediately following the morning route and disinfect again immediately following the afternoon route.
- Bus drivers will monitor students to ensure they are in the correct assigned seat and are compliant with all bus rules.
- Students will be given an assigned seat and must sit in that seat only.
- Students who are living in the same household will be assigned to sit together.
- Students who do not follow bus rules may be suspended from riding the bus.
- Students are encouraged to wear a face covering when they are riding the bus.
- Masks will be necessary when social distancing cannot be maintained.

HEALTH PROTOCOL

- If an employee becomes sick at work or is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 while at work, the employee will be asked to go home or go to the nearest health center.
- If a student becomes sick at school or is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, the school nurse will notify the parent to pick up the student. The student will be isolated with supervision in a designated area until the parent arrives to pick up the child.
- Employees who are returning to work from an approved medical leave should contact Human Resources. Employees may be asked to submit a healthcare provider's note before returning to work.
- If an employee is diagnosed with COVID-19, the employee may return to work only when the following criteria are met:
 1. At least 3 days (72 hours) has passed since recovery from COVID-19 with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications.
 2. A minimum of 14 days has passed since the diagnosis of COVID-19 or the employee has a healthcare provider's note releasing the employee to return to work.

FACILITIES CLEANING AND DISINFECTION

The safety and health of our students, employees and visitors will be our first priority as we return to school. Schools will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before school opens and we will continue to follow necessary safety precautions and strategies during the school year. General cleaning and disinfecting measures will be followed daily.

OTHER BCPS REOPENING SCHOOL GUIDELINES

Safety Measures	Daily Practices	Students & Parents
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will be socially distanced in the classrooms (6 feet). When 6 feet social distancing cannot be maintained, masks must be worn. • Locker use will be limited. • Floor social distancing decals will be placed in areas that can become congested (nurse's office, main office, etc.). • Water fountains will not be used. If available, bottle filling stations may be used following posted guidelines. • Classrooms will have no communal areas. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Teachers will remove rugs, beanbags, and other fabric items from their classrooms. • Students will not share classroom items (scissors, glue, manipulatives, books, etc.). • All faculty and staff should leave the building by 4:30 pm for cleaning/disinfecting purposes. • Principals should limit the faculty and staff access to the building after hours. • Faculty and staff are not allowed to have personal deliveries made to the school. • Teachers and staff will not be allowed to order food deliveries or leave school during the day to purchase lunch when students are in the building. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morning arrival: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ All students will be health screened (students who refuse will be sent home). ◦ Students will report directly to their first assigned class. ◦ Teachers will need to be in their rooms to supervise students' arrival (each school administrator will assign times). • Each school will create a plan to dismiss students in small groups to report to busses, parent pick-up, or their vehicles. • Breakfast & lunch will be eaten in assigned areas. • Students may pack their lunch. • Elementary students will not change classes, teachers will. • In middle and high school, class changes, if unavoidable, will be staggered to limit the number of students in the hallways. • Physical Education teachers will plan activities in which social distancing can be maintained. Equipment will not be shared among students. • Nurse visits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Teacher assess student's needs before requesting the school nurse to come to the classroom. ◦ Teachers will be provided strategies to reduce trips to the nurse's office. ◦ Bandages and other acceptable items will be provided to teachers to limit visits to the nurse's office. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitor access to the building will be restricted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ No classroom volunteers ◦ No parent lunch with students ◦ No guest speakers ◦ No use of facilities by any outside group/organization • To check-out students during the school day, parents should call the school office upon arrival at the school. Office staff will escort students outside and obtain the parent's signature. • To drop-off items for students, parents should contact the office and a staff member will meet them at the main entrance. • Meetings with parents/guardians will be arranged through the office • Students who do not follow the school's health and safety or procedural guidelines in the building or on busses, will be referred to administration. • Students will not be allowed to ride a bus other than their assigned bus. • If a student misses his assigned in-person school days, he is not allowed to attend on another unassigned day. • There will be no school dances, pep rallies, or other gatherings until further notice. • There will be no field trips until further notice. • Schools will conduct on-line fundraisers only. Students will not be asked to sell anything in person

SECTION 2: ACADEMICS AND INSTRUCTION

DISTANT AND HYBRID INSTRUCTION FOR LEARNING

BCPS will provide every student in Pre-K through 12th grade a device to use at school and at home. Preschool and Kindergarten students will be issued an iPad and students in 1st grade – 12th grade will be issued a Chromebook. If a student does not have internet, lessons and activities can be uploaded to devices or provided on a thumb drive for access at home. Teachers will be utilizing Google Suites, Virtual Virginia and other learning programs to provide instruction.

Hybrid Learning: Under Phase 3 Guidelines, BCPS is planning on beginning the school year with Hybrid Learning.

Students will be placed in Group A or Group B and will follow the schedule below. Students in Group A will attend school on Monday and Tuesday and students in Group B will attend school on Thursday and Fridays. Students who reside in the same household will attend school on the same days. Teachers will provide instruction on the days the students are in the buildings and then provide appropriate assignments for students to complete on the days they are not in school.

STUDENT SCHEDULES FOR HYBRID LEARNING

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<u>GROUP A</u> IN-PERSON LEARNING	<u>GROUP A</u> IN-PERSON LEARNING	<u>GROUP A</u> REMOTE LEARNING	<u>GROUP A</u> REMOTE LEARNING	<u>GROUP A</u> REMOTE LEARNING
<u>GROUP B</u> REMOTE LEARNING	<u>GROUP B</u> REMOTE LEARNING	<u>GROUP B</u> REMOTE LEARNING	<u>GROUP B</u> IN-PERSON LEARNING	<u>GROUP B</u> IN-PERSON LEARNING
		TEACHER WORKDAY		
		DISINFECTING OF SCHOOLS		

Distance Learning: If BCPS would have to close and transition to distance learning again, students will take their devices home. Teachers will provide at-home lessons on the devices. If a student does not have internet access at home, the school will make arrangements with the parents to bring the devices to the schools for weekly downloads of at-home lessons.

Parents will have the option of choosing to begin the school year with distance learning instead of hybrid learning. Please contact the office at your child's school to sign up for this option.

*Please note: It is possible that the entire school system may need to return to distance learning depending upon factors and conditions of COVID-19.

INSTRUCTIONAL EQUITY

INSTRUCTIONAL GAPS: Assessments will be given in August and September to determine learning gaps for students. Teachers will use data from these assessments to plan remediation and new instruction.

- Elementary students will have Title 1 support for grades K-6 in math and reading. Students in grades K-3 will also have PALS support for reading.
- Middle/High School students will have daily remediation opportunities built into all classes.

PACING: Pacing guides will need to be adjusted to accommodate for the hybrid learning schedule. Consideration will also need to be given to integrate a review of previous grade level content during the recent school closure. Formative assessments should be given to adjust pacing and instruction as needed.

SPECIAL EDUCATION/504: Special education teachers, parents and other members of the IEP team and 504 process must work together to meet the needs of these students by providing accessibility and continuity of services for students with disabilities during hybrid and distance learning.

GRADING

Students will be required to complete assignments and participate in class and virtual activities to receive credit /grades. Due to the five month “gap” in learning, teachers should be sure that students are provided multiple, differentiated opportunities to master content as needed.

ATTENDANCE

Participation in school, regardless of whether it is in-person, hybrid or distance learning is required. Attendance is important and will be monitored. It is the responsibility of the parent to notify the school if a student is unable to participate for any reason.

Hybrid Learning:

After 5 unverified absences, school administration will attempt to make contact with the parent/guardian and develop a plan to address the issue.

After 10 unverified absences, school administration will refer the student to for truancy.

Distance Learning:

After 5 days of no interaction, school administration will attempt to make contact with the parent/guardian and develop a plan to address the issue. Interaction is defined as failure to turn in assignments, participate in Google Meets or other online activities, and respond to communication from the teacher(s).

After 10 days of no interaction, school administration will refer the student for truancy.



EVAUALTION OF REOPENING PLAN

BCPS will continue to monitor and utilize guidance from the following resources to adjust this plan as new information becomes available.

- Center for Disease Control and Prevention
- Virginia Department of Education
- Virginia Department of Health
- Local and Regional Health Officials
- Virginia High School League

The plan will also be reevaluated at the end of the first nine weeks and adjustments will be made as necessary.

We thank you for your support and understanding as we navigate these difficult times. We look forward to working with you to provide the best education possible for our students.