

Bainville School District

Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

Date of Adoption of Declaration of Emergency and accompanying plan of return: August 12, 2020 and again December 9, 2020

Revision/ Revisit Dates: September 9, 2020; October 14, 2020; November 11, 2020; December 9, 2020; January 13, 2021; February 10, 2021; March 10, 2021; April 14, 2021; May 12, 2021

SAFETY MEASURES

The District is taking the following measures to safely provide in-person instruction, including consideration of guidance by the CDC and state and local health officials as follows: These safety measures were in effect for the 20-21 school year and will continue as needed in the 21-22 school year.

Please see the matrix of options developed by the District that allows the district to move column by column or item by item to address necessary responses to COVID 19 as circumstances require as well as other documents on this site developed for the 20-21 school year to insure a safe return to to in-person instruction.

Universal and correct wearing of masks

Bainville Public School provided masks for all staff and students and kept a posting of when masks had to be worn as provided by the local health department as directed by the State of Montana. For the 21-22 School year there is no mask mandate, so school will begin without masks unless and until they are mandated. Then the previously designed protocol will be followed.

Physical Distancing

Changes were made to class schedules, lunch schedules, breakfast schedules, recess schedules and seating (wherever possible) to insure physical distancing and limit congregate eating or playing. Seating on buses was done by family to aid in physical distancing between student families. For the 21-22 school year, strict physical distancing guidelines will be relaxed, but the district is prepared to return to them if necessary following County Health Regulations. Guests, including parents, were not allowed into the building during the 20-21 school year. All delivery and pick up of students was done outside the building.

Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette

Hand sanitizer was available in every classroom, in strategic places around the school premises, as students lined up for breakfast and lunch, and left from breakfast and lunch and as students entered/left the building. Students (including high school and junior high) were given time to wash their hands before eating. for the 21-22 school year, these cleaning routines and access to sanitizer will remain.

Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities (including improving ventilation)

The HVAC system had been updated just two years ago to allow for fresh air makeup. That system was closely monitored to ensure fresh air was always entering the b building.

The district also switched to air and contact cleaners that were approved to address the COVID-19 virus. Additionally, plexiglass was installed in the kitchen area between the services and the students, and in the office between staff and students/teachers and severely limited guests in the building. For the 21-22 school year the windows are being replaced in the building so the HVAC and fresh air makeup work properly. Cleaning will continue as designed last year. Guests will be readmitted to the buildings, but still on a limited basis.

Contact Tracing

All students/staff who were known to have been tested or tested positive for COVID 19 were referred to the proper health department for contact tracing. Schools aided in providing phone numbers and names where necessary. For the 21-22 school year contact tracing will continue as needed.

Diagnostic and Screening Testing

All teachers were provided with thermometers in their classrooms to screen students for temperatures. Those that tested positive were sent to the office for follow up screening and for isolation until their parents could pick them up if necessary. Information for COVID 19 testing options were provided to parents/staff when necessary. This will continue for the 21-22 school year with updated information for staff and students as necessary.

Vaccinations

The district shared with parents through regularly established communication and Facebook opportunities for vaccination clinics. The district did cooperate with the local health department in exploring on site vaccination clinics at the school. This will continue for the 21-22 school year with updated information for staff and students as necessary.

Accommodating Students with Disabilities

The District will provide accommodations to its policies for students with disabilities as determined appropriately based upon the individual student needs and in accordance with an individual accommodation plan or individualized education plan. Students requiring accommodations should contact Principal Rhiannon Beery to request information on plans for students with disabilities.

CONTINUITY OF SERVICES

The District will provide for continuity of services as follows:

Student Academic Needs

Students all met in person during the 2020-2021 school year except for a very limited number who opted to have off-site schooling and those in quarantine who were offered remote access to classes. Those in remote schooling were supervised by the Principal and assigned teachers. Those meeting in person were

provided their education by their regular teachers. For the 21-22 school year, all students will meet in person. If necessary, remote access will again be provided to those students in quarantine.

Student Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs

Students were given generous sick days (10 per semester) so no student felt pressured to be in school. Students met with counselors as needed, as assigned, and in the classroom on a regularly scheduled basis. Students also had additional access to the principal to address social, emotional and mental health needs. Curriculum was modified to address the needs that arose in the students. For the 21-22 school year a new curriculum has been purchased that specifically addresses social, emotional and mental health needs of students K-12. Expanded counseling opportunities will again be

Other Student Needs (which may include student health and food services)

Food services stretched its serving time to allow for smaller groups of students/teachers to gather. 7-12 students were given an option for breakfast after the bell. Recesses were done in smaller groups of students to eliminate big groups of students outside at one time. Playground equipment was sanitized as were balls, jump ropes, etc. For the 20-21 school year recess will return to a more traditional format, with the option to move to smaller groups if necessary based on advice from the County Health Department.

Staff Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs

Staff were provided with monthly gifts, fund days, or quizzes to aid in stress relief. Teachers could use up to 10 days of vacation leave and up to 10 days of sick leave during the year. Teachers on quarantine were not required to use their leave if they chose to teach their classes remotely. The district paid for a proctor in the room and teachers on quarantine were allowed to teach from home. For the 21-22 school year additional special events will be planned.

Other Staff Needs

The kitchen staff was provided with another person to help in serving, disinfecting, and cleanup. The cleaning staff were provided with new tools to improve both the time spent cleaning and the efficacy of the cleaning.

PUBLIC INPUT

The District reviewed the plan monthly at each board meeting, taking into consideration special circumstances, events, or problems that needed input or change. The initial Declaration of Emergency for the 20-21 school year went from August through December 31, 2020. The board renewed that Declaration at the December board meeting, leaving the return plan in place through June 30, 2021. The board provided for public input both during public discussion and also through comment on the specific agenda item both during the adoption of the Declaration of Emergency and also each month during the revisiting of the COVID Plan discussion. Currently there is no plan for a Declaration of Emergency for the upcoming school year, but the District is ready to do so if needed.