

Blackfoot School District #55 Together We Overcome

Safe Return to In-person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan Narrative:

Parents, Patrons, Staff and Students,

Due to the Covid pandemic requiring school closure and strategies to avoid spreading the virus, the Blackfoot School District has identified areas of student academic needs. Poor attendance and inconsistent online learning participation created skill-based gaps for many students. Additionally, accessibility and inconsistent attendance were issues for some learners. While the district made every effort to meet academic needs, not all students found success with online learning or hybrid learning. To meet the needs of these learners, the district will be offering summer school and after-school programming for the 2021-2022 school year.

Students' social/emotional learning and mental health are also priorities for the Blackfoot School District. The BHS Dean of Students is coordinating the Sources of Strength SEL program in secondary schools. Sources of Strength is a strength-based, comprehensive wellness program using trained peer leaders.

Even before the pandemic, the district recognized the importance of staff social/emotional and mental health and has been providing multiple professional development programs regarding personal self-care, including book studies and speakers, such as Jamie Vollmer, Donna Beagle, Sam Glenn, Gerry Brooks, Christian Moore, and Timothy Kanold have presented sessions to all district employees. Additionally, new teachers have an experienced mentor to help guide them through their first year.

During the 2020-2021 school year, the Blackfoot School District scheduled vaccination clinics for all district employees. Three clinics were conducted at the Blackfoot Performing Arts Center collaboratively with Bingham Health Care.

The district tries to anticipate the needs of our students, staff, and schools. No student of the Blackfoot School District will be discriminated against based upon ethnicity, gender, color, disability, language, national origin, or age. Barriers that may eliminate equitable access will be eliminated, including limited English abilities and special needs students. All sites meet all handicap accessible requirements by law. Blackfoot School District will consistently monitor equitable access opportunities continually to ensure that the law is followed.

This plan will be updated every six months by meaningful consultation with stake holders and allowing the public an opportunity to provide input into the continuity of services. Please do us the favor of ensuring your contact information, email address and phone numbers, are accurate. We will do our very best to keep everyone informed.

Regardless of the risk level within our community and schools, we would ask everyone to follow basic personal preventative measures.

Board Approved: March 15, 2023

Timeline for a Safe Return: (See appendix)

The Blackfoot School District developed a Covid Response Plan in 2020. The original plan and the new Safe Return to In-person Instruction follows the established timeline:

- Stage 01, July and January – create a revised draft plan based on current Back to School plan.
- Stage 02, August and February – gather meaningful community input from stakeholders.
- Stage 03, September and March – revise draft plan based upon stakeholder input.
- Stage 04, October and April – plan available for public input through school newsletters, on website, and FACEBOOK.
- Stage 05, November and May – plan approved by the board and reviewed every six months.

Stages of Community Risk

The Blackfoot School District will consult with Southeastern Idaho Public Health (SIPH) to monitor the potential for community transmission within our community and our schools. SIPH has established a metrics of criteria to help establish and monitor the potential risk level within our county and community. The specific criteria of the metrics can be accessed through the following link:

<https://www.siphidaho.org/psa/2020/jul/COVID-19-Regional-Response-Plan-adopted-by-BOH-07232020.pdf>

Welcome Back! The Blackfoot School District's Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan.

**Blackfoot School
District #55**



**Together We
Overcome**

The Blackfoot School District is excited to welcome back students and staff. This plan outlines the district's response to the risk level of Bingham County and/or the Blackfoot community as identified by Southeastern Idaho Public Health. Due to concerns regarding COVID-19, the Blackfoot School District is taking various measures to ensure student and staff safety, while still providing a strong educational experience. This plan also identifies various protocols and initiatives that will be used by the district in response to COVID-19.

Overall Goal

The overall goal of our plan is to eliminate barriers and provide a high-quality educational experience for all students.

Guiding Statements

The following statements outline the district's guiding principles. These principles emphasize the district's core interests and facilitated the development of this plan:

- We will ensure all students have a meaningful connection with adults and teachers.
- We will provide support for our families to provide them with the skills and tools they need to support their children.
- We will follow the applicable guidance from the federal, state, and local levels to promote student and staff safety.
- We will respect and honor flexibility to support students and their families.

District-Level Expectations

District-Level Practices We Encourage:

- The latest sanitization guidelines from Southeastern Idaho Public Health.
- When required, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for staff and students and when available to promote student and staff safety.
- When required, social distancing of students and large groups to the greatest extent possible in our schools.
- Education of students, staff, and families on the appropriate expectations to maximize the health and safety of all.

District-Level Practices We Discourage:

- Students and staff from coming to school or work when ill.

Staged Plans

Minimal Risk Level – Evidence of isolated cases within the school setting.

Traditional Face-to-Face classes.

Moderate Risk Level – Widespread and/or sustained transmission within the school setting.

Traditional Face-to-Face classes.

High Risk Level – Large-scale community transmission, healthcare staffing significantly impacted, multiple cases within communal settings, and large-scale transmission within the school setting.

Traditional Face-to-Face classes with online classroom instruction. Face coverings will be strongly encouraged to be worn when proper social distancing is not possible. As determined by Board Policy #555, the School Board authorizes the superintendent to declare a short-term closure of a building, not to exceed three (3) school days, should the need arise due to either of the following criteria: 1) an inability to provide adequate instructional staff for the school building, or 2) the regional health department declares an “outbreak” to be occurring within a specific school building.

Critical Risk Level – Hospital capacity, including ICU, consistently at or above 100% and surge capacity cannot be maintained.

Traditional Face-to-Face classes, with limited student attendance (approximately 50%) Alternating daily schedule (grouping to be determined): 50% weekly attendance, **A-cohort attends Mondays and Wednesdays, B-cohort attends Tuesdays and Thursdays**, with a continued online learning option.

Confirmed COVID-19 case procedures

Any confirmed positive COVID-19 case will be encouraged to follow any and all recommendations given by their health care provider and/or Southeastern Idaho Public Health.

Close contact quarantine procedures

The district will not initiate the quarantine process until the district is set at the "Critical Risk" level. Should a specific building need to begin the quarantine process, the district administration will convene a special board meeting to review current local trends and school building trends. The Blackfoot School Board will vote to approve or disapprove the recommendation that a specific building begin the quarantine process.

Initiatives/Protocols to Assist with the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

- **Technology Refresh** – Each certified staff member will be in possession of an Apple laptop, each equipped with a webcam, to assist with online instruction. Each student 6th grade through 12th grade will be assigned and have access to an iPad. The majority of our curriculum comes with an online component which can be accessed via an internet connection. Each elementary school building (K – 5th) will have a ratio of 1 iPad for every 2 students.
- **Curriculum Adoption (current & past)** – Our most recent core curriculum adoptions (English Language Arts and Mathematics), include either consumable materials or online access to materials. For ELA and math, each of our elementary students will have their own personal workbook. **There will not be a need for students to share textbooks or workbooks to fully participate in learning.** Each elementary student, who maintains enrollment with the Blackfoot School District, even though our desire is to utilize the online learning approach, will receive curriculum workbooks to support their learning. Each secondary student, who maintains enrollment with the Blackfoot School District, will have access to a mobile device, an iPad, to assist with the online curriculum content.
- **Sanitation Stations** – With a portion of the District’s CARES funds, we have purchased 250 wall-mounted automatic hand sanitizer dispensers. Our intention is to have these dispensers mounted in each classroom, library, and cafeteria of our school buildings. The District also purchased 25 sanitation stand stations for the entrances at each school building.
- **Respiratory Hygiene/Cough Etiquette** – Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing, Use tissues and throw them away, and wash your hands or use a hand sanitizer every time you touch your mouth or nose
- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** – The Blackfoot School District acknowledges that PPE cannot eliminate the likelihood of COVID-19 transmission, however, the District does acknowledge proper PPE can substantially reduce the likelihood of widespread transmission. While the District does not feel it has the authority to mandate PPE (unless local governmental and health departments declare the mandate), we must acknowledge the possibility that some staff members and students who fit within the high-risk category will be in attendance within our schools. If the wearing of PPE is requested for this reason, we would ask all to respect this request. Such a request must be clearly communicated to all impacted families.
- **Facility Circulation and Ventilation** – Doors should be propped open before students enter and leave the classroom. When the weather permits, any windows should remain open to improve air flow. Should any building be placed in the “High Level” risk category, Building HVAC systems will remain operating throughout the day to provide air circulation. Filters for our HVAC systems will be replaced before the first day of school and will be rotated on the intervals recommended by the manufacturer.
- **Surface Cleaning** – Each school building is assigned a daytime custodian who will be tasked with cleaning high traffic areas and surfaces with the appropriate sanitation material. Desks will be routinely sanitized.
- **Scheduled Hand Washing Times** – Classrooms with the necessary equipment will schedule routine hand washing times. Elementary school with grades K-5th will schedule hand washing after any recess time.
- **Attendance Incentives** – Although the Blackfoot School District continues to support the need to be present in school as much as possible. Students are encouraged to stay at home if they are sick. **Attendance incentives will not be in place throughout this school year.** Attendance incentives may be revisited should enrollment-funding cease.
- **Excessive Absences** – After four (4) consecutive absences due to a medical issue, a note from a healthcare provider will be required to excuse additional consecutive absences.
- **Cafeteria** – No student servers will be allowed, if a school is identified at the “High Risk” level.

- **Assigned Seating** – Students may be given assigned seating in their classrooms.
- **Hallways/Passing time** – Students will be excused from class by the teacher in order to monitor hallway movement. Directional hallways may be utilized by school administrators.
- **Transportation** – Assigned seating may be used on school buses.
- **Extracurricular/Co-curricular Activities** – All such activities will be coordinated based on direction of the Idaho High School Activities Association and the plan adopted by the Blackfoot School District Board of Trustees.
- **Diagnosis Protocol** – Students who manifest documented COVID-19 symptoms will be asked to report to the office. After a discussion with the student, including possible questions such as:
 - How do you feel?
 - Do you have, or have you had within the last 24 hours, any cold or flu symptoms (including a cough, shortness of breath, or a fever) without the use of symptom reducing medication?
 - Are you living with someone who is sick or quarantined?

A temperature check via touchless thermometers will be conducted by the office staff. If a student displays a temperature in excess of 100.3 ° F the student will be placed in the designated sick room. The student’s parents will be contacted to retrieve the student from school.

- **Re-entry Criteria** – Due to issues with the timeliness and availability of testing, the re-entry criteria will be a symptoms-based strategy. The following criteria will be used for re-entry: 1) at least twenty-four (24) hours with no fever (and no fever reducing medication); 2) other symptoms are improving; 3) at least 5 days from symptom onset.
- **Social/Emotional Mental Health and Other Needs** – Sources of Strength SEL curriculum will be used in grades 7-12 along with counseling support being offered. Elementary schools grades K-6 use a variety of SEL curriculum materials under the direction of the school counselor. Child Nutrition through the 2021-2022 school year will continue to provide all students free breakfast and lunch. We also provide 6 elementary schools snacks through the FFVP program. Additional services and programs are provided through the Safe and Drug Free Schools services.
- **Staff SEL** – The district will continue to provide professional development opportunities to support social, emotional, and mental health of our staff.
- **Learning Loss-** Blackfoot School District recognizes the need for additional academic help and credit accrual opportunities for credit deficit and/or Tier II students.
 - K-6th Summer Jumpstart: August
 - EL/Migrant/Homeless Credit Accrual: June - July
 - Secondary Summer School Credit Recovery: June - August
 - Afterschool programming: September - March

Common Expectations

Everyone can:

- ✓ Stay home if you are sick
- ✓ Avoid using water fountain
- ✓ Follow all protocols associated with your role
- ✓ Follow Respiratory Hygiene/Cough Etiquette
- ✓ Wash/sanitize hands frequently

Administrators can:

- ✓ Provide and maintain substantial sanitization devices and products
- ✓ Identify an isolation/screening room
- ✓ Limit on-campus visitors to only parents and essential visitors
- ✓ Frequently post and communicate educational information

Teachers can:

- ✓ Assign student to a seating chart
- ✓ Take accurate daily attendance
- ✓ Ensure desks are sanitized when needed
- ✓ Schedule hand washing when appropriate
- ✓ Become familiar with, and possibly utilize, Google Classroom
- ✓ Become familiar with, and possibly utilize, the webcam of your laptop

Students can:

- ✓ Stay home if you are sick
- ✓ Stay in your assigned seating
- ✓ Attempt to stay up to date with your classes

Parents can:

- ✓ Keep your child(ren) home if they are ill, particularly if they are coughing or have a fever
- ✓ Keep your child(ren) home if you as a parent or caregiver have a severe cold or fever
- ✓ Ensure your child has a water bottle
- ✓ Support your child(ren) in staying up to date with their classes.

Coaches/Advisors can:

- ✓ Provide and maintain substantial sanitization devices and products
- ✓ Take accurate attendance at each activity
- ✓ Follow IHSA rules and regulations

If you have specific concerns or questions about the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan, please contact your building principal.

Donald D. Stalker Elementary – Anthony Peterson	petea@d55.k12.id.us	208-785-8841
Fort Hall Elementary – Debra Steele	steedebr@d55.k12.id.us	208-237-2207
Groveland Elementary – Brandee Hewatt	hewab@d55.k12.id.us	208-785-8829
I.T. Stoddard Elementary – Christine Silzly	silzc@d55.k12.id.us	208-785-8832
Irving Student Support Services – Lynette Carter	lynettec@d55.k12.id.us	208-785-8835
Ridge Crest Elementary – Doug Bitter	bittdoug@d55.k12.id.us	208-785-8894
Wapello Elementary – Matthew Noble	nobl matt@d55.k12.id.us	208-785-8844
Blackfoot Heritage Sixth Grade – Colin Folsom	folscc@d55.k12.id.us	208-785-8838
Mountain View Middle School – Wes Jensen	jensw@d55.k12.id.us	208-785-8820
Blackfoot High School – Roger Thomas	thomroge@d55.k12.id.us	208-785-8810
Independence High School – Josh Torngren	torng@d55.k12.id.us	208-785-8825