

Blackfoot School District #55

Together We Overcome

COVID-19 Response Plan

Parents, Patrons, Staff and Students,

The Blackfoot School District would like to express immense gratitude to each and every one of you for your support and patience throughout this extremely fluid situation. The sudden closure of our schools and the immediate transition to distance learning was, at best, uneven. However, there is no doubt in my mind our Bronco Bus Bites initiative was a tremendous success for a variety of reasons. We hope you will understand our response to COVID-19 will not be a black and white mandated approach, rather an offering of choices that will hopefully meet the needs of our students and their families. **We hope you will understand this is and will be a living document. This means depending on the evolution of the situation, this document could be adjusted with the approval of the Blackfoot School District Board of Trustees.**

Please understand, we cannot guarantee a germ-free environment, but we do plan to take steps to help minimize the amount and impact of close contact, less than six feet apart for more than 15 minutes, throughout the school day. This can only be accomplished with the support and cooperation of all stakeholders involved in the education of our children.

While we do our best to plan and anticipate the needs of our students, staff and schools, if there is one thing this current situation has taught us, it is our plans will likely change. Please do us the favor of ensuring your contact information, email address and phone numbers, are accurate. We anticipate the need to frequently communicate with our families regarding status changes as we progress through the school year. 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 which include:

- ✓ Stay at home if sick
- ✓ Maintain social distancing when possible
- ✓ Wear face coverings when social distancing is not possible
- ✓ Practice proper personal hygiene measures

Stages of Risk

The Blackfoot School District will work closely 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>

The Blackfoot School District has established the following guidelines and response to each of the different levels. Should a change in risk level occur, we will be notified by SIPH personnel, and we will communicate the transition to parents, students and staff.

Welcome Back! The Blackfoot School District's Reopening Plan for Fall 2020

**Blackfoot School
District #55**



**Together We
Overcome**

The Blackfoot School District is excited to welcome back students and staff for the fall of 2020. 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. While this plan does not identify responses on every aspect of the educational arena, we believe the identification of the main district level responses will provide parents, students, and staff the opportunity to prepare for the potential change in our community risk level. 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 reopening plan is to 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 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.
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for staff and students when appropriate and when available to promote student and staff safety.
- 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:

- Outside visitors and any unnecessary exposure to the public.
- Students and staff from coming to school or work when ill.
- Large gatherings of students or staff.
- Use of community areas, including water fountains, vending machines, and other hard to sanitize areas.

Staged Plans

Any movement to a different “Risk Level” by Southeastern Idaho Public Health must be ratified by the Blackfoot School Board of Trustees within one week.

Minimal Risk Level - Evidence of isolated cases, case investigations underway, no evidence of exposure in large communal setting.

Traditional Face-to-Face classes, with distance learning option (online classroom instruction or hard copy instructional packets)

Moderate Risk Level - Widespread and/or sustained transmission with high likelihood or confirmed exposure within communal settings, with potential for rapid increase in suspected cases.

Traditional Face-to-Face classes, with distance learning option (online classroom instruction or hard copy instructional packets). Face coverings will be strongly encouraged to be worn when proper social distancing is not possible.

High Risk Level - Large-scale community transmission, healthcare staffing significantly impacted, multiple cases within communal settings.

Traditional Face-to-Face classes, with distance learning option (online classroom instruction or hard copy instructional packets). 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, 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 distance learning option.

Confirmed COVID-19 case procedures

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

Close contact quarantine procedures

The Blackfoot School District strongly encourages the wearing of face coverings by students and staff when, and where, proper social distancing is not possible. The District Administration will take into consideration the wearing of a face covering when making decisions for the quarantine of identified close contacts. The District Administration will also share the preferred recommendation from Southeastern Idaho Public Health. The District Administration will follow the procedures below:

Did the close contact wear a face covering?	District recommended quarantine procedures for close contact
Yes	Self-monitor for symptoms & continue to wear face covering
No	Quarantine for 7-days since last exposure

Initiatives/Protocols to Assist with COVID-19 Response

- **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 adoption (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 their desire is to utilize our distance learning approach, will receive curriculum workbooks to support their distance 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. By the time school starts, the District will have over 125 gallons of hand sanitizer to be used in these devices. Once we have an accurate projection of the annual need for these devices, we will make the appropriate purchase.
- **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. We must also acknowledge there will arise some instances where proper social distancing is limited, therefore it will be expected for students and staff to wear face coverings for a short time.
- **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. 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 (between classes at the secondary level) by either sanitation wipes or spray.
- **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 before and 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, we acknowledge the need to ask some students to stay home when necessary in order to maintain a safe environment. Therefore, the District will be suspending all attendance incentives until such time these incentives can be safely supported.
- **Cafeteria** – No student servers will be allowed. Staggered lunch times will be utilized to reduce the capacity of cafeterias. While eating meals, students will be asked to all sit in a manner that has them facing the same direction (no face-to-face sitting at the same table).
- **Assigned Seating** – If students choose to ride a bus to and/or from school, assigned seating will be given. It is recommended that family members share the same seat. Students will be given assigned seating in their classrooms. Classrooms and/or grade levels will be given assigned seating in the cafeteria, so long as cafeterias are utilized for eating.
- **Hallways/Passing time** – It is encouraged for students to minimize the need to go to their lockers in between each class period. Backpacks will be allowed in the classroom to assist students in this request. 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 will be used on school buses. Siblings and/or household relations will be expected to sit together. A face covering is required by riders of 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.
- **Field Trips** – Until further notice, the Blackfoot School District will be postponing field trips.
- **Assemblies** – Until further notice, the Blackfoot School District will be postponing assemblies.
- **Diagnosis Protocol** – Students in grades K-5th will have a temperature check done each morning by their teacher. 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 three (3) days with no fever (and no fever reducing medication); 2) other symptoms are improving; 3) at least 7 days from symptom onset.

Common Expectations

Everyone can:

- ✓ Stay home if you are sick
- ✓ Limit the number of people with whom come in close contact
- ✓ Avoid using water fountain
- ✓ Follow all protocols associated with your role

Administrators can:

- ✓ Create protocols to minimize close contact
- ✓ Provide and maintain substantial sanitization devices and products
- ✓ Promote proper social distancing practices
- ✓ Suspend attendance incentives
- ✓ Identify an isolation/screening room
- ✓ Limit on-campus visitors to only parents and essential visitors
- ✓ Frequently post and communicate educational information

Teachers can:

- ✓ Implement daily diagnosis protocol
- ✓ Assign student to a seating chart
- ✓ Take accurate daily attendance
- ✓ Create protocols and classroom layout to improve social distancing protocol
- ✓ Ensure desks are sanitized when needed
- ✓ Schedule hand washing when appropriate
- ✓ Avoid use of circulated hard copies
- ✓ Become familiar with, and possibly utilize, Google Classroom
- ✓ Become familiar with, and possibly utilize, the webcam of your laptop
- ✓ Remind students to wear a face covering prior to loading the bus each afternoon

Students can:

- ✓ Stay home if you are sick
- ✓ When and where possible, practice proper social distancing
- ✓ Stay in your assigned seating
- ✓ When and where possible, strive to maintain cohort gatherings
- ✓ If you are quarantined and feeling well, 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
- ✓ Do not send children back to school until they have been symptom free, without the need for medication, for at least 24 hours
- ✓ 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
- ✓ Perform a temperature on your child(ren) each morning
- ✓ Support your child(ren) in staying up to date with their classes should they need to be quarantined
- ✓ Remind students to wear a face covering prior to loading the bus each morning

Coaches/Advisors can:

- ✓ Create protocols to help minimize close contact
- ✓ Provide and maintain substantial sanitization devices and products
- ✓ Promote proper social distancing practices
- ✓ Take accurate attendance at each activity

COVID-19 Response (FAQ)

What if someone in a building is confirmed to have COVID-19 by health professionals?

The District will work closely with Southeastern Idaho Public Health (SIPH) regarding the appropriate response. Each case will be evaluated independently. A number of factors will determine what is deemed the appropriate response by SIPH. The District will provide SIPH information regarding close contact interactions, which may include entire classrooms. Those identified as being in close contact with the infected individual will be required to follow the quarantine guidelines set forth by this plan. Specific locations where the infected individual occupied the building will be sanitized.

How can we limit “close contact”?

SIPH defines close contact as being within 6 feet for more than fifteen minutes. Assigned seating will be maintained in classrooms, lunchrooms and on buses. Limiting social interactions to a small and specific group of individuals will minimize close contact issues.

What if my child(ren) prefers to participate in distance learning or online learning provided by the Blackfoot School District?

In order to make appropriate arrangements, parents need to make contact with their building principal (see contact information below). The Blackfoot School District will utilize Google Classroom and Google Meets as the platform for our online classes.

For grade K – 6th, the Blackfoot School District will provide an online classroom for each grade level. The class will be facilitated by a local certified teacher. The classes will be designated to last 4 hours per day and will cover the core subjects of English language arts and mathematics. Exploratory instruction will also take place with the online setup.

For grades 7th – 12th, the Blackfoot School District will also provide an online classroom for the core subjects of English language arts, mathematics, social studies, and science. The classes will be designated to occur during the school day and last the length of a class period at the school. Secondary students will also be offered the opportunity to pursue credits via: Idaho Digital Learning Alliance (IDLA), PLATO Learning, ALEKS, or hard copy packets.

If demand is high, we may designate more teachers to facilitate online classes.

Will face coverings be required?

Everyone, we repeat EVERYONE, will be welcome to wear a face covering at school. We must acknowledge some of our students, teachers and their family members have situations which classify them into the high-risk category. Therefore, we support the reasonable expectation that a staff member require face coverings be worn in their classroom. We would ask all to respect that request. If a staff member requires a face covering to be worn by students, the staff member must clearly communicate that with the parents of any and all students impacted by the requirement.

If you have specific concerns about your child wearing a face covering or you prefer your child not wear a facemask, 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	silzcd@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	jensww@d55.k12.id.us	208-785-8820
Blackfoot High School – Roger Thomas	thomroge@d55.k12.id.us	208-785-8810
Independence High School – Mark Kartchner	kartm@d55.k12.id.us	208-785-8825

What if an employee chooses not to work due to COVID-19 or needs to care for a child with COVID-19?

Please do not perceive this statement as a lack of appreciation for our amazing staff members, nonetheless, employees will be required to meet the expectations of their job descriptions. Reasonable accommodations may be made. Please contact your supervisor/administrator if you need to request accommodations.

The ***Families First Corona Act*** establishes the following guidelines:

- ✓ If an employee is quarantined, the employee will receive 2 weeks paid leave at 100% pay.
- ✓ If an employee is caring for someone quarantined, the employee will receive 2 weeks paid leave at 66% pay.
- ✓ If an employee has to care for a child due to COVID-19 closures, the employee will receive up to an additional 10 weeks of paid leave at 66% pay.

What if a member of an extra-curricular group tests positive for COVID-19?

As mentioned previously, each reported case of a positive COVID-19 test will be handled on an individual basis. The District will work closely with Southeastern Idaho Public Health to address each issue. The District will work with the appropriate personnel to identify individuals who were in close contact with the infected individual. Those identified will likely be asked to self-quarantine for 14 days. There is a likelihood that the extra-curricular activity will be suspended for 14 days.

What if another school has team members who test positive for COVID-19?

The District will work closely with Southeastern Idaho Public Health to address the issue. Each reported case of a positive COVID-19 test will be handled on an individual basis.

How will we handle performances/practices/competitions if school is closed for a short period?

The District will work closely with Southeastern Idaho Public Health and the Idaho High School Activities Association to address each issue. There is a likelihood practices and competitions will be suspended for all who have been “in close contact”.

How will the District handle someone with flu or similar symptoms?

- Research identifies most of the symptoms of COVID-19 as flu-like symptoms. Individuals with these symptoms will be not allowed to be physically present at school until: 1) at least three (3) days with no fever (and no fever reducing medication); 2) other symptoms are improving; 3) at least 7 days from symptom onset.

How will we handle high risk staff and students?

Employees are eligible to use sick leave days, personal days, and the allocation of days provided by the *Families First Corona Act*. Employees are also eligible to request extended leave should the concern be long-term. The District will provide facemasks for all employees, as well as face shields for some employees. Employees will be expected to fulfill their job duties.

Students will have the option to receive their schooling via distance learning. The District will provide online classes for students who desire that option. The District can also provide curriculum content and packets to students who desire that option.

Will staff members be provided PPE?

The District is determined to provide the safest working environment possible within our current facilities. The District also acknowledges the need to provide basic PPE for each employee of the District. The District has procured enough 3-ply cloth reusable facemasks to provide each employee with multiple facemasks. Employees are welcome to bring and use their own PPE should they have a preference. The District has also procured 200 adult face shields. The priority for face shields will be, first high-risk employees, followed by elementary school employees (priority for the younger grades first, followed by each successive grade level) and finally secondary school and district employees. Employees with specific expectations of PPE should communicate those expectations through their direct supervisor/administrator.