

# Bellaire Public Schools

## 2021-2022 COVID-19 Safety Plan

It is the recommendation of the Superintendent, based on local, regional, state and national data, and under advisement by the Health Department of Northwest Michigan, that the Bellaire Public Schools implement the following safety protocols for the 2021-22 school year.

### Masks

- Masks are **strongly recommended but not required** for students, staff or visitors. Wearing a mask is a choice students/parents/staff can make when on Bellaire Public Schools' campuses. Administration will work to ensure a positive culture for those who continue to mask as well as for those who choose to not mask.
- **Masks remain mandatory on Bellaire Public Schools buses.** The CDC still requires that all persons, regardless of their vaccination status, wear masks on planes, buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation traveling into, within, or out of the United States and in US transportation hubs such as airports and stations.
- If COVID-19 cases increase regionally, or if there is an outbreak within our school community, masking **may** be reinstated. This decision will come from the Board with guidance from the Superintendent, the Health Department of Northwest Michigan, and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS).

### Vaccination

- COVID-19 vaccination is not currently mandated at the local, state or federal level.
- Staff and eligible students are encouraged to explore vaccinations against COVID-19 as a preventative measure, but these vaccinations are not presently a requirement to attend the Bellaire Public Schools

### COVID-19 Testing

- Neither the Bellaire Public Schools nor the Michigan High School Athletics Association (MHSAA) are mandating COVID-19 testing at this time.

### Cohort Grouping

- The Bellaire Public Schools is not requiring cohort grouping. Should cases appear at the elementary level, the district **may** resume moving students in cohort groups.
- All teachers will maintain assigned seating charts and have them available to administration if necessary for the purposes of contact tracing, should that be necessary.

### Social Distancing

- Social distancing for the purposes of preventing communicable diseases is encouraged, but will not be mandated or policed by the Bellaire Public Schools.

### Contact Tracing

- Guidance regarding close contacts, contact tracing and isolation/quarantine will be established by the Health Department of Northwest Michigan.
- The Bellaire Public Schools will follow any and all mandates, and will encourage practices recommended, by the Health Department of Northwest Michigan.

## Cleaning, Disinfecting & Sanitizing

- Enhanced cleaning, disinfecting and sanitizing protocols will remain in place in all Bellaire facilities and buses.
- Should the number of positive cases rise, additional mitigation measures **may** be implemented.

## Good Health Practices

- Bellaire Public Schools staff will continue to model appropriate hand-washing and health etiquette (i.e., covering coughs and sneezes, etc.).
- Bellaire Public Schools encourages parents to monitor the health of their children, including staying home if fever is present.
- If a student becomes ill at school (i.e., fever of  $\geq 100.4^{\circ}\text{F}$ , new uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing, vomiting, severe headache, etc.), parents or emergency contacts are expected to pick up the student in as expedient a manner as possible.
- Sick students must be symptom-free without medication for 24 hours before returning to school; students who return to school with lingering symptoms **may** be sent home.

## Visitors

- Visitors must have an appointment to enter the school buildings.
- Pickup and drop-off routines will remain the same as last year.

## Learning Options

- All K-12 students attending the Bellaire Public Schools will continue to do so in-person
- Families not comfortable sending their children back to school under the circumstances described above may withdraw from the district and either:
  - home school their children, or;
  - enroll their children in another district/organization offering an online/virtual option