



Safe ReOpening Plan for Bitney Prep High School

Adopted 8/10/2021

2021-22 School Year

COVID-19: Reopening for Bitney Prep High School for the 2021-22 School Year

Introduction and Overview

This document is designed to assist in a safer reopening for Bitney Prep High School for the 2021-2022 school year. We recognize the importance of returning students to school campuses for in-person instruction, as well as the overarching need to protect the health and safety of our students, school staff, and broader community. The goal of this document is to help BPHS plan for and implement measures to reduce COVID-19 transmission in the school setting, while meeting the educational needs of all students.

Education is an essential service in our community, and as such, the reopening of our school campus for in-person instruction with strict safety protocols should be prioritized. School closures magnify socioeconomic, racial, and other inequities among students. The students most impacted by school closures are those without access to technologies that facilitate distance learning, those whose parents comprise a disproportionate share of our community's essential workforce and may be less available to provide instructional support, and those with special needs. Disruption of normal social interactions also have a profound adverse impact on students' social and emotional well-being.

BPHS has remained in close communication with The Nevada County Public Health Department and will follow their recommendations, along with the California Department of Health to reopen school for in-person instruction and to remain open based on a number of factors. These include, but are not limited to, continually evolving scientific understanding of COVID-19, the number of current COVID-19 cases, the degree to which schools are contributing to community spread of COVID, the capacity of our health system to identify and care for cases and prevent transmission in healthcare settings, if Nevada County is on the watch-list, county residents' ability to quickly and effectively isolate or quarantine themselves when sick, and our community's continued cooperation in practicing physical distancing, using face coverings, and taking other preventive measures.

As we prepare to resume in-person instruction, we will ensure plans are in place for students who may need to isolate or quarantine, as well as students who are medically fragile or who have a household member who is medically fragile. Schools will be prepared for the possibility of partial or full school closure, either short-term or for a longer period. Because the data regarding the impact of school

reopening on COVID-19 transmission dynamics remains incomplete, we will continue to learn and revise our guidance accordingly.

This document contains a series of public health requirements, recommendations, and considerations for schools reopening their campuses for in-person instruction. These should be read in conjunction with all relevant local, State, and federal laws, as well as school reopening guidance from the State and federal government. In California, the surest path to safe and full in-person instruction at the outset of the school year, as well as minimizing missed school days in an ongoing basis, is a strong emphasis on the following: vaccination for all eligible individuals to get COVID-19 rates down throughout the community; universal masking in schools, which enables no minimum physical distancing, allowing all students access to full in-person learning, and more targeted quarantine practices, keeping students in school; and access to a robust COVID-19 testing program as an available additional safety layer. Recent evidence indicates that in-person instruction can occur safely without minimum physical distancing requirements when other mitigation strategies (e.g., masking) are fully implemented. This is consistent with CDC K-12 School Guidance.

Of particular relevance to this document are Education Code sections 43503 and 43504, which are in the process of being enacted by the State Legislature as this guidance is being released. Education Code section 43504 states that schools in California “shall offer in-person instruction to the greatest extent possible” during the 2021-22 school year. Education Code section 43503 states, “Distance learning may be offered under either of the following circumstances: (A) On a local educational agency or school wide level as a result of an order or guidance from a state public health officer or a local public health officer. (B) For pupils who are medically fragile or would be put at risk by in-person instruction, or who are self-quarantining because of exposure to COVID-19.”

Requirements

The requirements in this document are actions that the Nevada County Public Health Department is requiring schools to follow as they resume in-person instruction. Only those items labeled “requirements” in this document must be in place for schools to proceed with in-person instruction.

Recommendations

The recommendations in this document are additional measures that the County of Nevada Public Health Department recommends schools take to protect the health and safety of students, staff, and the broader community. Recommendations from federal, state, or local public health officials is distinct from the legal orders or requirements that schools must follow. The guidance in this document reflects the best judgment of the County of Nevada Public Health Department as to practices that schools should follow, and it takes into account local conditions and considerations. The California Department of Education’s “Stronger Together: A Guidebook for the Safe Reopening of California’s Public Schools” (June 2020) and the California Department of Public Health’s “COVID-19 Industry Guidance: Schools and School-Based Programs” (June 5, 2020) offer general guidance for the entire state, where conditions vary significantly from region to region.

Considerations

Finally, the considerations in this document provide concrete examples of how the requirements or recommendations may be implemented and factors that school administrators may want to keep in mind when implementing them. These considerations are not requirements that schools must follow or even recommendations that the County urges schools to adopt.

We are considering the spectrum of possibilities of intermittent partial or full school closures (short-term or long-term) in the upcoming academic year. This document, therefore, was designed to provide clear direction while allowing school sites appropriate flexibility based on their own individual constraints and resources.

Section 1: Prevention

Common public health strategies to reduce the risk of disease transmission in schools and other community settings include: (1) minimizing the number of people who come into contact with each other, (2) maximizing the physical distance between people, (3) reducing the time that people spend in close proximity to others, and (4) measures to minimize dispersion of droplets and aerosols (e.g., using face coverings and covering coughs and sneezes). Because the relative contribution of each of these measures in reducing the spread of COVID-19 is not yet clear, public health experts have generally recommended that they be used collectively where possible.

Organizing Principle: Face Covering and Physical Distancing

1. Face covering

- a. K-12 students are required to mask indoors, with exemptions per CDPH face mask guidance. Adults in K-12 school settings are required to mask when sharing indoor spaces with students. Face coverings are optional outdoors for all in K-12 school settings.
 - Persons exempted from wearing a face covering due to a medical condition, must wear a non-restrictive alternative, such as a face shield with a drape on the bottom edge, as long as their condition permits it.
 - Schools will provide a face covering to students who inadvertently fail to bring a face covering to school to prevent unnecessary exclusions.
 - Consistent with guidance from the 2020-21 school year, schools must develop and implement local protocols to enforce the mask requirements. Additionally, schools should offer alternative educational opportunities for students who are excluded from campus because they will not wear a face covering. Note: Public schools should be aware of the requirements in AB 130 to offer independent study programs for the 2021-22 school year.

2. Physical distancing

a. Recent evidence indicates that in-person instruction can occur safely without minimum physical distancing requirements when other mitigation strategies (e.g., masking) are implemented. This is consistent with CDC K-12 School Guidance.

3. Ventilation recommendations

a. For indoor spaces, ventilation should be optimized, air filters checked and cleaned regularly. All Bitney classes are equipped with high quality air filters. All of the rooms also have fans available to bring outside air into the classes - weather and air quality permitting.

4. Procedures for staying home when sick and getting tested

a. Follow the protocol for staying home when sick and getting tested.

b. Getting tested for COVID-19 when symptoms are consistent with COVID-19 will help with rapid contact tracing and prevent possible spread at schools.

c. Advise staff members and students with symptoms of COVID-19 infection not to return for in-person instruction until they have met CDPH criteria to return to school for those with symptoms:

- At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; and
- Other symptoms have improved; and
- They have a negative test for SARS-CoV-2, OR a healthcare provider has provided documentation that the symptoms are typical of their underlying chronic condition (e.g., allergies or asthma) OR a healthcare provider has confirmed an alternative named diagnosis (e.g., Streptococcal pharyngitis, Coxsackie virus), OR at least 10 days have passed since symptom onset.

Note: Students with symptoms have the option to get tested for SARS-CoV-2 or they can quarantine for at least 10 days. Students with symptoms 1. present a negative test, 2. provide a confirmation from a healthcare provider or, 3. remain home at least 10 days from the symptom onset.

Case reporting, contact tracing and investigation

a. Per AB 86 (2021) and California Code Title 17, section 2500, BPHS is required to report COVID-19 cases to the local public health department.

b. BPHS has a trained COVID-19 contact tracer who is able to communicate directly with our school nurse in addressing any questions or procedures that involve

5. Quarantine recommendations for vaccinated close contacts

a. For those who are vaccinated, follow the CDPH Fully Vaccinated People Guidance regarding quarantine . Fully vaccinated close contacts should be referred for COVID-19 [testing](#). If asymptomatic, fully vaccinated close contacts do not need to quarantine at home following an exposure (they can continue to attend school in-person and participate in other activities). In

addition to correctly wearing masks in school, they should wear a mask in other indoor public settings for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result.

6. **Quarantine recommendations for unvaccinated students for exposures** when both parties were wearing a mask, as required in K-12 indoor settings. These are adapted from the CDC K-12 guidance and CDC definition of a close contact.

a. When both parties were wearing a mask in the indoor classroom setting, unvaccinated students who are close contacts (more than 15 minutes over a 24-hour period within 0-6 feet indoors) may undergo a modified 10-day quarantine as follows. They may continue to attend school for in-person instruction if they:

- Are asymptomatic;
- Continue to appropriately mask, as required;
- Undergo at least twice weekly testing during the 10-day quarantine;
- Continue to quarantine for all extracurricular activities at school, including sports, and activities within the community setting.

7. **Quarantine recommendations for unvaccinated close contacts** who were not wearing masks or for whom the infected individual was not wearing a mask during the indoor exposure; or unvaccinated students as described above.

a. For these contacts, those who remain asymptomatic, meaning they have NOT had any symptoms, may discontinue self-quarantine under the following conditions:

- Quarantine can end after Day 10 from the date of last exposure without testing; OR
- Quarantine can end after Day 7 if a diagnostic specimen is collected after Day 5 from the date of last exposure and tests negative.

b. To discontinue quarantine before 14 days following last known exposure, asymptomatic close contacts must:

- Continue daily self-monitoring for symptoms through Day 14 from last known exposure; AND
- Follow all recommended non-pharmaceutical interventions (e.g., wearing a mask when around others, hand washing, avoiding crowds) through Day 14 from last known exposure.

c. If any symptoms develop during this 14-day period, the exposed person must immediately isolate, get tested and contact their healthcare provider with any questions regarding their care.

8. **Isolation recommendations**

a. For both vaccinated and unvaccinated persons, follow the CDPH Isolation Guidance for those diagnosed with COVID-19.

9. Hand hygiene recommendations

- a. Teach and reinforce washing hands, avoiding contact with one's eyes, nose, and mouth, and covering coughs and sneezes among students and staff.
- b. Promote hand washing throughout the day, especially before and after eating, after using the toilet, and after handling garbage, or removing gloves.
- c. Ensure adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors, including soap, tissues, no-touch trash cans, face coverings, and hand sanitizers with at least 60 percent ethyl alcohol for staff and children who can safely use hand sanitizer.

10. Cleaning recommendations

- a. In general, cleaning once a day is usually enough to sufficiently remove potential virus that may be on surfaces. Disinfecting (using disinfectants on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency COVID-19 list) removes any remaining germs on surfaces, which further reduces any risk of spreading infection.
- b. If a facility has had a sick person with COVID-19 within the last 24 hours, clean AND disinfect the spaces occupied by that person during that time.

11. Food service recommendations

- a. Maximize physical distance as much as possible while eating (especially indoors). Using additional spaces outside to facilitate distancing.
- b. Clean frequently touched surfaces. Surfaces that come in contact with food should be washed, rinsed, and sanitized before and after meals.
- c. Given very low risk of transmission from surfaces and shared objects, there is no need to limit food service approaches to single use items and packaged meals.

A. Hygiene Measures

1. Face Coverings

Requirements

Teachers and staff

- All adults must wear a face covering at all times while indoors on campus, except while eating or drinking.
- Staff excluded from this requirement are those that require respiratory protection according to Cal/OSHA standards.
- All staff will be educated and communicate with all families and students the rationale and proper use of face coverings, the expectations for use of face coverings at school and how to wash face coverings.

Students

- All students are required to wear face coverings:
 - while indoors;
 - in any area outside where others are near, in the classroom (except when eating, drinking, or engaging in outside physical activity)
- Students excluded from face covering requirements include students that have an underlying health condition that poses a threat to the students' health.

Recommendations

- If a student or staff experiences difficulty wearing his/her face covering, allow the individual to remove his/her face covering for a short period of time outside and distanced from others.
- Provide face coverings for students and staff who lose their face coverings or forget to bring them to school.
- Face shields are not recommended as a replacement for face coverings given concerns over their ability to minimize droplet spread to others.

2. Handwashing and Other Hygiene Measures

Requirements

- Teach and reinforce proper handwashing technique, avoiding contact with one's eyes, nose, and mouth, and covering coughs and sneezes.
- Post signage in high visibility areas to remind students and staff of proper techniques for handwashing and covering of coughs and sneezes and other prevention measures.
- Ensure adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors, including soap, tissues, no-touch trash-cans, face coverings and hand sanitizers (with at least 60 percent ethyl alcohol) for staff and students who can safely use hand sanitizer.

Recommendations

- Model, practice, and monitor handwashing.
- Develop routines to ensure students wash their hands or use hand sanitizer upon arrival to campus and prior to leaving the classroom; after using the restroom; after playing outside and returning to the classroom; before and after eating; and after coughing or sneezing.
- Have students and staff wash hands at staggered intervals to minimize congregation around handwashing and hand sanitizer stations.
- Proper handwashing is more effective at preventing transmission, but hand sanitizer is an acceptable alternative if handwashing is not practicable.
- BPHS provides hand sanitizer in each classroom, in any other indoor space used by students or staff, at building entrances/exits, and at locations designated for students or staff to eat.

- Encourage the use of reusable water bottles. and using the bottle filler station in the back building.

C. Cleaning and Maintenance

Requirements

- At least daily, and more frequently if feasible, clean and disinfect frequently touched hard surfaces (e.g., tables, desks, chairs, door handles, light switches, phones, copy/fax machines, bathroom surfaces (toilets, countertops, faucets), drinking fountains, and playground equipment) and shared objects (games, art supplies, books) pursuant to CDC guidance.

Recommendations

- BPHS uses cleaning products approved for use against COVID-19 on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-approved list and follows product instructions.
- After an illness, limit access to areas used by the sick person (e.g., a student's desk or a staff member's office) until cleaned and disinfected.
- Disinfecting must take place between classes and after school.

E. PE

- To the extent possible, PE activities will take place outside. During both outside and inside PE activities students will be required to wear facemasks.

3. School Events and Activities

Requirements

- Assemblies, and other gatherings will be permitted to the extent allowed under any applicable requirements for gatherings occurring in the community.
- Zoom or another virtual platform will be used when it is not possible for assemblies to be held outside.
- Attendance at school events will be limited to students and staff or those participating in a presentation only (no visitors).

Recommendations

- Maximize the number of school events that can be held virtually or outside.
- Events involving on-campus visitors interacting with staff or students should be minimized.

4. Internships

Requirements

- Students participating in Internships must wear masks whenever they are inside a building. This requirement will be added to the agreement signed with Internship providers.

Recommendations

- Students are encouraged to wear masks at Internship sites whether or not they are outside.

5. Off Campus Lunch

Requirements

- Students who enter into restaurants or other businesses while they are off campus at lunch, must wear a facemask while they are inside.

Section 2: Monitoring

A. Health Screenings

Health screenings refer to symptom screening, temperature screening, or a combination of both. Although temperature screening for COVID-19 has become a widespread practice in a variety of business and community settings, its limited effectiveness may be outweighed by potential harms. With respect to COVID-19, the CDC acknowledges that "fever and symptom screening have proven to be relatively ineffective in identifying all infected individuals." This is because people with COVID-19 can infect others before they become ill (pre-symptomatic transmission), some people with COVID-19 never become ill but can still infect others (asymptomatic transmission), and fever may not be the first symptom to appear.

Requirements

- Post signs at all entrances instructing students, staff, and visitors not to enter campus if they have any COVID-19 symptoms. COVID-19 symptoms include fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, recent loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.
- All students and staff must be screened for symptoms each day. BPHS staff and students' parents or guardians will conduct symptom screening at-home, prior to arrival at school. Symptom screening will also occur on-site via self-reporting, visual inspection by staff, or a symptom screening questionnaire. Symptom screenings do not need to be performed by a nurse or other health professional. If a school staff member has a concern about potential student symptoms the students can be sent to the office for a formal screening including a temperature check.
- If temperature screening is performed, contactless thermometers will be used.
- Students or staff with any identified COVID-19 symptoms and/or a temperature of 100.2 or higher must be sent home immediately until testing and/or medical evaluation has been conducted.

- BPHS will communicate screening requirements to all staff and families and will provide periodic reminders throughout the school year.

Recommended Health Screening for Students and Staff

All students and staff and visitors will follow the Nevada County Public Health protocols for school classroom /cohort settings on:

- Onset of COVID-19 symptoms
- Potential exposure to and /or close contact with an individual who tests positive for COVID-19

B. COVID-19 Testing and Reporting

Get Tested

Community Testing Sites

Testing is available for anyone, whether or not you have insurance. **You must pre-register and schedule an appointment at <https://www.lhi.care/covidtesting> or call 1-888-634-1123.**

For assistance scheduling a COVID-19 test, contact 211 Connecting Point at 1-833-DIAL211 to speak to a local call specialist.

Appointments are available Monday-Saturday, 7:00 am to 3:00 pm in Grass Valley and Monday-Friday, 7:00am to 7:00pm in Truckee. Return time for results may vary and can be expected within 2-7 days.

Testing Locations

Western Nevada County

231 Colfax Avenue, Grass Valley, CA 95945 (formerly Summer Thymes)

According to Nevada County Public Health Department, tests can also still be conducted by doctor's offices too, but you do not need your physician's approval to be tested at the OptumServe site. Call your primary care physician before physically going to the doctor.

Please note that return time for results may vary and can be expected within 2-7 days.

If you do not have a primary care physician, please call the Coronavirus Call Center through Connecting Point by dialing 2-1-1 or 1-833-DIAL211 to talk with a call center representative.

The call center representatives at 211 can help with all non-emergency and non-medical inquiries.

Note: BPHS is in the process of partnering with the CDPH to have onsite PCR testing available for students and staff. With the permission of parents, students will self administer a nasal swab,

which will be delivered to a drop box by staff on the day that the test is conducted. Results will be reported to families and to the school within 24 to 48 hours.

Requirements

- Require students and staff to get tested as soon as possible after they develop one or more COVID-19 symptoms or if one of their household members or non-household close contacts tested positive for COVID-19.
- Positive test results:
 - Require that parents/guardians and staff notify school administration immediately if the student or staff tested positive for COVID-19 or if one of their household members or non-household close contacts tested positive for COVID-19.
 - Upon receiving notification that staff or a student has tested positive for COVID-19 or been in close contact with a COVID-19 case, take actions as required in Section 3 below.
- Negative test results:
 - Symptomatic students or staff who test negative for COVID-19 should remain home until at least 72 hours after resolution of fever (if any) and improvement in other symptoms.
 - Asymptomatic non-household close contacts to a COVID-19 case should remain at home for a total of 14 days from date of last exposure even if they test negative.
 - Asymptomatic household contacts should remain at home until 14 days after the COVID-19 positive household member completes their isolation.

Note: Students who are isolating for COVID will be able to participate in short-term, illness related Independent Study so that they can keep up with their school work.

Considerations

- All teachers are recommended, but not required, to be tested for COVID-19 prior to the beginning of the school year, and then recommended for additional testing no less than once every two months thereafter, as testing capacity permits and as practicable.

Section 3: Response to Suspected or Confirmed Cases and Close Contacts

Requirements

Suspected COVID-19 Case(s):

- Work with school administrators, nurses, and other healthcare providers to identify an area to separate anyone who exhibits COVID-19 symptoms.

- Any students or staff exhibiting symptoms should immediately be required to wear a face covering and wait in an isolation area until they can be transported home or to a healthcare facility, as soon as practicable. For serious illness, call 9-1-1 without delay.

Confirmed COVID-19 Case(s):

- School administrators should notify the Nevada County Public Health Department immediately of any positive COVID-19 case. Notify all staff and families in the school community of any positive COVID-19 case while maintaining confidentiality as required by state and federal laws.
- Close off areas used by any sick person and do not use before cleaning and disinfection. To reduce risk of exposure, wait 24 hours before you clean and disinfect. If it is not possible to wait 24 hours, wait as long as practicable. Ensure a safe and correct application of disinfectants using personal protective equipment and ventilation.
- Utilize class seating rosters and consultation with teachers/staff to identify close contacts to the confirmed COVID-19 case in all classrooms and on-campus activities. A close contact is someone who has been within six feet of the case for a prolonged period of time (at least 10-15 minutes) regardless of face covering use. Close contacts should be instructed to get COVID-19 testing and should remain quarantined at home for 14 days.

Close contacts to confirmed COVID-19 Case(s):

- Close contacts (household or non-household) of confirmed COVID-19 cases should be sent home immediately, instructed to get COVID-19 testing, and, immediately and on day 10 of the last day of exposure to the case. They should even if they test negative, remain in quarantine for a full 14 days after (1) date of last exposure to COVID-19 positive non-household contact or (2) date that COVID-19 positive household member completes their isolation.
- No actions need to be taken for persons who have not had direct contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case.
- Those who test positive should not return back to the school site for 14 days.

Return to Campus after Testing:

- Symptomatic individuals who test negative for COVID-19 can return 72 hours after resolution of fever (if any) and improvement in symptoms.
- Documentation of a negative test result should be provided to school administrators.
- Symptomatic individuals who test positive for COVID-19 can return 14 days after symptom onset OR 7 days after resolution of fever and improvement in other symptoms, whichever is longer.
- Asymptomatic individuals who test positive for COVID-19 can return 14 days after their positive test result.
- If they test positive, close contacts to confirmed COVID-19 cases can return after completing the required isolation period described above.

- If they test negative, close contacts to confirmed COVID-19 cases can return a full 14 days after (1) date of last exposure to COVID-19 positive non-household contact or (2) date that COVID-19 positive household member completes their isolation.

Table 1. Steps to Take in Response to Confirmed or Suspected COVID-19 Cases and Close Contacts

Scenario 1: A student or staff member either exhibits COVID-19 symptoms, answers “yes” to a health screening question, or has a temperature of 100.2 or above.

- Student/staff sent home
- Student/staff instructed to get tested
- No action is needed

Scenario 2: A family member or someone in close contact with a student or staff member (outside the school community) tests positive for COVID-19

- Student/staff sent home
- Student/staff instructed to get tested
- Student/staff instructed to quarantine, even if they test negative, for a full 14 days after (1) date of last exposure to COVID-19 positive non-household contact or (2) COVID-19 positive household member completes their isolation
- If student/staff test positive, see Scenario 3 below
- School administration notified
- For the Involved Student Family or Staff Member: Template Letter: Household Member or Close Contact With COVID-19 Case

Scenario 3: A student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19.

- Student/staff sent home if not already quarantined
- Student/staff instructed to isolate for 14 days after symptom onset OR 7 days after resolution of symptoms, whichever is longer. (If never symptomatic, isolate for 14 days after positive test.)
- School-based close contacts identified and instructed to test & quarantine for 14 days
- School administration notified
- Public Health Department notified

Table 2. Steps to Take in Response to Negative Test Result

A student or staff member tests negative for COVID-19 after Scenario 1 (symptomatic)

- Student/staff may return to school 72 hours after resolution of fever and improvement in other symptoms
- Student family/staff to bring evidence of negative COVID-19 test or medical note if testing not performed
- A student or staff member tests negative after Scenario 2 (close contact)

- Student/staff must remain in quarantine for a full 14 days after (1) date of last exposure to COVID-19 positive non-household contact or (2) date that COVID-19 positive household member completes their isolation
- No action is needed
- A student or staff member tests negative after routine surveillance testing (no symptoms and no close contact to a confirmed COVID-19 case)
- Can return to school/work immediately
- No action is needed