

Health and Safety Plan FAQs

Through this document, the District will answer questions regarding the 2020-2021 school year and the Health and Safety Plan. Please use the form link on the website to ask questions and share comments. The current listing was posted on August 17, 2020.

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Attendance

- 1. Since students are most likely going to be kept home due to symptoms, what will attendance look like?**

The threshold for keeping children home from school is lower than in previous years. Students staying home for symptoms and can still participate in class may do so virtually and be counted as present. Students staying home and not participating virtually will be counted as absent. The schools will monitor absenteeism and adapt attendance policies as needed to ensure personal and public health is the clear priority.

- 2. First you state that students will choose online or in class learning each nine weeks. Then you claim that it will be a fluid process which opens it up to a family being able to make a daily choice as to whether they will be in school or online for any given day. Which is it going to be?**

Families who choose to be face to face will be given the option of keeping their child home when building heat and wearing a mask is difficult during the first nine week period. Parents will be asked to do this in chunks of time such as a week at a time to assist the District with logistics. Starting in the second nine weeks this flexibility will only be based on sickness. This option is not available to families who choose Option B. In Skyward, parents will choose V as the absence reason. Teachers will see the indication for virtual learning and know to look for the student on their Google Meet.

Building Cleaning and Sanitization

- 1. Will there be cleaning between classes changing at the upper levels?**

Students in Grades 4-12 will clean their new work area each time they change location. For example, after the teacher has sprayed their work area, the student will use paper towels to clean their work area. Then use hand sanitizer to clean their hands.

2. Will the MSDA sheets be provided for every cleaner, disinfectant, hand sanitizer or any other chemical use in the school or near our children?

The cleaners and disinfectants the district used prior to COVID-19 were effective against flu and other respiratory viruses, germs, etc. These same products are effective against COVID-19 as well. The district also utilizes a hospital grade fogger to clean and sanitize in the evenings. This product was also used prior to COVID-19. More information available upon request.

3. When will the building get disinfected and cleaned thoroughly?

Buildings will be cleaned and disinfected daily according to the health and safety plan approved by the Board of Directors. High touch areas will be the focus during the school day. In the evening, the building will be cleaned and sanitized based on task cards and scheduled cleaning routines.

Cafeteria, Breakfast and Lunch

1. Lunch in class instead of cafeteria?

We may not be able to social distance students in a classroom depending on the number of students who choose to come to school. Therefore, we are doing our best to accommodate student lunch times in the cafeteria or other large spaces in each building.

2. What is lunch going to look like? Can students sit near their friends?

Students will be able to sit with a few classmates and eat their lunch, however, they will be required to meet social distancing guidelines while eating lunch.

Career and Technology Center

1. If your student attends vo-tech, how will any of these options work?

These options will work hand and hand with the CTC. The students will still attend the CTC AM or PM. The CTC has its own Health and Safety Plan. Students will follow the CTC plan for CTC attendance and follow Burrell's plan for Burrell attendance.

Extracurricular Activities

1. What do extracurricular activities look like?

Extracurricular activities will occur when feasible. These activities will be handled on a case by case basis.

2. Will spectators be permitted to attend games?

At this time, there will be no spectators at fall sport events. This is an ever-changing issue. We are bound by the PIAA and WPIAL decisions.

3. Will there be Drama Club this year because of the close proximity of student actors?

We are investigating an alternative presentation of the fall play and/or the musical in the spring. As information is available, we will communicate.

4. If a student chooses online learning due to covid 19, will they be allowed to play/practice sports as that negates their original reasoning?

All Burrell students whether in Option A, B, or C have the option of participating in extracurricular activities and sports.

Academic Framework/Instruction

1. Can you choose a mix... for example: can a student do 3 days in school and 2 online in a week?

For planning purposes, the District will request that families choose to be either all face to face (5 days a week) or all virtual (5 days a week); however, we understand that a hot building will be difficult with a mask. Therefore, we are willing to provide families that choose to be face to face (5 days a week) some flexibility in the first 2 months of school as long as there is good communication between home and school. The District does not intend to consider a hybrid where students attend 2 days then 3 days at home. This scenario is too difficult for working parents.

2. Will my child have the same teacher if we move between Options A and B?

The students will have the teachers listed on their schedule regardless of whether they are in Option A or Option B or switch options at some point in the year.

3. Can I send my child to school for certain classes such as band or science labs?

Families will be asked to choose one Option A or Option B. The only reason for moving back and forth between options would be due to heat and/or sickness. By the end of October, a student in Option A should only miss school when sick. A student in Option B would always be virtual until the next decision point (every 45 days).

4. As a parent, can I make different choices for each of our children or is it what I choose on the survey we have to do for all children?

As a parent, you will choose an option for each child in your home. It may be better for one child to work from home for a health reason while the other is in school.

5. Does Option A use a chromebook all day as well? Will they be able to practice handwriting?

Yes, all assignments and assessments will be submitted via Google Classroom regardless of the location of the student. This is to minimize the exchange of materials and paper between teachers and students. However, students will still be asked to use paper and pencil as appropriate. This paper will be assessed by the teacher as appropriate without collecting the paper. Students at home might take a photo of their work and send it to the teacher while she checks the work of students at school. Handwriting is an essential skill students will need to practice especially in the younger grades.

6. Is there a way to do virtual interaction for the students if we don't want the child in school?

Google Meet will be used for virtual interaction. Students at home on Option B will follow their school schedule and attend each class in real time via google meet. All assignments and assessments will be submitted via Google Classroom. There will be times when students must be “live” with their teacher and times that they will be able to work on their own.

7. Will we provide at home kids with a specific schedule of when they must be on the live meets?

Each teacher team under the direction of their building principal will create a schedule for students in the room and at home. Middle school and high school students will follow their schedule. Students at home at all levels will be required to participate in live meets to meet their attendance requirements. They will not be counted if the teacher cannot see them on the live meet. Video must be on.

8. Math manipulatives are used daily in my room. I have sets of 24. Now, I will need a morning and afternoon set. Is there money to purchase more?

Yes, we are reviewing the need and intend to purchase more so that each student has access to their own set regardless of where they are located.

9. Are teachers going to be provided with a second computer? One to run the Promethean and one to stream the class?

Teachers will be given a Chromebook and microphone in addition to their laptop to assist with instruction.

10. Can students check out library books?

Yes, a procedure for requesting and returning books is being developed. Books will be sanitized in between student use.

11. If a student does virtual can they fully participate in activities (band, drama.)

Yes

12. This plan treats 5 and 18 year olds the same. Do options A and B have to be the same K-12?

The plan structure is the same; however, what teachers do with students during the instructional times will be age and content specific.

13. Could there be a delayed start to the school year or start online? Would help with the building temperatures and securing materials.

In order to delay the start of school, we would need to increase the instructional time in the day or extend the school year. We have not been given permission to ignore the 180 days, 990 hours (secondary), and 900 hours (elementary) requirement. We have been given permission to carry out our instruction virtually, face to face or as a hybrid..The instructional time requirements are still required.

14. What if we go back to full closure? Will teachers continue as planned?

The plan allows us to move back and forth between being physically open and closed. Our instructional approach will be the same regardless of whether a student is home or at school. If we end up closing,

all instruction will continue virtually with every student following the school day and participating with their teacher virtually and live.

15. Arts education - what will happen to things like art, shop, home ec., etc.

These classes will still occur to the best of our ability. Materials may be modified but the same academic goals will be accomplished. At the elementary level, the specialist teacher will travel to the students.

16. Gym-will gym classes happen?

Yes, Gym will be outside whenever possible. Equipment will be cleaned between cohorts of students. Students in grades 6-8 will not change for gym class. Students in grades 9-12 will continue to have class with sports and recreation protocols in place. Swim as a class will not be offered during the first nine weeks of school. Virtual students will obviously not be able to participate in the same activity as an in class student, therefore, virtual students will most likely keep a fitness log and meet class credit requirements in a modified fashion.

17. Will the grading scale return to normal vs pass or fail, as it was during remote learning in the spring?

Grading will be as normal. Standards based from K-3. Standards/grades from 4-5. Grades from 6-12. Pass/fail grades will not be used at any time during our 20-21 school year.

18. Would option C mostly resemble last year, where she turned in worksheets? Are there pre recorded videos with this option as well?

Option "C" is eAcademy which is the district's online learning option for students wishing to remain in Burrell School District and take their classes online rather than in person. eAcademy is not a cyber-school. Rather, it is a consortium of engaging courses provided through the WIU. Students in eAcademy work at their own pace, while maintaining all the benefits and services our district has to offer.

19. Will the Google Meet video only show the teacher or the teacher as well as the students in the classroom?

Teachers will do their best to focus the Google Meet themselves for students participating virtually. However, at times, the entire class could participate in a Google Meet together or small groups of students with their teacher. Students and parents will sign off on the following expectations.

No Expectation of Privacy:

No one should have any expectation of privacy or confidentiality with regard to use of a Chromebook issued by the District, regardless whether the usage happens for school-related purposes or not. At any time, without prior notice or consent, the District may access, supervise, view, monitor, log, and record student data and browser use history. From time to time, the District may conduct random physical checks of Chromebooks and inspect their contents and condition. By using a Chromebook, students agree to such potential access, monitoring, and recording of their use.

Copying or Transmitting Distance-Learning Livestream

Should a student wish to take images, including video or audio, of any visual or audio material that depicts a teacher or student, prior written permission from the District is required. This applies specifically to any distance-learning livestream. If permission is granted, the material is to be used solely for the student's educational purposes. Under no circumstances may the material be duplicated or transmitted in any fashion or manner to a third party. Posting such material to the internet, regardless of the platform, is strictly prohibited.

*Videos or audios of distance-learning livestreams are the property of the District. Students are prohibited from reposting such videos on the internet, removing them from the classroom management system, and/or from sharing them with other individuals. Any reposting or reproduction of such videos, audios, or screenshots from such a video, is prohibited. **Any violation will result in discipline, which could include suspension or permanent expulsion from school.***

The District reserves the right to confiscate any school owned technology, including the District issued Chromebook, when it is being used as a means that does not support a wholesome and safe educational atmosphere for our students and staff. Students involved in such improper acts will be disciplined according to policy. Legal authorities will be contacted if any local, state, federal or FCC policies are broken.

An audio recording made without the permission of the individual(s) being recorded may be a violation of Pennsylvania's Wiretapping and Electronic Surveillance Control Act, and may subject the student to criminal prosecution.

Note on Use of Personal Devices: *If any distance-learning livestream utilizes a personal mobile device, the prohibitions on copying or transmitting distance-learning livestream are still applicable.*

20. What will the day look like for those doing virtual?

This is a hypothetical example of what a day could look like.....Students participating in Option B will login to each period or session for attendance purposes. An elementary student might participate with their class during morning prep work such as calendar math, then their math class and complete an assignment. A break may be provided for movement, restroom, etc. Then, they may login again for a language arts lesson with their in school peers and complete an assignment. Next, they may take a 45 minute break for lunch and some movement. Then, login again to participate in an art class. Next, they may login to participate in their reading lesson for the day with a reading assignment to share with parents in the evening. Students may then take another movement break. Finally, the student may login again for a science or social studies class. A secondary student will follow their schedule each day. Teachers will have the Google Meet available daily for instruction and/or the opportunity to ask questions or seek concept clarification. K-12 virtual students will have times during the day when they will be expected to work independently and may not be required to be logged on for an entire period or session.

21. How will the makerspace facilities and machinery be utilized if classes change each period?

Classroom materials that must be shared will be cleaned between cohorts of students.

Managing Student and Staff Health

1. Will teachers take temperatures?

Parents will monitor symptoms and report the results in a google form each school day for the nurse. The school nurse will check in on students who were not checked by parents at home. Employees will also monitor their symptoms and report the results in a google form each school day for the nurse. Students and employees exhibiting symptoms that meet the stay at home criteria and have no other explanation will stay home.

1. Notification system if a student or staff is exposed?

Families of those exposed will be notified while maintaining the confidentiality of the infected person.

2. Are all teachers going to be in the building? What happens when a teacher must quarantine? All teachers will be present in the building. When a teacher must quarantine, we will work together to ensure the educational process is not disrupted.

3. Is everyone getting swabbed before school starts?

The District will not require staff and students to be swabbed before school starts. The District will follow the public health guidelines presented by PDE. Children and employees exhibiting symptoms that meet the criteria to stay home and there is no other explanation must stay home. School nurses will assist employees and families with making decisions regarding quarantine or isolation. School nurses will always recommend a visit to the doctor as necessary.

4. What about a kid that has daily low fevers due to another health condition?

A student who has other health issues that explain symptoms such as a low grade fever, runny nose, etc. will be handled on a case by case basis. Families with a student in this situation should communicate with the school nurse. The school nurse will help the family with decisions to keep the child home or send them to school.

5. What is a close contact? Do you have protocols for contact tracing for reported positive or suspected cases?

Close contact is defined as being exposed to COVID-19 by being within 6 feet of a person with COVID-19 for at least 15 minutes while they were infectious. School Districts do not conduct contact tracing on their own. It is under the guidance and supervision of the PA Department of Health.

6. What will happen if someone gets sick?

Health personnel will assess the person with symptoms. They will review whether the symptoms are consistent with a current health condition. If the symptoms are meeting the stay at home criteria based on the PDE screening template, the District will follow the decision tree for sending the person home and/or for quarantine.

7. What if someone has COVID-19?

The District will work with the PA Department of Health to determine next steps including identifying those in close contact by the above definition. The District will follow the decision tree for sending the person home and/or for quarantine as recommended. Additionally, PDE and the PA Department of

Health released guidelines for handling single cases and/or multiple cases in a building. The District will work with the Department of Health to determine appropriate steps.

8. Will there be a full-time nurse on staff at each building every day?

All buildings have a Certified School Nurse or Health Office Nurse.

9. Will there be a separate location for students who feel sick with COVID symptoms, aside from the normal nurse's office, so that they are not exposed to other students who may be going to the nurse's office for simple reasons such as inhalers and medication?

Yes, each building will have an isolation room separate from the nurses office. The nurses office will be used for well visits and medications. When a student is ill, the teacher will contact the nurse. The nurse will go to the classroom and assess the student in the hall. If the symptoms are potentially COVID-19 related, the student will be sent to the isolation space as a precaution. The nurse will further assess the student and call the family for pick up. A student showing potential symptoms will need to remain home for 10 days and meet the criteria on the decision tree to return.

10. Will students going on vacations during the school year be asked to quarantine for 2 weeks before returning?

Students or staff who choose to go on vacation during the school year to hot spot areas will be required to quarantine for 2 weeks before returning to school. Staff must use their own paid leave time for such an absence.

11. What provisions are being made for a possible scenario where an outbreak occurs that involves more than 20% of students participating in face-to-face instruction?

When a positive case is recorded, the District will follow the PA Department of Health recommendations. Our academic framework allows us to move all students to virtual learning as necessary. Parents should be prepared for this situation as they would for any school delay and/or closing.

Miscellaneous

1. Are subs allowed in the building?

Yes....we will need many substitutes. Substitutes will be trained and potentially cohorted for contact tracing.

2. If we have a large number of students that want to attend eAcademy who will teach these classes?

Teachers in Burrell or teachers across Westmoreland County.

3. How will Project Discover work?

This will be done virtually. The plan for project discover will not be ready for a few more weeks.

4. Will the YMCA be able to operate at Bon Air Elementary School?

Yes, the YMCA daycare will be permitted to operate as long as they adhere to the guidelines required by the state.

5. Will students be permitted to carry water bottles for the one-touch fountains?

Yes, families will be encouraged to have their students bring water bottles as we normally do in the early part of the year. Water fountains have been replaced with one-touch water bottle fountains.

6. How will school pictures be handled this year for students who are opting for virtual learning?

School pictures are scheduled for September 28th & 29th. More information will be provided closer to that time. Students attending school virtually or in eAcademy can have their school pictures taken at their school during assigned times. Also, students attending school virtually will have an opportunity to have pictures taken during make up days later in the semester.

7. What is the plan to screen Kindergarten students before the start of the school year? Will there be Kindergarten orientation in August? What does that look like now under this plan?

Kindergarten students will not be screened prior to the start of the school year. Kindergarten will have a staggered start the first week of school. This will allow each family to have time with their child's teacher virtually. Possibilities for an orientation are also being explored.

8. When will new start and end times be released?

We originally thought we might have to shift times for entry and dismissal. Instead we are adjusting the school day for some buildings. BHS student day will begin at 7:55am, HMS student day will begin at 8:26am and Elem student day will begin at 9:30am. Bus times and stops will remain the same.. The time adjustments will allow for a staggered arrival and dismissal at HMS and the Elem.

9. Are the kids going to be allowed to bring backpacks for their books, lunch boxes and after school sports bags?

Students will be permitted to carry backpacks, bring their own lunch box and items for sports related activities. Elementary students will have a designated area for their personal belongings. Secondary students will continue to use lockers. Buildings may have scheduled locker times. Teachers will make every effort to minimize school materials going back and forth from school to home when feasible.

10. For this year could more play time be built into elementary schedules through a class rotation to limit exposure but provide students with more play experiences?

Teachers will be asked to give students movement breaks each day.

11. Will a clean space be provided in each building for teachers to change out of their clothes before leaving the building?

Teachers are welcome to use the restrooms to change clothes prior to leaving for the day. An identified "clean" space will not be feasible.

12. If teachers become ill and use sick days, and then later, their children become ill and they run out of sick days to take, will they be permitted to use FMLA days?

The District and the teacher will follow the federal guidelines and District policy to guide FMLA decisions.

- 13. As per the state, when it comes to adults who are high-risk: "Schools should consider providing alternate work options or duties that minimize exposure risk, including telework options, where feasible." This does not apply to me, but out of concern for fellow teachers who are high-risk. Is the district providing options for them?**

The District will review each personnel matter on a case by case basis.

- 14. Should teachers need to remove posters, decorations, etc., prior to the start of the school year to help with the deep cleaning at the end of each day?**

It is recommended that teachers remove all personal items from the classroom for cleaning purposes.

- 15. Will there still be class "parties" and birthday celebrations for elementary school children?**

There will not be traditional parties that are run by classroom visitors. Teachers, as they normally do, will provide relevant activities to allow students to celebrate and be safe.

- 16. When will Skyward open so that we can see our child's schedule/homeroom teacher?**

Skyward will open to families on Monday, August 24.

Safety Drills

- 1. What about safety drills?**

We will still practice drills with our students to ensure they are prepared in the case of an emergency. Rather than whole school drills, our teachers will do class fire and safety drills in small groups. ALICE training for students will be completed when feasible.

Social Distancing and PPE

- 1. What do middle school classrooms and student movements look like?**

Students will move through their day as normal wearing a mask in areas that do not permit social distancing. Mask breaks will be provided. Students will wash their hands in Science classes and before and after eating. Students who do not have Science will be given another option.

- 2. Will students be required to wear masks while they are individually at their desks?**

Yes when social distancing guidelines are not met. Students are required to wear a face covering unless they have a medical or mental health condition or disability, documented in accordance with Section 504 or the Rehabilitation Act or IDEA that precludes the wearing of a face covering in school. Accommodations for such students should be made in partnership with the student's health care provider, school nurse and IEP/504 team.

- 3. Will classroom numbers be dependent on all students or just those attending face to face?**

Classrooms are being scheduled as normal with 25 or less students. Larger classes will be moved. Social distancing does require 6ft in order to remove a mask. The majority of classrooms are not large enough to accommodate social distancing when the full complement of students are in school.

Therefore, students will be expected to wear their mask in classrooms where social distance guidelines cannot be met. Mask breaks will be scheduled.

4. Can a student wear a face shield instead of a mask?

Per PDE guidelines, this is permitted.

5. Will cafeteria staff be provided with face shields?

Yes cafeteria staff will have the option of wearing a face shield in addition to a mask.

6. Gloves for staff? Gloves to clean desks, help w/ masks, tie shoes, open snacks... Gloves will be available for staff to use as part of their PPE-personal protective equipment.

7. PPE for staff...how often can/need to resupply?

Staff will be provided with a face shield, a mask, and gloves. Gloves and face shield are optional.

8. Can staff put plexiglass on their own at their desk as an added precaution?

Staff will not be provided with plexiglass. They may provide their own if they wish.

9. Crates for storage of student's belongings?

Students in K-5 will have a crate at school for their personal belongings such as a lunch box and coat.

10. How should we set up our classroom desks?

Please limit items from home to only those essential to your job. Teachers will be asked to remove all extra furniture, etc. from their rooms to allow for the maximum social distancing of student desks. Student desks will be separated to the maximum extent possible. Plexiglass will not be used as a divider between students.

11. Virtual meetings for teacher team meetings?

PLC meetings should be done virtually. All teacher interactions including team meetings, lunch, etc. should be conducted via Google Meet to minimize contact.

12. Elementary bathroom breaks - how will that work with so many kids?

Teachers will design an appropriate schedule for their students to ensure that student needs are met and that hand hygiene is a must. Emergency needs will be addressed.

13. Will all secondary classes sizes be reduced to permit social distancing?

When possible, class sizes have been reduced. This is not possible in all courses depending on the number of students who attend in person. Social distancing in every classroom may not be possible. Therefore, students are required to wear their masks at all times except on a mask break, where social distancing is possible, or at lunch.

14. What happens when a kid comes back from the restroom crying because he dropped his mask in the toilet?

Each teacher will have a box of masks for students who might forgot their mask or something happens to their mask during the school day. Students will be expected to come to school each day with their own mask.

15. Since masks are meant to help protect other people from your germs, what actions will be taken against students who refuse to wear masks but do not have an IEP or 504 accommodation?

Students who do not have an accommodation for not wearing a mask will be required to wear a mask. The parents of the student not wearing a mask will be contacted. If the student continues to refuse and does not have an accommodation, they will move to Option B - virtual learning.

Special Education

1. Learning support- how will they be supported if school is virtual?

Live instruction will still be provided in the virtual setting, including learning support. The learning support teacher will be able to provide small group instruction in this fashion. Additionally, the learning support teacher would be able to schedule meetings with students virtually in one to one segments for more individualized support.

2. Hearing impaired students with teachers wearing masks?

We are ordering masks with a clear mouth covering. Teachers will also have access to face shields. Teachers from the Intermediate Unit will have their own appropriate PPE.

3. How will IEP's work virtually?

Specially Designed Instruction will continue to be provided as outlined in the IEP. Teachers will address all learning needs for students in person or in virtual attendance through synchronous instruction. Pull out classes, as well as academic support and progress monitoring, will be provided through the case manager's Google classroom.

4. How will IEPs be affected and will students be able to move to support rooms when needed?

IEP teams will meet within the first few weeks of school to develop an IEP for the upcoming school year. The team will review all aspects of the IEP for implementation in person or in virtual attendance. Pull out classes, as well as academic support and progress monitoring, will be provided through the case manager's Google classroom.

5. Will students be able to still attend therapy sessions or speech sessions in Option B?

Therapy sessions, Speech, and all special education related services will continue in the virtual option.

6. If your child is in the life skills classroom even though they do not have a huge number of students and could be 6ft apart. Will they be required to have masks on all day due to the one on one instruction that is pretty much 100% of their day?

When social distancing can be ensured students will be permitted to take mask breaks as appropriate.

Technology Support

- 1. Will there be technology assistance in my classroom? Will parents have direction if needed to help with chromebooks or class work?**

The District will have designated staff members to provide technology assistance (Chromebooks) for those at home and at school. Assistance with classwork will be provided by the classroom teacher.

Transportation

- 1. Is sanitation possible between bus routes?**

Roenigk has their own procedure for sanitizing buses. Buses are sanitized and fogged once daily. Common areas are wiped down between runs. Students will be required to wear a mask on the bus. Students will be assigned seats on the bus to minimize contact. Two students to a seat. Siblings must sit together.

- 2. Who will be monitoring school buses to ensure masks are being worn and students are sitting far enough apart?**

Students may not be able to social distance on the school bus depending on the number of students. Students will be required to wear a mask. Drivers will have masks to give students who forget their mask. If a student refuses to wear their mask, the driver will report it to the principal. The student and parent will be notified that a mask is required or if the child cannot comply, the family will have to choose a virtual learning option.