

Bacon County Schools
Reopening Plan for Back to School Safely
2020-2021
Release Date July 21, 2020



BC Family,

We realize the last few months have caused anxiety and uncertainty about what the 20-21 SY will look like this upcoming school year. Thank you for your patience as we develop an action plan for reopening school. At the time this plan is being shared, Georgia is seeing daily increases in the number of COVID-19 cases. **Based on the COVID-19 pandemic, information and dates in [this action plan could change at any time](#).** Thank you for being patient with us during this unprecedented time.

The Bacon County School System presently plans to open school on **Monday, August 10, 2020**. All students are scheduled to return under a **traditional, face-to-face model** in our school buildings on this date. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we are implementing additional measures to provide a safe learning environment for our students and staff within our traditional model. We encourage students and parents to take advantage of the traditional, face-to-face instruction in our schools.

We also understand that there are circumstances that may create a need for an alternative to traditional instruction. In those cases, there will be a **virtual learning option** available for students to take classes online while remaining enrolled in the Bacon County School System. At the end of this document, you will find an online learning link for more information about the virtual learning option.

We will continue to follow guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), The Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH), and the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE). The information below summarizes the steps we are taking to safely open school as scheduled.

COVID19 Related Topics (Click on Links Below)

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Amended 20-21 SY Calendar (Adopted 7-14-20) [20-21 SY Calendar Click Here](#)

The calendar above was adopted at the July 14th board meeting. Please note that all currently scheduled breaks (Fall, Thanksgiving, Winter and Spring) will remain as listed in the 2020-21 school calendar at this time. However, the entire 2020-2021 calendar may have to be modified during the year to accommodate circumstances or the spread of COVID-19.

Back to School Dates

Traditional (Face to Face) First Day of School August 10, 2020

Each principal will send out procedures for how the first day of school will look for all parents and students this year.

Virtual Online Instruction

TBD -This service will be outsourced to Edgenuity. Each online applicant/participant will be contacted individually as to the start date of their online learning services. Someone from each school will be in contact with you **August 5, 2020.**

Open House Dates

Open House will be modified for safety purposes. Information will be released by **July 23, 2020.** Open House will take place the week of August 3rd- August 6th. Each school will release an individual plan for Open House. We will post the details for each school on our Facebook pages, newspaper, webpages, and send out through Parent Connect.

Supply Lists

[BCHS](#)

[BCMS](#)

[BCES](#)

[BCPS](#)



Communication

We are focused on communicating as clearly and thoroughly as possible during these times. We do our best to share decisions as they are made and additional information about what to expect for the

next school year. Back to school communication will be shared through Facebook, Parent Connect emails/texts/automated phone calls, and our school system's website.

• Parents- Please ensure that your contact information is up to date for your child(ren). Make sure the school in which your child is enrolled has an updated email, phone numbers, and mailing addresses. This year is a year it is imperative that we have your correct information.



Sanitation of Facilities

Increased health practices will be in place when students return to school on **August 10th**. Each school will have their own individual plans. These plans will be designed to meet their needs as far as the layout of each building and the age of their students that attend. Each will have a slightly different approach to implementing the district's action plan.

Individual schools may provide additional information about steps they are taking for their students and staff. However, rest assured that student and staff safety will be the BCSD's main priority as we return to school.

Professional Cleaning Services

Bacon County Schools contracts out our cleaning and sanitizing services to Beck Janitorial Services. Beck will conduct a formal reentry cleaning of the school system prior to us returning to school.

- Beck has put new protocols in place which focuses on cleaning and sanitizing high touch surfaces using COVID-19 combatting sanitizers and cleaning agents. [Click Here](#)
- Trained custodians will wipe all high touch areas throughout each building at least two times per day; once during occupied hours and then again during nightly cleaning
- The BCSD has added an additional custodian at each school to work during the day. To begin the 20-21 SY, each school will have additional janitorial staff members on-site during school hours to assist with sanitizing and cleaning daily.
- Custodians will disinfect restrooms a minimum of twice per day; once during occupied hours and then again during the nightly clean.
- The BCSD has purchased sanitizing electrostatic sprayers to use in classrooms and buses each night. Electrostatic spray is electrically charged, allowing the appropriate sanitizers, and disinfectants to wrap around and evenly coat all types of surfaces for a more complete sanitizing process.
- Custodial staff will be provided additional disinfecting equipment and supplies.

- Classrooms, cafeterias and high-traffic areas will be sanitized on a daily basis.

Additional Cleaning & Hygiene

- Additional supplies will be provided at each school to support healthy hygiene behaviors throughout the day (ex. hand soap, hand sanitizer, paper towels, wipes).
- Parents may also send in donations of hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, disinfecting wipes, and facial tissues for their child's classroom.
- Staff will review with students the proper handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and allow for regular hand washing breaks throughout the school day.
- Hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol will be provided at main building entrances, in the cafeteria, classrooms, and in strategic areas. These will be systematically checked and refilled.
- Staff and students will be encouraged to cough and sneeze into their elbows or to cover with a tissue.
- Shared items that cannot be consistently disinfected will be highly discouraged and monitored.
- Student personal items (such as pens, crayons, and scissors) will be kept separately in individual lockers, cubbies, or containers.
- Areas used by a sick person will be closed off and not used before cleaning and disinfection by custodial staff.



Monitoring of Symptoms

- Monitoring of symptoms will be ongoing by teachers and staff for incidents such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath. If a student develops symptoms throughout the day, we ask that they notify an adult immediately.
- Screening stations will be implemented at each school. These screening stations will include parent/student drop offs, student walk-ups, student drivers, etc. Students who ride the bus will have their temperature screened before they are allowed to ride the bus. See transportation section for further information pertaining to students who ride the bus.
- Students or Staff members who have a temperature of 100.4 or higher, is COVID-19 positive, or has been exposed to someone confirmed to have COVID-19 within the previous 14 days will not be allowed to be in school.
- To return to work/school the ill or exposed individual must meet requirements

outlined in the **Return to School Guidance (Department of Public Health)** attached in the image below.

COVID-19 Pandemic: Students Returning to School

When a person contracts the virus, symptoms may develop within 2 to 14 days from exposure, although some people never show symptoms. It is very important for your own safety and for the safety of others that you monitor your health for 14 days from your last possible exposure to COVID-19, and that you remain at home, avoid congregate settings and public activities, and practice social distancing. Below are the requirements for returning to school.

BACON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Student Quarantine - COVID-19

Symptomatic

Individuals with a **confirmed case of COVID-19** or **suspected exposure to COVID-19** that are showing **symptoms**, which may include: fever (100.4+), cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea.

10 days

At least 10 days since:

- Positive lab test
- Exposure to someone with COVID-19
- First appearance of symptoms

AND

3 days

At least 3 days (72 hrs) since recovery:

- Fever-free for 3 days
- No fever-reducing medicine for 3 days
- Improvement in symptoms

Return to School

Asymptomatic (No Symptoms)

1. Individuals with a **confirmed case of COVID-19** but are not showing symptoms

10 days

Return to School

2. Individuals with a **known exposure** to someone with COVID-19 but are not showing symptoms.

14 days

Return to School

Complete all requirements in the Department of Public Health guidance for persons exposed to COVID-19 found at <https://dph.georgia.gov/contacts>, which include:

- Quarantine yourself at home or be tested for COVID-19.
- Monitor your health for symptoms (including checking your temperature twice a day) during the 14 days after the last day you were in close contact with the sick person with COVID-19.

Based on DPH "Return to Work Guidance after COVID-19 Illness or Exposure for Persons Who Are Not Healthcare Personnel" 05-13-20

- All students who are out sick with a fever will be required to be fever-free for 3 days (72 hours) without the use of fever-reducing medicine before being allowed to return to school. This is a change in procedure, which previously only required 24 hours to be fever-free before returning to school.
- “Symptom Checker Questions” will be asked when symptoms appear to determine action that needs to be taken if the need arises.
 - HAVE YOU HAD A FEVER IN THE LAST WEEK?
 - HAVE YOU BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH COVID-19?
 - HAVE YOU BEEN IN CONTACT WITH ANYONE DIAGNOSED WITH COVID-19?
- Once school starts, there may be situations where a student or staff member tests positive for COVID19. Each case will be evaluated individually. Due to HIPAA and FERPA requirements, school personnel will not be identifying individuals with COVID-19, and we ask that others not speculate about such instances.

- The following protocol will be followed if a student or staff member becomes sick at school:
 1. The school principal and nurse will move the student/staff member to a designated isolation room to separate them from others.
 2. In addition, the following protocols will take place:
 - A. The school nurse will use standard and transmission-based precautions and evaluate the student/staff member.
 - B. The school nurse will assess the health risk based on the COVID-19 questionnaire and utilizing medical protocols for diagnosis.
 - C. School nurses will contact the parent of a sick child and or family member of a sick staff member to pick them up. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to make arrangements from school if contacted.
 - D. If the individual is positive, DPH will be contacted so that they may complete contact tracing.
 - E. DPH will also work with the school system to determine who is considered in “close contact” when a student or employee is diagnosed with COVID-19 by referring to schedules and or seating arrangements.
 - F. In the event that a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 symptoms, school employees are not allowed to contact trace or provide notification per the GDPH.
 - G. To ensure compliance with HIPAA and FERPA, DPH will handle all contact tracing and notification if a student or staff member test positive.

- Will the school have to close down if someone is infected with COVID- 19?
 Not necessarily. Once a case is confirmed, DPH will be responsible for contact tracing. The school's response will be guided by the DPH depending on the exposure and spread.



Procedures for Safe and Healthy Schools - Students

Parents are asked to pre-screen students before sending them to school or bus stops each day. Any student with a measured temperature of 100.4 or higher should not be sent to school.

Temperatures will be checked prior to students getting on the school bus each day by bus monitors. The BCSD will hire bus monitors to take student temperatures of all students. Students who have a temperature of 100.4 or higher, will not be allowed to to ride the bus.

Temperatures will be checked prior to parents dropping off students each day. Students who have a temperature of 100.4 or higher, will not be allowed to to enter the building. Bus students will not have to have their temperature checked twice. This applies to students that walk to school as well.

All classrooms will be supplied with ample hand sanitizer and disinfectant to protect our students.

Students will be socially distanced to the extent possible during lunch times. Staggered lunch will be scheduled with some students eating in the classroom.

Recess will take place at staggered times for students K-5 to lessen the number of students on the playground at one time. For example, If multiple classes are on the playground at the same time, teachers will have designated areas on the playground. Classes will not intermingle.

Best practices for hand washing and social distancing will be implemented to the extent possible.

New “PBIS Lessons” will be delivered to each child the first and second week of school to assist in “best practices” to protect themselves from COVID-19.

Masks for Students - Students are strongly encouraged to wear masks. We strongly encourage those that ride buses to consider wearing a mask due to enclosure in an unventilated area for an extended period of time. Please note that masks should not include text, writings, or signs other than a Raider mascot or the letters “BC”.

Masks will be provided to students if they express the need or desire to have one and are unable to bring one from home.

Contact among students will be limited as much as possible. Movement will be minimized as much as possible to allow for contact tracing if needed. Non-essential student movement throughout the school day will be limited.

Principals will develop traffic plans for each school as they develop the school’s individual plan for transitions and class changes. The following will be considered.

- Additional time for transitions
- Flow paths to keep students separated and minimize congregation
- Allow for restroom break and handwashing
- Designated areas (hall lanes) to use, etc.

Assemblies/Large gatherings/Field Trips during the school day are on hold until further notice.

Additional hand sanitizer stations have been installed in each of our schools to ensure hand sanitizer is readily available.

Soap and towel dispensers will be checked after each transition to ensure that adequate soap and towels are available.

Students will need to bring a clear bottle of water each day. Water fountains will not be used by students. The BCSD plans on installing a few touchless water fountains for students to refill their water bottles daily.

Based upon classroom configuration and to the extent possible, student desks will face in the same direction and students seated at tables will sit on the same side

Excess classroom furniture will be removed in classrooms to maximize social distancing to the extent practicable.

COVID-19 Signage will be posted in hallways, classrooms, and entrances of schools to remind students and staff of preventative measures. Signs will be posted throughout all school buildings reminding students and staff of recommended healthy hygiene practices. Students will be reminded of proper hand washing and covering techniques for coughs and sneezes.

Procedures for Safe and Healthy Schools - Teachers/Staff

All employees are asked to screen their temperature daily. Employees should not report to work if they have a measured temperature of 100.4 or higher.

All teachers/staff will have their temperature checked each day at a symptom checking station. Those who have a temperature of 100.4 or higher, will not be allowed to go to their classrooms.

Masks for Teachers/Staff Members- All BCSD employees are strongly encouraged to wear masks and/or face shields in their classrooms.

Masks will be worn by teachers/staff members in all common areas (hallways, lunchrooms, media centers, etc.) when social distancing is not possible.

All teachers/staff will be supplied with proper PPE that include masks, face-shields, and gloves.

Social distancing among staff will be practiced during meetings and in common areas.

Virtual meetings among staff members will be used when possible to protect the safety of students, staff, and the community.

Teachers will be trained during pre-planning on new COVID-19 procedures and processes.



Visitor Procedures

- Volunteer programs are on hold until further notice.
- Messages, supplies, money, etc. will be delivered to students by the front office staff. Parents will be asked to drop off items in a no contact manner with the front office staff. Each school will set up parameters to accomplish this task.
- In a case of an emergency, the parent or individual that needs to enter the building must agree to a temperature check, wear a mask and answer the following questions before entering the building:
 - Have you had a fever in the last week?

- Have you been diagnosed with COVID-19?
- Have you been in contact with anyone diagnosed with COVID-19?
- Vendors & contracted services will be allowed into the schools and will adhere to the following guidelines:
 1. Wear a mask covering both nose and mouth
 2. Complete a symptom checklist (**see above**)
 3. Submit to a temperature screening before entering the building.



Transportation

- Buses will transport students daily. Please note that times may be delayed due to the additional safety requirements/procedures that will be implemented.
- Parents are encouraged to transport their student(s) to school if possible to minimize/reduce the number of students on buses. Parents are asked to remain in cars during morning drop off.
- Parents should check their child's temperature daily and not send students to a bus stop if he/she has a measured temperature of 100.4 or higher.
- The BCSD plans on hiring additional bus monitors who will take temperatures of students prior to them getting on the bus. Students who have a fever of 100.4 or higher will not be allowed to ride the bus. They will also help monitor students.
- Buses will be sanitized between routes.
- Hand sanitizer will be available on all buses.
- Students are highly encouraged to wear masks, as social distancing cannot be achieved on buses.
- Assigned seats with students from the same household sitting together will be enforced on the bus.
- Field trips are on hold until further notice.
- Fresh air will be introduced to maximize air circulation. Air conditioners will be allowed to run.
- Children who become sick during the day may not ride the bus home.
- If a student has a temperature above 100.4, the student will not be allowed to enter the bus. Driver/Monitor will provide parents with documentation regarding the process for the student returning to school.
- Each operable school bus will be professionally cleaned and sanitized fully prior to school reopening.



Nutritional Services

Cafeteria service will be handled differently at each school in our county. Students age, cafeteria size, # of students will impact how our students will be fed breakfast and lunch each day.

The following strategies will be implemented to increase student safety.

- Students will be provided the opportunity for handwashing before and after meal service.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be readily available and proper use will be encouraged.
- Breakfast will be served as grab and go meals and will be available to students upon arrival in school entryways. Students will eat breakfast in their classroom.
- Physical distancing at tables between students- with students all facing the same direction will take place if the student eats in the lunchroom.
- Staggered meal times to allow more time between groups who are scheduled to eat in the cafeteria.
- Additional cleaning and sanitizing of tables between groups.
- Meals may also be served in the classroom to reduce the number of students congregated in the cafeteria.
- No self-serve for any items will be permitted. Cafeteria staff will place all items on trays.
- All meals will include disposable utensils and will be served on disposable trays.
- Lunch meals that are sent to classrooms will be in covered containers..
- Any leftover waste from breakfast or lunch eaten in classrooms will be placed in heavy duty trash bags and placed in hallways after each meal.
- No keypads, salad bars, or self-service that includes multiple students touching one serving utensil will be used.
- Cleaning of the meal serving area, cafeteria, and high touch surfaces will be conducted throughout the school day.
- Cafeteria servers will be required to wear face shields and gloves.
- Elementary schools will rotate classes eating in the lunchroom **or** classroom so that social distancing at lunch can be achieved.
- Bacon County Middle School and High will stagger lunch schedules so that fewer students are at lunch at one time to allow for social distancing. Tables will be spaced out to aid in Social Distancing.
- Breakfast and Lunch procedures will be developed at the school level in cooperation with the Principal, Cafeteria Manager, and the district's School Nutrition Coordinator.
- All serving lines will be sanitized after each breakfast and lunch serving times
- Principals may choose to use other areas as well (gymnasium / commons / outside (weather permitting), etc.



Extracurricular/ Athletics

- Athletics will follow **GHSA** recommendations. GHSA will determine if we have an athletic season that includes games beginning in August.
- Extracurricular/Academic clubs will follow CDC, DPH, and GaDOE guidelines.



Clinics and Student Health

All nurses will be equipped with proper PPE that include N95 masks. Clinics at our schools are being outfitted with additional resources.

See below for safety protocols that will be implemented in each of our school clinics:

- Students/Staff who are sick at school will be sent to the school nurse clinic. They will be masked and isolated from others in a designated location so that the clinic can remain open for routine reasons (e.g. medication, first aid, or other regular treatments).
- Students who are sick must be promptly picked up and are subject to the “Return to School Guidelines” on page 4.
- Sick students will remain isolated until parents arrive for pick up.
- Nurses and or secretarial staff will coordinate to contact parents/guardians of sick students
- Staff who are sick will be sent home immediately, with administrative support, and are subject to the “Return to School Guidelines” on page 4.
- Face masks will be used for sick persons with respiratory symptoms and fever over 100.4, if tolerated by the person and developmentally appropriate.
- Students and staff who become ill are encouraged to seek treatment and consultation with their personal healthcare provider or the local health department. If warranted, a COVID-19 test is also recommended.
- School nurses will work closely with local DPH and primary care providers and follow their guidance and recommendations in every case.
- When cases of COVID-19, either for students or staff, are confirmed, the system will work with local health authorities to respond rapidly. The BCSD will follow directions provided by our local DPH.



Attendance

In order to avoid creating any incentives for ill individuals to attend school/work, all perfect attendance awards, school monthly attendance awards, and all other attendance incentives will be waived for the 2020-2021 school year until further notice.

Due to truancy requirements in Georgia law, we cannot waive these requirements. However, we will work to reduce some of the letters/paperwork sent home due to absences. Schools will work with parents to resolve attendance issues related to a COVID-19 illness.



Instructional Options

Students will have two options for returning to school. **Traditional** (face to face), which will begin on August 10th at each school **OR** a **Virtual Online Option**. See Frequently Asked Questions regarding traditional versus virtual online options:

[Frequently Asked Questions \(Traditional vs. Virtual\)](#)

Traditional Learning Plan

The Bacon County School System will offer a traditional learning option for those parents and students who are ready for their children to return to in-person learning. The traditional learning plan will include safety measures and protocols for COVID-19. Our school system has worked diligently to put procedures in place to protect those that choose this plan.

Virtual Learning Option

The Bacon County School System will offer a virtual learning option for those parents who are not ready for their children to return to in-person learning. Please make note of the following requirements.

- Once the first day of school begins, students who have enrolled in virtual learning will not be able to enroll in traditional instruction school until January 6, 2021.
- Parents must provide sufficient technology which includes a device such as a laptop, Chromebook, or desktop to apply for online learning. A cell phone does not constitute a device for educational purposes.

- Parents must provide internet access to apply for online learning.
- An application will be required and parents must agree to a semester long commitment to apply for online learning.
- Students participating in virtual learning will be **ineligible** for extra-curricular activities. (This includes, but is not limited to, participation in Athletics, Fine Arts Programs, School Dances, Clubs, Field Trips, Fun Days, etc.)

An application will be available at all schools and on the system webpage beginning **July 21, 2020**. The deadline to enroll for virtual learning will be **July 27, 2020**. Virtual learning requires a supportive parent or adult for the digital learning experience to be successful, especially for PK-3 students. **Click Here to Apply [Virtual Online Application](#)**

Virtual Learning Services

Bacon County Schools will use Edgenuity to outsource virtual learning. For K-12 students, once enrolled in the Virtual Academy they will be assigned courses and an Edgenuity instructor . The student will have access to on demand live tutors and/or instructors.

Each school will have a designated point of contact for parents that choose the virtual online option.

Parents/Guardians will have the option to choose between **traditional** (in-person/face-to-face instruction in the school building) or **virtual** (online/distance) learning for their children during the 2020 Fall Semester. We will determine the need for Spring Semester virtual learning at a later date, based on updated information from state and federal health agencies.

While being committed to all students having access to a quality education this fall, we acknowledge the decision on whether to return to a school building or enroll in virtual learning is deeply personal for each family. In order to participate in virtual learning, this ***Virtual School Registration Form*** must be completed fully for each student.

Parents will only need to complete this form if you are choosing online learning instead of traditional in-person instruction at the school building. Families with multiple children should complete one form for each child who will participate in virtual learning.

****All Virtual School Registration Forms are to be submitted to the Bacon County Board of Education front office before 4:00pm on Monday, July 27, 2020.**

The due date listed will allow us time to adjust schedules of face to face teacher classrooms as well as time to assign and register your child to a virtual class.

Virtual Learning Expectations

- Choosing the virtual learning option requires a commitment for at least one full semester. At this time, Bacon County Schools is offering the option of full-time virtual learning for our K-12 students during Fall Semester 2020 from **August 10 – December 18, 2020**.
- Virtual learning students may return to traditional in-person classrooms when school resumes for the second semester on January 6, 2021.
- It will be the parent's responsibility to provide sufficient technology (device and connectivity) for the child to be successful in virtual learning. Devices must be a laptop, chromebook, or desktop computer. Connectivity includes wi-fi/internet access. Parents must provide both of these items in order to apply for online learning. No print resources will be provided for the Virtual Learning Option. (**Note: Cell phones are not considered a sufficient device**)
- Each student may be assigned weekly on-line learning schedules where assignments will be graded and daily participation is required.
- Virtual learning requires a supportive parent or adult for the digital learning experience to be successful.
- Students participating in virtual learning will be **ineligible** for extra-curricular or co-curricular activities.
- We look forward to partnering with your family and remain committed to providing quality learning for all Bacon County School students this fall.

****Please note – submitting a Virtual Learning Registration Form confirms that your student will not attend in-person classes for Fall Semester 2020.**

If you have questions or concerns, please email covid19@bcraiders.com

Please note that this plan or dates are subject to change due to the uncertainty of times.