



BRRF
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF BLACK RIVER FALLS
Inspiring Excellence

**School District of Black River Falls
2021-2022**

It is the intention of the School District of Black River Falls to remain open to in-person learning by establishing a safe learning environment through implementing a system of layering mitigation measures. We aim to have near-zero transmission of the COVID virus within our schools. Transmission levels will determine our success and lead to the consideration of reducing mitigation measures over time. The District will follow all legal orders or mandates presented by relevant government agencies such as the US Department of Health and Human Services, the US Department of Transportation, the Wisconsin Department of Public Health, and the Department of Public Instruction. The District will consider guidelines and Jackson County Public Health recommendations when choosing the best course of action. Our local community conditions, which include district buildings, will also be considered throughout the decision-making process.

The District's administration is granted authority by the School Board to take appropriate action as necessary in any instance where the District's plan becomes inadequate or does not address the particular situation and the urgency of the situation determines the necessity for immediate change to the plan.

When sick, stay home:

Staying home when sick is an important way to keep students and staff healthy. Your child should stay home until symptom-free without medication for 24 hours if they have:

- Temperature greater than 100.0 degrees
- Vomiting or diarrhea

New for the 2021-2022 school year, if your child becomes ill with COVID-like symptoms, he or she will be sent home. However, siblings of the symptomatic child will not be

excluded. If the symptomatic sibling tests positive for COVID-19, then other siblings that reside in the same household will need to quarantine.

Students will also be excluded from school/activities based on criteria outlined by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services for childhood communicable diseases.

Please contact your School Nurse if your child develops the following symptoms/illnesses:

- Rash that is open and draining or a rash with a fever
- Contagious diseases: strep throat, impetigo, pink eye, chickenpox
- Nuisance diseases: head lice, scabies, ringworm

Masking:

The current mask recommendation for within our school buildings will be adjusted based on the current level of community transmission within Jackson County. This data will be pulled from the CDC website on a weekly basis: [LINK](#). There is currently a federal order which mandates face coverings be worn by drivers and all passengers on school buses and vehicles. We will abide by this federal order, as our liability insurance requires it.

Masking Requirement:

- **When Jackson County is in a HIGH rate of community transmission we would require masking for all when indoors.**
- **When the Jackson County transmission rate is SUBSTANTIAL we require masking for Forrest Street, Red Creek, and the Middle School. (These grade levels are identified based on the availability of a vaccine for students in those age groups.)**
- **When the Jackson County transmission rate is MODERATE masking would be optional for all.**

Masking Details:

- When there is instruction happening that is significantly hindered by the wearing of masks, the staff will ask students to spread out in the classroom and remove their face coverings while they work through that content. Some examples of this would be during the early literacy and phonics instruction, to play their instruments in band, and when there is significant exertion during physical education classes. Teachers will continue to provide mask breaks outside when possible and appropriate.

Transportation:

As stated above, there is currently a federal order which mandates face coverings be worn by drivers and all passengers on school buses and vehicles. Masking will be required on all school buses and district transportation.

Social Distancing:

The District will work to provide social distancing wherever possible. We appreciate students also being mindful of their surroundings.

Quarantine:

Individuals who test positive for COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status, must isolate. Individuals not fully vaccinated for COVID-19 who live with someone who is positive will be required to quarantine.

The District will continue to conduct contact tracing to determine if there are individuals who are close contacts to a positive case in the school setting. The School Nurse, or designee, will contact these families to be picked up.

- If a student is a close contact they will be required to either provide a negative COVID test, or quarantine for 8-10 days, following the Jackson County Public Health Exclusion Protocol.
- Please note that the exclusion protocol states that if both individuals are masked and are 3' apart, that person is not considered a close contact and does not need to be quarantined.
- Vaccinated individuals that are deemed to be a close contact do not need to quarantine as long as they are not experiencing symptoms. The individual is required to mask for 14 days following the exposure, regardless of the current masking requirement of the District.

Cleaning/Ventilation:

Measures of cleaning with the addition of disinfectant of all hard surfaces and high traffic areas will continue to be implemented on a daily basis. Cleaning supplies and hand sanitation materials will be available in all classrooms and in all common areas throughout the district. All supplies will be deemed safe for use by all ages.

The District will provide the highest level of filtration possible and increase air exchanges within each of our buildings.

Personal Hygiene:

Emphasis will be placed on hand washing and covering of one's cough in all settings within the District.

Pauses to In-Person Learning:

The District will follow state and local health directives when considering any temporary halting of in-person instruction. These directives are based upon the following criteria:

- Other outbreak mitigation measures were implemented and ineffective at halting outbreak transmission
- Logistics of in-person instruction have been seriously impacted due to staff and/or student absences
- Classroom or school-wide cleaning and disinfection needs to be completed
- Extensive contact tracing is needed to identify all contacts (response to a case at a large school event)

Any temporary pause to in-person learning will be the last resort when all other mitigation strategies have been exhausted or were ineffective.

Distance Learning:

The District will not provide a full virtual option for all families. If there is a documented health condition that requires an Individual Health Plan (IHP) please work with Elizabeth Johnson, our school nurse, to create that plan. The District will purchase virtual seats in a virtual program for those individuals. We will provide continuity of learning when a student(s) is/are home due to COVID-19 protocols.

Extracurricular/Co-Curricular Activities:

The District will conduct all extracurricular/co-curricular activities in accordance with WIAA and other recommendations.

- We will allow fans to attend all activities as long as they follow the masking requirement at the time of the event.
- Athletes for indoor sports will be asked to mask when they are not directly engaged in competition. (Ex. On the sidelines, during practices when instruction is being conducted, etc.)

Communication to Families:

When a Black River Falls School District student tests positive for COVID-19, and has participated in school/activities while contagious, close contacts will be notified by phone and/or email. Please continue to monitor the website dashboard for updates on the total number of cases within our schools. The [LINK is here](#).

Our hope is to make this school year as “normal” of a school experience as possible!

Here are some changes from last year's practices:

- Visitors are welcome to the schools as long as they follow the mask requirement in place at the time. We are excited to welcome back our Mentors and Volunteers!
- Field Trips will be taken as is possible with different venues.
- Lunches will be served in a much more traditional style this year with the hot meals being served on trays.
- Both breakfast and lunch will be provided free of charge this year as the District is participating in a federal program which allows for this to happen. We still encourage free and reduced lunch applications to be completed to assist with accessing other possible funding sources.
- Students will not be strictly cohorted throughout their school day. This may make contact tracing more complicated, however, the change in not needing to quarantine if individuals are masked and 3' apart will significantly help the need to quarantine as well.

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