

Beal City Public Schools

Back to School Plans for 2021-2022

Dear Beal City Public Schools Families and Staff:

We are so happy to see our local COVID-19 numbers decline and restrictions greatly reduced. We are looking forward to the upcoming school year! The district has received a number of questions about what the school will look like for the 2021-2022 school year. This update will provide you with our plans as of today, which may change should we receive public health orders from the CDC or MDHHS. ([Explanation of community transmission map for data driven decision making](#)) ([CDC community transmission map](#)) Athletics will adhere to rules set forth by MDHHS and MHSAA.

General Information

What will our instructional model look like?

All students will attend school in-person, full-time, five days per week following the published [school calendar](#). We may be looking at a 3rd party online provider, if the State requires each school to have an online offering.

When does school start?

Our first full day of school is on Monday, August 25, 2021

When are the first "Back to School Beal City Public Schools" events?

Beal City Public Schools is planning Secondary Orientation and an Elementary Open House on **August 23rd, from 4-6 pm**. These events will include activities for students and parents, and an opportunity for students and parents to visit our schools and visit with teachers.

What is the cost of breakfast and lunch for the 2021-2022 school year?

Breakfast and lunch will be provided free of charge; however, a la carte items (i.e., a cookie, a bag of chips, a bottle of water, etc) will have to be purchased with funds through an established food service account.

Will Beal City Public Schools offer a virtual option for students?

The district will not be offering any type of virtual option unless required to do so by the State. If we are required to offer a virtual option, the district will be working with a 3rd party online provider. There does not seem like enough demand to make it feasible for the district at this time. If you have questions or wonderings about options that may be available virtually for your child, please call your child's school office for more information.

COVID-19 & Communicable Disease Protocols as of July 15th with no new orders from the State of Michigan, MDHHS or the CDC.

CDC/MDHHS prevention strategies for school recommendations as of June 25th include:

1. **Promoting COVID-19 vaccination for eligible staff and students.**
 - a. **Will my child be required to get the COVID-19 vaccine in order to attend school?** No. The COVID-19 vaccine is not listed on the School Required Vaccination List. For more information, please see: [School Required Vaccines for Parents by MDHHS](#)
 - b. **Will you separate students who are vaccinated from students who are unvaccinated?** No. Vaccination status is a personal choice.
 - c. **Will the school publish where vaccinations can be given?** Yes, we will let people know where they can be vaccinated but will not require and/or push anyone to be vaccinated. That is a personal choice.
2. **Correctly and consistently using well-fitted masks that cover the nose and mouth.** CDC recommendations for [when to wear a mask in school settings](#).
 - a. **Are face masks required at school or on the bus?** Face masks will be optional in the school building and must be provided by parents/guardians.

Masks are required on the school bus as it is considered public transportation.

3. **Social Distancing:** [Physical distancing](#), including cohorting children together to reduce potential exposures.

- a. **Will students be Social Distanced 6 feet apart in school or on the bus.** No Beal City has used the as far apart as feasible definition of social distancing since the beginning and this will continue.
- b. **Will students be in cohorts in the classroom or on the playground?**
No. As of June 22, 2021, MDHHS has discontinued all gathering limits for residential and nonresidential settings.

4. **COVID-19 Screening, Testing and Contact Tracing**

- a. Encouraging students and staff to stay home if sick or having [COVID-19 symptoms](#).
- b. Encouraging students and staff to get tested for COVID-19 if having [symptoms](#) or if they are not fully vaccinated and are a close contact of someone who has COVID-19.
- c. Conducting [screening](#)
- d. Implementing [contact tracing](#) and quarantine, collaborating with the local health department.
- e. **Will my child(ern) have to stay home when sick or have any symptoms of being sick?** Yes, we encourage you to keep your child(ern) home if they are sick.
- f. **Will we require students or staff members to be tested if they have symptoms of being sick?** No, we will not require it but do encourage anyone who has symptoms of a Communicable Disease, is sick with a Communicable Disease or who has been exposed to a Communicable Disease to take action against the spread of that Communicable Disease.

- g. **Will the school be conducting any screenings?** No, the school will not require any screenings to attend school or work. We will continue to monitor the MIOSHA guidance and do what we have to do so our students and staff can participate fully in face to face instruction.
- h. **Will student athletes need to be tested for COVID-19 to participate?**
No, not at this time MDHHS and MHSAA lifted all requirements for student testing as of June 22, 2021. We will continue to monitor the MHSAA and do what we have to do so our student athletes can participate.
- i. **Will contact tracing continue? No, the school is obligated to communicate an exposure but not to exclude anyone.** Schools are required to report communicable diseases to their local health department within 24 hours. Positive or probable COVID-19 cases will be reported to the Health Department following our Communicable Disease Board Policy and Michigan Law Act No. 368 of the Public Acts of 1978. For a complete list of reportable diseases, please see the following document: [2021 Reportable Diseases](#). When there is a positive or probable case within a classroom, an exposure letter will be sent home to parent(s) just as we do with other communicable diseases such as chicken pox.
- j. **Will Beal City Public Schools quarantine students?** NO, all quarantines will be issued by the student's resident health department if necessary.
- k. **Will student athletes need to be tested for COVID-19 to participate?**
No, not at this time MDHHS and MHSAA lifted all requirements for student testing as of June 22, 2021. We will continue to monitor the MHSAA and do what we have to do so our student athletes can participate.

5. Maintaining Healthy Environments

- a. Promoting [handwashing and covering coughs and sneezes](#).
- b. Routine [cleaning](#) to help maintain healthy facilities.

- c. Avoiding crowded and/or poorly ventilated indoor activities (e.g., engaging in outdoor activities when possible and increasing [ventilation](#) for indoor activities).
- d. **Will the school promote and encourage hand washing and good coughing and sneezing etiquette?** Yes Beal City Public Schools taught these behaviors prior to the pandemic and we will continue after post pandemic. As some of our teachers teach, wash on the way in and sanitize on the way out.
- e. **Will Beal City Public Schools continue its cleaning routine from the 2021-2022 school year?** Yes, Beal City Public Schools will continue to employ a day time custodian to continue the route we put in place for pandemic.
- f. **Will Beal City Public Schools be avoiding crowded and/or poorly ventilated indoor activities?** No, we have installed filters and UV lighting in all of our HVHC units throughout the school for better ventilation.

Thank you, Aggie staff and families, for your attention to this message and your feedback on our Stakeholder survey. We will continue to monitor the MDHHS, MIOSHA, MHSAA, and our Local Health Department for any new requirements and/or mandates they issue that may change the above information. It is a WONDERFUL THING that we see our world returning to increased normalcy each and every day. It is hoped you are able to relax and enjoy this summer in preparation for next year's school year. I look forward to greeting your child(ren) and all our staff when we return in August.

Sincerely With "Aggie" Pride,

William C Chilman IV, Superintendent
Beal City Public Schools, Go Aggies