

# Burlington Elementary School

## Reopening Plan

### Commitments/mission?

We recognize that COVID-19 situation is very fluid. The District has developed a three tiered plan that follows a stop light pattern in which green, yellow and red are identified and three different scenarios, ranging from green (as normal as possible) to yellow (more cautionary situation) and red (drastic modification of instruction). This is a living document that will be reviewed frequently and updated as needed. We believe that a nimble plan, one that can address the reality we see in our communities, not in other places, will be much more likely to provide our staff the frameworks they need in order to deliver on our primary mission, to keep kids safe and provide them with a quality education.

Our mitigation strategy will hinge on three main strategies: active surveillance, cohorts and increased sanitation.

Defining active surveillance: Daily screening for symptoms in order to catch any possible cases early and limit the spread. Collecting data on student/staff absences in order to identify trends in illnesses.

Purpose of active surveillance: Close monitoring of student health throughout the year will provide early recognition and intervention to keep the virus from infecting the entire student body and staff which would lead to school closure and interruption of in-person learning.

Defining cohort: BES will define a cohort as the grade level students and teachers.

Purpose of cohorts: Our model of mitigation will strive to maintain separation between cohorts throughout the school day in order to maximize time in the classroom. We recognize that in a small community, the connections and interactions we share outside of school are seemingly endless. However, cohorting will allow the school to determine, if need be, that a grade level be quarantined while many other students are allowed to continue school in person.

Finally, an increased awareness and maintenance of cleaning procedures will hopefully reduce the spread of all illnesses.

## Description of Phases

Green days are considered to be the closest to normal instruction BES can provide at this time.

Yellow days will be used as an increased effort to slow the spread of the virus due to a direct threat in the community.

Red days will be result from an order to close the school because of COVID incidence in the building or community by the local Health Department or by order of the Governor.

## Criteria

Green days are the lowest risk days of COVID as determined by the district and the Kit Carson County Health Department. There are no obvious health issues in the school community. An ill student or parent may need to be tested for COVID-19, but there is still low risk to the school population.

Yellow days are times and periods in which there is an observed and verified increase in COVID-19 cases in our community. This would be people who have been exposed or tested positive in the school system, parents/siblings who have tested positive, etc. Also, if there are mandates or advisories by the state or the Department of Health that we need to increase our efforts to curtail the virus.

Red days are when large community outbreaks require the Health Department or Governor to order school closures. School may be out for a short time and then students on a very limited basis may be allowed to come back to school for support in groups of 10 or less in any section of the building with screening, cohorting and social distancing measures.

## Screening

Employees will be required to screen for temperature and any other type of illness prior to coming to work. Parents will be expected to screen from home before sending kids to school. The district will provide educational material regarding pre-screenings. Employees and students will have temperatures checked before the start of the school day and as needed per normal school procedures. All adult visitors will be screened.

Same as green except screening may increase to twice a day (before school and lunch/recess). Staff will implement heightened monitoring of student symptoms.

Same as yellow for all in building personnel.

## Building Access

Access to the building will be closely controlled and monitored. Outside entities will complete screening at the office and access will be limited to help manage cohorts and cleaning. Parent/community volunteers may still be allowed access to the building.

Outside entities will be limited as much as possible. Parent/community volunteering will be suspended.

Staff will have building access. Student access will be very limited.

## Instruction

Students will experience normal learning in the classrooms. Students will receive direct instruction from teachers and paraprofessionals. Transition times may be modified in order to encourage cohort separation. Feasible social distancing will be exercised when possible and some classes will be relocated outdoors weather allows. Teachers may modify some activities or manipulatives as they see fit to best support health guidelines. Teachers will prioritize using Google Classroom or SeeSaw technology within the classroom to prepare students for the possibility of online learning.

Some grade level cohorts may stay home and learn using technology in order to quarantine if they were exposed, allow for deep cleaning, and/or to reduce the susceptibility of further spread. In some cases, attendance may be reduced to one or two days in person weekly with the rest of instruction being online.

Instruction will occur online.

## Student Interactions

Students will experience as normal expectations as possible during the school day. One exclusion will be limiting interactions between grade level cohorts.

Before and after school activities will be suspended.

Same as yellow.

## Before/After School

Activities will be offered but may be limited. Mitigation strategies implemented will include maintaining grade level cohorts during these activities through social distancing, limiting the number of students, and not sharing materials. Before school, elementary students will report directly to their classrooms unless attending early tutoring.

All before/after school activities will be suspended.

Same as yellow.

## Cleaning and Sanitation Procedures

High touch surfaces such as doors, railings, drinking fountains, common areas in classrooms will be wiped down frequently throughout the day. Frequent handwashing will be scheduled and monitored. Maintenance will be retasked primarily to focus on cleaning areas of the school throughout the day. Teachers will receive a series of protocols to disinfect their rooms at the end of the day in order to prepare for the next morning.

## Common Use Areas

### Cafeteria

Cohorts will eat in the cafeteria and maintain distance from other cohorts while at lunch. Teachers will enforce procedures to provide social distancing between cohorts. Procedures will be implemented to prevent common touch areas in the lunch procedures. See other district level restrictions.

Classes may eat in their room in order to increase separation between cohorts during lunch times. Lunch offerings may be adapted to accommodate this change.

Any meals served would be brown bag in the classroom.

## Recess

Cohorts will maintain distance from other cohorts while on the playground by dividing it into sectors. For instance, when 3rd and 4th are at recess, one grade level will occupy the playground while the other has recess on the field. Cohorts will rotate through each sector at different recesses. Playground high touch areas will be sanitized daily.

Cohorts may be further divided if under close monitoring as determined

If students were in the building individualized breaks would be organized to provide appropriate levels of mental breaks while maintaining cohort and appropriate social distancing measures.

## Specials (Gym, Music, Computers)

All equipment used in these classes will be wiped down or sanitize otherwise between cohort groups and when possible between the classes (computers).

Students will have regularly scheduled physical education classes. Students may use outside and the gym to spread out with close supervision by the physical education teacher. They will attend each of these specials within their cohorts.

Students will have the opportunity to participate in music. Students may use social distancing and other measures to prevent spread. Curriculum may be adapted to reduce respiratory droplet formation as this is a known method of spreading.

Instruction would continue for in building classes as determined to be possible. Cleaning may cause schedules to be altered slightly. Students participating online would have activities available.

Any programming will be online.

## Library

Students will have structure and controlled access to the library that will permit them time to check out and browse for books. Library numbers will be organized and managed by teachers and the librarian.

Students will have limited or no direct access to the library. Staff will provide students with leveled reading material through classroom interactions.

Staff access only.