



## What to Expect - Health & Safety in our School for the 2021-22 School Year

Dear Students & Families,

We are excited to welcome students and staff back to school this fall and want to share some updates about what to expect.

### **School Days & Instructional Time**

Black Butte School District will operate 5 days each week, serving all students full-time, in-person this fall. Rules for instructional hours have returned to pre-pandemic levels. Our district will provide remote learning for students who may need to quarantine.

### **Health & Safety in Our Schools**

As our school plans for the 2021-22 in-person school year, it is important to remember our communities will be living with the virus until there is widespread immunity. COVID-19 continues to change with new variants, our knowledge of mitigation efforts grows over time.

Right now, the best tools to protect ourselves and one another are vaccination for those eligible, physical distancing, face coverings, ventilation and airflow, hand hygiene, and staying home if you feel sick or you know you've been exposed to someone with COVID-19.

We want to share the health and safety protocols we will have in place in our school, along with steps we plan to take in response to COVID-19 cases and outbreaks, should they occur in our school during the 2021-22 school year.

We encourage you to review the information below and talk with your student(s) about what to expect. The transition back to school may prompt a range of emotions for you and/or your child - from anxiety and uncertainty to excitement and opportunity. We want you to know it is a priority to create safe spaces where your child feels safe, cared for, and connected to the learning environment. Working together, we can harness this opportunity to rekindle joy and learning in the classrooms.

You can find more information on our webpage at [www.blackbutte.k12.or.us](http://www.blackbutte.k12.or.us)

## **What to Expect Fact Sheet**

### **Health & Safety Protocols**

**Vaccination:** Our schools bring together people who are fully vaccinated and people who are not fully vaccinated. Everyone age 12 and older is eligible for a vaccine. Vaccination of 12-14 year olds requires parental or guardian consent. Vaccination of school staff is mandatory. Vaccination supports a student's access to in-person learning, sports and extracurricular activities. Fully vaccinated individuals who are exposed to COVID-19 are not required to quarantine unless they develop symptoms which ensures continuity of in-person instruction. When as many eligible students and staff are vaccinated as possible, our school is better able to serve students and families without interruption.

**Face Coverings:** Face coverings are mandatory for students and staff both indoors and outdoors (when physical distancing is not possible) during school hours. **Face coverings are required on public transit, including school buses, for passengers and drivers until lifted by the federal government.** The CDC order for mandatory use of face coverings on public transit cannot be waived by state or local authorities. The [CDC guidance](#) is available on the CDC website.

**Physical Distancing:** We will support physical distancing in all daily activities and instruction, maintaining at least 3 feet between students to the extent possible. Our schools will have signs and visuals to remind students, staff and visitors.

**Ventilation and Airflow:** We have 3 HEPA air filters for our school, one is located in each classroom. We will operate these air filters while the students are in the building.

**Handwashing:** Hand washing will be taught and encouraged. Students and staff will have access to soap and water and hand sanitizer. We will be asking students to wash or sanitize their hands any time they enter the building, before they eat, and after they use the bathroom.

### **Responding to COVID-19 Cases or Outbreaks**

We want you to know it is a priority for our school district to create a learning environment where your child feels safe, cared for, and connected to peers and school staff.

**When staff and students show symptoms of being ill:** if the student or staff member feels ill prior to coming to school, they should stay home. If a student or staff member becomes ill at school, we will have a designated location to separate people who have symptoms of COVID-19 from people who are not sick. We will promptly notify the parent/guardian and the student should be transported home as soon as possible.

**When a staff member or a student tests positive for COVID-19:** our school district will work with our local public health authority to take next steps. This will include communicating to our school community and contacting those who may have been exposed.

CDC guidance states that people who are [fully vaccinated](#) and do not have COVID-19 symptoms do not need to quarantine or get tested after an exposure to someone with COVID-19.