



BERLIN BROTHERSVALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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“HOME OF THE MOUNTAINEERS”

Dr. David F. Reeder
Superintendent

“Educational Excellence, Community Engagement, Lifelong Success”

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Health & Safety Plan Summary

The Berlin Brothersvalley School District is planning for a safe return to school on Tuesday, September 1, 2020. In order for this to occur we need the support of everyone involved, including students, their families, district staff, and the community in general for this to be accomplished effectively.

Earlier this month, the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) released preliminary guidance requiring each school district’s board of school directors to create and approve its own “Health and Safety Plan” prior to reopening for in-person instruction. While each school entity has unique characteristics of size, geographic location, school design, graduation requirements, and local board policy, consistency in procedure and practice among Somerset County school districts is desirable to the fullest extent possible. Regardless of how we might vary, all plans will be centered on the health and safety of students and staff.

While health and safety considerations are paramount, guidance is also rooted in our understanding and belief that social interaction and in-person instruction is essential to our children’s emotional well-being, as well as their educational growth and advancement.

Berlin Brothersvalley Health and Safety Plan Highlights

1. Symptom screening should be done by all parents/guardians at home each morning before the school day. Children with symptoms should not be sent on a bus or brought to school.
2. All district staff should perform a symptom screen on themselves prior to leaving for work, and should stay home if ill.
3. Temperature screening may be required upon entrance to school for students and staff.
4. Students and staff will be made aware of the signs and symptoms of COVID-19.
5. Students and staff should go to the nurse immediately if feeling symptomatic.
6. Wearing masks may be required of students while in school and on school buses. ***As of 12:01 AM on Thursday, July 16, 2020, Governor Wolf has mandated the wearing of masks on school buses and during school hours. This is a State requirement and supersedes the optional district mask protocols.**
7. Staff, when not able to socially distance from students in the classroom, should utilize either a face shield or mask.
8. Six-foot distancing is not required for classroom seating – a lesser distance is acceptable if six feet is not achievable to meet the needs of students. There may be a minimum spacing of three feet, the social distancing recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO), as a three-foot distance is associated with large reductions in infection via droplet spread of coughs and sneezes. Classroom configurations may be altered for maximal social distancing as feasible.
9. All high-touch surfaces will be disinfected regularly.
10. All individuals in school should sanitize or wash their hands on a frequent basis. Hand sanitizer will

be made available in all common areas, hallways, and/or in classrooms where sinks for handwashing are not available.

11. Classrooms and common areas should be ventilated with additional circulation of outdoor air when possible, using windows, doors, and/or fans.

12. Buses can operate with a maximum of two students per seat, with the understanding that masks may be required of students while on the bus. High-touch surfaces on buses should be disinfected at least daily.

13. The Berlin Brothersvalley School District, in conjunction with our school physician, will assist with the development of strategies similar to those successfully used with measles, pertussis, and other infectious diseases that allow classrooms, schools, and districts to remain open in the event of a confirmed case of COVID-19.

14. High-traffic hallway use will be limited when feasible.

15. In the cafeteria, additional tables will be added, student seating will be staggered and students will be seated to provide the maximum social distance. Movement in the cafeteria during lunches will be structured and monitored by staff.

Throughout the summer and with the reopening of school on Tuesday, September 1, 2020 and any interscholastic athletic and extracurricular programs starting prior to that time, the Berlin Brothersvalley School District will continue to make adjustments to the plans if needed. As we strive to minimize the overall effects of COVID-19, the health and safety of the entire school community and the effective education of our students are our priorities.