

YELLOW SPRINGS SCHOOLS

Bulldog Blueprint 3.1

Revised for March 1, 2021, Hybrid Return-to-School

Introduction

We have come a long way since March 2020. COVID-19 is still a pandemic, but there is hope on the horizon with the arrival of vaccines. Since November 2020, we have had in-person Wednesdays where students have come into the building for individualized support as well as activities and clubs. This has been so valuable for both students and staff. We have been able to manage this with minimal issues.

We will be returning to school, in a 50% hybrid manner as detailed in our December Bulldog Blueprint 3.0, on Monday, March 1. We have been tracking our COVID-19 metrics every week since December. While we have not met our metrics yet, the numbers have been consistently dropping each week, and by March 1, we should be close to meeting those metrics. Although the December plan stated we would not return until we met our established criteria, the landscape changed in late January when Governor DeWine indicated that education personnel would not be prioritized for the vaccine unless districts agree to return by March 1, in a 100% in-person or hybrid format. Our staff will be getting their first vaccine dose on February 19 and their second on March 12. Ninety-three percent of our staff have elected to get the vaccine. This number is quite high, and higher than many surrounding districts. Additionally, the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) issued new guidance for K-12 schools on February 12. Here is a summary of their recommendations:

CDC has developed guidance for mitigation strategies that K-12 school administrators can use to help protect students, teachers, and staff and slow the spread of COVID-19. If mitigation strategies are strictly adhered to, K-12 schools can safely open for in-person instruction and remain open. In addition, the association between COVID-19 incidence and outbreaks in school settings and levels of community transmission underscores the importance of controlling disease spread in the community to protect teachers, staff, and students in schools. This document provides an operational strategy for safe delivery of in-person instruction in K-12 schools through the integration of a package of mitigation and control components.

- 1. Consistent implementation of layered mitigation strategies to reduce SARS-CoV-2 transmission in schools.*
- 2. Indicators of community transmission to reflect levels of community risk.*
- 3. Phased mitigation and learning modes based on levels of community transmission.*

The following public health efforts provide additional layers of COVID-19 prevention in schools.

- Testing to identify individuals with a SARS-CoV-2 infection to limit transmission and outbreaks.*
- Vaccination for teachers, staff, and in communities as soon as supply allows.*

You can find the full information here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/operational-strategy.html>

The following information in this document describes our protocols based upon the most up-to-date health and safety information from the CDC.

New information (both regarding health & safety and return to school protocols) from what was previously communicated in the *Bulldog Blueprint 3.0* in December 2020 is in RED.

General Health & Safety Guidelines

As we return to a 50% hybrid schedule, we will follow ALL health and safety guidelines. Our health and safety guidelines are as follows. **New guidelines are in red.**

1. Perform Daily Symptom Checks

- All parents/families/staff **MUST** be vigilant in performing daily health checks. Ohio Department of Health guidelines indicate that children (and adults) should be kept home from school if they exhibit one or more of the following symptoms and should see their primary care doctor to be assessed for COVID-19:
 - A student with a fever of 100.4 F or higher should stay home **without exception.**
 - **Any** of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing; or,
 - **Two** of the following symptoms: fever (measured or subjective), chills, rigors (chills with shivering), myalgia (muscle pain), headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, gastro-intestinal issues (nausea/vomiting or diarrhea); or
 - **Any** of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing, fever (measured or subjective), chills, rigors (Chills with shivering), myalgia (muscle pain), headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, GI Issues (nausea and vomiting or diarrhea) **AND** an epidemiological link to a case of COVID-19.
 - **Please note that COVID-19 symptoms can mask as sinus-related, common cold or other viral symptoms.**

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- If a student or staff member is suspected of having COVID-19 while at school, the following steps will occur:
 - Immediate isolation to our identified COVID-19 isolation spaces. The individual (student/child) is to return home as quickly as possible. Parents will be called if the individual is a student.
 - School nurses will use standard transmission-based precautions when caring for sick individuals.
 - Areas of the building where the individual spent more than 30 minutes will be closed. After at least 24 hours, and longer if practicable, the area will be disinfected with an approved COVID-19 sanitizer.
 - The district will work with Greene County Public Health to determine whether any other actions must be taken, including quarantine.
 - To return to school after a confirmed case of COVID-19, the student must be transported to school by the parent and must be checked by the school nurse.
 - If a student, teacher, staff member, etc. has a positive COVID-19 diagnosis, the following standard operating guidelines **WILL be followed when the individual has not been in school for at least 48 hours:**
 - The positive individual will stay home from school until fever-free without the use of medication for 24 hours, AND other symptoms are improving, and it has been at least ten (10) days since symptoms first appeared.
 - If the positive individual is asymptomatic, the period of isolation starts from the test date and is ten (10) days in length.
 - Contact tracing is not needed because the individual was not at school in the past 48 hours.

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- The district will report the name, address, and phone number of the positive case to the Communicable Disease Nurse at Greene County Public Health.
 - If a student, teacher, staff member, etc. has a positive COVID-19 diagnosis, the following standard operating guidelines **WILL be followed when the individual has been in school:**
 - The positive individual will stay home from school until fever-free without the use of medication for 24 hours, AND other symptoms are improving, and it has been at least ten (10) days since symptoms first appeared.
 - If the positive individual is asymptomatic, the period of isolation starts from the test date and is ten (10) days in length.
 - Contact tracing is needed. Anyone that was within six (6) feet of the individual for 15 minutes or more from two (2) days prior to symptom onset will need to be placed in quarantine for 14 days (regardless if they receive a negative test during this period).
 - The district will report the name, address, and phone number of the positive case to the Communicable Disease Nurse at Greene County Public Health. The Communicable Disease Nurse or another Disease Investigator will be in touch with the positive case and Contact Tracers will be in touch with the contacts of the positive case.

2. Wear a Mask

- Consistent and correct use of face [masks](#), by ALL students, teachers, and staff to prevent SARS-CoV-2 [transmission through respiratory droplets](#), is REQUIRED at Yellow Springs schools.

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- **The most effective fabrics for cloth masks are tightly woven such as cotton and cotton blends, are breathable, and are in two or three fabric layers. Any masks with exhalation valves or vents, or made from a see-through material, or are loose or fit improperly, are not permitted. Gaiters do not qualify as an appropriate mask.**
 - Masks are REQUIRED in all classroom and non-classroom settings, including hallways, school offices, restrooms, gyms, auditoriums, etc.
 - **Students will be instructed on proper mask-wearing (e.g. masks must cover both the nose and the mouth). Student refusal to wear a mask will result in a COVID safety violation and will be dealt with accordingly. Mask wearing by adults is a condition of employment.**
 - **The CDC has newly revised guidelines recommending double-masking. All staff will be encouraged to double-mask. Students are encouraged, but not required, to double-mask. The District has thousands of donated masks that we can supply to students as needed.**
 - Exceptions to the mask requirement will be narrow, and will be made by the superintendent in consultation with Greene County Public Health, as there may be unique circumstances where this is not feasible or medically recommended (see below). Face masks shall not be required when:
 - Face masks in the school setting are prohibited by law or regulation.
 - Face masks are in violation of documented industry standards.
 - Face masks are not advisable for health reasons.
 - Face masks are not required when the staff works alone in an assigned work area.
 - When eating or drinking (which is limited to certain areas of the building).

3. Maintain Social Distance

- Safety protocols will be in place for each classroom.
- Furniture within classrooms will be arranged so that there is 6-feet between students. **In circumstances where this is not possible, students will be separated by dividers.**
- There will be assigned seats, and whenever possible, students will face forward in the same direction.
- Classroom occupancy will be determined based on individual circumstances with the maximum amount of safety considerations possible.
- Classroom supplies will not be shared.
- All hallways have been marked to indicate safe distancing and direction.

4. Wash and Sanitize Hands Frequently

- Hand-washing is one of the most effective ways to reduce the spread of infectious disease, and is an important tool in preventing the spread of COVID-19.
- All students will be instructed in proper hand-washing techniques.
- Students will be provided opportunities throughout the day for handwashing for at least 20 seconds when hands are dirty, before and after eating, and after using the restroom.
- Hand sanitizer to be used correctly (rubbing in until dry, approx. 20 sec.) upon school entry and at least, before/after eating, after using the restroom and touching contaminated items. Handwashing with soap and water is preferred but when unavailable, use hand sanitizer. If hands are visibly soiled, soap and water must be used.
- All paper towel dispensers in each building have been/will be converted to “no-touch” dispensers.

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- Soap and paper towels will be continually stocked in restrooms.

5. Clean and Sanitize Classrooms and Shared Surfaces Frequently

- School personnel will frequently clean high-touch areas, objects, equipment, and surfaces such as water fountains (if used) and restrooms using cleaning products effective against coronavirus.
- The district will use EPA sanitizers and cleaners effective against SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19).
- Restroom Sanitization: Per Health Department recommendations, restroom facilities will be cleaned at a minimum of every two hours during the school day.
- Cleaning of Surfaces and High-Touch Areas: Appropriate cleaning supplies, effective against SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19), will be available in every classroom. Sanitizing wipes and hand sanitizers (60% to 95% alcohol-based) will be at every entrance. If and when populations within a classroom change, the room will be wiped down. Deep cleaning will occur at the end of each day. Cleaning and sanitization of high-touch areas, tables, door handles, etc., will occur frequently. Students may be asked, as part of our educational approach, to be responsible for cleaning their own personal area within the classroom. High-touch areas can be reconfigured to avoid the need to disinfect frequently (i.e., leaving doors open to avoid cleaning door knobs).
- Water Fountains: Water fountains will not be available for use during the 2020-2021 school year. The district has installed, where possible, water bottle fillers. **The district will provide a water bottle to every student.** Students can, however, bring their own.

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- As much as possible, windows will be left slightly open throughout the classroom to allow for good room air circulation. All rooms occupied by students and staff have an air purifier adequate for the size of the room.

A Special Note About Transportation

- Students and their families will be encouraged to provide their own transportation to school during the COVID-19 pandemic to alleviate social distancing concerns on school bus transportation.
 - It is understood that some families may still need to utilize district transportation services.
 - Yellow Springs Schools may allow multiple students per seat depending on the situation (no more than two).
 - The district will attempt to seat siblings together.
 - Students will be loaded from the back to the front.
 - If possible, every other seat will be utilized.
 - Seating charts will be created and maintained to assist with contact tracing if necessary.
 - When possible and safe, windows will be open to maximize air circulation.
 - Hand sanitizer will be available on every bus.
 - Face masks ARE required for drivers and students. Students will not be granted bus entry without wearing a face mask.
 - Prior to the first routes, bus drivers must perform COVID self-assessment including temperature.
 - Bus drivers must wear masks, maintain distance from students, and wear gloves when disinfecting buses between routes.

March 1 Return Details: Mills Lawn Elementary

- Due to staffing and spacing constraints at Mills Lawn, we will adopt a half-day in-person model at 50% capacity with an A Group and a B Group. This allows us to see students in-person, continue our Safe Centers, and adhere to the guidelines set by Greene County Public Health. Groups were created by pairing siblings. It is our intention for all sibling groups to attend on the same day as their siblings across the district. Please inform the building principal if a sibling has been missed. Students were then grouped by class size in a balanced manner.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:00-11:30	Group A: In-Person Group B: Asynchronous Remote	Group B: In-Person Group A: Asynchronous Remote	ALL Synchronous Remote	Group A: In-Person Group B: Asynchronous Remote	Group B: In-Person Group A: Asynchronous Remote
12:30-2:30	ALL Synchronous Remote	ALL Synchronous Remote	ALL Asynchronous Remote	ALL Synchronous Remote	ALL Synchronous Remote
Synchronous Remote: Students access their classes virtually with their teacher.					
Asynchronous Remote: Students access their classes virtually without their teacher and/or complete work.					

Notes

- Morning Meeting will be held for everyone every day from 8:00 a.m. until 8:30 a.m.
- This schedule eliminates the need for recess and lunch (except for students in Safe Centers).
- Lunch will be a grab-and-go bagged lunch at 11:30 a.m.

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- Wednesday's schedule, when all students will be working remotely, allows for adequate deep cleaning time and provides an opportunity for all district staff to participate in professional development as needed.

Arrival Procedures

- **Grades K-2, Grade 3 (Earley), Grade 3 (Bennett), and Grade 4 (Hitchcock) enter through front doors.**
- **Grade 3 (Morgan) and Grade 4 (Teague) and Grades 5-6 will enter through the gym door on Walnut Street.**
- **Students can begin arriving at 7:50 a.m. After 8:00 a.m., students must enter through the main doors on Walnut Street.**
- Every morning, upon entry into the building, temperatures will be checked for all staff and students. Anyone (staff or students) who has a temperature over 100.4 degrees will be escorted to the nurse's office for an additional temperature screening. Any staff member whose temperature is above that threshold will be sent home; any student with a temperature above 100.4 will have their parents/guardians notified, will be separated from other students, and then will be sent home with parents.
- Entry screening will also include general screening questions: 1. Are you feeling sick today? (K-4th) or Are you having any symptoms of COVID? (5th-6th) 2. Do you know anyone sick/with COVID?
- Safe distance markers will be visible at each entry point.
- Students walk to class independently keeping to the right side of the hall.
- Student belongings will remain with them.

Restrooms

- Grades K-3 will share the bathroom in the primary wing.
- Grade 3 (Earley), Grade 3 (Bennett) and Grade 4 (Hitchcock) all have their own bathrooms. Grade 3 (Morgan), Grade 4 (Teague) and Grade 6 will use the bathroom by the gym in the new wing.
- Grade 5 will use their single bathroom.
- No more than 3 students will be permitted in the restroom at any time.

Dismissal Procedures

- **All Kindergarten classes, Grade 2 (Mabra), Grade 3 (Earley), Grade 3 (Bennett), and Grade 4 (Hitchcock) will dismiss via the main doors on Walnut Street.**
- **All of Grade 1 and Grade 2 (Hoover) will dismiss via the playground door on Elm Street.**
- **Grade 3 (Morgan), Grade 4 (Teague) and all of Grades 5-6 will dismiss via the atrium door on Limestone Street.**

March 1 Return Details: McKinney Middle School/Yellow Springs High School

- Due to staffing and spacing constraints at McKinney Middle and Yellow Springs High, we will adopt an in-person model at 50% capacity with an A Group and a B Group. This allows us to see students in-person, continue our Safe Centers, and adhere to the guidelines set by Greene County Public Health. Groups were created by pairing siblings. It is our intention for all sibling groups to attend on the same day as their siblings across the district. Please inform the building principal if a sibling has been missed. Students were then assigned by group to fill the largest courses in a balanced manner. Groupings were made from largest class size to smallest class size to ensure that the rooms that would be most full would be most balanced. The physical location of some classes was reassigned so the largest classes would be in the largest physical spaces allowing for optimal social distancing.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:30-3:30	Group A: In-Person Group B: Asynchronous Remote	Group B: In-Person Group A: Asynchronous Remote	ALL Asynchronous Remote (individual, small group, and whole-class support options available; schedules will be created for each Wednesday)	Group A: In-Person Group B: Asynchronous Remote	Group B: In-Person Group A: Asynchronous Remote
Asynchronous Remote: Students access their classes virtually without their teacher and/or complete work.					

Arrival Procedures

- In order to avoid crowds of students entering the building at the same time and location we will use three entrances:
- Walkers and bike riders should enter the front door.
- Students dropped off by parents in the drop-off line should enter at the front of the building by the band room.
- Bus riders and student drivers should enter at the back entrance.
- Anyone arriving late (after the 8:30 a.m. start of the day) should enter the front door and sign in at the table outside the office.
- Every morning, upon entry into the building, temperatures will be checked for all staff and students. Anyone (staff or students) who has a temperature over 100.4 degrees will be escorted to the nurse's office for an additional temperature screening. Any staff member whose temperature is above that threshold will be sent home; any student with a temperature above 100.4 will have their parents/guardians notified, will be separated from other students, and will be sent home with parents.
- Entry screening will also include general screening questions:
 1. Are you having any symptoms of COVID?
 2. Do you know anyone sick/with COVID?

Movement in the Building

- All hallways are marked with directional arrows and no-walk zones allowing students to travel while maintaining proper social distancing.
- One set of stairs will be used to travel up and the other for students to travel down. We will maintain our four-minute transition periods, but will allow students to enter class consequence-free if they arrive in a reasonable amount of time.

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- All classrooms will have assigned seats in all classes and all students will be signed out by teachers to use the restroom or to go to the printers.
 - Students will not be using lockers.

Lunch Procedures

- Students in grades 7-9 will have one lunch period and students in grades 10-12 will have a separate lunch period.
- Students will be eating lunch in the cafeteria, KIVA, and 8th-grade hallway.
- As weather permits, students will be permitted to eat outside.
- Students can bring their own lunch or will be able to pick up a free lunch from the cafeteria for the remainder of the year.
- Students will not be permitted to eat in any classrooms.

Dismissal Procedures

- Students on the first floor for their 7th-period class will be dismissed at 3:26 p.m.
- Students on the second floor will be dismissed at 3:28 p.m.
- Students on the third floor will be dismissed at 3:30 p.m.
- Students are asked to leave school immediately at dismissal to avoid crowding and groups congregating.

