

**BRIMFIELD CUSD #309  
SCHOOL YEAR 2021-  
2022 GUIDANCE  
DOCUMENT**



**APPROVED BY THE BRIMFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION – JULY 21, 2021**

***SCHOOL YEAR GUIDANCE MAY CHANGE  
THROUGHOUT THE YEAR BASED ON CDC, ISBE, AND  
IDPH GUIDELINES. THIS IS A WORKING DOCUMENT  
AND MAY BE REVISED THROUGHOUT THE 2021-2022  
SCHOOL YEAR.***

## **2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR GUIDANCE**

### **REMOTE LEARNING**

For the 2021-2022 school year, we want every family to send their child(ren) back to school for in-person learning. Studies show that students, particularly students who struggle academically, learn better while in-person alongside their teachers. Furthermore, reconnecting with teachers and peers in person is essential for students' mental health and social-emotional development. According to the ISBE resolution, school districts must provide remote learning only for students who are BOTH ineligible for a COVID-19 vaccine and under quarantine. Remote learning will be provided to all students under quarantine.

### **QUARANTINE & CONTACT TRACING**

Students who are close contacts to positive cases of COVID-19 must quarantine unless they are not symptomatic and are vaccinated. The six-foot standard will still be used for contact tracing. Parents of students in close contact will be notified that their student was near a student or staff member who tested positive. Length of quarantines for student and staff will be determined based on current IDPH guidance in consultation with the local health department.

Families will want to monitor for any emerging COVID-19 symptoms. Anyone exhibiting symptoms would then fall subject to the IDPH Decision Tree. The district's **MITIGATION LEVEL** will also affect the course of action for your student (see mitigation levels on the final page). We are asking for partnership with families to screen their children for symptoms before sending them to school daily.

Students who have to quarantine will need to follow each classroom teacher's policies and procedures in order to access instruction and materials. No summative assessments (Ex. tests, quizzes) will be available.

### **MASKS**

For the 2021-2022 school year, the CDC and IDPH recommend that masks are worn by all unvaccinated individuals in schools. Masking requirements in the District will be based on the mitigation levels found at the end of this Return to School Plan. To start the year, the District anticipates that masks will be optional in the school and at school events based on the current COVID-19 positivity rates in the area.

Per CDC and IDPH requirements, masks will be required for ALL staff and students when riding in school vehicles.

### **RETURN TO TRADITIONAL BELL SCHEDULE**

For the 2021-2022 school year, Brimfield CUSD #309 schools will all return to the traditional bell schedule, with school beginning at 8:00 am and dismissing at 3:05 pm.

## **STARTING THE SCHOOL DAY**

All students, pre-K through grade twelve, will continue to go to their classroom/first-hour class upon arrival to school. There will not be any mass congregation in gymnasiums or other common spaces before the school day begins. Doors will open at 7:45 A.M.

## **LUNCH AND TRANSPORTATION**

Students will resume eating in the cafeteria during the 2021-2022 school year. Students will be socially distanced to the greatest extent possible and will still have assigned seating.

Bus transportation will resume normal operation. Students will be socially distanced to the greatest extent possible and will still have assigned seating. **Masks must be worn on school busses per the Centers for Disease Control.**

## **LOCKERS & DRINKING FOUNTAINS**

For the 2021-2022 school year, the use of lockers and drinking fountains at all building levels will resume.

## **EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & SPECIAL COURSES**

Enrolled students not receiving in-person instruction will not be eligible to participate in extracurricular athletics and activities.

**Quarantining or symptomatic** students will not be able to participate in any extracurricular or on-site activities until they return to in-person learning with medical documentation approving their return.

## **BAND & CHOIR**

Music programs will resume regular programming for the 2021-2022 school year. This will include competitions (as available), concerts, and programs. After-school programming or meetings related to music may continue to take place indoors and parents will be able to attend as it is after school hours.

## **FIELD TRIPS & ASSEMBLIES**

Field trips that align with instructional outcomes and/or are an extension of the learning environment will be permitted during the 2021- 2022 school year.

All-school assemblies will not be permitted until vaccines are available for all students.

## **VISITORS**

Visitors will not be permitted during school hours until vaccines are available for all students.

## MITIGATION LEVELS

The Mitigation Levels outline how our day-to-day operations will function over the coming school year. Please note that changes in our mitigation levels will be dependent upon the bi-weekly analysis of positive COVID-19 cases as reported by the Covid Dashboard maintained by Northwestern University. The analysis will take into account the available data for zip codes in the Brimfield area, specifically 61517, 61528, and 61529.

In all mitigation levels, the district will promote proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette, continuing to clean and maintain healthy facilities, including addressing any ventilation needs if they arise, possibly continuing to serve as a host for optional vaccination clinics and provide information where vaccinations can be obtained, and accommodating students with disabilities.

The District will begin the school year in the appropriate mitigation level based on the average positivity rate in the 5 days prior to school commencing

### Mitigation Level 1 - **Minimal**

*Positive rate of less than 10% for more than 10 consecutive school days:*

Masks recommended if closer than 3 feet for more than 15 minutes.

3 feet between students when possible.

Quarantines for students/staff per local health department directive.

Implement remote learning for classes, grade level, or building if needed.

### Mitigation Level 2 - **Moderate**

*Positivity rate of 10%-19.9% for more than 10 consecutive school days:*

Masks required if closer than 3 feet for more than 15 minutes for students and staff.

3 feet between students when possible.

Quarantines for students/staff per local health department directive.

Implement remote learning for classes, grade level, or building if needed.

Field trips, assemblies, and some programs may be cancelled or postponed.

### Mitigation Level 3 - **Substantial**

*Positivity rate of more than 20% for more than 10 consecutive school days*

Masks required for all students and staff at all times.

3 feet between students in all circumstances.

Temperature screening required for entry.

Quarantines for students/staff per local health department directive.

Implement remote learning for classes, grade level, or building if needed.

Field trips, assemblies, and some programs will be cancelled or postponed.