



*Brown County
Educational Service Center*



*Brown County
Health Department*



*Eastern
Local School District*



*Fayetteville-Perry
Local School District*



*Georgetown
Ex. Village Schools*



*Western Brown
Local School District*



*Ripley-Union-Lewis-Huntington
Local Schools*



*Southern Hills
Career & Technical Center*

BROWN COUNTY SCHOOLS COMMON RE-OPENING AGREEMENTS

PREFACE: All Ohio schools closed for the remainder of the school calendar beginning on March 10, 2020, by order of the Governor and the Director of the Ohio Department of Health in response to the COVID 19 pandemic. In early June, little guidance was available from Ohio Department of Education or the Ohio Department of Health regarding guidelines for school re-opening for the 2020-21 school year. School district superintendents from each public school district in Brown County, along with the Brown County Educational Service Center, Southern Hills Career Center, and Brown County Health Department came together on June 18, 2020 to identify common practices for school re-opening in Brown County.

These general principles will guide each school district as they move forward with re-opening schools throughout Brown County:

1. Each school district will implement recommended safety protocols to the highest degree possible;
2. Each school district will work closely with the Brown County Health Department (BCHD) to promote safety in each school building;

3. Each school district will be transparent with all stakeholders that some level of risk will always be present when children and school district employees occupy school district facilities.
4. School districts recognize the need for consistency in areas of operations while recognizing that individual differences in classroom sizes, school facilities, and building operations may lead to some inconsistencies.
5. School districts are planning to maintain their previously approved school calendars with some possible front-loading of employee professional development.

These principles will be common to all Brown County public school districts:

Daily Self-Monitoring

- Students should monitor their own temperatures and their health on a daily basis before coming to school.

Student Illnesses

- Any student with a fever over 100F should stay home.
- Any student that has the following symptoms of COVID-19 should stay home from school and should see their primary care provider to be assessed for COVID-19:
 - Any of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing
 - OR**
 - Two of the following symptoms: fever (measured or subjective), chills, rigors, myalgia, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, GI Issues(nausea and vomiting or diarrhea)
 - OR**
 - Any of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing, fever (measured or subjective), chills, rigors, myalgia, 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

Returning to School After Illness

- If a student is diagnosed as having COVID-19, they must meet the following criteria to return to school:
 - 3 days with no fever (without using fever reducing medication) **AND**
 - Other symptoms improved **AND**
 - 10 days since symptoms first appeared
- Students that only have a fever and no other symptoms and have not had any contact with an individual that has COVID-19 may return to school after they are fever free for 24 hours without using any fever reducing medications.
- Any other illnesses should be handled in the routine manner according to district policies
- To return to school the child must be transported to school by the parent and must be checked by the school nurse.

Communications when a student/staff member has been diagnosed with a COVID 19 positive case

- Communication will be developed by the Brown County Health Department, not the school district. A common template will be developed to include the following:
 - ✓ Specify to parents which classroom/bus/school/other school activity the confirmed case was in (e.g. Mr. Smith). More generalized statement to building staff.
 - ✓ The school district will cooperate with the Brown County Health Department in contact tracing to identify close contacts of the case of COVID-19.
 - ✓ 14-day quarantine will be required of any student who is determined to have close contact with the case of COVID-19 by the Brown County Health Department
 - ✓ The Brown County Health Department will write a letter for the school district to use and the letter will explain/define what is considered close contact to a COVID-19 case that will result in quarantine.

Food Service

- All districts will offer food service. Logistics will be determined by each district in compliance with Health Department based on:
 - ✓ 50% capacity/occupancy of the school cafeteria
 - ✓ No self-service
 - ✓ Individual condiments

Classroom Occupancy

- Districts will inform parents that safety protocols are in place but any student who attends school will incur some level of risk. Districts will decrease the likelihood of infection with hygiene, cleaning, and safety procedures, but being in a public place has a certain level of risk that cannot be eliminated.
- Classroom occupancy will be determined based on each individual circumstance with the maximum amount of safety considerations possible.
- Face coverings are recommended for all students.
- School employees will be required to use a face covering when they are within six feet of students.

Remote learning

- School districts will offer remote learning for parents who do not wish to send their child to school.
- Parents may choose two options: 1. Send their child to school (assume some level of risk), or 2. Agree to remote learning from home for one semester at a time.
- Students will not be permitted to come in and out of remote learning.

Visitors/Volunteers/Parties:

- There are different levels of school visitors, and each district will make decisions for each situation.
 - ✓ Visitors are generally discouraged from being in school district facilities.
 - ✓ Safety protocols such as taking temperatures will be implemented for all visitors.

Transportation

- Brown County districts will allow two students per seat and in some instances three students if the children are younger and therefore smaller.
- Districts will attempt to seat siblings together.
- Seating charts are recommended to assist with contact tracing if that is needed.
- Face masks are required for drivers and highly recommended for students. If a district requires students to wear a mask the district may refuse to transport a student who refuses to wear a mask.
- In the event State policies require school districts to use alternative schedules districts may adopt minimum requirements for transportation to reduce the number of students who are eligible for school district transportation.

Recess

- School districts will make every effort to maintain consistency with other safety procedures.
- This may mean that districts limit student access to certain pieces of playground equipment and restrict activities that are “high touch” and difficult to clean or maintain social distancing.
- All districts will work toward “structured” recess activities such as nature walks that limit students’ physical contact with others.
- Students must sanitize their hands after recess.
- Parents may “opt out” of recess.

This is subject to change due to Governor’s or State of Ohio’s orders.