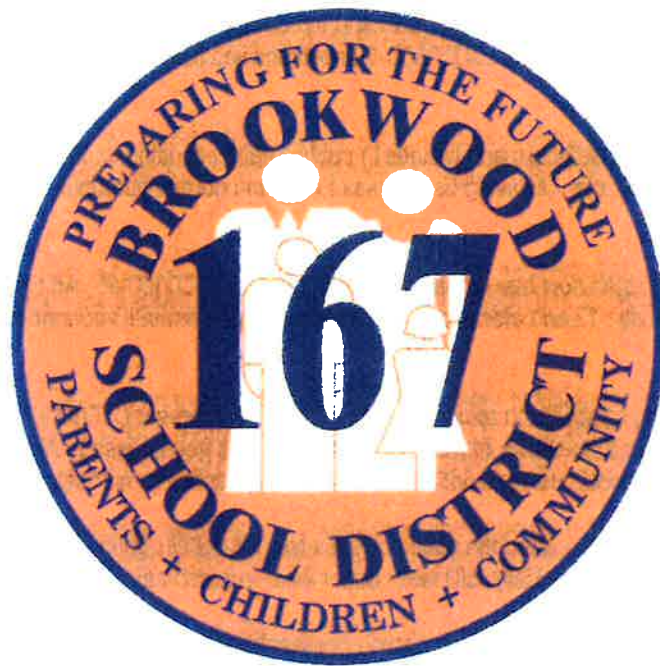


Brookwood School District 167

2021-22 Reopening Plan



August 8, 2021

Overview

Brookwood School District 167's Reopening Plan was designed to safely resume full in-person learning for all students during the 2021-22 school year. The following document was developed in accordance with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), and the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE).

Remote Learning

Per a resolution by the Illinois State Board of Education, remote instruction must be made available only to students who are not currently eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine AND are under a quarantine order by a local public health department or the Illinois Department of Public Health. "Beginning with the 2021-22 school year, all schools must resume fully in-person learning for all student attendance days, provided that, pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/10-30 and 105 ILCS 5/34-18.66, remote instruction be made available for students who have not received a COVID-19 vaccine or who are not eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine, only while they are under quarantine consistent with guidance or requirements from a local public health department or the Illinois Department of Public Health." You can read the complete resolution below:

Illinois State Board of Education RESOLUTION Supporting In-Person Learning

WHEREAS, the hard work of our health care professionals and the conscientious diligence of all Illinoisans who altered their lives and daily habits to contain the spread of COVID-19 have allowed Illinois to transition into the Bridge Phase of the Restore Illinois plan; and

WHEREAS, barring any unforeseen setbacks and changes in public health conditions, the State of Illinois will, on June 11, enter Phase 5 of the Restore Illinois plan, allowing businesses to resume normal operations and public gatherings of all sizes to proceed; and

WHEREAS, students and school staff now have meaningful protection from COVID-19, with three highly effective vaccines widely available to all Illinoisans age 12 and older and trials underway to determine if younger children can benefit from COVID-19 vaccines; and

WHEREAS, our schools have the capability to rapidly identify new cases to prevent COVID-19 outbreaks and reduce the risk of further transmission, thanks to the State of Illinois providing schools free access to Abbott's BinaxNOW rapid test and offering all middle and high schools use of covidSHIELD tests at a reduced or no cost; and

WHEREAS, multiple studies show that – although online classes are a far better option than no classes at all – students, particularly students who struggle academically, still learn better while in person alongside their teachers; and

WHEREAS, reconnecting with teachers and peers in-person is essential for students' mental health and social-emotional development, especially after the prolonged isolation of the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Illinois schools are receiving \$7.8 billion in federal pandemic relief funds for the safe return to in-person learning and to address learning gaps caused by the pandemic through strategies, such as tutoring, summer school, and community partnerships for mental health; and

WHEREAS, nearly all Illinois public school districts are offering partial or fully in-person learning; and

WHEREAS, guidance from the Illinois Department of Public Health is forthcoming regarding updated mitigations for schools in Phase 5 of the Restore Illinois plan;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Illinois State Board of Education supports Illinois State Superintendent of Education Dr. Carmen I. Ayala in making the following declaration after the conclusion of the current academic school year, subject to favorable public health conditions at that time: Beginning with the 2021-22 school year, all schools must resume fully in-person learning for all student attendance days, provided that, pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/10-30 and 105 ILCS 5/34-18.66, remote instruction be made available for students who are not eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine and are under a quarantine order by a local public health department or the Illinois Department of Public Health.

Mitigations

Mitigations below are listed in order of priority and effectiveness for providing students and staff with a safe and consistent on-site educational setting throughout the school year.

- **Vaccination**

The CDC is very clear that the safest way to reopen our schools is high levels of vaccination for those in our schools and surrounding communities. We will continue to support ongoing community vaccination efforts while respecting the rights of individuals and families for both privacy and personal choice. Please visit [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) if you wish to find a vaccine location near you.

- **Masking**

On August 4, 2021, Illinois Governor JB Pritzker issued an order requiring indoor masking for all students, staff, and visitors to PreK-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status. Masks must be worn at all times while inside Brookwood School District 167 buildings and while riding Brookwood School District 167 buses. Masks are not required outdoors.

- **Social Distancing**

CDC guidelines have determined that ideal distancing is 3 feet or greater (when possible). Additionally, proximity and time of contact should be considered in hallways, common areas, and stairwells.

- **Testing, Quarantine, & Contact Tracing**

Since the beginning of the pandemic, testing is becoming more accessible and results are immediately available. Testing is an important way to determine additional precautions, including initiating contact tracing for unvaccinated individuals and quarantining COVID positive, probable, or close contact individuals, are necessary. Quarantining individuals from the general public creates a safer learning environment for all.

- **Cleaning and Ventilation Protocols**

Regular and comprehensive cleaning protocols are essential. Additionally, improved ventilation, airflow, and access to outdoor spaces for exercising, learning, and eating decrease the risk of the spread of COVID-19.

Primary Goal

The most significant goal for the upcoming school year is to safely remain fully open without interruption to teaching and learning while supporting a community of students, staff, parents, and community partners after 18 months of tremendous challenges and incredible stress.

Objectives:

- 100% fully onsite teaching and learning for the entire school year
- Little or no interruptions to learning due to illness or quarantine

Key Elements

Some key elements of our safety mitigation strategy for the 2021-22 school year include:

- A return to an in-person, standard school day.
- A return to full in-person, regularly scheduled extracurricular programs, such as clubs, sports, and activities.
- We will continue to share community efforts for vaccinations for eligible students, staff, and community members to be vaccinated against COVID-19.
- All students, staff, and visitors will be required to wear masks while inside all Brookwood School District 167 buildings and while riding Brookwood School District 167 buses, regardless of vaccination status. Masks are not required outdoors.
- We will, to the extent possible, seek to provide 3-foot social distancing throughout the day, including in classrooms and common areas.
- We will seek to provide 6-foot social distancing at lunch and while eating, when possible.
- Students and staff should self-monitor any symptoms for signs of illness each day. Anyone who is not feeling well should stay home.
- Students and staff will be expected to adhere to handwashing and appropriate social distancing. We will continue to adhere to CDC mitigation guidelines for ventilation in our buildings.
- COVID-19 testing is readily available throughout the community, including from doctors, pharmacies, and the Cook County Health Department. We will continue to share resources with the community to be sure individuals who need or want testing are aware of resources.
- We will follow local health department guidelines and enforce quarantine requirements to prevent the spread of the virus among students and staff. (Fully vaccinated individuals are generally exempt from quarantine in most cases.)
- If a student is quarantined, their teacher will provide them with lessons and instructional materials via Swivl, Google Classroom, Google Meet, etc. and increased academic support will be available.

Start of the School Year

- August 10, 11, and 12: Student Registration (*Vaccinations Available*)
- August 20: Back to School Bash at Hickory Bend 1-4PM
- August 24, 25, and 26: Institute Day for all staff/**No School for Students**
- August 27: First Day of School for Students in Grades 1-8
- August 30: First Day of School for Kindergarten Students
- August 31 & September 1: Pre-K Screenings
- September 6: Labor Day – No School
- September 7: First Day of School for Pre-K Students
- September 7: Open House at BJHS-- 5:30 PM
- September 8: Open House at BMS-- 5:30 PM
- September 9: Open House at Hickory Bend and Longwood-- 5:30 PM

Communication

Communication between the District, families, and staff is vital. Brookwood School District 167 will continue to provide updates and important communications by mail, the Brookwood School District 167 website, school Dojo, and/or Robo Calls.

Please log in to your PowerSchool Parent Portal and review your phone, email, and text messaging contact information. If you need assistance with this process or have any questions regarding the information provided in this communication, please contact your school office.

- Hickory Bend Elementary School: 708-758-4520
- Longwood Elementary School: 708-757-2100
- Brookwood Middle School: 708-758-5350
- Brookwood Jr. High School: 708-758-5252

Social and Emotional Supports

Brookwood School District 167 realizes that the Social-Emotional Support structure of our district has always been strong. The following areas are available and/or enhanced to help prepare our students and staff for a successful return.

- All Brookwood School District 167 schools are staffed with a social worker.
- Administer an SEL Screener twice throughout the 2021-22 school year - fall and winter. Analyze data to determine needs.
- PBIS initiatives in all schools inclusive of restorative practices and trauma-informed practices.
- Implement SEL Curriculum and Programs such as PATHS, Second Step, Ripple Effects, etc. that support students' SEL needs.
- Classrooms will have morning meetings to create a sense of community and belonging. This helps establish routine into the student day, provide a positive experience first thing in the morning, and build empathy and school culture.
- Provide an advisory period weekly for middle and junior high school classrooms to give students a structured routine from which they can receive resources and support specifically geared toward social/emotional learning.

COVID-19 Symptoms/Positive

- IDPH has existing protocols for COVID-19 positive/probable cases in their Exclusionary Guidelines. These guidelines were updated on July 27, 2021, and include:
 - All vaccinated individuals are exempt from quarantine, unless symptomatic.
 - If unvaccinated and unmasked an individual must quarantine if a close contact within 6-feet.
 - If unvaccinated and masked an individual does not need to quarantine if a close contact is between 3-6 feet.
 - No quarantine is required for outdoor close contact.

- For the foreseeable future, we strongly encourage families to exercise caution about sending students with COVID-like symptoms to school. Based on the age of individuals and the density of our population, we are requesting families not send their students onsite if symptomatic whether vaccinated or unvaccinated.
- In the spring of 2021, vaccines have been approved for use with individuals as young as 12 years old. The decision to become vaccinated is a personal decision and one in which the district respects. Please know the following factors should be considered from an educational perspective regarding vaccinations for students:
 - Students who are vaccinated will be exempted from close contact tracing and quarantine. This includes within the school building and when participating in athletics or activities.
 - IDPH guidelines may differentiate between vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals when it comes to masking, special event participation, or athletics. Brookwood School District 167 will be obligated to follow those guidelines.

Nurse's Office

- Each school has a Health Clerk or School Nurse on staff who will follow IDPH guidelines including an isolation area for anyone who shows COVID-19 symptoms.

Health Certification

- While in Phase 5, students and staff will NOT be required to fill out self-certification forms prior to entering the building. Additionally, athletes and students at school for after-school activities will not be responsible for self-certification.
- In the case of a return to mitigations according to IDPH/ISBE, if there is a requirement to screen for symptoms, we will be obligated to do so.
- Guests to Brookwood School District 167 buildings, parents included, may be asked to complete a brief symptom checklist if they are entering the building to meet with staff or attend school activities. Visitors during the school day will be required to wear a mask.
- Students and staff should self-monitor for signs of illness each day. Anyone who is not feeling well should stay home.
- As of July 2021, IDPH/CDC guidance regarding symptoms are: Fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and/or diarrhea.

Testing Protocol

- The goal of testing in Brookwood School District 167 is to reduce the loss of instructional time and ensure equal access to testing. The testing program can accelerate student and staff return to the classroom based on results.
- Brookwood School District 167 will participate in the state-funded Shield Illinois testing program.
- This program is optional. Staff and families will be offered an opportunity to opt out of testing.
- Testing will be focused on unvaccinated students and staff who are identified as close contact to a positive or probable case and for unvaccinated or vaccinated individuals who exhibit COVID-19 symptoms.

Arrival & Dismissal

- The District will follow IDPH guidelines regarding the transportation of students to and from school. Currently, this includes allowing full capacity on buses.
- CDC requires that masks be worn by all individuals while on the bus.
- Brookwood School District 167 school principals will communicate individual entry and dismissal plans for students.
- Students in the building after school must be there for a school-related reason. These reasons include, but are not limited to, athletics/activities, academic support, or meeting with a staff member.

Cleaning Protocols

- It should be noted that the CDC has provided substantially revised guidance related to COVID-19 specific to surface transfer. The guidance points to exposure to COVID-19 based on surface contact is not a cause of spread. However, Brookwood School District 167 believes these protocols are worth continued implementation due to the impact we have on controlling the spread of other bacteria and viruses non-related to COVID-19 and we have the equipment and means to do so.
- Enhanced cleaning protocols will continue including the use of hospital-grade, EPA registered disinfectants for all high touch areas in school, classroom, and on buses.
- Use of electrostatic disinfectant sprayers.
- An increased number of hand sanitizer stations will be available.

Activities and Events

- Activities, events, and athletics will follow guidance from IDPH, ISBE, and SSJHSA/IESA.
- Clubs and activities, specifically meetings and competitions, will continue onsite, but will follow guidance from IDPH, ISBE, SSJHSA, IESA and/or the specific organizations facilitating the activity.

- Brookwood School District 167 will encourage on-site activities as we know socialization and face-to-face collaboration are vitally important to our student's development. However, we will support virtual meetings in cases it may be appropriate. Brookwood School District 167 schools will follow SSJHSA/IESA and/or IDPH guidelines for screening and attendance for fans and spectators once/if that guidance is provided.

Field Trips

- Brookwood School District 167 will return to normal approval of field trips for the 2021-22 school year.
- We anticipate many of our field trip destinations will remain closed, limited, or have specific protocols. Those protocols will be communicated in advance to families and all protocols must be followed by participating students and staff.
- Over the past year, Brookwood School District 167 students and staff have had some success in certain areas with virtual field trips. We anticipate that virtual field trips due to availability, reduced cost, and an increase in potential experiences will continue to some extent.

Lunches

- The schools will follow IDPH guidelines regarding capacity, face masks, and social distancing for lunch spaces.
- School-specific details regarding the lunch menu will be communicated by building principals at the start of the 2021-22 school year.

Hallways & Classrooms

- The schools will follow IDPH guidelines for classrooms and hallways. Buildings are designing individualized plans regarding hallway and stairwell traffic flow. This is building-specific based on the size of the hallway/stairwell, typical traffic patterns, and supervision.
- Middle and Junior High school students will be issued lockers. Schools may encourage limited use of lockers to avoid congestion in the hallways.
- Increased supervision in hallways to deter congregating.
- To aid in contact tracing protocols, teachers will maintain a seating chart for students in case of the need to contract trace. As a reminder, students who have completed vaccinations will be exempt from quarantine.
- Signage will be posted throughout the buildings regarding hand washing, physical distancing, and facemasks.

Physical Education

- The schools will follow IDPH guidelines regarding physical education classes and programming.
- During the first semester, and possibly the entire year, we will be optimizing outside physical education classes to maximize student time unmasked and follow the science regarding limited exposure to COVID or other airborne transmissions.
- We have high confidence that students will be participating in a regular physical education program. This may include the need to wear school PE uniforms and locker room usage at BJHS.

Physical Spaces

- Air purifiers in accordance with guidelines in all classrooms and buildings.
- School water fountains will remain off. Students and staff members are encouraged to bring their own water bottles for the day. Water refill stations will be open.
- The district continues to promote proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette. Hand sanitation stations will still be available throughout Brookwood School District 167 buildings.

Spectator Limitations/Virtual Parent Meetings

- Given IDPH guidelines at the time, schools will make determinations about live, virtual, or hybrid meetings with large groups of parents (i.e., Open House nights, athletic parent meetings, Family Literacy Nights, etc.)
- Spectator / Audience limitations will adhere to the IDPH Guidelines. For student performances and athletic events, we will always allow as many spectators as determined by the guidelines.

Technology

- All students are issued a technology device to support their learning.
- Video conferencing may be used for parent and student virtual meetings.
- Streaming options may be available for various school activities.
- Online forms will be used to submit digital documents for parents/students, when possible.
- eLearning Days may be used for weather and other extended outages based on the District's approved state plan.

References and Resources

- CDC Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>
- Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) - <https://www.idph.illinois.gov>
- Illinois State Board of Education - <https://www.isbe.net>
- Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) <https://cookcountypublichealth.org>
- If you wish to find a COVID-19 vaccine location near you, visit <https://www.vaccines.gov>

**ESSER I
(CARES Act)**

- PPE (Personal Protection Equipment) staff and students
- Air purifiers for all classrooms/spaces
- Technology devices for staff and students
- Hotspots - internet connectivity
- Districtwide internet connectivity
- Professional development for staff
- Safety and security equipment and software programs

**ESSER II
(CRRSA Act)**

- Safety and security - more entries and exits
- Technology equipment
- Cybersecurity software
- Technology for teaching staff - Elmos, Swivls, monitors
- Classroom equipment - dividers, seating, etc.
- Student materials - personal use
- Health and safety equipment -dividers
- Wall signage - hand washing, distancing, etc.
- Additional playgrounds

**ESSER III
(ARP Act)**

- Learning loss and social emotional support for students (20% minimum use of funds) - District administrative team believes more than 20% is needed
- Grant not available until July 1st.
- *If you would like to submit suggestions on how the District should spend these funds, please do so by submitting your ideas to:*

ESSERgrantinput@brookwood167.org