



2021-2022

Opening of School and COVID-19 Mitigation Measures

The Berlin Public Schools follows the requirements determined by the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) in partnership with the Connecticut Department of Education (CSDE), and seeks ongoing guidance from the Central Connecticut Health District (CCHD) in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our priority for the 2021-2022 school year is to provide a safe learning environment for all students while providing the highest level of instruction. Berlin Public Schools will maintain a fully in-person, in-school learning model as the primary instructional model for 2021-22.

All mitigation measures below are subject to change based on guidance from DPH, CSDE and CCHD.

Mitigation Measure	Update for 2021-22
Masks for students and staff	Any student or staff member has the option to wear a mask in school settings.
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Masks ARE required when students are riding district buses and vans, which are public transportation and fall under federal guidelinesAssigned seating may be required on buses and vans
Social distancing	In the classroom, students should, when practical and/or feasible, be seated at least 3 feet apart
Cohorting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Returning to the normal use of areas such as cafeterias, gyms, and art roomsCohorting of students remains a recommended strategy to the greatest extent possibleStudents from different cohorts may be together for activities such as music lessons, academic interventions, and outdoor recess
Desk shields	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Desk shields will not be utilized in classrooms on a regular basis, but may be used in cafeteria and library settingsTeachers will be free to use desk shields for certain activities
Hand washing & sanitizing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Students and staff will practice regular handwashingHand sanitizer stations provided in classrooms and throughout school
Gloves and PPE	Staff will have full access to protective equipment, face shields, and masks that are requested or required for job performance
Shared classroom materials	Hand hygiene practiced before and after use of shared materials
Cleaning & disinfecting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Routine daily cleaning of classrooms, offices, etc.Students and teachers will have supplies available to clean their desks as desiredCleaning and disinfecting of restrooms, Health Office, and known exposure areas at least once dailyDaily cleaning of buses

Water fountains	Students and staff will use stations for bottle filling only
Lunches & cafeteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to promote spacing of students Single-use, disposable glasses, dishes, and cutlery no longer required Schools may use secondary seating areas to promote spacing and distancing
Ventilation	Recommendations about enhanced ventilation (e.g., maximizing fresh air intake) remain in place
Daily health screening for families & staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families and staff should continue to screen for COVID-19 symptoms before departing for school each morning Stay home when experiencing symptoms and contact the school health office
COVID-19 testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voluntary and not mandated within schools Families and staff members may request a test kit while supplies are available At this time, BPS will not be offering in-school testing Families may access local testing options here: https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus
Music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current mitigation measures (e.g., bell covers, distancing, etc.) remain in effect due to increased risk of virus transmission through vapor droplets To the extent feasible, schools should strive to provide at least 3 feet of space between students during arts instruction as well as during performances or other related activities.
Locker Rooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students will have access to locker rooms for PE classes in grades 6-12. All students will have the opportunity to change for PE. Those students who choose not to change will still be required to participate and should dress accordingly. Student athletes in grades 6-12 will have access to locker rooms before and after athletic practices and contests.
Sports/Physical Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor activities encouraged Schools will follow CIAC guidelines
School events and activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School-wide events may be modified to allow for social distancing and mitigation practices After-school activities at all levels will be in place
Visitors to buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage virtual meetings or in-person meetings after school Visitors and volunteers must comply with mitigation strategies inside schools Schools will communicate procedures for open houses, conferences, etc.
Vaccinations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Academy of Pediatrics highly recommend COVID-19 vaccination as an important mitigation practice to prevent the spread of illness Student vaccinations will be strongly encouraged, but not required
Field Trips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field trips will be approved by the building principal and the Superintendent. Approval will be based on the ability to meet safety expectations of students and staff members involved.