

River Bend CUSD #2 Return to Learn Update 2022-2023

While Covid still exists and ESSER/ARP funding requires the District to provide updated plans to remain eligible for ESSER funding, the District will use the following guidelines for the upcoming 2022-2023 school year.

1. Masks- The CDC recommends, but does not mandate universal indoor masking. However when community levels are high mask wearing is encouraged indoors. Currently there is no federal or state mask mandate in place. Mask wearing remains optional, this includes the buses.
2. Physical Distancing- The CDC recommends using cohorting in areas of high COVID-19 levels. At this point, our region is not in the high range. Cohorting is currently being used in grades PreK-8th grade. Additional cohorting practices will be considered should case numbers increase.
3. Hand Washing- The school will continue to utilize frequent hand washing throughout the day.
4. Ventilation and Cleaning- Upgrades to the heating and cooling systems throughout the district provide air exchanges multiple times throughout the day. Enhanced daily cleaning efforts will continue to be practiced in all the buildings and on buses.
5. Contact Tracing and Isolation/Quarantines- Schools are not required to conduct contact tracing. State law requires school personnel to notify the local public health department of positive COVID-19 cases. Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 or who exhibit symptoms must be excluded from school for five calendar days. Those testing negative may remain in school.
6. Diagnostic and Screening Testing- River Bend will once again offer Binax-Now Rapid Antigen testing to students and staff exhibiting symptoms or who have household exposure. Contact the school nurse or District office to set up screening tests.
7. Vaccination Promotion- The Whiteside County Health Department, local pharmacies and medical practitioners can provide vaccinations by contacting their office.
8. In-Person Learning- Classes will be conducted each day and students are expected to be in attendance for in-person instruction. If a student is quarantined due to a positive COVID-19 diagnosis or test result, accommodations will be made to provide work at home or connect to the teacher and course electronically.

9. Appropriate Accommodations for Children with Disabilities- With the expectation of in-person instruction, students with disabilities will be provided services at school. If the need for remote learning due to increased positive cases or individual isolation occurs special education teachers will communicate with families ways to best serve the needs of the students.
10. Coordination with State and Local Health Officials- River Bend will continue to work closely with the Whiteside County Health Department to determine community levels and appropriate prevention strategies.
11. Continuity of Services- River Bend will continue to monitor student academic and emotional progress during this time period. Additionally, a 4th counselor has been hired to provide support services at school to students who experience difficulties. If your child is experiencing academic or social difficulties please contact his or her teacher or the building counselor.

If you have questions or concerns about the updated plan please contact a school administrator.