



BRIGHT BEGINNINGS

Frequently Asked Questions

Bright Beginnings School In-Person and Online Instructional Models

Below are frequently asked questions regarding COVID mitigation and our in-person and online instructional models that are being offered at Bright Beginnings School. This is a **FLUID** document that changes in response to executive orders, CDC guidelines, recommendations from state and local agencies, and the needs of our children and families.

Covid-19 Health and Safety

1. What happens if a teacher/student tests positive for COVID-19?

We will follow the [guidelines](#) set forth by the state and county health departments. Keep in mind every instance of exposure is different and will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Decisions and/or actions for potential closure(s) will be made in conjunction with the county and state health departments and school administration. It will then be communicated to parents and staff accordingly.

2. What happens if the teacher is sick?

Bright Beginnings School has contracted with a long-term substitute company. They will provide certified long-term subs as needed. Our teachers are being asked to create 14 days of standards-based, emergency sub plans in case they need to leave for an extended period.

3. Do students in the classroom who may have been exposed go into isolation?

Not necessarily. Every instance of exposure is different and will be handled on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the county and state guidelines and exposure risk. The Maricopa County Health Department will provide us action steps for each individual exposure case.

4. What happens if a student and/or teacher is ill but does not get tested?

If someone is ill, and either tests negative (with symptoms) or does not get tested, we will follow state and county exclusion and quarantine guidelines which as of today are: Stay home and away from others until 24 hours have passed since your fever has gone away without the use of fever-reducing medications AND your respiratory symptoms

(cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, and loss of taste/smell) are gone.

In-person students who need to stay home due to any sickness will be marked absent. However, they can join the online learning class to maintain their academic progress.

5. What is the procedure for a student and/or teacher who has tested positive to be able to return to school?

As of this writing, the [guidelines from Maricopa County Health Department](#) are: Remain in [home isolation](#) until 10 days have passed since your symptoms first started AND at least 24 hours have passed since your fever has gone away without the use of fever-reducing medications AND your respiratory symptoms (cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, and loss of taste/smell) have improved. Siblings and household members must also stay home for 14 days.

6. What is the procedure for a person who has been "exposed" to be able to return to school?

This can vary depending on the level and circumstances surrounding the exposure. State and county health departments assist us with each individual case of exposure or illness. Every instance of exposure is different and will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Example: A person who has had close contact (not socially distanced) with a person who was symptomatic and tests positive will need to quarantine for 14 days. If a person tests positive but was asymptomatic, properly social distanced with a mask, others may not have to quarantine. Each case is different and will be vetted in accordance with the guidelines from the state and county health departments, school administration, district administration, and then communicated accordingly.

7. What is the notification situation for how quickly we are informed of potential exposure at school?

BBS will act swiftly in communicating with the Maricopa County Health Department to assess each possible exposure. BBS will communicate with parents immediately thereafter.

9. What are the health criteria if a student is to return to school on a given day?

Parents will be responsible for daily health screening. Please follow this [symptom screener](#) from Maricopa County Health Department. You are responsible for ensuring that your child is not exhibiting any of the following symptoms PRIOR to coming to school each day:

- Fever of **100.0** or greater;
- New onset or worsening cough;
- Shortness of breath;

- Diarrhea;
- Vomiting;
- New loss of taste or smell;
- Fatigue;
- Muscle or body aches.
- Has your child recently been in close contact with anyone who has exhibited any of the above symptoms?
- Has your child recently been in close contact with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19?

Online Instructional FAQ's

1. How frequently will students have teacher-led lessons and what platforms will be used for these? Will they be live or recorded?

As in-person instruction calls for a variety of lesson formats, distance learning instruction will also follow a variety of formats. Some lessons will be pre-recorded, and students will join the teacher for small group instruction. While teachers will employ a variety of lesson formats, online students will have teacher-led lessons every day. They have the option of joining their class in live time or watching the day's recorded lessons via the Microsoft Teams for Education platform. The classroom aide will be available to facilitate the online students by responding to questions or leading small groups.

2. Will students follow a typical school schedule?

Yes. Students will follow a typical school schedule with lunch and movement breaks, Specials, and small group instructional opportunities. Students also have the option to watch a recorded lesson if they are unavailable during the live time frame. Keep in mind that all due dates are firm and will align with the brick and mortar students.

3. How many hours per day will students need access to a computer?

Students will need access to a computer for 3-5 hours per day. While some activities can be conducted offline, they might need a computer to submit these offline assignments.

4. What curriculum will the online students be using?

Online students will be utilizing the BBS accelerated curriculum. Their learning will directly match the learning that is occurring in the brick and mortar setting. Classroom materials and complete work will be available to pick up and drop off every Monday.

5. Is a printer required for distance learning?

While a printer is not required, a printer and scanner would be helpful to print, scan, and submit assignments. If a family does not have access to a printer, they can pick up and drop off assignments every Monday.

6. Will students participate in group projects?

Yes, online students will participate in small group projects with their peers. A list of any necessary materials will always be provided with at least one week's notice.

7. How would completed work be submitted?

Students have the option to either submit work online through Microsoft Teams or drop off completed work at school on Monday.

8. If my student transfers between distance learning and brick and mortar, will there be major gaps in learning?

Since students will be following the same BBS curriculum taught by their classroom teacher, there will be no gaps in learning. It will be an easy transition between online learning and brick and mortar instruction.

9. If student(s) return to regular classrooms during the second or subsequent quarters, will they be integrated into classrooms with members of their online group or assigned to separate classrooms?

Attempts will be made to keep students with their original classroom teacher; however, pending enrollment, it is not guaranteed. Students are guaranteed a seat in their grade level; the classroom teacher may change.

10. Will online students receive benchmark testing?

Yes. Assessment will be completed through the easyCBM Benchmark Assessment at the beginning, middle, and end of the year.

11. What electronic devices are required to participate in the online instructional model?

Computers (desktop or laptop) are recommended. Tablets can be used, but Microsoft Teams Formatting will be different from the desktop version. A printer and scanner are preferable.

12. Is it a self-paced program?

No, this is a teacher led program directly matching our brick and mortar instructional model. Students will participate in the classroom lessons and complete the same assignments. Online students must abide by the due dates given.

In-Person Instructional Model:

- 1. Will students be able to maintain social distancing in the classroom? If so, how will social distancing be managed in the classroom?**

Based on our current enrollment numbers in the online instructional model, our class sizes should be reduced providing sufficient distancing of students. Staff will educate and remind students regularly to maintain at least 6 feet of distance between individuals when feasible. Students will be placed facing the same direction in the classroom when possible. Social distancing in all classrooms will remain a priority. When students and staff are not able to achieve social distancing recommendations, a facial covering will be required.

- 2. Will my child be required to wear a facial covering while at school?**

In compliance with Maricopa County, city and town guidelines, and the BBS School Board, all kindergarten through sixth grade students are required to wear face coverings in public places where persons are unable to maintain continuous physical distancing of 6 feet or more unless a student is medically exempt from requiring such facial coverings. Face shields are an appropriate facial covering should a mask or cloth covering not be available.

- 3. What if a child forgets their facial covering?**

BBS will have a limited supply of alternative face coverings. Parents may want to purchase a pencil pouch to store additional face coverings so students are prepared in the event they forget, lose, or break straps on their face covering.

- 4. What are the criteria for discontinuation of the facial covering policy?**

The criteria will be based on county and state requirements in conjunction with guidance and advisement from the School Board.

- 5. Is there a form or process to obtain an exemption to the facial covering policy?**

Facial covering exemptions will be permitted with medical clearance from a licensed health care provider for students and/or staff who fall under the CDC guidance of those who should not wear a face covering due to a medical or mental health condition or developmental disability.

- 6. What will student lunchtime look like?**

Students will eat lunch in their classroom. Social distancing will be encouraged as much as possible. Masks do not need to be worn while eating.

- 7. What is the facial covering procedure during lunch and outdoor activity?**

Students will be socially distanced at lunch time and will not require facial coverings during their eating time. Face coverings will not be mandated at recess as long as six feet or more of social distance is maintained.

8. Will students receive recess? How will students maintain social distancing during non-classroom activities?

YES. Recess schedules will be staggered and monitored. Social distancing will be reinforced. Each homeroom class will use their own equipment, kept in their classroom when not at recess. Large playground structures (swings, slides, etc) will remain open and available to use. When multiple classrooms are out for recess, classrooms will rotate through different areas of the playground.

9. What are the protocols for hand washing?

Each classroom has either a sink or hand sanitizer dispenser. Students will wash their hands with soap and water at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer at the following times:

- Upon arrival at school
- After being outside for physical activity
- Before and after lunch
- Prior to leaving school for home
- After sneezing, coughing, or blowing nose
- When leaving and returning from a Special
- Frequent sanitizing breaks during extended classroom time

10. What are the protocols for restroom use?

Students will have access to restrooms throughout the day. Restrooms will have signage to indicate the number of students allowed inside at one time and proper handwashing techniques. Students will be permitted to enter the restrooms in groups no larger than the number of stalls/urinals in the restroom. Restroom breaks will be monitored by the teacher or aides to ensure social distance requirements are being met.

11. What are the protocols for refilling water bottles?

Drinking directly from water fountains is prohibited. Water bottles must be labeled with student's name. Parents are encouraged to donate extra water bottle cases to keep in class.

12. What are the enhanced sanitization and disinfecting procedures?

All horizontal surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected multiple times per day. High traffic areas will maintain regular sanitization and disinfecting schedules. We are discouraging the sharing of supplies. Any shared equipment will be disinfected after use. Desks and tables will be sanitized multiple times a day.

13. Will students' temperatures be monitored? If so, what is the expectation/guidelines for this process?

Teachers will check temperatures in the classroom in the morning. A second temperature check will be done, if necessary. Prior to sending a student to school, parents are encouraged to temperature check their child as well as check for any COVID-19 related symptoms. If a student exhibits any symptoms at school, parents will be contacted and asked to pick their child up within 20 minutes.

14. Will students gather for assemblies and school events?

NO.

15. Will student field trips still be allowed?

BBS will continue to monitor state and local health data to determine when it is safe to allow field trips.

16. Will students be allowed to work in small groups with other students?

Students will be provided opportunities to work in small groups only if facial coverings are worn and/or social distancing can be maintained.

17. Will elementary specials be offered (Music, PE, Spanish, Art)?

YES. Students will travel to the Specials' classroom at their scheduled time. To help reduce movement within the hallways, classes will leave for Specials at staggered times. Specials teachers will sanitize their room at the end of each class.

18. If a student is enrolled in our online model will they maintain their seat at BBS?

YES.

19. Will parents be able to volunteer and/or visit classrooms?

Not at this time.

20. What is the procedure for student arrival on campus?

Students will report directly to their classroom. The doors will be open beginning at 8:10 am. There will be NO morning recess, and all students are encouraged to use the drive-up circle.

21. What is the procedure for student dismissal from campus?

All students will stay in class until their name is called over the loudspeaker. Parents will be provided with signs for their car that include first name, last name, grade, and teacher of their students. A staff member will be standing on the corner of Flint and will notify the office as cars turn the corner. The office will then announce for that student to head to the drop off circle.

22. Once schools re-open, will before and after school childcare be available?

At this time, we do not provide before school care. We do provide afterschool care which follows the same safe policies and procedures as we do for the school day.