

Bethlehem Central School District COVID-19 Expectations for Students
November 2020

Bethlehem Central School District (“the District”) recognizes that instances of communicable infectious disease, including COVID-19, may require students to follow additional state and local government expectations to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the entire school community. For the 2020-2021 academic year, until further notice, this addendum to the District’s reopening plan has been activated by Superintendent, in collaboration with the District’s Reopening Task Force with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As part of the District’s reopening plans all students are responsible to uphold all aspects of our plans. All sections of this document apply to the COVID-19 pandemic. This applies to all students and covers student conduct both on and off campus.

2020-2021 Reopening Plan

A copy of the District’s 2020-2021 reopening plan is available at www.bethlehemschools.org. All students are expected to review and familiarize themselves with that plan and any amendments thereto.

Expectations for Students

1. Personal Protective Equipment (“PPE”)

Personal protective equipment, commonly referred to as "PPE," is equipment worn to minimize exposure to communicable diseases that may cause serious illnesses. Personal protective equipment may include items such as face coverings, gloves, eye protection, and gowns.

A. Face Coverings

All students, unless medically excused, are required to wear cloth face coverings at all times both outside on District property and inside District facilities. Exceptions will apply only when a student is eating, drinking, or taking a short mask break. Individuals should wash their hands frequently, refrain from touching their face covering, and follow Centers for Disease Control policies for proper use, removal, and washing of face coverings.

Students are further required to wear cloth face coverings off campus, at all times and under all circumstances required by law, Executive Order of the Governor, or other government directive. This includes, but is not limited to, all times when social distancing, as defined below, cannot be or is not maintained.

B. Other PPE

Students may be required to use other PPE for specific activities.

2. Respiratory Etiquette

All students are required to practice respiratory etiquette, including: covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue or using the inside of the elbow, disposing of used tissues in the trash, and washing hands immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol can be used.

3. Social Distancing and Maximum Occupancy

All students are required to maintain a social distance of at least six feet between people in all indoor and outdoor areas on campus. Students are required to adhere to maximum occupancy signage.

Social distancing must also be maintained off school grounds, including but not limited to any off-campus gathering of two or more students, under all circumstances required by law, Executive Order of the Governor, or other government directive.

4. Symptom Monitoring and Reporting

Parents and guardians are responsible for monitoring students for symptoms and reporting symptoms to the District via the COVID Survey Tool developed by Educational Vistas and emailed daily to families.

For COVID-19, symptoms to be monitored may include:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fever or chills
- Congestion or runny nose
- Muscle or body aches
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

5. Other Reporting Requirements

- A. It is strongly recommended that any student who exhibits one or more symptoms of COVID-19 be evaluated by a healthcare provider. In addition, if a student is symptomatic or if a student is excluded from school due to close contact with a COVID positive case or travel to location on the NYS travel advisor list, a parent/guardian should contact the school nurse to report this information.

B. Off-Campus Gatherings

Students may not attend off-campus gatherings which are prohibited by federal, state or local government directives. At present, social gatherings of 50 or more people are prohibited. That directive, however, is subject to change based on local, regional or state-wide conditions. Students must further comply with social distancing requirements and wear a face mask at off-campus gatherings of any size that are in compliance with the maximum attendance limit.

Process for Responding to Violations of COVID-19 Expectations

The District will normally take a progressive discipline approach to violations of these expectations, including off-campus violations, but reserves the right to impose any sanction permitted by the Code of Conduct, including suspension from some or all school activities, for any violation that is found to be intentional or flagrant, or that results in any spread of COVID-19 within a school.

1. **First Violation:** The District may take any of the following disciplinary actions when a student violates any provision of the COVID-19 expectations:
 - a. A written reprimand;
 - b. A loss of privileges;
 - c. A letter of apology to the complaining party.
 - d. A short-term suspension from on-site instruction
2. **Second Violation:** A second violation of the COVID-19 expectations may result in a Superintendent's Hearing. If found responsible for the second violation, students may receive any of the following disciplinary actions:
 - a. A written reprimand;
 - b. A loss of privileges;
 - c. A letter of apology to the complaining party;
 - d. A long-term suspension from remote or on-site instruction.

3. Third Violation: A third violation of the COVID-19 expectations will result in a Superintendent's Hearing. If found responsible for the third violation, students may receive any of the following disciplinary actions:

- a. A written reprimand;
- b. A loss of privileges;
- c. A letter of apology to the complaining party;
- d. A long-term suspension from remote or on-site instruction.

Appeals

If a student wishes to appeal a violation decision made by an Administrator, based on a finding that the student was responsible for violating the COVID-19 expectations, the student/parent/guardian should follow the process outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.