

Opening Berne Union Local Schools for the 2020 – 2021 School Year



A PLAN OF ACTION TO RESET AND RESTART EDUCATION

START DATE FOR STUDENTS: AUGUST 31, 2020



Table of Contents

- Section 1: Introduction – Operating Principles
- Section 2: Phases of School and Delivery of Instruction
- Section 3: Healthy Learning Environments
- Section 4: Responding to a Confirmed COVID-19 Case
- Section 5: Additional Resources and Information

Section 1: Introduction

Operating Principles



- It is the goal of the Berne Union Local School District to fully open schools on schedule for the 2020 – 2021 school year. The status level of the Berne Union Local School District will be determined at the discretion of the Superintendent. The Superintendent will consider guidance from the Governor, the Ohio Department of Health, the Fairfield County Health Department and the Berne Union Board of Education in making this determination.
- All plans will be devised with the goal of protecting the health and safety of our students, staff and community by considering the guidance given by the CDC, the Ohio Department of Health, the Fairfield County Health Department and the Ohio Department of Education. While risks can be minimized, plans cannot completely eliminate all risks.
- Our mission will be to support the academic, social, emotional and physical needs of our students and staff. If your child or student cannot physically attend school due to health concerns, please contact your building principal for educational options after August 3, 2020.
- Students, Staff, Families and our Community will need to realize our plans need to be flexible, and we stress that everyone must show patience through this process.
- This presentation will not fully encompass the totality of the regulations and guidance given to Berne Union Locals Schools by the state of Ohio. For questions regarding specific situations not covered, please contact your building principal or Superintendent Jon Parker.

Section 2: 2020 – 2021 Phases of School and Delivery of Instruction



COVID-19 Status Level Green

- All Students Expected to Attend School
- Increased Safety Protocols and Cleaning

COVID-19 Status Level Yellow

- 50% In-Person Attendance / 50% Remote Learning
- Alternating Group 1: Mon/Tue & Group 2: Th/Fri (Based on the Students' Last Name, Group 1=A-L, Group 2=M-Z)

COVID-19 Status Level Red

- All Students Stay Home
- Remote Learning Curriculum

Section 2: 2020 – 2021 Phases of School and Delivery of Instruction



COVID-19 - Status Green
All Students at School
Increased Safety Protocols

- Face masks will be mandatory for all students grades 5-12 but are strongly recommended for students Pre-K through 4th grade.
- Facial coverings will be required for staff unless they meet an exception outlined by state orders.
- Green status would be a full opening of school with increased safety protocols to reduce the potential spread of COVID-19.
- All staff members would be expected to report to school during their normal work hours unless determined otherwise by the Superintendent.

Section 2: 2020 – 2021 Phases of School and Delivery of Instruction



COVID-19 - Status Yellow

50% In-Person Attendance / 50% Remote Learning

Alternating Within a Week (Mon/Tue & Thu/Fri)

- Yellow status would be instituted due to extensive social distancing protocols recommended by federal, state or local health officials.
- Students with a last name beginning with letters **A-L (Group 1)** would attend on Monday & Tuesday. Students with a last name beginning with letters **M-Z (Group 2)** would attend on Thursday & Friday. Wednesdays would be online and time would be taken for deep cleaning the building.
- If a family or household has school-aged children with different last names, all students in the household will attend in-person classes on the same days. Please contact the district office to coordinate the schedule for your family.
- Students will be provided information daily about accessing lessons online for their non-attendance days. Food supplies will be sent home with students every Tuesday & Friday.
- Students will be expected to be engaged in their remote learning curriculum during normal school hours unless otherwise excused.
- All staff members will be expected to report to school during their normal work hours unless determined otherwise by the Superintendent.

Section 2: 2020 – 2021 Phases of School and Delivery of Instruction



COVID-19 - Status Red

All Buildings Closed

All Students Transition to a Remote Learning Curriculum

- Red status would result from an Executive Order from the Governor, the Ohio Department of Health, the Fairfield County Health Department or as determined by the Superintendent.
- Remote learning curriculum would be instituted to provide a consistent delivery of educational content to students.
- Food distribution services would be announced at the time of the order to close schools.
- Students would be expected to be engaged in their remote learning curriculum during normal school hours unless otherwise excused.
- All staff members would be expected to report to school during their normal work hours unless determined otherwise by the Superintendent.

Section 3: Healthy Learning Environments



The Reality: Educational Programs and Settings are Inherently Designed for Social Interaction, Not Social Distancing

At Berne Union the following will be essential to creating a healthy learning environment:

- Vigilantly assess for symptoms
- Wash and sanitize hands to prevent the spread of COVID-19
- Thoroughly clean and sanitize the school environment to limit the spread on shared surfaces
- Practice social distancing where possible
- Implement face covering policies for students and staff

Section 3: Healthy Learning Environments



Safety Protocols: Cleaning procedures during the school day

Prior to the start of the school day

- All commonly touched items will be disinfected with cleaners approved to kill the coronavirus.
- All hand sanitizer and soap dispensers checked for daily use.
- Buses will be cleaned in preparation for the morning routes.

During the school day

- Desks and commonly touched items will be cleaned between classes.
- Hand sanitizing stations and soap dispensers will be refilled as needed.
- Buses will be cleaned in preparation for the afternoon routes.

At the end of the school day

- Deep cleaning of all schools will be completed on a daily basis.
- Areas used for extracurricular activities will also be cleaned after usage.

Section 3: Healthy Learning Environments



The following items have been ordered in preparation for providing a healthy learning environment at Berne Union

- Hand sanitizer stations to be distributed in high traffic areas, and extracurricular venues.
- EPA/FDA approved cleaning and disinfecting products effective in killing viruses, including COVID-19.
- Face shields for staff.
- Facemasks for staff.
- Non-touch infrared scanning thermometers.
- Heavy duty gloves for staff.
- Disinfectant machines for large spaces and equipment.
- Social distancing barriers where applicable.
- Signage for safety reminders to students and staff.

Section 3: Healthy Learning Environments



General Safety Strategies for Good Hygiene

- Daily health checks should be completed at home before coming to school. If you feel sick, please stay home. Do not return to school/work until you meet CDC criteria or are cleared by a medical provider.
- Students or staff exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 will be sent home or to a health care provider immediately.
- Practice social distancing whenever feasible.
- Frequently wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol content if soap and water are not available.
 - Hand sanitizing stations will be installed throughout the building.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with your elbow or a tissue and dispose of the tissue.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched items and surfaces as much as possible.
- If there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 in your home, please contact your child's principal and health care provider immediately.
- Utilize personal protective equipment as much as possible.

Section 3: Healthy Learning Environments



General Safety Strategies: Shaping the School Day

- District officials will work closely with the health department and maintain open communication with state agencies.
- Practice social distancing, as feasible, using visual markings.
- Daily cleaning and disinfecting protocols for high touch areas and surfaces.
- Provide health and safety education related to COVID-19 for students and training for staff.
- Post signs in buildings reinforcing social distancing and good hygiene.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be installed in all classrooms and high traffic areas.
- As feasible, keep groups of students together throughout the day to minimize interactions between large groups.
- As feasible, utilize outdoor learning spaces or large indoor spaces to maximize social distancing.

Section 3: Healthy Learning Environments



General Safety Strategies: Shaping the School Day

- Students desks will be in rows and facing the same direction.
- Group seating and group interactions in classes will be avoided as much as possible.
- Non-essential furniture and equipment will be moved out of classrooms.
- As feasible, outdoor learning spaces or large indoor spaces will be utilized to maximize social distancing for classes.
- Secondary clinics will be established to help isolate students who become ill at school.
- Encourage alternative meeting options for volunteer activities and groups (Boosters, PTO, etc...).
- Essential visitors will be limited to the main office area only. Non-essential visitors will be limited and can only be approved by a building principal or the superintendent.
- Student and staff absences will be monitored closely as this could be a warning sign of a larger health issue.

Section 3: Healthy Learning Environments



General Safety Strategies: Shaping the School Day

- Limit the number of students using the restrooms at one time.
- Lunch lines will be provided on both sides of the cafeteria to make social distancing easier.
- Efforts will be made to reduce the number of students eating in the cafeteria.
- Facial coverings will be required in food preparation areas.
- Limit the number of students in food serving lines.
- Utilize face shields for staff.
- Reduce congregation in high traffic areas.
- As feasible, utilize safety barriers for staff in high traffic areas.

Section 3: Healthy Learning Environments



General Safety Strategies: Shaping the School Day

- Close traditional drinking fountains unless cup dispensers can be installed. Permit students to use water bottles.
- No field trips until further notice.
- Playgrounds: Disinfect high touch areas and limit usage of some equipment.
- There may be specific limitations by grade levels or buildings.
- Manipulatives and Equipment: Reduce the use of shared items by students
 - Where possible, students will be given assigned seats and manipulatives to limit exposure from other students.

Section 3: Healthy Learning Environments



Guidelines for Face Coverings (Masks)

- The CDC and ODH provide comprehensive guidance for the use of cloth face coverings to help slow the spread of COVID-19.
- As feasible, cloth face coverings can be an important safety tool for individuals and families when not able to maintain social distancing for activities such as: busing and transportation; events and meetings; instruction that necessitate close proximity; educating medically vulnerable students; supporting medically vulnerable staff; and protecting schools' health care workers and crisis responders.
- All **visitors** to a school building will be required to wear a face covering.
- Who should NOT wear facial coverings?
 - Children under age 2
 - Anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.

Section 3: Healthy Learning Environments



Guidelines for Face Coverings (Masks)

- Per guidance from Governor DeWine, the CDC and ODH, the District strongly recommends **students** wear facial coverings at all times unless an exception applies. At Berne Union, students grades 5-12 are required to wear a mask during the school day. We strongly recommend masks for grades Pre-K through 4.
 - Students will be responsible for providing their own facial coverings at school and on the bus.
 - Situations where face coverings are **mandatory** for all students:
 - If a student is within six (6) feet of other students or staff members
 - If a student is exhibiting symptoms or showing signs of illness
 - When a student is on a bus
 - Face shields will be permitted as an alternative to utilizing cloth face masks.
 - Exceptions to situations requiring a student to wear a mask:
 - Not advisable for health or developmental reasons
 - Working alone in an assigned area
 - There is a functional reason for a student not to wear a facial covering

Section 3: Healthy Learning Environments



Guidelines for Face Coverings (Masks)

- Per orders from Governor DeWine and ODH, **employees** must wear face coverings (mask or shield) at all times, unless it is unsafe to do so or where doing so would significantly interfere with the learning process.
 - The District will provide each staff member with a washable face covering and a clear face shield.
 - Situations where face coverings should always be used by all employees:
 - If you are working within six (6) feet of a student or fellow employee
 - If you are in close proximity of someone considered to be in a high risk health category
 - If you are going to be in a high traffic area
 - Exceptions to situations requiring an employee to wear a mask:
 - Prohibited by law or regulation
 - Violation of documented industry standards
 - Not advisable for health reasons
 - Working alone in an assigned work area
 - There is a functional reason for an employee not to wear a facial covering

Section 3: Healthy Learning Environments



General Safety Strategies for Transportation

Challenges exist to implement social distancing on school buses. Financial constraints, a limited number of licensed bus drivers, and geographical distance do not allow the district to triple our bus fleet or triple routes. In turn, this could hinder the District's ability to meet social distancing guidelines. **Parents should notify the transportation office if their student intends to utilize an alternative transportation method other than District provided transportation.**

The following procedures will be implemented on buses for Berne Union:

- Parents should conduct daily health checks of their child and not send an ill child to school.
- Students will be assigned seats on all buses.
- Buses will be cleaned and disinfected before and after routes.
- Students will be required to wear facial coverings on buses unless the student presents a medical excuse.
- Hand sanitizer will be available on buses and at entrance and exit points of school buildings prior to loading and unloading buses.
- Drivers will be required to follow employee guidelines for wearing face coverings.
- Drivers will dismiss students from one bus at a time upon arrival to school.
- Ventilation – Natural air circulation (opening windows) is recommend with consideration given to weather conditions and other health concerns (asthma, etc.).
- Students in the same family should be seated together.

Section 4: Responding to a Confirmed COVID-19 Case



Guidelines for Responding to a Confirmed Case are Established in Conjunction with State and Local Health Officials

- If there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 at school, regardless of community transmission, the school district might need to implement short-term closure. If this happens, CDC recommends the following procedures regardless of the level of community spread:
 - Once learning of a confirmed COVID-19 case for a student or staffer, **the school's health official(s) should immediately contact the county health department.**
 - A confirmed case is a positive COVID-19 lab test according to local health officials.
- Fairfield Department of Health (FDH) Guidance
 - Diagnosed Individual – Quarantine for 14 day.
 - Direct Exposure – As defined by the FDH
 - Being exposed to an individual, 6' or less, with a confirmed case of COVID-19 for more than 15 minutes without a mask.
 - Quarantine/Isolate for 14 days from the date of last exposure and monitor for symptoms.

Section 4: Responding to a Confirmed COVID-19 Case



Guidelines for Responding to a Confirmed Case are Established in Conjunction with State and Local Health Officials

- **Prepare for a possible short-term closure for an initial consultation with local health officials.** This initial short-term move to **Red** status allows time for the local health officials to gain a better understanding of the COVID-19 situation impacting the school. This allows the local health officials to help the school determine appropriate next steps, including whether an extended dismissal duration is needed.
 - Ultimately, **local health officials have the expertise to determine the necessary length of closure and scale of response.**
 - During school dismissals, we may consider canceling extracurricular group activities, school-based afterschool programs and events (e.g., assemblies, spirit nights, field trips and sporting events).
 - Staff, students and their families may be discouraged from gathering or socializing on campus.
 - Students unable to attend school will be required to transition to a remote learning platform until the student is cleared to return to school by the Fairfield County Health Department or their medical provider.

Section 4: Responding to a Confirmed COVID-19 Case



Guidelines for Responding to a Confirmed Case are Established in Conjunction with State and Local Health Officials

- **Communicate with staff, parents and students.**
 - Self-monitor for symptoms and contact your healthcare provider.
- **Coordinate with local health officials to communicate dismissal decisions and the possible COVID-19 exposure.**
 - Consider the potential impact, socially and emotionally, on those infected.
 - In such a circumstance, it is critical to preserve confidentiality of the student or staff member to the extent possible considering health and safety issues.

Section 4: Responding to a Confirmed COVID-19 Case



Guidelines for Responding to a Confirmed Case are Established in Conjunction with State and Local Health Officials

- **Clean and disinfect thoroughly.**
- **Coordinate with local health officials to determine next steps to mitigate the outbreak.**
 - Close off areas used by the individuals with COVID-19 and wait as long as practical before beginning cleaning and disinfection to minimize potential for exposure to respiratory droplets. Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area. If possible, wait up to 24 hours before beginning cleaning and disinfection.
 - Cleaning staff should clean and disinfect all areas (e.g., offices, bathrooms and common areas) used by the ill persons, focusing especially on frequently touched surfaces.
 - If surfaces are dirty, they should be cleaned using a detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.
 - For disinfection, most common EPA-registered household disinfectants should be effective.
 - Additional information on cleaning and disinfection of community facilities such as schools can be found on [CDC website](#).

Section 4: Responding to a Confirmed COVID-19 Case



Guidelines for Responding to a Confirmed Case are Established in Conjunction with State and Local Health Officials

- **Make decisions about extending the school dismissal.**
 - During dismissals (after cleaning and disinfection), schools and programs may stay open for staff members (unless ill) while students stay home. Keeping facilities open:
 - Allows teachers to develop and deliver lessons and materials remotely, thus maintaining continuity of teaching and learning; and
 - Allows other staff members to continue to provide services and help with additional response efforts.
 - Decisions on which, if any, staff should be allowed in the school should be made in collaboration with local health officials. Administrators will work in close collaboration and coordination with local health officials to make dismissal and large event cancellation decisions.
 - Administrators will seek guidance from local health officials to determine when students and staff should return to schools and what additional steps are needed for the school community.
 - In addition, students and staff who are well but are taking care of or share a home with someone with a case of COVID-19 should follow instructions from local health officials to determine when to return to school.

Section 5: Additional Resources and Information



- [The Berne Union Local Schools Website](#)
- [ODE Reset and Restart Guidelines](#)
- <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Student-Supports/Coronavirus>
- [Fairfield County Health Department](#)
- [Center for Disease Control](#)
- <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/home>
- [Ohio K-12 School Guidance](#)