

## **BUFFALO VALLEY SAFE RETURN PLAN**

SAFE RETURN plan for the 2021-22 school year.

This plan will allow our students to return to school in the safest way possible. The COVID-19 pandemic and the response to it is continuously changing. We are in unique times that require flexibility and cooperation from everyone involved with Buffalo Valley Public Schools. In an effort to ensure the safety of our students, faculty and staff and to prevent the spread of communicable diseases, especially during a pandemic or public health crisis, Buffalo Valley Public Schools implements the following protocol:

### **Masks:**

Students, faculty, and staff are permitted to wear a mask. Buffalo Valley Public Schools will only issue a mask mandate if under a State of Emergency and the mandate will be reviewed at each monthly school board meeting. When under a State of Emergency, Buffalo Valley School will use the state color code system to determine the requirement of masks.

- Green – No mask required.
- Yellow – No mask required.
- Lt. Orange – Masks strongly recommended but not required.
- Dark Orange – Masks strongly recommended but not required.
- Red – Masks strongly recommended but not required.

When masks are required, they shall be worn at all times over the nose and mouth unless eating or drinking.

### **Physical Distancing**

Buffalo Valley Public Schools will follow CDC and Health Department guidelines on physical distancing when feasible. When physical distancing is not possible, we will encourage students and staff to wear a mask when the state color code deems it necessary.

### **Maintaining healthy facilities**

Students, staff, and visitors are encouraged to use handwashing stations frequently. In addition, hand sanitizer will be placed in all classrooms, offices, and entrances. Buildings will be disinfected throughout the day and thoroughly sanitized each evening.

### **Best practices for positive cases at schools:**

A student who has tested positive for COVID-19 will be part of contact tracing by the school and county health department. Such tracing will require the whereabouts of students in school to be communicated to the health department.

On the advice of the health department and tribal healthcare facilities, parents of other students who have been in close contact with a student who has tested positive for COVID-19 will be contacted and quarantined according to CDC recommendations. Siblings of a positive tested student may also be quarantined. Grab and go meals will be provided for students who have been placed in quarantine and may be picked up at the cafeteria.

If the absentee rate of a site and/or district reaches 40%, then the site and/or district will go to distance learning for 10 days with the count starting on the first day of distance learning.

All communication involving possible school closure will be done using the Remind app, social media, and the school website.

### **Diagnostic and Screening**

Buffalo Valley Public Schools encourages parents, legal guardians, and all school employees to self-screen at home. If a student or employee has a temperature of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, the student or employee should remain at home until the individual has been free of fever for twenty-four (24) hours.

Buffalo Valley Public Schools will screen any individual (students, faculty, and staff) who enters a school facility during the regular school day. This screening process may include taking temperatures, asking health related questions, and isolating those that have symptoms of a communicable disease.

## **Vaccinations**

Buffalo Valley Public Schools will work with the county health department as well as tribal healthcare facilities to make available vaccinations to eligible staff and students.

## **Accommodations for children with disabilities**

Buffalo Valley Public School will provide appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies.

## **Coordination with State and local health officials**

Buffalo Valley Public Schools will adhere to guidelines set by local, state, and federal health and safety guidelines when feasible.

## **Access to school facilities:**

Due to COVID-19 and for the safety of our students, parents will not be allowed to enter school facilities during the regular school day. For assistance, parents are asked to call the office at each school site. Students will not be permitted to enter the buildings until 7:30 AM each morning.

Buffalo Valley School Office (918) 522-4426

## **Transportation safety:**

Buffalo Valley Public Schools will continue transporting students to and from school each day. We would also like to encourage parents who can bring their children to school each morning and pick them up each afternoon to do so. This would eliminate overcrowding on the bus routes.

Also, students are encouraged but not required to wear a face covering for the bus routes due to the small, confined area of the school bus. All school buses will be sanitized after the morning routes and afternoon routes are completed.

## **Virtual Days:**

In the event of school closure, Buffalo Valley Public Schools will implement virtual days of instruction. Students, parents, and faculty members will be notified as early as possible regarding virtual days.

## **Communication:**

Buffalo Valley Public Schools will use the Remind app, email, the school website, and school social media accounts to communicate with parents and students.