



SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION  
AND  
CONTINUITY OF SERVICES PLAN 2022-2023  
Revised July 29, 2022

Brazos River Charter School (BRCS) has already taken many steps forward in building the capacity for our mission thus far.

BRCS's actions towards the success of our mission include:

- 1) Concerted effort by staff to create a plan that allows for the success of every student, including the assessment of any lost learning in the spring of 2021 and adjusted curriculum to address those losses.
- 2) The acquisition of a quality learning platform that maintains the necessary rigor for student learning and growth if remote learning becomes necessary at any point during the school year
- 3) The addition of new technology to better meet our students' needs.

### **Introduction**

BRCS is committed to the safe reopening of facilities and learning for the 2022-2023 school year. In person classes will begin on the first day of school August 15, 2022. For the 2022-2023 school year, BRCS will not offer remote instruction.

We have, however, prepared other contingencies should we experience attendance fluctuations and/or a resurgence of COVID-19 during the 2022-2023 school year. We will continue to follow the guidelines of the Texas Education Agency and the state regarding Covid-19.

Our plans are subject to change as public health guidelines are updated and feedback from stakeholders is collected. There will be situations that may require temporary suspension of face-to-face instruction due to positive COVID-19 cases in schools. Schools must close off areas that are heavily used by the individual with a lab-confirmed case (student, teacher, or staff) until the non-porous surfaces in those areas can be disinfected, unless more than 3 days have already passed since that person was on campus. Parents, staff and students will be prepared for this if it occurs, while actively working to prevent it through prevention and mitigation practices.

### **Guidance from the Texas Education Agency (TEA)**

Commissioner Mike Morath of the Texas Education Agency has provided school districts with guidance in the following areas:



## Attendance and Enrollment

- Per Texas Education Code (TEC), §25.092, students must attend 90% of the days a course is offered in order to be awarded credit for the course and/or to be promoted to the next grade. This requirement remains in force during the 2022-2023 school year.

## General Health & Safety Protocols

- Campus staff will be trained in COVID-19 safety protocols. Masks are not required. Students/staff may choose to wear masks.
- On the first day a student attends school on campus, school systems must provide instruction to students on appropriate hygiene practices and other mitigation practices adopted in the local school system.
- Disinfectants will be used for deep cleaning campuses.
- Students, teachers, staff and essential campus visitors/volunteers will be encouraged to sanitize and/or wash hands frequently.
- Social distancing and safety signage will be visible throughout school facilities.
- BRCS is permitted to prevent any individual who fails the health screening criteria from being admitted to the campus until they meet any of the criteria for re-entry to the campus.
  - Non-essential visitors will be limited, and it is highly suggested that anyone wishing to visit is cleared prior to coming into the building. They are also to subject themselves to all health-screening measures.
    - Examples of Essential Visitors Include
      - Outside support personnel
      - Individuals for ARD Meetings (will receive a specific invitation)

## Health Pre-Screening for Staff & Students

- Students and staff are expected to take their own temperatures daily before arriving at school. Anyone with a fever of 100.4 or higher should not come to school.
- Students and staff should also prescreen themselves for any of the following symptoms prior to coming to school:
  - Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit
  - **New**, uncontrolled cough that causes different breathing (or for students with chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in the cough from baseline)
  - Sore throat
  - Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain; or **new** onset of headache, especially with fever
- Students and staff may be subject to periodic temperature checks for verification, especially if



they are feeling ill or suspected of having a fever during the school day.

- Campuses will have access to a touch-free forehead thermometer to check/verify temperatures throughout the day. Anyone with a 100.4 or higher temperature will need to leave school.
- Staff will be required to notify their immediate supervisor if they have tested positive for COVID-19 or are presenting COVID-19 symptoms.

## **Arriving at School**

- Students arriving at school are encouraged to social distance and spread out in larger common spaces (pre-designated by the campus) and during transitions to and from class.
- BRCS will plan for entry, exit, and transition procedures that reduce large group gatherings of students and/or adults.

## **School Health Procedures**

- The attendance clerk will be trained to ask questions to screen students/staff who are absent for COVID-19 symptoms as well as essential campus visitors.
- The school office area will be cleaned and disinfected regularly.

## **Returning to school after a Positive COVID-19 Diagnosis**

Students or staff who either have a lab-confirmed case of COVID-19 or experience symptoms of COVID-19 must remain at home throughout the infection period, and cannot return to campus until the school system screens the individual to determine if re-entry criteria has been met.

In the case of an individual who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to school when all three of the following criteria are met.

- At least three days (72 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
  - the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and at least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
  - the student has had a Negative COVID-19 test at least 7 days after the Positive test & within 48 hours of returning to campus
- In the case of an individual who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and who is not evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, such individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to the campus until the individual has completed the same criteria listed above.



- If the individual has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to school before completing the above stay at home period, the individual must either obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis or receive two separate confirmations at least 24 hours apart that they are free of COVID via acute infection tests at an approved COVID-19 testing location.

For a complete list of all disease requiring exclusion from school and the readmission criteria, please visit [DSHS School Health Recommendations for the Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases in a Group-Care Setting](#).

Individuals - including students, teachers, staff or other campus visitors/volunteers - who have had close contact with someone who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, and is presenting with COVID-19 symptoms, should stay at home until seen by a physician or tested.

## **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) & Masks**

Masks are not required and are optional.

## **Hand washing & Hand Sanitizers**

- Students and staff will be trained in proper hand washing protocols to prevent COVID-19 and the spread of germs.
- Hand washing stations are available in restrooms and sanitizer will be readily available in all classrooms.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be added in common areas.

## **Social Distancing Protocols**

- Students and staff will be trained in proper social distancing.
- Social Distance becomes a personal responsibility of each individual attending school or coming to the campus.
- Whenever possible throughout the day, students and staff will remain six feet apart. NOTE: It isn't realistic that staff and students always maintain six-foot social distancing, especially in classrooms.

## **Cleaning & Disinfectant Protocols**

- BRCS students and staff will be trained on COVID-19 safety protocols.
- Cleaning and disinfecting will occur each day after school in every classroom, commons area and on high-touch surfaces.
- The state recommends that each school district provide students the opportunity to clean their own spaces before and after they are used in ways that are safe/developmentally appropriate.





- Restrooms will undergo extensive cleaning after each day's use.

### **Face to Face Instruction**

- BRCS begins face-to-face instruction on the first day of school for students, August 15, 2022.
- The safety protocols and social distancing listed above will be implemented as recommended for at- school learning.
- BRCS will consider the Texas Education Agency (TEA), Somervell County Health officials' guidelines for face-to-face Instruction. NOTE: TEA could change guidelines at any point in time based upon CDC guidelines.

### **Attendance and Enrollment**

- Per Texas Education Code (TEC) 25.092, students must attend 90 percent of a course in order to be awarded credit for the course and/or to be promoted to the next grade. This requirement remains in force during the 2022-2023 school year.
- School systems are required to provide parents a notice of their public education enrollment and attendance rights and responsibilities during the COVID-19 pandemic using a document published by TEA.





## Continuity of Services Plan 2022-2023

### **Academics**

BRCS will continue to prioritize students' academic and social/emotional needs upon returning to school in August 2022.

### **Summer Programming and Tutoring**

During the 2021-2022 school year, BRCS implemented Supplemental Instructional Tutoring during school hours for one-on-one/small group instruction. In the summer of the 2021-2022 school year, BRCS provided in-person one-on-one tutoring to address learning loss due to Covid-19.

Supplemental tutoring will continue through the duration of the ESSER III grant and based on our student achievement data as long as necessary address student growth for the 2022-2023 school year and beyond.

### **Special Education**

- Special education staff will be trained in COVID-19 safety protocols.
- Instruction - Students who receive mainstream instruction, in class support, or co-teach instruction will continue to participate in the general education curriculum with their individualized accommodations/modifications being implemented by the special education teacher. Students receiving resource instruction will receive tasks and support that are explicitly designed to meet their IEP goals. This will occur in the appropriate setting as designated by their IEP. These settings will be sanitized consistently between groups.
- Student devices will be sent home with students should school closure become a necessity.
- All staff, including special education staff will receive training on remote methods of service delivery.

### **Technology Support**

- All students will have access to a district-issued personal device for face-to-face learning. Certain district policies and procedures will be required with the use of these devices. Detailed policies and procedures regarding the use of technology are located in the "Technology Use Agreement" in enrollment packets. The user agreements are signed by parents and students upon enrollment and kept in the cumulative student files.

### **Social-Emotional Support/Mental Wellness**

- Campus counselor will be trained in COVID-19 safety protocols, and be available to students throughout each school day.
- Campus counselor will continue to utilize a referral system for individuals who need targeted support.
- BRCS will ensure that all students and staff have access to resources to support emotional health.

### **Communication**

BRCS will continue to inform key stakeholders regularly, while offering opportunities for feedback to help shape the continued development of daily operations to best serve its students, families, and staff members.



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