



Brawley Union High School District

2021-2022 School Opening Plan

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Brawley Union High School District Mission

To provide a student-centered educational experience, focused on high academic expectations, in a safe and secure learning environment.

Brawley Union High School District Vision

To prepare students to become productive global citizens.

Strategic Goals

- Increase the educational achievement of all of our students
- Close achievement gaps
- Provide a positive school climate
- Improve communication efforts among stakeholders
- Ensure a safe and orderly environment

Core Values & Beliefs

- Excellence in learning, in teaching and in service to our students
- Equity in access, resource allocation and educational opportunities
- Engagement with students, families and our community
- Enrichment in curricular and extracurricular offerings and activities

The COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent closure of facilities reemphasized the critical role our schools play in our community, not only as educational institutions, but also in meeting nutritional, socio-emotional, and safety needs. The reopening of schools is critical to addressing these issues while mitigating learning loss and fostering student growth.

District and school staff are committed to supporting students' social emotional wellness and offering resources to ensure students transition back to school smoothly. Support may include social emotional learning, building relationships, community building activities, and increased access to mental health/wellness services.

Guiding Principles for Reopening Schools

- Ensure the safety and wellness of students and staff
- Deliver high-quality instruction to students, regardless of delivery model
- Provide parents flexibility and choice in instructional delivery models as health conditions allow

Plan Development

This plan was developed using recommendations from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Imperial County Public Health (ICPH), Imperial County Office of Education (ICOE), California Department of Education (CDE), and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). As with all aspects of our COVID-19 pandemic recovery, patience and flexibility are key. What we know and learn about COVID-19 will evolve, but our focus will continue to be on creating an environment in which our students feel safe when learning, our teachers feel safe when teaching, and our families trust that their students will be safe and protected in our care. This is a working document that may be adjusted as conditions and/or guidance changes.

School Health & Wellness Protocols

As students and staff return to face-to-face instruction in the fall, their traditional environment may look different due to enhanced safety and health protocols. This new normal will require an adjustment for all, but ultimately these changes will keep health and safety as the top priorities on every campus.

The virus that causes COVID-19 is spread mainly from person to person through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, exhales, sneezes, or vocalizes. These droplets can enter the respiratory tract (mouth, nose, and lungs) of people who are nearby and cause infection. Particles containing the virus can travel more than 6 feet, especially indoors, so physical distancing must be combined with other controls, including wearing face coverings and hand hygiene, to be effective. Although it is not considered to be the primary reason why the virus spreads, transmission may be possible by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or eyes.

In order to prevent additional spread of COVID-19, students and staff will be required to take the following steps:

- Wear a face covering indoors
- Wash hands/use hand sanitizer

- Observe cough/sneeze etiquette
- Maintain a distance of at least 6ft is recommended between students and teachers/staff when possible
- Perform a daily personal symptom health check screening

Health Screening Measures

- Staff and students are required to self-screen for symptoms of COVID-19 at home daily. Parents shall monitor for symptoms daily prior to student arriving at school and keep the student at home if symptomatic.
- If any symptoms of COVID-19 are exhibited, student/staff must remain at home.
- COVID-19 affects people in different ways. Infected people have reported a wide range of symptoms, from mild symptoms to severe illness. Signs of illness can include: Fever (greater than 100.4) or chills, Cough, Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, Fatigue, Muscle or body aches, Headache, Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea, Nasal congestion or runny nose, Loss of taste or smell, Sore throat.
- Any staff or student who exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 while at school will be immediately directed to the health office for isolation and a health screening. If deemed necessary, the parent will be notified and the student will be sent home.

Identification of Possible COVID-19 Cases on Campus

- If the District becomes aware of a student or staff member testing positive for COVID-19 or a direct exposure to COVID-19, the District will report to ICPH and inform any persons who were possibly exposed, as appropriate.
- When a student is identified as showing symptoms of COVID-19 he/she will be immediately directed to the Health Office to be assessed by a trained staff member or nurse. The student will be instructed to continue to wear a mask if not exempt. If deemed necessary, the parent/guardian/ emergency contact will be contacted to pick up the child.
- Students may be required to remain off campus for up to 10 days after symptom development. Appropriate schoolwork accommodations will be provided for students who are required to remain off campus for a longer duration.
- BUHSD will consult with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and Imperial County Public Health (ICPH) to ensure mitigation practices and response protocols are aligned with current guidance.

Requirements to Return to School After a Student is Diagnosed with COVID-19

Once a student is confirmed to be diagnosed with COVID-19, the student may return to school when ALL THREE OF THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA ARE MET:

- 1) At least 10 days have passed since the symptoms first appeared AND;
- 2) Overall improvement of symptoms AND; At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever reducing medications.

Contact tracing

- The purpose of contact tracing is to track illness and potential direct exposures to illness.
- Once notified of a positive case of COVID-19, the District designee will begin contact tracing notification of those with potential direct exposure.
- Contacts are only informed that they may have been exposed to a patient with an infection. The identity of the positive patients will remain confidential.
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- BOTH of the following must be met in order to qualify for a potential direct exposure for contact tracing purposes:
 - » Be within 6 feet of distance to the positive case AND;
 - » For greater than 15 cumulative minutes over a 24-hour period.

Isolation and Quarantine

California Department of Public Health and Imperial County Public Health guidance and mandates will be adhered to by the Brawley Union High School District in all instances related to isolation and quarantine for positive COVID-19 cases and identified individuals of a potential direct exposure.

Social Distancing

Students will practice social distancing from the arrival on campus through departure. Students will load on school buses from back to front, increasing social distancing and limiting exposure to others. Staggered release schedules may be utilized in an effort to decrease crowding.

Limited Access to Visitors and Volunteers

It is essential to create a healthy and safe environment by limiting potential COVID-19 exposure whenever possible. Our district will be limiting access to visitors and volunteers during school hours. Administrators will establish protocols for greeting visitors and the use of health screenings.

Controlled Movement Patterns

To limit COVID-19 exposure and promote social distancing, students will move in cohorts where possible throughout the day, utilizing controlled movement patterns based on signage throughout campus.

Common Area Modifications

Students will be monitored in all common area locations to encourage social distancing practices. Elective classes and special resource classes such as Physical Education, Art and Music will adhere to social distancing while limiting collaborative activity and shared resources.

Face Coverings

- All students and staff are required to mask indoors, with exemptions per CDPH face mask guidance. Adults in school settings are required to mask when sharing indoor spaces. BUHSD requires all school site staff, students and visitors to wear a mask or cloth face covering that fully covers the nose and mouth, secure underneath the chin and fit securely against both sides of the face. Additional information regarding proper use, removal and disposal of face coverings will be provided by school sites.
- Persons exempted from wearing a face covering, due to a medical condition, must wear a non-restrictive alternative, such as a face shield with a drape on the bottom edge, as long as their condition permits it.
- Masks are optional outdoors for all in school settings.
- Schools will provide a face covering for any student who fails to bring one.
- Face shields may be worn in addition to face coverings but not in place of mask or face covering.
- In limited situations where a face covering cannot be used for pedagogical or development reasons, (e. g., communicating or assisting young children or those with special needs) a face shield with a drape (per CDPH guidelines) can be used instead of a face covering while in the classroom as long as the wearer maintains physical distance from others. Staff must return to wearing a face covering outside of this exception.

- Students should not touch the face covering. Students should wash their hands or use hand sanitizer frequently.
- Face coverings may be removed for meals (if and when they are being consumed on campuses) or when they need to be replaced. When face coverings are removed they should be placed in a clean location until they are put back on.

Sanitation, Cleaning and Disinfection Protocols

Schools will be cleaned daily, focusing on major touch entry points in common areas such as doorknobs, handles, elevator buttons, stairwell railings, light switches and soap dispensers. Custodial staff will disinfect using proper cleaning products and wipe down objects.

Throughout the workday, the custodial staff will implement a routine of surface cleaning in the major touch point areas discussed such as restrooms. The staff will, in some cases, report at staggered times depending upon hours of operation to ensure consistent disinfection practices while primary building employees are present. Latter custodial shifts will apply the full standard cleaning of all areas to be ready for the next day. Additional disinfecting will be performed prior to the arrival of district staff in high-traffic areas such as the front office.

District staff will use an approved chemical and fogging machine to disinfect any area deemed appropriate by contract tracing processes. The chemicals that will be used are OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) compliant.

Hand sanitizer is available in each classroom. Hand washing stations are available across school campuses. Classrooms can have doors open, when appropriate, to maximize ventilation.

Food Service

The Brawley Union High School District will participate in a traditional and grab-and-go food service program. All students are eligible for free breakfast and lunch on a daily basis. Students will not be able to pass or share any items, including food, with other students. Students will wait in line in a socially distanced manner. They will not use pin pads for lunch transactions; instead, Food Service staff will key student numbers in or students may use a student id with a barcode. Students will be reminded that the expectation is to wear a face covering indoors up to the point of beginning their meal and immediately upon finishing; the face covering shall be put back on.

Physical Education and Athletics

Physical Education classes will be conducted in a safe manner in accordance with state and county health guidelines. Athletic practices and competitions will be conducted in accordance with state, county and CIF guidelines. According to CDPH mandates, face coverings will be required in all indoor settings. Face coverings are optional outdoors in all school settings.

Transportation/Buses

Parents are asked to check their child for possible COVID-19 symptoms and follow “Stay At Home” requirements if symptoms are present. All students must wear masks except for those with an approved exemption. All buses will be sanitized at the end of each day. Drivers will have masks available if students do not have one. Any students showing symptoms related to COVID-19 that are on the bus will be referred directly to health services upon arrival to the school.