

 **Burris Laboratory School COVID-19 FAQs**

**Prevention and Protection**

*How can I help educate my child on how to protect themselves from COVID-19 and prevent spread while at school?*

There are several things we can all do during the school day to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and protect ourselves from getting sick.

Washing hands with soap, using hand sanitizer, avoiding close contact, wearing a mask, covering coughs and sneezes, and coming to school only when non-symptomatic can go a long way to helping all of our community.

[Read the CDC's recommendations](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html) for more information.

**Cleaning**

*What steps is Burris taking to prevent the spread of COVID-19?*

Ball State University and Burris are united in taking the necessary steps to ensure our building is as safe as it can be by disinfecting and cleaning throughout the day and evening.

A second daytime custodian is in our building to focus on disinfecting and cleaning our high touch surfaces, such as stairwell rails, knobs, handles, and bathroom fixtures. We are using our two UV lights throughout the day and evening in our classrooms and restrooms, and also using an electrostatic fogger to disinfect lockers and other surfaces, such as play and athletic equipment.

Our teachers are disinfecting desks and chairs before and after class with a solution that kills viruses within 45 seconds of application. Teachers ask students to clean or disinfect their hands before entering and leaving the classroom. Many of our students are eating in classrooms or alternate locations so we have more spacing between students during lunch whether in the cafeteria or not. Our dining service is providing meals in ready-to-go containers and using plastic utensils.

Masks are a must, and we provide masks for students who forget to bring their own!

**Signs and Symptoms**

*What should I do if my child is ill and has COVID-like symptoms?*

Please keep them home! We must all work together to protect our community and that means anyone in our building exhibiting [symptoms](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html), should stay at home.

Please call the main office at 765-285-1131 to report the absence. Our school nurse will likely follow-up with you during the day to advise you on the return to school.

*What will happen if my child becomes ill during the school day with COVID-like symptoms?*

If your child exhibits COVID-19-like symptoms during the school day, they will be seen by our school nurse in our alternate clinic designed to prevent the spread of illnesses. The nurse will wear protective gear as she assesses symptoms.

You will receive a call from the nurse if it is determined your child should go home. She will advise you on symptoms and the return to school. Your child will remain in the alternate clinic until you arrive.

Please make sure to update your emergency and personal contact information if it changes by emailing our Office Supervisor, Brandi Hankins, at bahankins@bsu.edu.

You will be asked to park in the small east parking lot between the school and Wagner Hall, call the main office upon arrival, and wait in your car until the nurse walks your child to you.

**COVID-19 Testing**

*Do I have to test if I am having symptoms? Do I have to test if I am a close contact with no symptoms?*

*Do I have to test if I am a close contact with symptoms?*

If you are experiencing symptoms or believe you have been in close contact with someone with symptoms, we recommend reading the [CDC’s recommendations](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/testing/diagnostic-testing.html#who-should-get-tested).

*How do I report my test result to the school?*

It’s easy and takes less than five minutes.

Please call our school nurse at 765-285-2340 to let her know you have been tested and call again when the test results are available.

She has voicemail, so please leave a message if it is after 4 p.m. You can also email our nurse at hlchalfant@bsu.edu or call the main office at 765-285-1131.

*To whom do you report my testing results? Do you report my child as a close contact to any agency?*

Every Friday, we report positive student COVID-19 test results and close contact information into the Indiana State Department of Health’s (ISDH) Gateway portal.

It is possible the ISDH will contact your family for further contact tracing.

**Contact Tracing**

*Who is considered a close contact?*

For COVID-19, a [close contact](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/contact-tracing/contact-tracing-plan/appendix.html#contact) is defined as “Someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to test specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated.”

*Am I a close contact even when I wear a mask or sit behind a shield?*

Yes,a close contact is determined by the proximity and duration of exposure to the patient not whether a mask or shield is worn.

*When and where should I test?*

It depends. The CDC [provides recommendations](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/testing/diagnostic-testing.html#who-should-get-tested) on who should get tested. When and where you test is a family decision based on personal preference.

*What will happen during contact tracing if my child is COVID-19 positive?*

If your child receives a positive COVID-19 test, we will start identifying students who have been within six feet of your child for 15 or more cumulative minutes per day in the 48 hours preceding symptoms or last date attended. We will likely ask you to speak with your child to identify students who play closely with them at recess or eat lunch with them daily.

Our nurse will give you a return to school date and ask for you to keep us updated.

*What will happen during contact tracing if my child has been around someone with COVID-19?*

We call families who have a student identified as a close contact. We will ask you if you would like to receive free breakfasts and lunches remotely while your child is quarantined and discuss how your child will learn during their time away. If you receive an email message from the school about a positive test result and you have not been contacted, your child was not identified as a close contact.

*I was a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and I tested negative. When can I come back to school?*

*What if I am a close contact and feel fine? When can I come back to school?*

In both situations, we follow the Indiana State Department of Health’s [recommendations](https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/20_Quick%20Reference_9-17-20.pdf). Your child will return to school 14 days after last contact with the COVID-19-positive student.

**Quarantine**

*What should I do if I am quarantined?*

Quarantine is used to keep someone who might have been exposed to COVID-19 away from others. This means your child should stay home while you monitor their health. [Learn more](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html).

*How will I continue learning when quarantined?*

We are here to see to it you have an interrupted learning experience if you are quarantined. If you are in grades K-2, you will have work from your teacher ready for pickup your child can complete while quarantined. For grades 3-12, students will transition to remote learning. It is an easy switch, and our administrators will contact you to get started.

**School Closure/Moving to Remote Learning**

*Who is involved when remote learning decisions are made? How and when are these remote learning decisions made?*

There are many people involved when making decisions about whether students will learn in-class or remotely.

The Burris administrative team, University Schools Superintendent, Teachers College Dean(s), the Ball State University public health advisors, the Delaware County Health Department, and university officials all communicate to make remote learning decisions after a positive testing result has been received.

*How do you determine when students or an entire grade level should be quarantined?*

Every situation is unique, so we look at each COVID-positive case individually.

We adhere to the Indiana State Department of Health’s [guidelines](https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/20_Quick%20Reference_9-17-20.pdf) as we look at factors such as the number of students identified through contact tracing, the number of students within a grade already learning remotely and/or are quarantined, and the number of days since last contact with a COVID-19-positive student or teacher to decide if we should quarantine grade levels.

*10-19-2020*