

Updated as of 8/13/20

## Boothbay-Boothbay Harbor CSD Reopening Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

*This is a living document. Similar questions have been combined and categorized for the sake of efficiency. Any unanswered questions will be updated in the document when possible.*

| Question/Comment  | Answer  |
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| <b>TRANSPORTATION</b>   |   |
| What is the spacing on the bus?   | Current guidelines allow students to be placed one to a seat. Siblings are allowed to sit together. Students will be required to sit in an assigned seat, filling each seat from the back to front of the bus and getting off the bus from the front to back. |
| Will bus rides be longer due to safety measures? (My children already have a 60-minute ride.)   | This is still being determined based on parent commitment. If we have fewer children riding the bus, we do not anticipate times being longer.   |
| Will there be another adult on the bus to conduct health checks or monitor student distance/behavior so that the bus drivers can operate the vehicle without distraction? | At this time, we do not have other staff assigned to ride busses. Families will be expected to complete a self-check prior to boarding and students will be expected to sit in their assigned seats and follow the established expectations as always.        |
| What if I can transport my child in the morning but not in the afternoon? How do I answer the survey?   | Please reply on the parent commitment that you do need transportation.  |
| How will seating charts work on morning and afternoon bus runs? Who can sit together?   | Transportation will design seating charts based on parent commitment data. Current guidelines specify that siblings can sit together.   |
| Will barriers be installed around the driver?   | Yes, we will be using barriers for our bus drivers.   |
| Will Pre-K have a bus orientation?  | A decision has not yet been made.   |

| NUTRITION  |   |
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| Can students bring lunch from home?  | Yes.  |
| Will breakfast and lunches be packaged for students?                                     | Yes. Food Service Employees will pack all parts of student breakfast in a to-go box/bag and place it on a table/counter where students may then pick it up.   |
| Will meals still be available and delivered if/when my child is distance learning?       | Yes, meals will be available. Details are still being developed.  |
| How will students pay for breakfast or lunch?  | We encourage all families to use the “Nutrislice” app or website to deposit funds in advance for their child(ren). Staff will use a roster to check off students purchasing a meal and enter this information into our computer system. Payments should be made online at: <a href="https://k12paymentcenter.com/">https://k12paymentcenter.com/</a> as much as possible.   |
| ATHLETICS/CO-CURRICULAR  |   |
| Will there be High School Athletics?   | BRHS is utilizing the MPA guidance to make informed decisions around fall sports. Currently, fall sports have been delayed until September 8th. Coaches are engaging athletes in conditioning and some sport specific activities, in accordance with MPA guidance.  |
| Will there be Middle School Athletics?   | Middle school athletics will run in an intramural capacity for the fall. Students will engage in skill work, conditioning, practices, and scrimmaging. We will not participate in interscholastic competitions.   |
| How will the masks come into play with school-related sports for players and spectators? | All of our decisions about sports, including the use of masks, will be informed by MPA guidance.  |
| HEALTH AND SAFETY  |   |
| Are students required to wear a mask 100% of the time they are in a classroom?           | In-person learning will require adherence to the safety guidelines, which currently include distancing and the mandatory wearing of a mask/face covering by all students and staff. Current guidance per the Maine Department of Education Framework for Returning to Classroom Instruction, states that face shields are not an alternative to mask/face coverings unless there are “medical, behavioral, or other [documented] challenges.” We have purchased mask lanyards for all students PK-8 to aid in keeping masks close and sanitary. |

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| <p>Are masks required at recess?</p>  | <p>We will start the year with the expectation that students do not need to wear face masks on the playground as long as they remain 6' apart and are engaged in an independent or structured activity. At the start of the school year the entire playground will be open to students. Access to non-structural shared equipment will not be allowed per MDOE guidance. If students are not able to generally maintain a physical distance of 6', they may be required to wear masks on the playground.</p> |
| <p>What cleaning processes have been developed?</p>   | <p>Following CDC guidelines, detailed protocols are still being developed</p>  |
| <p>Do the CSD Schools have adequate ventilation?</p>  | <p>BRES replaced fresh air ventilation systems over the course of the last two years. The system is monitored electronically and remotely for air flow and oxygen levels and can be adjusted at any time. BRHS has a similar system to BRES that is scheduled to be cleaned. MERV 13 filters have been ordered for both schools.</p>   |
| <p>Many school districts have removed all soft surfaces, rugs, curtains, pillows, teacher chairs. Are we doing the same thing? What about those schools who have carpeted classrooms?</p> | <p>The district is removing any unnecessary and difficult to sanitize items from classrooms.</p>   |
| <p>What will happen with children who have disabilities and are unable to wear masks or shields?</p>  | <p>In-person learning will require adherence to the safety guidelines, which currently include distancing and the mandatory wearing of a mask/face covering by all students and staff. Current guidance per The Maine Department of Education Framework for Returning to Classroom Instruction, states that face shields are not an alternative to mask/face coverings unless there are "medical, behavioral, or other [documented] challenges."</p>   |
| <p>What will be the CSD's response to a positive case of COVID-19 in the district?</p>  | <p>In the event of a positive case of COVID-19, the schools will close for <b>at least 24 hours</b> to allow for cleaning and contact tracing. Any response beyond that will be guided by the CDC and determined on a case by case basis.</p>  |

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| <p>Will students and staff be required to check temperatures and do a symptoms survey before coming to school each day?</p>   | <p>Yes, students and staff need to conduct a self-check every morning before getting on a school bus or arriving at school. The District has invested in an app to assist parents with this task.</p>   |
| <p>Can students carry their own small hand sanitizer bottle during school?</p>  | <p>Yes.</p>   |
| <p>Will children be bringing outside belongings from home including backpacks, water bottles, and lunches?</p>  | <p>Lunch boxes and water bottles will be allowed, as will a backpack and a change of clothes for our younger learners. We have purchased water bottles for all students PK-12. We are working on how these will be kept safely. Middle/High school students will not be allowed to use lockers and will need to keep all of their belongings with them in their backpack.</p>                         |
| <p>Will children be checked for symptoms by a staff member before entering the bus or school building in the morning? A “symptom screening at home” certainly does not seem acceptable.</p>   | <p>At this time, a family “self check” in the morning is required. Once students have arrived at school, classroom teachers or other staff may refer a student to the nurse based on the observation or student report of any health concerns.</p>  |
| <p>If the lunchroom is closed, where will students eat lunch?</p>   | <p>Locations may vary based on building logistics and if required spacing can be met for a given space (i.e. classroom). Eating locations will be cleaned before and after each use and established distancing for eating will be maintained.</p>   |
| <p>How often will classrooms, bathrooms, railing, doorknobs, etc. be cleaned and how?</p>   | <p>All surfaces will be cleaned regularly throughout the day. Our custodial staff will be trained on all expected protocols and additional custodial staff is being considered for this purpose.</p>  |
| <p>What if our child asks a question but the teacher can’t understand due to the mask and s/he takes it off to ask a question, will s/he be in trouble? More generally, what happens if the child is having a hard time functioning with a mask on if indeed needs to be worn 100% of the time.</p> | <p>A child will not be in trouble for a singular incident, as we will need to work with students on how to be understood other than taking a mask off. Students who repeatedly take off masks despite teacher efforts will have to be addressed from a “safety for all” standpoint. We will have to work with families on an individual basis to address concerns while meeting state guidelines.</p> |

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| <p>Will there be discipline or action taken if my student or classmates misuse or refuse to wear a mask? What are the expectations of kindergarteners with respect to hygiene and mask wearing?</p> | <p>Masks are required for in-person learning so refusal will not be an option to continue attendance. Students may not be disciplined for a singular incident of misuse, but it will be addressed. Repeated issues may result in disciplinary intervention. We will have to work with families on an individual basis to address concerns while meeting state guidelines.</p> |
| <p>Why are face shields not being allowed as an option for all?</p>   | <p>Due to the DOE guidelines they are not an acceptable face covering.</p>  |
| <p>Will students be allowed water breaks with mask breaks and allowed to have their own water bottles?</p>  | <p>Students will be taught procedures on when it is appropriate to take off their mask (i.e. meal times). Students are able to drink water from their own water bottles. We have purchased water bottles for all students PK-12. Students should be 6 feet away from others when a mask is removed.</p>   |
| <p>Can we try wearing the mask at school and if not taken well, can we switch to distance learning?</p>   | <p>Families can change their preference from in-person to 5-day distance learning at any point during the year. Families who have committed to distance learning will do so for the quarter/semester.</p>   |
| <p>Should families pack additional masks for their child to use in the event they need a mask change?</p>   | <p>Yes, supplying additional masks is recommended if you are able to do so. Each school will have a supply on hand in case a student needs a mask change, or if it is misplaced, etc.</p>   |
| <p>Will children who have to quarantine be allowed to immediately jump into distance learning or will that time be considered an absence?</p>   | <p>If a student is able, they can access distance learning. If they are unhealthy, then the time will be considered an excused absence.</p>   |

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| <p>Will families that do not have a thermometer be able to receive one from school?</p>  | <p>No, we will not provide thermometers.</p>   |
| <p>Will both schools have a nurse?</p>   | <p>Yes, we are in the process of contracting with Lincoln Health to provide another nurse for the CSD campus.</p>  |
| <p>It's likely that staff will have increased absences due to COVID symptoms, will you be hiring extra staff or subs?</p>  | <p>The CSD will continue efforts to recruit and retain qualified substitutes. We are researching hiring a "floating sub" that would be contracted to work for us full time. All substitutes will be trained on updated health and safety protocols.</p>  |
| <p><b>SCHEDULING</b></p>   |  |
| <p>Will there be flexibility with times of day and duration of distance learning?</p>  | <p>Students participating in distance learning are expected to attend and follow the distance learning schedule provided by the teacher(s). We anticipate students having offline time built into lessons or the day, depending on the teacher's instructional plan and student developmental needs.</p>   |
| <p>Can we change our selection— distance or face to face? Will there be a time frame for such a change if necessary if one or the other is not working?</p>      | <p>Yes, based on quarters (BRES) and semesters (BRHS) at which time families may revisit their choice. Any in-person selection can be changed to 5-day distance at any time.</p>   |
| <p>Will students be allowed to attend a couple of days and stay home to learn distancely for a couple days per week to avoid wearing a mask 5 days per week?</p> | <p>No, families need to choose 5-days distance or in-person learning.</p>  |
| <p>What will be the absence policy for a child doing distance learning, regarding if they are unable to be on for the full school day?</p>                       | <p>Attendance will be taken daily, regardless of in-school or distance learning.</p>   |
| <p>Will children be staying in their classrooms or switching classes during the day?</p>   | <p>BRES: Students will stay in classrooms as much as possible. There may be some who receive special services that have to leave and precautions will be taken in these instances. Students will have specials and lunch in their classrooms. Recess, and any whole class breaks will be out of the room and will follow established guidelines.<br/>BRHS: Students will switch classrooms. Hallways will be one way directional only in order to maximize physical distancing requirements.</p> |

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| Will elementary students have recess? If the answer is yes, how will they have indoor recess on days with bad weather? | Yes, students will have recess. When indoor recess is necessary, indoor spacing guidelines will be followed and masks will be required.  |
| Will the same teacher be conducting the in-person and distance-learning lessons?                                       | This will likely be the case in many instances and will also depend on staff availability and the number of students attending in person vs. online.   |
| Will open houses occur?  | Traditional open houses will not occur due to gathering restrictions. Every effort will be made to acclimate students to school.   |
| When will you do PK/K screenings and how?  | Screenings will be held the month of September while students are at school. If your child is participating in distance learning in kindergarten, teachers will be in touch to schedule the screening. |
| What does pick up and drop off look like for students?   | Each building's process will vary based on traffic and student flow. The details will be determined after we receive the data from the Parent Commitment Form.   |
| Will IEP and 504 meetings continue to be Zoom?   | Yes, when feasible.  |
| Will fire and lockdown drills still occur?   | Physical distancing requirements remain in place regardless of circumstance, so if drills take place, they will do so within required guidelines.  |

| ACADEMICS   |   |
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| Will students be allowed to have paper packets vs. constant technology use?   | Print or project based materials may be utilized and will be based on unit or mode of instruction   |
| How will vocational students be affected?   | We are continuing to align schedules and instructional needs for students attending Bath Tech.  |
| Will the teachers be managing both distance and in-person teaching simultaneously?  | Depending on the Parent Commitment Form and ratio numbers, yes.   |
| Are band, drama, and chorus still available if students?  | Yes. We are adapting our programs to follow the strict CDC guidelines. These classes will be phased into our schedule, as we are still determining how to provide them safely.  |
| How will pre-K and kindergarteners receive developmentally appropriate education if they cannot use toys and other manipulatives in their learning process?                     | Manipulatives will be used. We will have individual sets of materials as much as possible and any common use items will be sanitized between use according to the guidelines we are given. This is the case for all grade levels.   |
| How will children receive their special services (speech, PT, OT, reading or math assistance, etc) if they choose the distance option? Or the in-person option for that matter? | The Special Education Department is in the process of developing/ implementing a plan for the 2020-2021 school year to ensure that our identified students receive their entitled services outlined in their IEP documents. The Special Education Department will be providing families and staff with an update very soon. |



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| <p>What do we do with accelerated students? If we do distance learning, what will we have for materials and how will that be managed?</p>  | <p>Students will be instructed in a distance learning environment that mirrors the in-class experience as much as possible with all children having opportunities to continue on a learning path based on who they are as a learner. This is a new environment for teaching and learning that is subject to change at any time so we will also rely on the understanding of our families as we continue to do our best to support all students.</p> |
| <p>If my child attends school via distance learning will they still have the same teacher?</p>   | <p>This may be the case in some instances and will depend on staff availability and the number of students attending in person vs. online.</p>  |
| <p>What is the grading process? Will GPA be affected?</p>  | <p>Grading will be back to the traditional format and GPA will be calculated.</p>   |
| <p>Also if they decide to distance learn will that affect their college applications in any way?</p>   | <p>Distance learning will not affect student college applications.</p>  |
| <p><b>SOCIAL EMOTIONAL/BEHAVIOR</b></p>  |   |
| <p>What are your behavior and learning expectations for the start of school?</p>   | <p>All of the learning and behavior expectations will be the same as previous years. Please reference our updated student/parent handbooks for more information. These can be located on our school-based website.</p>  |
| <p>How will you help children cope mental/behavior wise with the start of school and the new regulations and restrictions? For example separation anxiety, feelings of control or loss of control, feelings of fear?</p> | <p>Our staff will be monitoring and connecting supports for students' social and emotional needs. We will be providing lessons to all of our students that deal with current issues related to COVID-19. Additional resources are available for those that require more support.</p>  |

| COMMUNICATION  |  |
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| Are school board meetings open to the public? If so, how can I stay informed? Can I attend school board zoom meetings or access meeting minutes? | Yes. These are posted on our website with dates and times. Zoom links are available upon request. Please contact the superintendent’s office for the links. Meeting minutes are posted on the district website.  |
| Will the CSD hold a Zoom Q & A meeting for parents and caregivers to answer questions or offer more details about the back to school plan?       | Yes. These will be scheduled once we have the data from the Parent Commitment Form and details of procedures, bussing, scheduling, and course offerings are finalized.   |
| How will families be contacted if a positive case occurs in the classroom, building, or district?  | The school nurse/administration will notify families through our instant alert system, website, and social media.  |
| What is the plan for district and building communication?  | The district will publicly share the CSD Reopening Plan Overview, presentation made to its School Board, and host community information sessions. Additional building communication will take place regarding school opening procedures, once completed. |
| TECHNOLOGY   |  |
| Will teachers have training on managing new technology and procedures?   | Yes, staff will have multiple days of training.  |
| How will confidentiality be protected?   | Best practices for distance learning will be followed. We will uphold strict guideline for usage of visual and audio platforms.  |
| Will students take technology home daily in case of needing to self quarantine occurring unexpectedly?   | To be determined- Procedures will be put in place to attend to specific events.  |