

BERRYHILL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Frequently Asked Questions
2020-2021

We are providing these FAQs to support your children's return to school in the fall. Please note that any future mandates or closures set by city, state or federal governments could alter information in this document. We will update this information should that occur.

These FAQs and other information for the school year are available at berryhillschools.org.

Q. Has the first day of school changed for our district?

A. Yes, the first day of school is currently scheduled for Thursday, August 20. This is subject to change.

Q. Has the school day schedule changed for the 2020-2021 school year?

A. No. The daily schedules are the normal schedules we observe each year.

Q. Are there any planned closures of school for the 2020-2021 school year?

A. No. There are no planned closures. If a closure was required for the health and safety of students, Berryhill Public Schools would continue to provide instruction for students at home and we would refer to it as "Distance Learning."

Q. If school has to be shut down for health reasons, how much notice will parents be given?

A. Berryhill Public Schools will give as much notice as possible. We know that keeping school in session is a priority for families. For that reason, we are examining each procedure and protocol in our district so that we can keep school open. However, we will never keep school in session if it is wise to close the school doors.

Q. Will there be any virtual days built into the school calendar?

A. No, we do not have any virtual days built into our calendar.

Q. Will Berryhill Public Schools offer full-time online classes as an alternative to classroom instruction?

A. Yes, Berryhill Public Schools will offer full-time online learning for K-12 students through our Berryhill Virtual Academy. Please contact your child's principal for more information or to enroll.

Q. Can students shift back-and-forth between online learning and face-to-face learning?

A. No. Students will choose between full-time online learning and face-to-face learning for a complete semester. For example, a student could select online learning in the fall semester and return to face-to-face learning in the spring semester, or vice versa.

- Q. What steps will the district take to keep school as safe as possible?**
A. Berryhill Public Schools will make every effort to promote healthy practices and protocols in our schools. Schools will have daily cleaning protocols that align with guidance from health officials. Social distancing will be practiced to the extent possible. Frequent hand-washing and other healthy protocols will be modeled by adults and encouraged for students. Additionally, hand sanitizer and hand sanitizing stations will be present throughout school buildings.
- Q. How will social distancing occur in our schools?**
A. It will be difficult to consistently maintain distance between students in our schools. Every effort will be made to reduce close contact among students in the classroom, as well as in common areas such as hallways, restrooms, cafeterias, gyms, etc. Teachers will be encouraged to space student desks as much as possible and to reduce activities that require close contact between students.
- Q. What steps can families take to keep school safe as possible?**
A. We ask that parents check their children’s health status at home every morning. Please use the self-check list below.

By sending your child to school, you are representing to Berryhill Public Schools that the answer to each of these questions is “no”.

- 1. Does your child have a fever of 100 degrees or more?**
- 2. Is your child experiencing a new loss of taste or smell, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea?**
- 3. Is your child experiencing two or more of the following symptoms of COVID-19?**
 - Chills**
 - Cough**
 - Fatigue**
 - Muscle or body aches**
 - Headache**
 - Sore throat**
 - Congestion or runny nose**
- 4. Is your child experiencing any of the Emergency Warning Symptoms of COVID-19?**
 - Shortness of breath**
 - Persistent pain or pressure in the chest**
 - New confusion**
 - Inability to wake or stay awake**
 - Bluish lips or face**
- 5. Has your child had, or do you think your child has, COVID-19?**
- 6. Has your child tested positive for COVID-19?**
- 7. Has your child been around a person with COVID-19?**

- Q. Will staff members be taking these same protocols?**
A. Yes. Berryhill Public Schools is requesting that every employee ask these same questions of themselves before leaving home each day.
- Q. How can I remember all of the steps for my students regarding when to stay home and when the student can return to school?**
A. Our district will provide a reference page for parents that you can print or keep on your phone.
- Q. Will students have their temperature taken each day at school?**
A. No. Parents checking temperatures at home is more practical and, with the parents' help, children would not even come to school if they are running a fever.
- Q. Will parents be notified if their child has come in direct physical contact or close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19?**
A. Yes, if a child has been in direct physical contact or close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 the parent will be notified. While the district wants to respect the confidentiality of health information, notifying parents regarding their child's potential contact with COVID-19 is a priority of the district. The district will use the CDC guidelines for these procedures.
- Q. Will parents be notified if anyone in the school has tested positive for COVID-19?**
A. No. Parents will be notified if their child has come in direct physical contact or close contact with someone who has tested positive, but parents will not be notified if there is no direct physical contact or close contact with a person testing positive. The district will use the CDC guidelines for these procedures.
- Q. Should a parent notify the school if their child or someone in their family tests positive for COVID-19?**
A. Yes. The child should not return to school and the parent should notify the principal of the school. The principal, through a series of questions, can help determine what steps should be taken next.
- Q. Will wearing face coverings/masks be mandatory for students to attend school?**
A. Yes, Berryhill Public Schools will require all 4th through 12th grade students to wear a mask or face covering while on buses and school grounds. Students in pre-k through 3rd grade are encouraged but not mandated to wear masks or face coverings. (Pre-k through 3rd grade students are in self-contained classrooms throughout the school day making it much easier to contact trace). **Students are expected to provide their own mask/face covering.**

Each morning our team tracks the data related to COVID-19. Over the last 2 weeks, our concerns have increased as we have not seen the change in data we hoped to see as we move forward to the start of the school year. After we received guidelines from the Health Department, CDC, and Oklahoma State Department of Education, we knew we had to make decisions so that students and staff could be safe in our buildings.

- Q. Will wearing face coverings/masks be mandatory for staff?**
A. Yes, all employees of the district will be required to wear face coverings/masks.
- Q. What if my child misses more than 10 days in a semester due to illness or possible contact with someone with COVID-19?**
A. Students who are ill or suspect they are ill should remain at home. Our district will work with parents to support students during periods of absences when families are working to support their child's health and the health of others.
- Q. Will activities (field trips, assemblies, concerts, etc.) be held in the fall semester?**
A. Our primary focus right now is making every effort for school to be in session for the 2020-2021 school year and to keep our students and staff safe and healthy. Athletics and fine arts activities have taken place this summer with modified protocols. Determinations about activities will be made as we enter each phase of the school year. If school were to be shut down completely, then all activities would also stop.
- Q. Will the district host schedule pickup and "Meet the teacher" events?**
A. These activities will likely be modified. Our principals return to their buildings in July. Evaluating activities and details surrounding the school year will be done in late July and communicated at that time. Whether these activities are done traditionally or modified, please know our focus is making sure each student has a positive start to the school year.
- Q. Can parents volunteer in the school buildings?**
A. We will limit volunteers to only those that are essential. Volunteers are an extraordinary asset to our schools, but again our priority is the safety of our students and staff and working together to keep school in session.
- Q. Will Berryhill Public Schools be providing transportation for the 2020-2021 school year?**
A. Yes. Bus routes for the 2020-2021 school year will be the same routes as last year.
- Q. What precautions will be taken to address COVID-19 on our buses?**
A. Buses will have daily cleaning protocols that align with guidance from health officials. Windows will be down for air circulation unless it is impractical to do so.
- Q. Will wearing face coverings/masks be mandatory for students to ride a bus.**
A. Yes, face coverings/masks will be mandatory for students.
- Q. What can students do to assist with a safe ride to school on the bus?**
A. Students should not get on a bus if they are ill or have any symptoms outlined in the daily health checklist. Students should face forward at all times and respect the directions provided by the bus driver.

- Q. If my student has always been a bus rider, can I transport my child to and from school?**
- A. Yes. Parents are always welcome to transport their children to and from school. For the fall of 2020, any parent who can drive or walk their child to school will assist with reducing the number of bus riders. However, we are aware that not all families can make that adjustment to their schedules.**
- Q. Can I walk my elementary child into the school building?**
- A. We are asking, for at least the fall semester, that parents remain in their cars and our staff will assist the elementary children as they enter the school building.**
- Q. Will Berryhill Public Schools be offering breakfast and lunch to students for the 2020-2021 school year?**
- A. Yes. Meals for the 2020-2021 school year will be provided and menus will be located on the district's child nutrition page. Payment procedures will remain the same as the 2019-2020 school year.**
- Q. Will parents be able to eat in the cafeteria with their child?**
- A. During the fall semester, parents will not be permitted to eat in the cafeteria with their child. Our hope is that this is a temporary change in practice.**
- Q. If I have a question that hasn't been answered here, what do I do?**
- A. If, after reading these FAQs, you still have questions please feel free to email or call your child's principal.**