



BPS COVID Health and Safety Update

December 14, 2021



Overview of BPS COVID Testing

- District COVID Routine Safety checks (pooled testing) have now transitioned to the take home nasal swab collection by Veritas Genetics.
- Expanding COVID Routine Safety checks to the administration building
- Test and Stay continues in all schools
 - Alternative to quarantine at home for identified close contacts in the school setting
 - Unvaccinated, asymptomatic students/staff only
 - No positives have been identified through Test and Stay
 - All individuals are required to quarantine when not in school related activities - school is a controlled environment
 - Working with the after school programs to include in the Test and Stay

COVID Cases and Contact Tracing

- BPS school nurses continue to work with the Belmont Health department on contact tracing efforts
- Absentee trends are monitored closely to determine early if school transmission is taking place – none to date
- 21% of our positive cases have been vaccinated
- IF SICK, STAY HOME, adhere to the symptom checker and absence follow up

Routine COVID-19 Safety Checks REMINDERS

- Participation is encouraged for vaccinated AND unvaccinated individuals
- A consent must be on file
- Register your kits (please register for the school your student attends)
- LABEL the tubes - we don't know who you are if the above steps are not followed
 - CIC staff can not input your data on tubes - this must be done at home - name must match consent information on file (no nicknames or initials)
 - this is a medical procedure
 - Samples can not be tested if incorrectly labeled
- If you have a consent on file and take home sample collection kits - you are expected to participate
 - Veritas has asked that we monitor non-participation and remove consents of individuals who are not returning their kits.

Veritas Pools

- Random samples of 5 swabs are pooled together
- If no positive pools - NO NEWS
- If the lab identifies a presumptive positive pool, additional testing is performed to identify the individual who is positive. The positive individual is notified
- Nursing performs contact tracing
- To date 890 pools have been done
 - 6 positive pools have been reported => 0.67% positivity rate

MASK REMINDERS

Please remember that ***Masks properly covering the nose and mouth*** are required to be worn by **ALL** students, staff, visitors, and vendors while in school buildings.

Students are expected to board the buses and enter the buildings wearing a mask.

The district has a *limited supply* of disposable masks as backup. Your help in ensuring that your child leaves the house with a properly fitting mask and has extra masks each day is appreciated.

Masks must be made of more than one layer, cover and be worn over both the nose and mouth. No gaiters, bandanas, or masks with valves are allowed per our mask [policy](#)

Belmont Public Schools Vaccination Rates

Grade	As of 9/13/2021	As of 10/29/2021	As of 12/2/2021
K	N/A	N/A	62.4% at least 1 dose
1	N/A	N/A	60.6% at least 1 dose
2	N/A	N/A	63.6% at least 1 dose
3	N/A	N/A	63.3% at least 1 dose
4	N/A	N/A	70% at least 1 dose
5	N/A	N/A	67.1% at least 1 dose
6	N/A	N/A	74% at least 1 dose
7	72.6%	80.3%	82 % fully
8	77.5%	84.5%	86.7% fully
9	79.1%	89.9%	91.8% fully
10	83.1%	87.8%	88.7% fully
11	80.8%	84.3%	85.8% fully
12	80.8%	84.3%	85.5% fully

Message from Director of Belmont Health Department Wes Chin

- Wear a mask indoors when gathered with people from other households
- Stay home when sick
- Get vaccinated (if not already vaccinated)

- Get a booster shot 6-months from receiving your second dose of either Pfizer or Moderna vaccines; or two months after the J&J vaccine

- Belmont Health Department is planning a Pfizer booster clinic for kids ages 16 & 17 to be held on 12/28. A flyer with a link for registration will be shared with the community in the near future.