



Bristol Tennessee City Schools

615 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard • Bristol, TN 37620
(423) 652-9451 • www.btcs.org

COVID-19 Communication

Return to School Protocol: Student Illness

September 15, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians of In-person Learners:

The purpose of today's communications is to share Return to School Protocol with you should your child become ill, but I don't want to start there. I want to start with ... Congratulations! We have now completed five weeks of the 2020-2021 school year, with three of those weeks including in-person instruction. The last three weeks certainly do not look like any other in our district's history. Students and staff are wearing masks, efforts to maintain social distancing are in place throughout the district, temperatures are being taken, and cleaning is more frequent than ever before.

COVID-19 presents the above and many other inconveniences in our daily lives, but I truly believe that your commitment to the health and safety of your child has been critical in mitigating the spread of the virus in our schools. Thank you! While we have had a few positive cases that have required some students and staff to isolate or quarantine, I am encouraged and optimistic that your efforts and those of your child are working. Keep it up! As we enter into cold, flu, and allergy season, we must continue to fight the spread of this virus by wearing masks, socially distancing, and keeping our hands clean at all times when in public spaces.

Another critical element of preventing the spread of COVID-19 is that we ensure students and staff who are ill, test positive for COVID-19, or have been exposed to the virus follow the appropriate procedures regarding when it is safe to return to school. The [COVID-19 Return to School Protocol](#) outlines the procedures we are following per the Tennessee Department of Health and Tennessee Department of Education.

If your child is seen in the school clinic for illness or your child is too ill to go to school, you will be referred to this chart for guidance regarding when he/she is able to return to school. It can be obtained from your school nurse or on our district website under In-person Learning. While we recognize the requirements are much stricter than our guidelines prior to COVID-19, please understand the guidance and recommendations from state and local health officials are necessary to keep our students and staff as safe and healthy as possible. And as we have assured you all along, the safety of our students, staff, and families is our top priority!

Thank you again. Please keep up the great work! If you have any questions about the Return to School Protocol, you may contact your school's nurse.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Annette Tudor".

Annette Tudor, Ed.D.
Director of Schools