**Safe Return to In-person Instruction and
Continuity of Services Plan**

**Addendum Guidance**

LEAs are required to update the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan every six months through **Sept. 30, 2023.** Each time, LEAsmust seek public input on the plan and any revisions and must take such input into account. The purpose of the plan is to keep stakeholders informed.

Every LEA should complete the addendum and upload in the LEA document library and post to the LEA’s website (February 1 and August 27). Like the development of the plan, all revisions must be informed by community input and reviewed and approved by the governing body prior to posting on the LEA’s publicly available website.

Please consider the following when completing the addendum:

* Ensure the LEA used multiple models of engagement offered to stakeholders. Examples may include surveys, in-person or virtual committee meetings, town hall meetings, or other inclusive engagement opportunities.
* LEAs should engage all applicable groups noted in meaningful consultation during the crafting of the plan.
* The number of stakeholders engaged should represent the composition of students. For example, if students with disabilities make up 15 percent of students, then 10-20 percent of respondents should represent this subgroup.
* Ensure the stakeholder engagement happened prior to the development/revision of the plan.
* The LEA must engage the health department in the development of the plan. This is not the same as providing the health department with COVID-19 numbers.
* Plans must explicitly address every bullet point in Question 3 regarding district policies and strategies.
* Plans require local board approval and public posting.
* LEAs must update the *Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan* at least every six months through Sept. 30, 2023, seek public input on the plan and any revisions and take such input into account. All revisions must include an explanation and rationale of why the revisions were made.
* All revisions must include an explanation and rationale, with meaningful public consultation, and in an understandable format The American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires LEAs to post their Health and Safety Plans online in a language that parents/caregivers can understand, or, if it is not practicable to provide written translations to an individual with limited English proficiency, be orally translated. The plan also must be provided in an alternative format accessible, upon request, by a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

**Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and
Continuity of Services Plan Addendum**

The Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief 3.0 (ESSER 3.0) Fund under the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2, was enacted on March 11, 2021. Funding provided to states and local educational agencies (LEAs) help safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the nation’s students.

In the fall of 2021, LEAs developed and made publicly available a Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan. All plans were developed with meaningful public consultation with stakeholder groups. LEAs are required to update the plan every six months through September 30, 2023 and must seek public input on the plan and any revisions and must take such input into account. LEAs also must review and update their plans whenever there are significant changes to the CDC recommendations for K-12 schools and to ensure the plan is current. Like the development of the plan, all revisions must be informed by community input and reviewed and approved by the governing body prior to posting on the LEA’s publicly available website.

The following information is intended to update stakeholders and address the requirement.

LEA Name: Bristol Tennessee City Schools

Date: January 24, 2022

**Describe how the LEA engaged in meaningful consultation with stakeholders in development of the revised plan.**

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| Bristol City Schools welcomes input from all stakeholders on COVID-19 operating procedures. Procedures are discussed in principal's meetings, district leadership meetings, and in the teacher advisory committee meeting. Students, parents, and PTA boards are encouraged to share ideas and concerns regarding procedures with principals or contact the Student Services department directly. Feedback is solicited in district communication, and students, staff, and parents can also email suggestions to studentservices@btcs.org. Discussions regarding COVID protocols are included in our school board work sessions. In addition, the student services team reviews the plans with principals, district leaders, and our health services team to ensure we are in compliance with the CDC and TDH guidelines while meeting the needs of our students in our local community.  |

1. **Describe how the LEA engaged the health department in the development of the revised plan.**

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| Bristol Tennessee City Schools has a COVID-19 district team that meets biweekly with the Sullivan County Regional Health Department (SCRHD) to develop strategies to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. The SCRHD reviews and gives feedback on our COVID-19 Operating Procedures and our Return to School Protocols. In addition, our school system nurse meets weekly with our local health department. We will continue to communicate with the SCRHD to team up in supporting our students and community.  |

1. **Provide to the extent to which the LEA has updated adopted policies and a description of any such policies on each of the following health and safety strategies.**

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|  *Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies* |
| ***The current procedure is continued.***  |
| *Physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)* |
| ***The current procedure is continued.***  |
| *Hand washing and respiratory etiquette* |
| ***The current procedure is continued.***  |
| *Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities including improving ventilation* |
| ***The current procedure is continued.***  |
| *Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine* |
| ***Contact tracing remains consistent and is conducted through the Sullivan County Regional Health Department.  The length of isolation and quarantine changed based on guidance from the CDC and the Tennessee Department of Health.*** * Students can return after day 5 of isolation with the recommendation of wearing a mask for an additional 5 days.
* Students who are fully vaccinated are not required to quarantine.
* Unvaccinated students are recommended to quarantine based on exposure type (household or non-household) and ability to separate from the positive case according to the TDH guidelines.
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| *Diagnostic and screening testing* |
| ***The length of time to test after exposure changed to testing on day 5 and again on day 10 for household contacts that cannot separate based on guidance from the CDC and Tennessee Department of Health.  Testing/screening procedures remain consistent.   Bristol Tennessee City Schools continues to follow the TDH Isolation and Quarantine guidelines.*** * Bristol Tennessee City Schools will offer FREE, COVID-19 testing for students and staff members who meet the criteria to be tested.
* Students/staff who qualify for testing on school sites include:
	+ Symptomatic students and staff (vaccinated or unvaccinated) who are already on-site and become ill during the school day.
	+ Fully vaccinated, non-household contact testing on or after day 5 after last exposure. If they test positive, they must isolate.
	+ Fully vaccinated, household contact able to separate, testing 5 days after the last exposure. If the contact cannot separate from the case in the home, they should get tested 5 days after initial exposure to the case and again 5 days after the end of the case’s isolation.  If they test positive, they must isolate.
	+ Unvaccinated non-household exposure or a household exposure able to separate should test on or after day 5.
	+ The unvaccinated household contact who is unable to separate should test on day 10.
* **Drive-thru testing**will also be available Monday through Friday, from 2 to 4 p.m.**by appointment only. This is for students or staff who are at home sick or for those who are in quarantine and test on day 5 to return to school/activities on day 6 if they remain asymptomatic.**
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| *Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible* |
| This year, our district held two vaccination clinics and included students, staff, and community members. The Sullivan County Regional Health Department continues to share information with our local community on vaccination opportunities.  |
| *Universal and correct wearing of masks* |
| *The procedure changed to recommended mask-wearing, but it is not required.* * Legislation passed by the governor on November 12, 2021 no longer requires masks to be worn by students and staff on buses. However, it is recommended for students and staff to wear a face mask.
* Masks are recommended but not required in school facilities and transportation.

A temporary 14-day mask mandate can be implemented by the school district provided all conditions below exist: 1. The school principal must request in writing to place the school under a mask mandate. 2. Severe conditions must exist: the governor must declare a state of emergency, and Sullivan County must have an average rolling 14-day COVID-19 infection rate of at least one thousand (1,000) new known infections for every one hundred thousand (100,000) residents of the county. 3. The Bristol Tennessee City Schools Board of Education must enact a mask mandate policy for a 14-day period on a school-by-school or campus-by-campus situation. This statute will be the only method a district may use to mandate face coverings. 4. The school must provide persons twelve (12) and older with an N95-rated mask. 5. The school must provide persons under twelve (12) but over five (5) years of age with a face covering that provides air filtration similar to an N95-rated mask. |

1. **Provide a current description as to how the LEA is ensuring continuity of services including but not limited to services to address the students’ academic needs, and students’ and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services.**

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| **Learning Loss & Acceleration*** An Extended Learning Coordinator was hired to support students with unfinished learning to organize and design programs targeting specific areas of need.
* Our district used ESSER funds to hire class size reduction teachers who reduced pupil-teacher ratios.
* TN ALL Corp Academic Tutors will serve 1st-8th grade students to provide low ratio/high dosage tutoring for students who score below proficiency.
* LEAPS after-school program, flexible student learning days, and intersessions specifically target learning loss for students. In addition, summer school will help close gaps and accelerate learning for students in K-12.

**Mental Health*** An additional therapist and a case manager were hired utilizing ESSER funds to provide mental health and behavior support across the district.
* School Mental Health Liaisons provide services on campus and connect students and families to additional community support systems, including crisis supports.
* Our Director of Schools sends out Friday Inspiration emails that include topics of celebrations and self-care.
* Teachers are encouraged to use mental health support phone lines.
* Each school will participate in a school-wide and district-wide team-building activity in the spring semester.
* The Mental Health Association of East Tennessee provides guest speakers in our high school wellness classes to support mental health.

**Physical Health** * COVID-19 testing is offered to students and staff through the ELC grant to ensure students who become ill can be tested for COVID as quickly as possible.
* Nurses shifted from part-time to full-time to provide services for the entire school day.
* Additional nurses were hired to complete district-wide COVID testing and to support the high school and middle school clinic visits.
* School nutrition provides meals for after-school programming, flexible learning days intersession, and summer school.
* Parents should consult medical professionals regarding the risk associated with any underlying conditions of their child. Parents with medically vulnerable students may elect to register for Tennessee Online Public School (TOPS), a fully virtually K-12 option for BTCS students. For questions or concerns regarding medically-fragile students, students with IEPs, and schooling options, please contact BTCS Student Services at (423) 652-9233. Ultimately, individual decisions to attend school in-person or register for TOPS are left to parents.
* Medically Vulnerable Staff: If they choose to do so, staff may self-identify as having a high-risk medical condition to the Human Resources department. Human Resources will work with staff on potential options.

**Nutrition Services*** The school nutrition program continues to provide free breakfast and lunch for all students.
* Students participating in our after-school program are provided meals.
* Students participating in off-site after-school programs at the YWCA, YMCA and Boys and Girls Club are provided free meals.
* Meals are provided during the summer for students at the following locations: summer school, YWCA, YMCA, Boys and Girls Club, and at four neighborhoods with lower socio-economic housing.
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