



BAMBERG SCHOOL DISTRICTS 1 & 2 BAMBERG COUNTY SOUTH CAROLINA



Safe Return to In-Person Learning Plan

August 3, 2021

Dear Parents, Staff, and Community Members:

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Bamberg School District One and Two have prioritized the health and safety of our students and staff. Despite the challenges over the past sixteen months, we have all persevered together, and successfully completed the 2020-2021 school year.

Currently, there is a surge of COVID- 19 activity across Bamberg County due to the Delta variant, a surge that is predicted to continue through the fall. The Delta variant is the dominant strain and is more easily transmitted.

Due to this, we must continue to take this virus seriously and work together to reduce spread by following strategies such as vaccination, as encouraged by guidance from the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental control. We strongly encourage all eligible staff and students to get vaccinated if you haven't already.

For the Bamberg One and Two community, vaccination helps protect all of us, and allows for the safe resumption of academic and extra-curricular activities for the 2021-2022 school while minimizing disruptions.

Return to Face-to-Face Instruction:

Bamberg One and Two have developed Safe Return to In-Person Learning plans, required by the federal American Rescue Plan legislation, which are available [here](#) and [here](#). These plans are required to be updated at least every six months, with input from the community-at-large. Plans can and will be updated more frequently as needed depending on community circumstances.

Both Bamberg One and Two plan to return to full face-to-face, five-day a week learning beginning on August 16. Districts have received updated guidance from SCDHEC regarding prevention strategies to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 in schools and will follow those guidelines to the extent practicable.

School Closures:

- Both districts are certified as E-learning districts. If severe weather or other community emergency conditions occur, the districts will conduct quality, standards-based instruction via virtual learning. Parents and guardians will be provided as much notice as possible if virtual learning needs to be implemented.

Students with Disabilities:

- Students with Disabilities will be provided a Free, Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). Students will receive quality, standards-based instruction regardless of the setting. Teachers and other service providers will continue to provide specially designed instruction and/or related services outlined in student's current IEP or 504 Accommodations Plan. IEP teams and 504 committees will reconvene if needed to consider any amendments to special education goals, services, and accommodations to best meet the needs of the student, in consideration of any health and safety procedures and the instructional setting.

Vaccinations:

- Bamberg One and Two strongly encourages all eligible students, staff, and parents to get fully vaccinated to protect themselves and the community.
- Staff members who have been vaccinated and who have not already done so should provide their proof of vaccination to the district office.
- Parents of students who have been vaccinated are encouraged to provide proof of their child's COVID-19 vaccination to their school. Providing this proof is voluntary and principals or school nurses are available to answer any questions.

Face Coverings:

- Mask use in the school buildings cannot be mandated per the S.C. General Assembly, however, Bamberg One and Two strongly encourage the use of face masks in school settings and on school buses, especially when physical distancing is not possible.

Environmental and Physical Space:

- Bamberg One and Two will continue with efforts related to regular cleaning and sanitizing of school buildings and buses.
- Plexiglas will continue to be used where practicable, particularly in spaces where physical distancing is not possible.

Hand-Washing, Cough Etiquette, and Sanitizing Stations:

- Regular handwashing will continue to be encouraged.
- Coughing/sneezing into the crook of one's elbow will continue to be encouraged.
- Sanitizing stations will remain available throughout school buildings and in classrooms.

Isolation and Quarantine:

- Bamberg One and Two will follow SCDHEC guidance regarding isolation and quarantine relating to close contact with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19.

Travel:

- Staff who plan to travel to COVID-19 'hot-spots' within the United States or who plan international travel should inform their supervisors prior to making the trip. Staff members who do travel to such areas may be required to quarantine prior to returning to work.

Events and Activities:

- School events such as Open Houses should be planned to allow for physical distancing to the extent practicable.
- All sports events for the 2021-2022 school year will allow fan attendance as appropriate depending on the venue. Football will be at full capacity at this time.

The health and safety of every student, staff member, parent, and the Bamberg One and Two community remains our number one priority. Planning and monitoring of the impact of the virus are ongoing, and adjustments will be made as conditions change. We look forward to welcoming everyone back for a great 2021-2022 school year.

Sincerely,

Dottie Brown
Superintendent