

2021-2022 Back-to-School COVID-19 Information

**2021-2022
Back-to-School**

We are very excited that Butler Tech students and staff will return to campus for the 2021-2022 school year on our campuses Monday-Friday, for face-to-face learning. As always, the safety of our students and staff is our top priority. Please see the protocols and recommendations below to ensure a safe return.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Butler Tech will continue to prioritize transforming lives by making our students career-ready and college-prepared.
- Butler Tech will monitor the current science and data provided by the Center for Disease Control, guidelines from the [Ohio Department of Health](#) and mandates initiated by Governor DeWine.

STUDENT/STAFF HEALTH RECOMMENDATIONS

- All students and staff are encouraged to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. The [Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine](#) is available for individuals 12 years and older. Proof of vaccination will not be required of students or staff to attend school/work.
- After careful consideration of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Ohio Department of Health's recommendations, masks and facial coverings will be optional for students and staff this fall. There is no state mandate requiring masks at this time.
- While we are leaving the decision on whether or not to wear face coverings to our families and staff, please be reminded that the Ohio Department of Health recommends that those who are not vaccinated should consider wearing a mask or face covering indoors. Furthermore, we cannot mandate non-vaccinated individuals to wear masks, nor ask our students and staff whether or not they have been vaccinated, however they may volunteer that information.
- Please note that per the [CDC](#), the only exception to this is that masks will be required for students and drivers on school transportation. Masks will be available on all Butler Tech buses.
- Families and staff should do a health assessment each morning before coming to school or getting on the bus. [Click here to view the Daily Health Assessment Checklist](#). This includes taking your temperature. If you are sick, please stay home to help stop the spread of all illnesses in our schools.
- Symptoms of COVID-19 can [mirror symptoms of the common cold, as well as other illnesses](#). Students who are showing a NEW ONSET of at least two COVID-19 symptoms must stay home for at least 10 days OR provide a negative test from a physician OR provide a note from your healthcare provider stating an alternate diagnosis before returning to school.
- If a student or staff member becomes aware of a confirmed positive COVID-19 case in their home, they must follow the COVID-19 Positive Protocol.

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COVID POSITIVE PROTOCOL

- Butler Tech does not order quarantines or isolations, but instead works with Butler County General Health District officials in contact tracing and communicating cases.
- When a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, the school principal will notify other staff or families of the students potentially exposed to the individual, similar to notification of other infectious diseases, such as whooping cough. The district will communicate quarantine expectations based on guidance from the Butler County General Health District.
- Positive cases of COVID-19 will be reported to the Butler County General Health District for guidance. Per the CDC and Butler County Health Department guidelines, any immediate family member in the same household as a person who tests positive for COVID-19 should quarantine for 14 days unless they have received a full dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, in which case they should monitor for symptoms, but can continue attending school.
- A student who becomes ill or exhibits symptoms at school should be immediately separated from others. Each campus has a designated isolation area for students who exhibit symptoms to wait for parent/guardian transportation.

HEALTH & SAFETY PROTOCOL

- Proper hand washing is highly encouraged throughout the school day.
- Hand sanitizer is in every classroom, common space and meeting room. Personal hand sanitizer is permitted.
- Cleaning staff will ensure that deep cleaning and sanitizing occur regularly using sanitizing agents that are rated to eliminate COVID-19. This will include all tables and counter tops, chair backs, door handles, computer keyboards and mice, shared tools, tool lockers, and many more areas and items.
- Restrooms will be cleaned and sanitized regularly.
- Air circulation and filtering has increased in all buildings, both in volume and in duration. Additionally, upgrades to medical grade air filters provide the highest level of filtration.
- Social distancing will be encouraged in classrooms, labs, and the cafeteria/eating spaces when possible. Due to full-capacity, 3–6-foot social distancing is not guaranteed.
- Breakfast and lunch options will be available in a grab-n-go style with options for students to eat in various locations inside and outside of the buildings. Water fountains will remain closed, and students are encouraged to bring a water bottle to use at the water bottle filling stations.

SCHOOL/LAB EQUIPMENT

- Each classroom will be equipped with cleaning supplies to sanitize work areas throughout the day as needed.
- Additional outdoor areas will be provided for social distancing that can be utilized for labs and breaks as needed.

Butler Tech is making decisions based on science and data provided by the Center for Disease Control, guidelines from the Ohio Department of Health, the Butler County Health Department and mandates initiated by Governor DeWine. This is a fluid situation and we are continually monitoring and adjusting our plans to meet current health and safety recommendations and to ensure the wellbeing of our students and staff.

Visit our website at: ButlerTech.org for the most recent updates.

