



COVID-19 MONITORING PROGRAM

Weekly Report 7



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Purpose

Each week, a monitor is on-site at two Butler School District 53 schools, Brook Forest Elementary and Butler Junior High School. The purpose of the monitoring visits is to observe compliance with the most current COVID-19 pandemic guidance. Weekly, observations will be recorded in this report and starting in the second week, supplemented with survey responses provided by parents and staff. The monitor works with the administration to identify varying times to visit the school each week to ensure monitoring encapsulates observations from different school day components.

The monitoring program aims to keep students and staff safe in the modified school environment and protect the broader community. The report provides the administration with the ability to make informed decisions and amend actions to maintain a safe learning environment.

Week of October 16, 2020 Summary

Report Date	10/16/2020
Observer	Keith Ponce
Schools Observed	Brook Forest Elementary – 10/13/2020 Butler Junior High School – 10/13/2020

For the seventh week of the monitoring program, the monitor focused on the departure of students, physical distancing during room changes, classroom cleaning, remote learning observations, cleaning between room changes, and disinfectant organization. The monitor additionally followed up with the administration and the school nurses at both schools to discuss this week's observations. Through discussion with the nurses about the one confirmed COVID-19 case, the monitor acknowledged that the schools are following the IDPH, ISBE, and Local Health Department Protocols for a confirmed case. The monitor also observed both schools adhering to current guidelines and policies for cleaning and disinfecting.

The monitor observed remote learning successfully occurring at both schools, and students appeared to be engaged and following the lesson plans. The monitor observed remote learning in four (4) different classrooms and found remote learning to occur with no connectivity issues.

At the Elementary school, the monitor observed the departure process. Overall, the process was orderly. Students remained masked, and when they broke physical distancing in the hallways, staff reminded them to distance, which some students appeared to ignore.

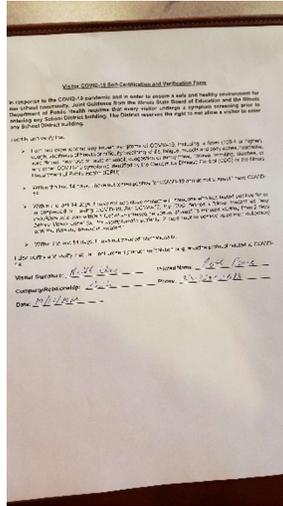
Physical distancing occurred in classrooms, and the grides on the floor reinforced proper spacing. The monitor observed students in the gymnasium at the Junior High School congregating in small groups while being monitored by three (3) staff members. Upon the arrival of the monitor, the staff reminded the students to practice physical distancing, and this has been a consistent theme over the past three reporting periods. At all mentioned times, the staff and students wore masks.

The monitor found cleaning products readily available and the sanitation carts ready for use in the hallways. The elementary school bathrooms did have hand towels on the floor in two (2) separate bathrooms; however, everything else appeared to be clean and functional. The monitor selected three (3) bathrooms at random at both schools, and each had running water, hand sanitizer, and a sanitary method for drying hands.

COVID-19 Self-Certification and Verification Form

Brook Forest Elementary & Butler Junior High School

Both schools requested the monitor sign the “Visitor COVID-19 Self-Certification and Verification Form” as well as a visitor log form. The schools continue to provide the form to all visitors.



Nurse and Isolation Area

Brook Forest Elementary & Butler Junior High School

The monitor spoke to the nurse at both schools. **Both nurses informed the monitor that there was one incident of a positive COVID-19 case, and they followed all policies and procedures from the Local Health Department. The nurses told the monitor that contact tracing occurred and that they continue to monitor the individuals.**

Both nurses reported that the cots had arrived; however, one was damaged and sent back. Brook Forest Elementary currently has the functional cot, and the monitor observed the set up of the isolation room. The school returned the damaged and is working to find a replacement.

Classroom

Brook Forest Elementary

The monitor observed filled hand sanitizer in the classrooms and the hallways. The monitor checked four (4) hand sanitizers and all were filled and operable and present throughout the school. The students all kept their bookbags by their desks and observed physical distancing while in the classrooms. Additionally, all classrooms had grids that supported maintaining physical distancing.

Disinfectant and hand sanitizing supplies were present in all rooms and were full. **Overall, the organization of supplies in the rooms was adequate.**



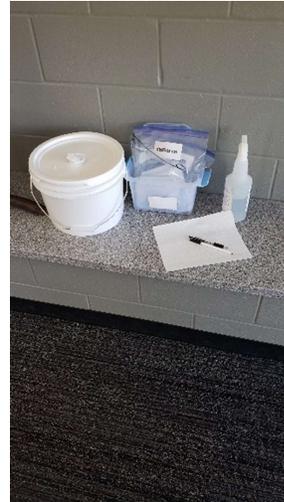
While at the elementary school, the monitor observed a staff member not wearing a mask and conversing with another staff member in a classroom with the door open. The monitor reported this to the principal, and during the monitor's walk around with the principal, the staff member was still maskless in the classroom with the door open.

Butler Junior High School

The classrooms appeared clean, and the monitor observed filled hand sanitizer in the classrooms and the hallways. The monitor checked nine (9) hand sanitizers and all were filled and operable. The monitor found hand sanitizer units throughout the facility, outside classrooms, in stairwells, and in additional areas of high traffic. **The monitor observed both students and staff utilizing the hand sanitizer units during the observation time.**

Students sat physically distanced in all observed classrooms, and both staff and students remained masked and adhered to physical distancing during the observation period.

The monitor found disinfectant and sanitation supplies stored in an organized manner in classrooms. During the walkthrough, there was one area in the vestibule of the gymnasium in which a garbage can blocked a hand sanitizer; however, there were other hand sanitizers available in the area.



Remote Learning

Butler Junior High School

Remote learning was observed in four (4) classrooms and appeared to be functioning well with no connectivity, audio, or equipment issues.

Hallways

Brook Forest Elementary

The monitor observed staff at the elementary school breaking physical distance when walking in the hallways or stopping to speak to each other.

Butler Junior High School

In the hallways at the Junior High School, students briefly broke physical distancing during the room changes, and no staff members were present to remind students to maintain physical distancing.

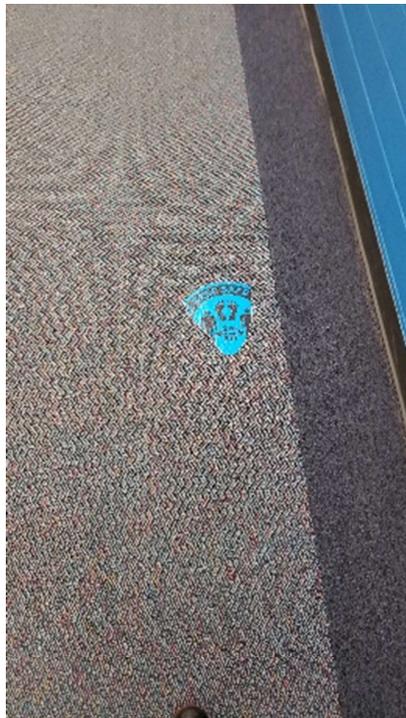
The monitor observed students in the gymnasium congregating together and breaking physical distancing. Students remained masked, and the staff did tell the students to physically distance.

The monitor noticed an area in the hallway that had clothing and other items for students. The area was unmarked, and the clothes and items were touching.



Brook Forest Elementary and Butler Junior High School

At both schools, the monitor observed proper signage on the floors indicating the direction of traffic. **Some of the signs are damaged and needed replacement.**



Restroom

Brook Forest Elementary

Three (3) of the restrooms observed had running water and full and functional soap and hand sanitizer dispensers. Two restrooms had hand towels on the floor. All water fountains were disabled, except for water bottle fill stations.



Butler Junior High School

The restrooms appeared clean. All restrooms observed had running water, soap, and a way for students to dry their hands.

The water fountains at both schools remain marked “Out of Order” around the drinking fountain with the water bottle space open and operable.

Departure

Brook Forest Elementary

When the students left for the end of the day, overall, the process appeared orderly. Students and staff remained masked. The students did attempt to break physical distancing in the hallway, and the staff reminded the students to maintain distance. Some students disobeyed the requests of the teachers to maintain distance in the hallways. Once outside, the students did briefly break physical distancing; however, students remained masked.

Areas for Improvement

Brook Forrest Elementary

- Physical distancing in hallways.
- Staff remaining masked.



Butler Junior High School

- Enforce no congregation of students indoors.
- Physical distancing in hallways.
- Staff physically distancing.
- Label and space out the clothing and item storage space.
- Make sure other school equipment does not block hand sanitizer stations.

Brook Forrest Elementary and Butler Junior High School

- Replace peeling away stickers that show spacing and foot traffic flow.

Recommendations

1. Continue to encourage staff to enforce physical distancing at all times, especially when students congregating in indoor spaces.
2. Continue to prepare the school to allow for physical distancing when more students return to the campuses.
3. Ensure staff adhere to physical distancing and mask policy to set an example for students and maintain health and safety for all.
4. Check and replace unreadable spacing and foot traffic stickers.
5. If the closet identified in the Junior High hallway is necessary to keep, ensure clothing and items are hung and placed in a manner that does not touch.
6. Ensure supplies do not block the hand sanitizer station.