



COVID-19 MONITORING PROGRAM

Weekly Report 9



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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 as well as suggested actions. 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 30, 2020 Summary

Report Date	10/30/2020
Monitor	Keith Ponce
Schools Observed	Brook Forest Elementary – 10/28/2020 Butler Junior High School – 10/28/2020

For the ninth week of the monitoring program, the monitor focused on the lunch period, hand hygiene, physical distancing in both classrooms and hallways, and disinfectant organization. The monitor additionally followed up with administration and the school nurses at both schools to discuss this week's observations and from previous weeks. The monitor observed both schools adhering to current guidelines and policies for cleaning, disinfecting, but not maintaining physical distancing specifically staff during the lunch break. 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 two (2) different classrooms and found remote learning to occur with no connectivity issues.

In both schools, physical distancing occurred while students were eating lunch. Staff were observed to be violating physical distancing at both schools during lunch on multiple occasions. During the transition time between classrooms or to lunch areas students were observed to be breaking physical distancing, but once they entered a specific location physical distancing was enforced.

Upon discussion with administration a staff member was found to be COVID positive and contact tracing was immediately performed through self-reporting by the positive staff member. Based upon the staff members verbal account there was no time when they were in close contact with either students or staff for over the 15 minute period. The school administration performed an investigation to determine if any individual were within close contact to the affected staff member and provided the information to the health department.

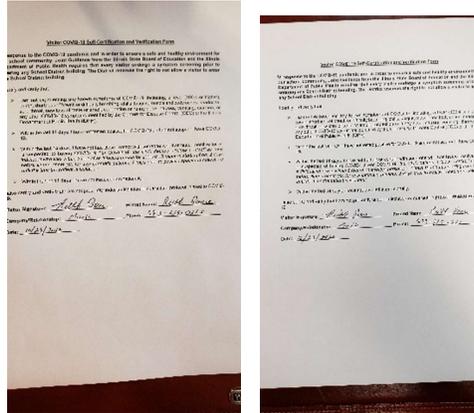
Concerning cleanliness and disinfecting, the monitor observed staff cleaning the hallways and hard surfaces. Both schools were observed to have trash on the floor of the bathrooms and at the junior high there was trash found in the hallway. All hand sanitizers were observed to be functional and all bathrooms had running water and functional soap and sanitizer dispensers.



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 COVID-19 Updates

Brook Forest Elementary & Butler Junior High School

The monitor spoke to the nurse at both schools. The elementary school nurse informed the monitor that several students had been sent home throughout the week due to illness, and that one staff member tested positive. Contact tracing was performed by both the school nurses and administration with the affected staff member, based upon the verbal recounting by the affected person there was no time that that physical distancing was broken for greater than fifteen minutes. This is in-line with current IDPH standards as well as the schools policies and procedures. One staff member and one student were found to have had contact with the affected person and they were removed from the school and in self quarantine.

Classroom

Brook Forest Elementary

The monitor observed filled hand sanitizer in the classrooms and the hallways. The monitor checked two (2) hand sanitizers and all were filled and operable as well as present throughout the school. Students were observed eating lunch at their desks and maintaining physical distancing throughout the observation period while in the classrooms.

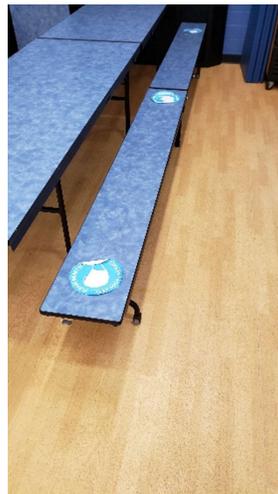
Disinfectant and hand sanitizing supplies were observed in all rooms and were full. **Overall, the organization of supplies in the rooms was adequate; however, one room was observed to have the supplies obstructed.**



Butler Junior High School

The classrooms appeared clean, and the monitor observed filled hand sanitizer in the classrooms and the hallways. The monitor checked three (3) hand sanitizers and all were filled and operable. Hand sanitizer units were observed throughout the facility, outside classrooms, as well as by stairwells and in areas of high traffic in the hallways.

During the lunch period students were physically distanced in all areas observed. Physical distancing was broken when students were entering the lunch areas, but was resumed once students were seated. In the cafeteria there was appropriate signage on the tables and students were physically distanced throughout the observation period. Some signage appeared to be worn on the cafeteria tables.



The monitor found disinfectant and sanitation supplies stored in an organized manner in classrooms. All classrooms and eating areas were observed to have appropriate physical distancing.



Hand Hygiene

Brook Forest Elementary and Butler Junior High School

During the observation time the monitor observed students and staff in various scenarios in which hand hygiene could have been performed and at no time was there any hand hygiene performed at either school by staff or students. Supplies were readily available and operable for hand hygiene to be performed.

Remote Learning

Brook Forest Elementary

Remote learning was observed in one (1) classrooms and appeared to be functioning well with no connectivity, audio, or equipment issues.

Butler Junior High School

Remote learning was observed in two (2) classrooms and appeared to be functioning well with no connectivity, audio, or equipment issues.

Hallways

Brook Forest Elementary and Butler Junior High School

At the Junior High physical distancing was observed to be broken during multiple instances in the hallways. This occurred while students were leaving classrooms, entering classrooms, going to lunch areas, and going outside for recess. There was also trash observed in the hallways of the Junior High in several areas, but was removed by staff during the observation time. Staff were observed at both schools cleaning hard surfaces in the hallways and rounding throughout the building cleaning.

Students were not observed in the hallways of the elementary school.

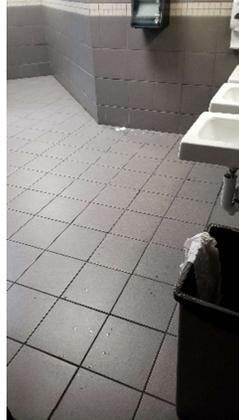


Restroom

Brook Forest Elementary

One (1) of the two (2) restrooms appeared clean; however, all had running water and functional soap and hand sanitizer dispensers. One restroom had garbage on the floor.

All water fountains were disabled, except for water bottle fill stations.



Butler Junior High School

One (1) of the two (2) restrooms appeared clean; however, all restrooms observed had running water, soap, and a way for students to dry their hands.



Lost and Found

Butler Junior High School

The lost and found area had all items removed from the previous week. This observation aligns with the discussion with the principal from the previous week that all items would be removed on a weekly basis.



Areas for Improvement

Brook Forrest Elementary

- Floor signage in all hallways for consistency throughout building. One hallway was observed to have no signage.
- Staff eating areas – better enforcement of physical distancing. Two separate rooms had staff eating together that broke physical distancing.
- Education on hand hygiene for both staff and students.

Butler Junior High School

- Education on hand hygiene for staff and students.
- Reinforcement of importance of physical distancing.

Brook Forrest Elementary and Butler Junior High School

- Education on hand hygiene for staff and students.
- Reinforcement of importance of physical distancing

Suggestions

The CDC has indicated that mitigation measures in schools can be organized into three categories: personal controls, administrative controls, and engineering controls. They promote layering of these controls to reduce the overall risk of COVID-19 transmission for students and school staff.

- **Personal controls:** Individuals' behaviors to protect themselves and those around them
- **Administrative controls:** Processes and policies that keep people safe
- **Engineering controls:** Physical structures put in place to distance people from hazards

School District 53 has continued to demonstrate this approach since the beginning of the school year. **As with any prolonged event it is essential that basic protocols are continually reinforced.**



1. Staff not maintaining physical distancing during the lunch hour. Specifically note at this time persons are not required to mask.
 - a. It is suggested that all staff are reminded of the need to set the example as well as maintain physical distancing at all times.
2. Staff and Students not advantaging themselves of the deployed hand sanitizer stations.
 - a. It is suggested that all staff and students are reminded of the importance of using the hand sanitizer; and staff to encourage student use.
3. Disinfectant supplies being obstructed.
 - a. It is suggested that no other items shall be placed in designated disinfectant areas/stations. Continue to encourage staff to enforce physical distancing at all times both inside and outside the classroom.
4. Student movement between class periods break physical distancing protocol.
 - a. It is suggested that focus be on unobstructed point to point movement. Unobstructed point to point movement limits contact within the hallways and reduces the time without direct supervision.
5. Contact tracing was performed by both the school nurses and administration with the affected staff member, based upon the verbal recounting by the affected person there was no time that that physical distancing was broken for greater than fifteen minutes.
 - a. It is suggested:
 - i. A staff member should be identified as the lead and backups for all contact tracing efforts to ensure consistency. The contact tracing lead will be responsible to prepare the written report.
 - ii. All nurses should staff these cases. The staffing allows for both staff cross training and case perspective.

Updates

- New guidelines from IDPH as of 10/27/2020 received and under review for comparison against current policies and procedures.