

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

April 10, 2023

Introduction:

Our goal is to keep schools open while addressing the conditions related to COVID-19. It is the district's responsibility to provide a safe and healthy learning environment for all students, and a safe and healthy work environment for staff. Our plan is aligned to guidelines provided by CDC (Center for Disease Control), Eastern Idaho Public Health, The Idaho State Board of Education, the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, and the Governor. As conditions change, Mackay School District will follow the guidelines provided by these government entities. Local medical professionals, including staff from Lost Rivers Hospital, will also be consulted.

This plan will be updated with meaningful stakeholder input no less frequently than every 6 months for the duration of the ARP ESSER grant period ending January 2025. Stakeholders will be informed by email and school newsletters that the plan is available for review on the district's website. Stakeholders will be encouraged to provide input through email and phone calls. The reviewed and updated plan will be presented for Board approval no less frequently than every 6 months at a regularly scheduled Board meeting.

The decision-making hierarchy for operating our schools under COVID-19 conditions is as follows:

1. Local Board of Trustees
2. Eastern Idaho Public Health Department
3. Local Medical Professionals including Lost Rivers Hospital
4. State Board of Education
5. Idaho Department of Health and Welfare
6. Governor

Risk will be determined by the Eastern Idaho Public Health website and CDC Community Levels. No data for cases within counties is available at this point.

Low Risk: Monitor cases and require that students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 stay at home and follow recommended guidelines for isolation and precautions for People with COVID-19.

Medium and High Risk:

If the number of COVID-19 positive cases is high (more than 5 known cases in separate families), masks will be highly recommended on all buses, and restrictions for travel and for outside community use of facilities will be considered.

Isolation and Precautions for People with COVID-19

If you have COVID-19, you can spread the virus to others. Isolation is used to separate people with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 from those without COVID-19. These recommendations do not change based on COVID-19 Community Levels.

Regardless of vaccination status, you should isolate from others when you have COVID-19.

You should also isolate if you are sick and suspect that you have COVID-19 but do not yet have test results. If your results are positive, follow the full isolation recommendations below. If your results are negative, you can end your isolation.

If you test NEGATIVE:

You can end your isolation.

If you test POSITIVE:

When you have COVID-19, isolation is counted in days, as follows:

If you had no symptoms:

Day 0) is the day you were tested (not the day you received your positive test result)

Day 1 is the first full day following the day you were tested.

If you develop symptoms within 10 days of when you were tested, the clock restarts at day 0 on the day of symptom onset.

If you had symptoms:

Day 0 of isolation is the day of symptom onset regardless of when you tested positive.

Day 1 is the first full day after the day your symptoms started.

ISOLATION

- If you test positive for COVID-19, stay home for at least 5 days and isolate from others in your home.
- You are likely most infectious during these first 5 days.
- Wear a high-quality mask if you must be around others at home and in public.
- Do not go places where you are unable to wear a mask.
- Do not travel.
- Stay home and separate from others as much as possible.
- Use a separate bathroom, if possible.
- Don't share personal household items, like cups, towels, and utensils.

- Monitor your symptoms. If you have an emergency warning sign (like trouble breathing), seek emergency medical care immediately.
- Talk to your family doctor about what to do if you have COVID-19.

ENDING ISOLATION

- End isolation based on how serious your COVID-19 symptoms were. Loss of taste and smell may persist for weeks or months after recovery and need not delay the end of isolation.
- If you had no symptoms, you may end isolation after Day 5.
- If you had symptoms and your symptoms are improving, you may end isolation after day 5 if you are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication
- If your symptoms are not improving, continue to isolate until you are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication, and your symptoms are improving.
- If you had symptoms and had moderate illness (you experienced shortness of breath or had difficulty breathing) you need to isolate through day 10.
- If you had severe illness (you were hospitalized or have a weakened immune system, you need to isolate through day 10, consult your doctor before ending isolation, and produce a negative test.
- If you are unsure if your symptoms are moderate or severe or if you have a weakened immune system, talk to a health care provider for further guidance.

REGARDLESS OF WHEN YOU END ISOLATION, UNTIL AT LEAST DAY 11:

- Avoid being around people who are more likely to get very sick from COVID-19.
- Wear a high-quality mask when indoors around others at home and in public.
- Do not go places where you are unable to wear a mask until you are able to discontinue masking.
- For travel guidance, see CDC's Travel webpage.

REMOVING YOUR MASK

After you have ended isolation, when you are feeling better (no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and symptoms improving),

- Wear your mask through Day 10
- Or – If you have access to antigen tests you should consider using them. With two sequential negative tests 48 hours apart you may remove your mask sooner than Day 10

- If your test results are positive, you may still be infectious. You should continue wearing a mask and wait at least 48 hours before taking another test. Continue taking antigen tests at least 48 hours apart until you have two sequential negative results. This may mean you need to continue wearing a mask and testing beyond day 10.

STAY HEALTHY RECOMMENDATIONS:

- COVID-19 Vaccines are encouraged for all eligible individuals. The District will work with EIPH and local providers to provide vaccinations.
- If medium or high-risk conditions exist, masks or face coverings will be highly recommended in buildings. If a government or health agency mandate is in place, schools will follow required guidelines.
- Buildings will be cleaned and disinfected throughout the school day when possible and routinely cleaned at the end of each school day and events.
- Handwashing will be encouraged.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in classrooms and throughout buildings.
- Inside doors will be propped open when appropriate.
- When outside temperatures permit, windows will remain open.
- During Medium Risk conditions outside use of district facilities may be limited and require superintendent approval. No outside use of district facilities will be approved during High-Risk Conditions.

Classroom Safety Practices

- Students will be assigned seats.
- Students will be issued individual Chromebooks.
- Limited use of shared materials and supplies will be maintained.
- Hard copies of instructional materials will be minimized.

Academic Needs

Teachers are trained to provide remote instruction during possible Stay-At-Home Conditions. The District will provide homework club and after-school tutoring for students in both buildings. In-school intervention support will be provided to elementary students in reading and math. Summer school will be provided to eligible middle level and elementary school students. Credit recovery will be provided through Idaho Digital Learning Alliance.

Additional support will be provided to students with Individual Education Plans and 504 Plans during school closures.

Athletics and Activities

The District will monitor the status of COVID-19 conditions throughout the area on an ongoing basis. Guidelines and recommendations from state and local health officials and the Idaho High Schools Activities Association will be followed.

Mackay School District athletes and coaches will also follow District guidelines and local guidelines at away events. The following steps should be taken by athletes, participants, coaches, officials, and staff:

- All facilities and frequently used items and surfaces will be cleaned and sanitized prior to any activity by wiping down all hard surfaces.
- Sports equipment, such as balls, weights, etc. will be sanitized before and after each use.
- Hand sanitizers will be available.
- Monitor athletes, participants, and staff for signs and/or symptoms of COVID-19 prior to any workout, practice, game, event, etc. Any person with symptoms of COVID-19 will not be allowed to participate and should contact his/her primary care provider or other appropriate health care official. In the event of any person testing positive for COVID-19, that person will be allowed to return to participation only after the District receives documentation from a medical official stating the person is safe to return and participate in District activities.
- Wash hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer.
- No sharing of water bottles. Individual bottles must be clearly marked.

Transportation to and from Events:

- Activity busses will be cleaned and disinfected prior to loading and departure.
- Hand sanitizer will be made available.
- Windows will be opened as practical for ventilation.
- No person with symptoms of COVID-19 or a confirmed COVID test will be allowed to ride activity busses.
- Coaches'/Advisor's/Staff children may ride activity busses only with adult supervision other than the coach/advisor/staff member and with prior approval from the principal and/or athletic director.

School Bus Safety

- Masks will be encouraged during Medium and High-Risk Conditions.
- Hand sanitizer will be available on each bus.
- Thorough disinfecting of each bus will occur at the end of each route.

Social Emotional Needs

The District's part-time counselor will provide support to students. Staff will receive professional development to more effectively address the social emotional needs of students and others. Administration will provide support to students and staff.

Stay-at-Home Conditions

This model will be used in extreme conditions which could include a local or state stay-at-home order. If student absences equal or exceed 20% of district enrollment due to illness or quarantine situations, schools will be closed and remote learning will be enacted for all students unless special circumstances apply. Individual Chromebooks will be provided to students, and teachers will utilize Google Classroom as the learning management system. Special circumstances include students with Individual Education Plans and identified at-risk status. Buildings will be closed to the general public except by appointment. Athletics and other extracurricular activities will be suspended. Meals will be available through delivery or pickup if the closure is for more than 3 instructional days. The District wants to ensure face-to-face instruction as much as possible. The Superintendent is authorized to close school and move the District to Remote Learning for no more than 10 calendar days. The recommended closure time for remote learning will not exceed a total time of 10 consecutive calendar days unless Board approval is obtained.

Overnight Trips and/or Trainings

Overnight trips and trainings (Essential and nonessential) will be permitted with principal and/or superintendent approval if low-risk conditions exist in the Mackay area and the area where staff or students will be traveling. Only essential overnight trips and trainings will be permitted with superintendent approval if conditions are medium or high risk in the Mackay area and in the area where staff and/or students will be traveling.

OUTSIDE USE OF DISTRICT FACILITIES

Outside use of district facilities will require principal and superintendent approval and must meet district, Eastern Idaho Public Health, State Board of Education, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, and Governor's Guidelines. No outside use of district facilities will be approved if high risk or Stay At Home conditions exist in Custer County. If outside use of facilities was approved during minimal risk conditions, and high-risk conditions are predicted to be in effect at the time of the event, the Mackay School District will assist with rescheduling the event and/or with increasing safety precautions. Safety precautions may include limited attendance, masks, and increased sanitization.

LONG-TERM STAY AT HOME OPTION

This option is only available if medium or high-risk conditions in the Mackay School District area exist at the beginning of each semester.

This model is designed for families who would like to maintain their connection to their enrolled school but don't yet feel comfortable sending their student(s) back to school for face-to-face instruction. Students will attend school remotely. Students who choose this model will be allowed to select or change models at the beginning of each semester only (due to Idaho Digital Learning Alliance fees, requirements, and scheduling).

What to expect:

- Students are at home learning and will need access to a device, printer, and internet.
- Instruction is provided remotely and students will have limited access to their teachers/staff during the regular school day hours.
- Idaho Digital Learning Alliance will be utilized for K-6 students. Instruction will be provided in English Language Arts and Math. Limited support for other subjects will be provided by Mackay School District staff.
- Junior/Senior High students can expect district level enrollment in IDLA courses.
- Attendance will be coordinated with IDLA.
- Students will be expected to take final and state assessments at school.

How can parents/guardians support their students during COVID-19 conditions?

- Screen your child every morning before sending him/her to school. It is important that sick students and staff not be present at school.
- Report to the school within 30 minutes and take your children home if he/she is sick or has a fever, cough, congestion, runny nose, or any other symptom related to COVID-19.
- If your child has had close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19, please closely monitor for symptoms and test if possible.
- Do not send your child to school if your child has tested positive for COVID-19 and notify the school of the positive test.
- Follow guidance from your health provider.

EMPLOYEE EXPECTATIONS

- Employees will be required to meet the expectations of their job description.
- All employees are expected to report to work during all STAY-AT-HOME conditions unless one of the following types of leave is used: FLMA leave, sick leave, personal leave, or vacation leave. The exception is a stay-at-home order from Eastern Idaho Public Health or a State and/or local government agency.
- Employees are not expected or encouraged to work during leave. If necessary, a substitute will be provided to deliver lesson plans developed by the classroom teacher, paraprofessional, or other employee.
- Reasonable accommodations may be made to employees with disabilities so long as the accommodation does not place an undue hardship on the Mackay School District.