

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

Updated October 11, 2021

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 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 September 2023. 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

On June 3, 2021, the EIPH Board of Health officially retired the EIPH COVID-19 Regional Response Plan. This was done in response to very low active cases throughout our health district's eight-county region for some time. However, to maintain situational awareness for the public, EIPH will continue to maintain their COVID-19 Data Dashboard for the foreseeable future. Mackay School District will use the COVID-19 Data Dashboard and information reported from parents and staff for the plan.

Based on the population centers in Custer County, Mackay School District will use the following metrics. A case is defined as one individual or one household.

Low Risk: Fewer than 2 new cases in Mackay over a 10 day period

Moderate Risk: 2-3 new cases in Mackay over a 10 day period

Substantial Risk: 4 new cases in Mackay over a 10 day period

High Risk: 5 or more new cases in Mackay over a 10 day period

Moderate Risk:

Masks required on all buses, restrictions for travel, restrictions for outside community use of facilities

Substantial and High Risk:

Masks required on all buses, restrictions for travels, restrictions for outside community use of facilities.

Quarantine Guidelines for Schools Dated January 4, 2021 (Idaho Department of Health and Welfare)

In K-12 instruction areas where there is close contact* between a person who has tested positive for, or is diagnosed with, COVID-19 (case) and students or staff (contact) and both the case and the contact were wearing masks** during the time physical distancing could not be maintained: the case must isolate at home as recommended by public health officials. The contact may attend in-person classes, but must monitor themselves closely for COVID-19 symptoms during the two weeks after exposure. If they develop symptoms, they should stay home and contact a healthcare provider. Students or staff who are close contacts due to an exposure outside of instruction areas are still required to self-quarantine. Close Contact is defined as “Someone who was less than 6 feet away from an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (for example, three individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes.)

** This policy is only applicable to those wearing a mask that covers both the nose and mouth. If staff and/or students are not wearing masks, refer to the COVID-19 Decision Tree and Eastern Idaho Public Health for quarantine guidelines.

COVID-19 Decision Tree

Eastern Idaho Public Health’s guidelines are as follow and are applicable to staff and students who have had close contact (within 6 feet for more than 15 cumulative minutes or more over a 24-hour period) with a person known to have COVID-19.

Staff and students who have received all doses of a COVID-19 vaccine series AND two weeks have passed since receiving the final dose may continue with normal activities while monitoring health daily. If you have been vaccinated and have symptoms, seek the evaluation of a medical provider to determine if COVID-19 testing is indicated.

Staff and students who have not been vaccinated should self-isolate for 10 days (or 7 after receiving a negative test result, with test performed on day 5 or later) after last contact with the person in accordance with CDC guidelines. Conduct daily monitoring of your health.

STAY HEALTHY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Students will attend school fulltime and schools will implement the following reasonable procedures in accordance with health guidance:

- COVID-19 Vaccines are encouraged for all eligible individuals. The District will work with EIPH and local providers to provide vaccinations.
- Social distancing will be implemented where possible and reasonable.
- Masks or face coverings will be highly recommended in buildings unless social distancing of 6 feet can be maintained or unless individuals are fully vaccinated. If a local or state mask mandate is in place, schools will follow required guidelines.
- Buildings will be routinely cleaned and disinfected throughout the school day and 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.
- Symptom screening for sick students and staff will be conducted, and students and staff who exhibit symptoms will be required to go home.
- Health guidelines for assemblies and gatherings (including Eastern Idaho Public Health, State Board of Education, Department of Health and Welfare, and the Governor) will be followed.
- School schedules, including lunch times, may be adjusted to reduce the number of students in one location.
- Elementary beginning and end-of-day procedures may be adjusted for individual classrooms.
- Outside use of district facilities may be limited and require superintendent approval.

Classroom Safety Practices

- Face masks or face coverings are highly recommended when social distancing of 6 feet cannot be maintained and staff and students have not been vaccinated.
- Students will be assigned seats. Students may be placed in cohorts to minimize contact.
- 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

Students will be issued individual Chromebooks for use during school and during Stay-At-Home Conditions. Teachers are trained to provide remote instruction during quarantines or 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.
- COVID-19 Decision Tree guidelines will be followed.
- 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 signs of symptoms of COVID-19 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

Students will be required to wear face coverings on buses if two (2) or more active cases for 3 consecutive days are located in Mackay according to Eastern Idaho Public Health data. A case is defined as an individual or a single household. Masks will not be required when cases have dropped below 2 active cases for 10 consecutive days.

Hand sanitizer will be available on each bus.
Thorough disinfecting of each bus will occur at the end of each route.
Bus drivers are not required to wear a mask if they are alone on a bus.

Social Emotional Needs

The District will continue to advertise for a .5 FTE counselor. The Career Advisor will provide social emotional instruction to elementary students and provide similar opportunities for junior and senior high school 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 ~~minimal spread~~ 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 moderate risk in the Mackay area and in the area where staff and/or students will be traveling. If Stay-At-Home Conditions or Substantial Risk or High Risk Conditions are in place, no overnight trips and trainings will be permitted unless Board approval has been granted.

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 moderate risk conditions exist in Mackay. Restrictions will be lifted when cases have dropped below two active cases for 10 consecutive days. No outside use of district facilities will be allowed during Stay-At-Home Conditions or if Substantial or High Risk

conditions exist. If outside use of facilities was approved during minimal risk conditions, and moderate, substantial or 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 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.
- Do not send your child to school if he/she has had close contact (within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes) with someone testing positive for COVID-19 and notify the school.
- 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.

COVID-19 FAQ

What if someone in a building is confirmed to have COVID-19 by health professionals?

The district will work closely with Eastern Idaho Public Health in the response process. Each situation will be handled case-by-case.

Identify who was in close contact with the infected person and whether masks were worn properly. This may include entire classrooms. Follow quarantine guidelines and MSD Policy 3520 and IC 33-5212.7

Determine specific locations where the infected person occupied the building. These locations will be immediately sanitized and/or vacated.

Whether schools are closed will be determined case-by-case.

What are employee expectations?

- Employees will be required to meet the expectations of their job description.
- All employees are expected to report to work during all COVID-19 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. 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.