

# 2021-22 Return to School Safe Learning Plan

## Lewiston – Altura School District



*Updated: May 9, 2022*

This Plan is in place because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and that it may remain ongoing for an unknown time.

The Superintendent and the administration of the School District have conferred with the School Board regarding COVID-19 health and safety measures, the current CDC, MDE, and MDH requirements for each, and other relevant information that are included in this Plan.

The Superintendent will provide regular updates to the School Board regarding the School District's efforts to implement the Safe Learning Plan and the plan will be adjusted accordingly.

### **DISTRICT GOALS AND PRIORITIES IN REGARDS TO A SAFE LEARNING PLAN**

- Keep students in classrooms with school staff as much as possible (including avoiding isolations, quarantines, school cancellations or remote learning)
- Re-establish as much 'normalcy' in routines and student activities as possible.
- Protect students and staff from COVID-19/Delta or other variants – **especially to avoid in-school transmission**
- Prioritize protecting students who are unable to receive a COVID-19 vaccination
- Implement as many layers of COVID-19 mitigation strategies as possible.

<b>ISOLATION: FOR STUDENTS OR STAFF WHO TEST POSITIVE</b>	<p>IF the person is fever free for 24 hours (without fever reducing medication) and other symptoms are improving, the person may return to school on Day 6.</p> <p>If an individual has symptoms and is awaiting COVID-19 test results, the person may not come to school or activities.</p> <p>Individuals will often continue to test positive on Day 5. We encourage students/staff to test again on Day 5 or later to assure you are no longer likely to be able to spread COVID-19. If the individual has a positive test on Day 5, the person should isolate for the full 10 days.</p> <p>If students or staff return to school on days 6–10, the individual must be particularly intentional in keeping a well-fitting mask over his/her nose and mouth. The individual may be sent home for the duration of the 10-days if this expectation is not met.</p>
<b>CALCULATING NUMBER OF DAYS</b>	Day 0 is the day of a positive viral test. Day 1 is the first full day after the test specimen was collected. (Prior symptoms are not considered in isolation calculations.)
<b>ABSENCES</b>	A student or staff member who is ill and misses 3 or more consecutive days of school, will not be allowed to return until they have one of the following: a negative COVID-19 test, an alternate

	<p>diagnosis from a medical provider, or quarantine at home for a total of 5 days from the first day of school absence (return on Day 6).</p> <p>Absences in excess of 6 days may require a doctor's letter to verify the ongoing COVID-19 symptoms preventing school attendance or work attendance.</p>
<b>DAILY HEALTH SCREENING:</b>	<p>Students, staff, and visitors should stay home if experiencing <b>one</b> of the common symptoms below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fever of 100.4 or higher</li> <li>• A new persistent cough, or a cough that gets worse</li> <li>• Difficulty breathing</li> <li>• New loss of taste or smell</li> </ul> <p>Students, staff, and visitors should stay home if experiencing <b>2 or more</b> of the symptoms below</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sore throat</li> <li>• Nausea</li> <li>• Vomiting</li> <li>• Diarrhea</li> <li>• Chills</li> <li>• Muscle Pain</li> <li>• Excessive fatigue</li> <li>• New or severe headache</li> <li>• New nasal congestion or runny nose</li> </ul>
<b>CONTACT TRACING</b>	Contact tracing will not be conducted related to classes and/or activities.

<b>QUARANTINE (If you are exposed to a known positive case)</b>	<p><u>Individuals That are Fully Vaccinated* OR Have Tested Positive with COVID-19 within the Past 90 Days:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You do not need to stay home/quarantine unless you develop symptoms.</li> <li>• If you develop symptoms within 10 days, isolate and get tested. Stay home until you know the results.</li> <li>• Encouraged to test at least 5 days after last day of close contact.</li> <li>• Household contacts should mask for 10 days after exposure.</li> </ul> <p><u>Individuals that are not fully vaccinated and have not tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 90 days:</u></p> <p><u>Option 1:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must quarantine during the positive person's isolation period.</li> <li>• Individual may test on Day 5 or later and return with a negative result (from Day 5 or later) and are symptom free. Must wear a properly fitting mask through Day 10.</li> <li>• If the individual chooses not to test, the person may return on Day 11.</li> </ul> <p><u>Option 2:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test on days 0, 3, 5 after contact. May stay in school with proof of negative results.</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wear a properly fitting mask through Day 10.</li> </ul> <p><i>*Fully vaccinated means a person has received their primary series of COVID-19 vaccines.</i></p>
<b>COVID-19 Testing:</b>	Due to limited testing supplies and staffing, the district is only able to test symptomatic staff and students who are at school.
<b>MN State High School League Activities</b>	<p><b>MSHSL COVID Positive Requirements:</b></p> <p><b>Days 0-5:</b> Individual may not participate in practices or games.</p> <p><b>Days 6-10:</b> To participate in practices or contests on days 6-10, the individual must have lessening symptoms and be fever-free for at least 24 hours.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>During days 6-10, individuals must wear a well-fitting mask at all times, avoid travel and avoid being around people who are high risk. No mask is required if the participant has a negative PCR/NAAT test or antigen test.</li> </ul> <p><b>Days 11 and Beyond:</b> To participate in practices and contests and games without a mask on Day 11 and beyond:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The individual must have had no fever for at least 24 hours without using medicine that lowers fever, and</li> <li>It has been at least 10 days since they first experienced symptoms or tested positive, and,</li> <li>The symptoms of cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms are better.</li> </ul>

## **FACIAL COVERINGS INDOORS\*\***

- All **PK-12-staff are recommended to appropriately** wear a mask OR a face shield indoors unless in a room by themselves.
- PK –12 students are recommended to appropriately** wear a mask indoors during the school day (7:30am – 3:05pm) (see meal guidelines).
- Students in after school activities and visitors are strongly recommended to wear a mask or face shield. This includes athletics practices and competitions, and other school sponsored activities. Coaches will determine mask wearing requirements for athletes during practices and games to limit potential close contact quarantines. If a student who tested positive returns prior to 10-days (with a negative test), the student must wear a mask appropriately during after school practices. MN State High School League prohibits the student/athlete from competing in-person until after 10 days.
- Coaches will determine mask wearing requirements for athletes during practices and games.

**FACE MASK AVAILABILITY:** The school district is unable to provide students or staff a mask to wear every day. The district will provide a mask for occasional circumstances when a mask is forgotten or becomes unusable, but students and staff are generally responsible for having a mask available for use at all times. Offices may have masks for sale.

## **CLASSROOM COHORTS/PODS/CLASSES**

### PK, Elementary & Intermediate:

- While indoors, students remain in class pods as much as possible.
- Intervention and Special Education may have mixed groups with distancing within their classrooms. Grade level classrooms can mix outdoors for recess.

PK-12: Teachers must develop, and students adhere to seating charts for the purpose of contact tracing.

## **INSTRUCTION**

- K-6 students whose families prefer remote learning vs receiving instruction in classrooms with face to face learning will be able to enroll full-time for online instruction through our district. A L-A teacher will be the contact in daily communication with the student to assure daily attendance and course progression are happening.
- After it is determined that a student must quarantine, parents will receive a communication from each teacher by 4:00pm the following school day.
- Students who are absent from school for quarantines will have a “Continued Instruction Plan.” Teachers will determine most appropriate strategy(ies) to support student – may include live instruction from classroom, video recorded lessons, copies of class notes, assignments available vis Schoology or SeeSaw, etc.
- IEP Meetings – Parents may choose face-to-face vs. online or telephone meeting, but we will consider group size prior to scheduling a room (conference room at high school not conducive to most meetings)
- High School students participating in on-site work experience: The student must wear a mask while the district requires masking during the school day.

## **MEALS AND WATER PROTOCOLS**

### Elementary & Intermediate:

- Lunch: Classrooms will eat in the cafeteria and sit every other seat, but classrooms will be separated. We will follow grade level schedules for recess/lunch.

### High School:

- Water bottles may be used in classrooms.
- Breakfast and lunch in cafeteria.

## **SCHOOL BUS AND VAN TRANSPORTATION PROTOCOLS**

- Masks are recommended for all students and adults at all times on bus and van rides. No food or drink on buses.
- Buses are sanitized after morning route.
- Seating Charts are required. Buses at full capacity. Drivers that are not vaccinated must have 6ft distance from the driver. Vaccinated drivers can have full seat capacity.

## **ABSENCES, REPORTING SYMPTOMS IN THE CASE OF ABSENCES and COVID-19 TESTING:**

- Students and staff should stay home if they have signs of any infectious illness and should contact their health care provider for testing and care.
- Parents and staff must provide the office complete and accurate information for the purpose of an absence from school. Incomplete or inaccurate information may result in the absence being recorded as unexcused.
- If an unvaccinated student or staff is awaiting results from a COVID-19 test due to a possible exposure, the person may not be in school.
- Students and staff experiencing COVID like symptoms must stay home.

- If a staff member is required to quarantine, staff member must use paid or unpaid leave in accordance with his/her Work Agreement/Contract. Teaching from home will be allowed by administration only if there are circumstances of a whole class quarantine.

#### **VACCINATION VERIFICATION** (for purposes of determining masking and quarantine requirements)

- All staff are asked to provide School Nurse/Safe Schools Coordinator Michelle MacPherson a copy of their vaccination card, or show it to her.
- If the staff person does not do this, it is assumed the staff member is not fully vaccinated.

#### **HAND HYGIENE PRACTICES**

- Students and staff expected to sanitize upon entry to each building.
- Sanitization throughout the day is encouraged, especially when entering a new room or space.
- Students will wash hands prior to lunch.

#### **PHYSICAL/SOCIAL DISTANCING**

- All students and staff recommended to maintain a 3' distancing as much as possible throughout the day.

#### **CLEANING AND DISINFECTING**

- Classrooms and bathrooms will be cleaned and sanitized one time per day at the end of the school day.
- Lunch areas will be cleaned and/or sanitized between lunch sessions.
- Buses will be sanitized between morning and afternoon routes.

**VISITORS** Spectators of after school/evening indoor school events are encouraged to wear masks.

**VENTILATION** Air exchange practices in all buildings will continue as done in 2020-21.

#### **STAFF & PARENT ONGOING INPUT & RESPONDING TO CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES**

- Building principals are the first contact for staff, parent and student questions or concerns regarding COVID-19 protocols. These discussions may be held individually and also as a regular part of staff meetings.
- Superintendent is also available to address broader concerns and will have ongoing communication with principals regarding concerns brought to them.
- School Nurse/Safe and Healthy Schools Coordinator will review situations and determine quarantine requirements. She will also provide updates on COVID-19 case rate data and other relevant information at least bi-weekly.
- Superintendent, Building Principals and School Nurse will continue to monitor district and local COVID-19 case rate data, positive COVID-19 cases or any changes in COVID-19/Safe Learning guidance or mandates for schools.
- Superintendent will consult with School Board on any proposed significant changes to the Safe Learning Plan.