

**USD 331 Kingman-Norwich**  
**District *Draft* Plan for**  
**Safe Return to In-Person Instruction**  
**And**  
**Continuity of Services**

This plan will change and evolve as the 2021-2022 school year approaches and in response to county and state pandemic status.

**PART I.**

***Describe how the district will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff and the extent to which it has adopted policies, and a description of any such policies, on each of the following safety recommendations established by the CDC:***

**(A) Universal and correct wearing of masks.**

We will use a variety of factors to determine if masks are necessary for any of our students or staff. Decisions for mandating masks will be made by a vote of the Board of Education with input from the Kingman County Health Nurse, other county health officials, local doctors, and KDHE and CDC guidance.

**(B) Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding).**

The superintendent and district nurse will monitor the COVID-19 positivity rates and number of positive cases in our district and county to make decisions on implementing physical distancing. We will maintain smaller class sizes and organize classrooms and seating with distancing in mind. We will plan to only use plexiglass barriers in rooms where distancing is not possible due to size of the classroom or number of students necessary for the class or section.

**(C) Handwashing and respiratory etiquette.**

Students will wash hands regularly (several times a day), and before lunch and/or will use hand sanitizer on a regular basis throughout the day. Hand sanitizer stations will be maintained at every exterior door where students and staff regularly enter and exit. Sanitizer stations will also be set up at lunch lines for additional opportunities to sanitize. All classrooms will be continually stocked with sanitizer dispensers to make sure it is easily available to students in their rooms.

**(D) Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation.**

Desks will be cleaned and sanitized at least daily in elementary self-contained classrooms and between each period at middle school and high school levels. Students will spray their desk surface and seats before they leave to allow appropriate dwell time on surfaces for effective sanitizing to take place. Incoming students will be responsible for wiping down surfaces prior to sitting at desks or tables. High touch surfaces such as door knobs, water fountains, and handrails will be disinfected multiple times throughout the day by custodial staff. Fresh air intakes will be opened on applicable HVAC units to maximize ventilation.

**(E) Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments.**

We will follow all quarantine and isolation directives from our county health officer. In the event of a positive case of COVID-19, our health staff will conduct internal contact tracing. We will maintain close communication with the county health officer.

Vaccinated students and employees will be allowed to remain in school or at work even if they come into close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 Positive Case.

The Health Department will assist in making determination of who may qualify for our “Stay in School Option.” We will continue to implement our “Stay in School/at Work Protocol” for students and employees that are Not Vaccinated, where close contacts of confirmed COVID-19 Positive cases may choose to have submit to a BinaxNOW Rapid Nasal swab test each morning and if it is negative, if they desire to remain at school/work. Rapid tests will be performed each morning and if they are Negative, the close contact may remain in school/work. On or after Day 6 after exposure to the confirmed positive, a PCR Saliva test will be administered. If PCR comes back negative, then student or employee will not have any further tests.

**(F) Diagnostic and screening testing.**

We plan to provide diagnostic testing for students, teachers and staff. We plan to have platforms available to provide rapid COVID-19, rapid strep and rapid flu testing to students, teachers and staff who become symptomatic during the day.

Additionally, we plan to provide rapid COVID-19 testing for students, teachers and staff who are potentially exposed to COVID-19 or would like testing for any reason. COVID-19 rapid tests will be available for use by district health staff and trained administration. Permission will be obtained by parents of all students under 18 before a test is administered. Test can be requested by parents, and will be offered to parents if a student feels ill or is presenting symptoms.

**(G) Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities.**

We will continue to make our students and staff aware of opportunities to be vaccinated in our communities. We will work with local healthcare providers and the Kingman County Health Department to support the vaccination initiatives including hosting of clinics at the schools as needed and appropriate.

**(H) Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies.**

We will work with our special education staff to ensure that our identified special education students have full access to appropriate educational supports even if we are forced to alter our delivery model.

**(I) Coordination with State and local health officials.**

The superintendent will continue to monitor information available from KSDE and KDHE to ensure the district is ready for statewide changes to policies or recommendations. The superintendent will also communicate with the county health officer on a regular basis to monitor the current situation in the county and district.

## **Part II.**

***Describe how the district will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to:***

### **(A) services to address students' academic needs**

We have digital resources to support all core instructional needs as well as the ability to place devices in the hands of every student if we need to deliver remote learning or if a student is required to quarantine and learn from home. We have a number of internet hotspots that we check out to help with internet connectivity. If we need to transition to remote learning we are and will be prepared to do so on short notice for as long as necessary. Our goal will continue to prioritize in-person on-site learning within our schools. We will be prepared to implement our distancing model that was successful last year and all plexiglass partitions will be available to re-deploy in classrooms if that becomes necessary to keep students in-person. We would also shift to a model of maintaining stable groupings with less opportunity for mingling of groups of students if school gating criteria warrants this. All decisions will be made in collaboration with county health department personnel, the superintendent and with support of the 331 Board of Education.

### **(B) students' and staff social, emotional, mental health**

One of our many goals is to promote the social and emotional growth of students. The district's social-emotional curriculum aims to open conversations about life, college and career, and mental health.

We also recognize that COVID has been associated with an increase in mental health challenges.

We believe having open, honest conversations can help remove the stigma that is often associated with seeking help for mental health. Mental health is just as important as physical health if we want happy and fulfilling lives.

We hope students, teachers and staff as well as parents realize they are not alone as well as knowing what options they have for seeking help. Information and handouts from our community partners will be made readily available for those that want more mental health support going forward.

With the resources we have it will help us with coordinating and delivering instruction to students that intentionally focuses on social, emotional and mental health. Time is built into the schedules in each school building to address these important areas. Students and parents will also be informed and regularly reminded HOW to find answers and seek help for themselves.

**(C) other needs, which may include student health and food services.**

We have contingency plans and materials for quickly changing to grab and go meals if a shutdown is required. If the numbers of cases rise and we need to limit opportunities for students to interact, we will be able to transition to eating meals in classrooms again, as we did last school year.

Our district nurse along with building health aides will monitor student absenteeism and reasons to meet regularly with administration to quickly identify any type of student and staff health trends that are of concern.

All staff will need to continue to be vigilant in housekeeping, cleaning and sanitizing of the buildings. All need to do their part to maintain a safe and sanitary environment for both learning, socializing and participating in extracurricular activities and sports.