

Paxton Consolidated Schools Return to School Plan 2021-2022

The Return to School Plan included in this document is based on the following:

1. State health officials in partnership with the Nebraska Department of Education and the Governor's office have developed a color coded risk dial that will assist local school districts in assessing their current COVID-19 risk levels. The dial will also provide recommended actions aligned to each risk category (green, yellow, orange, red).
See Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department's website www.swhealth.ne.gov for public health information by county. Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department determines the risk level for each county.
2. A primary outcome for this plan is to keep students and staff in attendance at school for as long as we can provide a safe environment for teaching and learning.
3. A resurgence of the COVID-19 virus sometime during the 2021-2022 school year will likely require us to create new routines and procedures that integrate best practice health measures.

These procedures serve as general guidance and changes may need to occur quickly as conditions and information from the CDC and Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department warrant. Once we are moved into a new risk level we will stay there until notified by the Health Department. Parents will be notified via our Thrillshare system.

In the event of one or more confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the school of a student or staff member the school district will:

- immediately consult with the health department for guidance on operational procedures.
- communicate the situation with students, staff and parents through the school's messaging system.

Low Risk

Minimal cases of COVID-19 within the community.

Minimal impact on local healthcare system.

Viral and antibody testing is readily available.

There are effective treatment modalities for COVID-19 and an effective vaccine is widely available.

PPE is easily obtainable through standard supply chains.

- Wearing masks is optional.
- Handwashing and hand sanitizer are encouraged.
- Encourage temperature and health screens at home prior to attending school.
- Busing and transportation will remain normal.
- Students will not be allowed in the building until 7:45 AM with the exception of approved school sponsored activities.
- If ill with Flu-like or COVID-like symptoms, **Stay at Home**
- Breakfast and lunch will be in the cafeteria.
- Note: Activities will follow risk level procedures of the away school as not all schools may be operating under the same risk level guidelines. This includes athletes, coaches, managers and spectators. For example, if the school is completing temperature checks prior to attending the event, all athletes, coaches, managers and fans will be required to comply.

Moderate Risk

There is a downward trajectory in numbers of COVID positive cases OR percent positive cases due to community or regional spread.

There is a downward trajectory in levels of Flu-Like Symptoms OR COVID like syndromic cases.

There is limited community spread.

COVID has a small impact on the local healthcare system capacity.

PPE supplies are adequate for critical healthcare workers and community needs.

Rapid COVID testing is available for all suspected cases and focused asymptomatic surveillance.

Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department is able to conduct investigation and contact tracing for new cases and associated contacts without assistance.

Critical medical equipment is readily available.

- Wearing masks is encouraged but optional.
- 6 ft. Physical Distancing recommended. Avoid personal contact.
- Handwashing and hand sanitizer are recommended.
- Temperature checks for anyone entering the school will be done at the first point of contact.
- Students will not be allowed in the building until 7:45 AM with the exception of approved school sponsored activities. Students will be directed to go directly to their first period class or home room to promote and practice physical distancing recommendations.
- Seats will be assigned on the bus and in the classrooms.
- Designated entrances will be used: Entrances are now numbered!
 - Bus students: West **Entrance #9**
 - K-5: South Elementary **Entrance #11**
 - 6-8: East Entrance (by the Ag & MS Science/Social Studies Classrooms) **Entrance #3**
 - 9-12: South Entrance (by the main parking lot and the flag) **Entrance #2**
- Breakfast and lunch will be served in the cafeteria. Students will sit in designated areas.
- Field Trips will be limited.
- Students will not face each other while seated in a classroom.
- If a student/staff member comes in direct contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19, it is required that they get tested or quarantine for 14 days.
- Students or staff members who are not feeling well are encouraged to stay home.
- Students or staff members with a fever of 100.4 or greater will be required to leave the building.
- Students who have been sent home should be kept home until they have tested negative or have completely recovered according to CDC guidelines.
- *In the event that a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, contact tracing will occur. Students or staff who were not wearing masks would be asked to get tested or quarantine for 14 days. Students or staff who were wearing masks would be allowed to stay in school.*
- Cohorts or groups will be established to minimize contact among students and staff. For example, each elementary grade and each 6-12 class would be a cohort.
- Playground/Recess will be accessed by cohort.
- Students will clean/wipe down desks and workstations prior to leaving the classrooms.
- Staff will limit the use of shared supplies in each classroom.
- Parents are encouraged to pick up and drop off their children outside the school.
- Visitors are allowed in the school by appointment only.

Elevated Risk

There are increasing or high stable numbers of COVID positive cases OR percent positive cases due to community or regional spread

There is an increase in Flu-Like Symptoms OR COVID like syndromic cases.

Clusters or outbreaks exist that are still likely in their early stages, plans to quarantine students and staff are implemented with the consideration for digital learning.

There is only enough testing available for symptomatic people.

Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department must rely on assistance to conduct investigation for new cases and associated and contact tracing.

PPE supplies are only adequate for critical healthcare workers.

Critical medical equipment is in limited supply.

Guidelines for Elevated Risk are the same as for Moderate Risk except for the following:

- Wearing masks is required whenever 6 ft. physical distancing is not possible for 15 minutes or longer.
- Breakfast and lunch *may* be served in smaller groups such as in-classroom dining.
- Visitors are allowed, appointments are recommended. Restrictions may apply. Masks are required.
- Field trips and extracurricular activities may be suspended. All guidelines of the governing body of the activity (NSAA, FFA, etc.) will be followed in addition to DHM (Direct Health Measures) and Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department guidelines.

Severe Risk

Severe Risk is defined:

In-person school sessions suspended, digital learning endorsed amid concerns of increased risk of transmission and personnel shortages.

Widespread community or regional transmission of COVID-19

There is a significant increase in COVID positive cases OR percent positive cases which may potentially overwhelm the local healthcare system

There is a significant increase in Flu-Like symptoms and COVID-like syndromic cases which may potentially overwhelm the local healthcare system.

Hospitals are utilizing Surge Capacity.

There is an inadequate testing capacity for critical workers.

There is inadequate capacity to conduct investigation and contact tracing.

There are shortages of critical medical equipment or testing supplies, and PPE.

- Online/Remote learning will be the primary method of instructional delivery.
- Students needing additional support may be allowed in the building on a restricted basis following the directed health measure.

Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department Risk Dial. See website below for updates!

<https://www.swhealth.ne.gov/wellnessandprevention/coronavirus/>