

SAFE RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN

2021-2022

CEDAR BLUFFS PUBLIC SCHOOL



Created July 2021--Please note that this plan will be reviewed at least every six months and may be adjusted as new information/guidance becomes available.

Updated July 14, 2021

We hope you have had a rejuvenating summer and are ready to begin a successful school year.
Looking Forward to Back to School in 2021-2022!

The Cedar Bluffs Public Schools' COVID-19 Return to School Committee developed our initial COVID-19 safety protocols during the summer of 2020. This plan allowed us to successfully return in-person learning and remain in-person throughout the 2020-2021 school year.

This current plan was updated in July of 2021 for the 2021-2022 school year, based upon new guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Nebraska Association of Local Health Departments (NALHD), the Three Rivers Public Health Department (3RPHD), the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE), and the United States Department of Education. The format, components, and name have all been adjusted to meet the requirements set forth by the American Rescue Act (ARA). This plan was required to be published by July 15, 2021.

Planning Purpose:

The purpose of this Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Plan is to provide a framework for the safe return of students to Cedar Bluffs Public Schools' facilities in a manner that maximizes student safety and learning.

This plan is dynamic in nature, meaning that it can be adapted and updated throughout the pandemic, based upon COVID incidences within our community and guidance from local, State and Federal government and health officials.

Components:

This plan addresses all the components required by the American Rescue Plan, including:

- Wearing of Face Coverings
- Social Distancing
- Hand Hygiene
- Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities, Including Improving Ventilation
- Contact Tracing - Isolation and Quarantine
- Screening for COVID Symptoms
- COVID Immunizations
- Appropriate accommodations for Children with Disabilities
- Coordination with State and Local Health Officials
- Ensuring Continuity of Services
- Consideration of Public Comment

COVID-19 Health and Safety Protocols & In Person Learning

Wearing of Face Coverings:

- Masks are optional
- Face coverings are not required but encouraged for staff and students who have not been vaccinated.
- Face coverings may be worn by those who feel more comfortable doing so.
- Face coverings will not be required in any educational space or activity including *school buses*, athletics, etc. *(As of July 14th, we are still waiting on clarity for whether a school bus is considered a "public transit" and must comply with CDC order regarding wearing masks on all public transits).*
- Face coverings are supported if individuals choose or need to wear them, and CBPS will support this choice and work through each situation.

Social Distancing:

- Social distancing (maintaining 3 feet) is encouraged and where practical will be supported.
- Physical barriers (plexiglass) may be used for additional protection if so desired by staff in the classrooms.
- Eating in classrooms or outside may continue to support social distancing where appropriate.
- Visitors will be permitted in schools as they were pre-COVID. Face coverings will not be required for visitors; however, they may wear one if they are more comfortable doing so.

Hand Hygiene:

- CBPS will continue to encourage good hand hygiene, such as reminding students to wash hands after using the restroom, before meals, etc., and provide access to hand sanitizer.
- Proper handwashing, cough and sneeze etiquette will be taught, reinforced, and monitored.

Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities, Including Improving Ventilation:

- Facilities rentals will resume as normal.
- Field trips, including out-of-state trips, will resume in 2021-2022.
- The circulation of outdoor air within district buildings, via mechanical systems, will continue to be increased. Air filters will be changed routinely.
- CBPS has installed UV lighting in roughly 60% of all HVAC units at the school to increase disinfection. This process will continue where applicable.
- High touch areas will be cleaned frequently and routinely.
- Shared supplies and equipment will be sanitized regularly.

Contract Tracing - Quarantine and Isolation:

- Three Rivers Health has discontinued contract tracing and quarantine for close exposures.
- Students and staff who are sick must stay home and be fever free for 24 hours (without medication) before returning to school.
- Students and staff will be encouraged to test for COVID if exhibiting symptoms.
- If students or staff are COVID positive, they must isolate 10 days.
- Students will continue to be excused for COVID related absences with documentation.

Screening for COVID Symptoms:

- CBPS encourages all parents to screen their child before sending them to school.
- Students and Staff will not have temperatures taken while entering the building.
- Staff will continue to take temperatures of those with symptoms to share with parents and if over 100 degrees will be sent home.
- If there is a confirmed positive case of COVID in a student's or staff's household, CBPS encourages that student or staff to wear a face covering while at school.

COVID Immunizations:

- CBPS will continue to provide information to the community about COVID immunization opportunities as a courtesy for those who wish to access the vaccine. However, the COVID immunization will not be required for staff or students.
- CBPS staff will continue to be encouraged to receive their vaccination, however, that will not be mandatory. As of August 2021, roughly 83% of CBPS staff are vaccinated.
- Families will continue to be encouraged to receive their vaccination, however, that will not be mandatory.
- If a staff member or student is immunocompromised and unable to receive the COVID vaccine, there will be a process for them to request an accommodation. For example, if a teacher is immunocompromised and unable to receive the vaccine, that teacher may have the option to ask their students to wear masks while in the classroom with them. This will enable the educator to continue to teach in person.
- CBPS will continue to monitor information regarding vaccinations and provide updates to students, staff and our community as needed.

Appropriate accommodations for Children with Disabilities:

- Students IEP's and 504 Plans will be followed. These may include accommodations that apply to the health and safety of students relative to COVID.
- Students with underlying health conditions may participate in remote learning or other alternative learning modes as determined by the 504 team and with appropriate medical documentation.

Coordination with State and Local Health Officials:

- CBPS will continue to collaborate with our local and State health department on a regular basis, monitoring case levels and new guidance and may implement or revise strategies as necessary.
- This plan will be reviewed at least once every 6 months, per ARA requirements and our parents and community will be given opportunities to provide input.

Ensuring Continuity of Services:

- CBPS's goal is to continue to provide in person learning to all students, addressing their academic, social, emotional, and mental health within our school. We will return to a regular school year that follows our normal curriculum, instruction and assessment cycle that follows our regular calendar year.
- CBPS has developed a comprehensive PK-12 plan, including interventions and supplemental services for all students based on need and ensures equitable access for all students.

Thank you for your ongoing patience and partnership as we have navigated the COVID pandemic. We are looking forward to providing our students and staff with much more normalcy in the coming school year.