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Newkirk Public Schools

Return to Learn Plan

2021-2022 School Year
Board Approved 9/13/2021



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Introduction

COVID-19 is mostly spread by respiratory droplets released when people talk, cough, or sneeze. It is thought that the virus may spread to hands from a contaminated surface and then to the nose or mouth, causing infection. Therefore, personal prevention practices (such as handwashing, staying home when sick, and environmental cleaning and disinfection) are important principles. Fortunately, there are a number of actions school administrators can take to help lower the risk of COVID-19 exposure and spread during school sessions and activities. This plan considers and implements many practices designed to keep NPS a safe educational environment.

Newkirk Public Schools would like to thank the members of our Return to Learn Committee for their time and support in the development of our Return to Learn Plan. We had many families that participated in our Return to Learn survey which provided a wealth of knowledge that went into consideration as we developed this plan.

The Newkirk Public Schools Return to Learn Plan is based on the following public health assumptions (subject to change):

- Public Health
 - Limit exposure where possible (social distancing)
 - Staff and student face coverings are allowed
 - Symptom screening expectations
 - Hand-washing and hygiene protocols
 - Group gathering limitations
 - Additional cleaning protocols will be required

This is a fluid plan and NPS will adjust as the year goes depending on the need. The information below is meant to serve as an initial plan for the start of school but is subject to change.

Learning Strategy

Students will receive on-campus classes and face-to-face instruction from teachers daily. For easy transition to distance learning in case of quarantined students or staff members we will utilize our online learning management system on regular school days. NPS will utilize Google Classroom as our learning management system from third grade through twelfth grade. Our PK classes through second grade will use Seesaw as our learning management system.

Newkirk Public Schools
Daily COVID-19 School Attendance Questionnaire

In an effort to prevent possible exposure of staff and students to COVID-19, you are requested to review the following questions each morning and PRIOR to your child riding a school bus or entering school.

1. Does your child have a fever of 100 degrees¹ or more?
2. Is your child experiencing (a) a new loss of taste or smell, (b) nausea or vomiting, OR (c) diarrhea?
3. Is your child experiencing three or more of the following symptoms of COVID-19?
 - Chills
 - Cough
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
4. Is your child experiencing **ANY** of the **Emergency Warning Symptoms** of COVID-19?
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
 - New confusion
 - Inability to wake or stay awake
 - Bluish lips or face
5. Has your child had, or do you think your child has, COVID-19?
6. Has your child tested positive for COVID-19?
7. Has your child been around a person with COVID-19?

If the answer to any of these questions is “YES,” **YOUR CHILD SHOULD REMAIN AT HOME** and you should contact the attendance clerk at your child’s school by phone or email. Students remaining home as a result of COVID-19 concerns will not be penalized regarding absences, assignments, or tests.

If your child is showing any of the **Emergency Warning Signs** listed in Question 4, **seek emergency medical care immediately**.

If your answer to Question 5, 6, OR 7 is “YES,” please contact your physician and the Kay County Health Department at 580-762-1641 for specific guidance.

¹ This temperature is set per the OSDE *Return to Learn Oklahoma*, June 2020.

Additional Protocols Due to the Covid-19 Virus

Daily Screenings: We are asking parents to daily screen their child(ren) using the School Attendance Questionnaire on the previous page to help ensure we have a safe environment for all students and staff. We will **not** be conducting temperature checks on buses or in classrooms. We are relying on parents to use the attendance questionnaire and not give their child fever reducing medication in the morning prior to sending to school.

Masks: Students and staff members will **not** be required to wear masks unless mandated by the Oklahoma State Department of Education. Students and staff members **are allowed** to wear masks. If masks are worn they will be required to be worn as recommended by the CDC covering the nose and the mouth.

Social Distancing: Every site is different and is planning on having procedures in place to help with social distancing. In a traditional five day a week school setting it will be very difficult for NPS to keep CDC guidelines for social distancing in place for all students and staff.

Sanitation: It is important to teach children proper hygiene all the time, but especially to remind them about good habits during a public health crisis like COVID-19. One habit is proper handwashing. According to the CDC guidelines, follow these five steps every time you wash your hands.

1. Wash your hands with clean running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap and apply soap.
2. Lather your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Lather the backs of your hands between your fingers, and under your nails.
3. Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the “Happy Birthday” song from beginning to end twice.
4. Rinse your hands well under clean, running water.
5. Dry your hands using a clean towel.

Newkirk Public Schools will have new specifications for sanitation which includes disinfecting buses, classrooms, halls, lockers, common areas and other high traffic areas on a frequent basis (ranging from daily to twice a week) depending on necessity.

Transportation: Due to the lack of bus drivers and the difficulty of creating multiple routes, we might not be able to decrease the number of students riding the bus each day. Students will be encouraged to social distance on buses when possible.

- The transportation department supports students by providing safe and timely transport services for eligible riders attending on-site programs whether the education model is traditional or blended. The district continues to serve special education and out of district students' needs.

- Transportation department will open school bus windows, whenever possible, to increase the flow of fresh air.
- Newkirk Public Schools will practice social distancing on buses to the greatest extent possible, such as sitting siblings together.
- Newkirk Public Schools will follow cleaning and disinfecting protocols following student pick up and drop offs.

Fever Protocol: If we have a student/staff member that has a temperature of 100 degrees or more they will be immediately isolated and sent home.

- Students or staff members that are sent home with a temperature will be allowed to return after 36 hours fever free without fever reducing medication and passing the attendance questionnaire.

Covid-19 Testing:

- Newkirk Family Health Center/Kay County Health Department can test for COVID-19 (Ponca City Urgent Care can rapid test). Parents **will be** responsible for the fee associated with a COVID-19 test. Parents are **not** mandated to have a sick child tested but a student may not return to NPS until they have been fever free for 36 hours without fever reducing medication and should pass the attendance questionnaire.
- If there is a negative test for Covid-19 the individual may return after no fever for 36 hours with no fever reducing medication and should pass the attendance questionnaire.
- Positive Covid-19 individual(s) are recommended to stay home for 10 days from their test date and may return after 10 days once they have been fever free for 36 hours without fever reducing medication and pass the attendance questionnaire.
 - Covid-19 at the Elementary: Students exposed should be sent home for 10 days. Seesaw (PK-2), Google Classroom (3-5) and/or packets will be used for virtual instruction during this quarantine.
 - Covid-19 at the Middle School: Students exposed should be sent home for 10 days. Google classroom will be the virtual instruction opportunity for these identified students.
 - Covid-19 at the High School: Students exposed should be sent home for 10 days. Google classroom will be the virtual instruction opportunity for these identified students.
- Immunizations
 - Students or staff members that have received all required immunizations for Covid-19 will not be contact traced if they provide proof of aforementioned immunizations. If an individual has tested positive they can not be contact traced for the next 3 months or 90 days. These specifications are based on current CDC guidelines and are subject to change.
 - Contact traced individual(s) will have 2 recommended options:

- Option 1: Stay home for 10 days from the last date of exposure and may return to school if they have had NO symptoms for the 10 day quarantine.
- Option 2: Stay home for 7 days from the last date of exposure and may return to school if they have had NO symptoms for the 7 day quarantine and a negative test on day 5, 6 or 7.


Special Education

- Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities will be implemented according to safety and health policies.


Athletics and Extracurricular Activities

- Procedures for athletics and extracurricular activities will be followed in conjunction with recommendations from OSSAA and our local health professionals. Information about practices and precautions will be communicated through each activity sponsor or department. Our events could be impacted by policies and positive COVID-19 cases in other districts.

District Wide Response Plan According to COVID-19 Pandemic Level:

 **Green Plan:** During the green plan Newkirk will operate as stated throughout this plan with the school operating as intended. We will coordinate with local health officials and could change this plan depending on their recommendations and the exposure levels at NPS.

- Positive COVID-19 and/or contact trace case(s) will be managed by local health department recommendations.
 - Contact tracing is where the local health department recommends quarantining an individual for 10 days because they were in proximity to or in contact with someone that tested positive. The length of time can be shortened as stated above under the Covid-19 Testing section.
- School is open with COVID-19 well-being protocols in place

 **Red Plan:** During the red plan Newkirk will send students home for distance learning and staff members will distance teach and perform their professional duties. If Newkirk Public Schools can not operate effectively due to absences from students or staff members then the red plan will be implemented. We will coordinate with local health officials and could change this plan depending on their recommendations and the exposure levels at NPS.

- Newkirk Public Schools will enter back into the green plan when the school can operate efficiently with students and staff members that are able to return to the normal school setting.

Communication: Newkirk Public Schools' communication plan aims to inform, engage, and inspire all stakeholders and the community, no matter the environment. Whether functioning in a Green or Red plan the district will continue to keep NPS employees, its families and students, and the extended community informed.

- **External Communications:**
 - External communication will be situationally responsive. Major announcements and day-to-day messaging for the community (families, students, employees, community members, and others) will include emails, website postings, phone messaging, and social media.
 - Weekly updates on Covid-19 cases and contact traced cases will be posted on the school website under the Covid Reporting tab and can be found at this address:
 - https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/1501379/COVID_19.pdf
 - In response to a shift from Green plan or Red plan we will communicate with parents and staff members with an all-call, website post and Facebook page post.