

School Communicable Disease Management Plan

School Year 2023-2024



Joseph School District

School/District/Program Information


District or Education Service District Name and ID: Joseph School District 2219

School or Program Name: Joseph School District

Contact Name and Title: Lance Homan

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Table 1.

	<p>Policies, protocols, procedures and plans already in place Provide hyperlinks to any documents or other resources currently utilized in your school/district. Consider adding a brief description about how each is used within your school.</p>
<p>School District Communicable Disease Management Plan OAR 581-022-2220</p>	<p>Joseph SD Communicable Disease Plan</p>
<p>Exclusion Measures Exclusion of students and staff who are diagnosed with certain communicable diseases OAR 333-019-0010</p>	<p>Investigation and control of disease. District policies and procedures incorporate a layered approach to identifying, monitoring, and mitigating outbreaks of communicable diseases working closely with LPHA. ODE Guidance</p>
<p>Isolation Space Requires a prevention-oriented health services program including a dedicated space to isolate sick students and to provide services for students with special health care needs. OAR 581-022-2220</p>	<p>Joseph SD Communicable Disease & Plan- Includes Isolation plan</p>
<p>Emergency Plan or Emergency Operations Plan OAR 581-022-2225</p>	<p>Joseph School Districts Emergency Operation Plan (Procedures) is housed at the district office.</p>
<p>Additional documents reference here:</p>	<p>Regularly scheduled consultation & coordination with Wallowa Counties Local Health Officer, Dr. Elizabeth</p>



SECTION 1. Clarifying Roles and Responsibilities

Identifying roles central to communicable disease management. Clarifying responsibilities related to communicable disease response is a first step in keeping communities healthy and safe. In general, decisions of school health and safety reside with school and district officials. Together with local public health officials, school/district administrators should consult a variety of individuals when making decisions about health and safety in school.

Table 2. Roles and Responsibilities

School planning team members	Responsibilities:	Primary Contact (Name/Title):	Alternative Contact:
Building Lead / Administrator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educates staff, families, and students on policies regarding visitors and volunteers, ensuring health and safety are being maintained. • In consultation with district leadership and LPHA staff, determines the level and type of response that is required/necessary. • Acts as key spokesperson to communicate health-related matters within school community members, health partners, and other local partners. 	<p>Lance Homan, Superintendent</p> <p>Lance Homan, Superintendent</p>	<p>Jason Gorham, Principal</p> <p>Jason Gorham, Principal</p>
School Safety Team Representative (<i>or staff member knowledgeable about risks within a school, emergency response, or operations planning</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trains staff at the start of the academic year and at periodic intervals on communicable disease management procedures. • Leads debrief of communicable disease events, informing continuous improvement of the planning, prevention, response, and recovery system. 	Lance Homan, Superintendent	Jason Gorham, Principal

School planning team members	Responsibilities:	Primary Contact (Name/Title):	Alternative Contact:
Health Representative <i>(health aid, administrator, school/district nurse, ESD support)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports building lead/administrator in determining the level and type of response that is necessary. • Reports to the LPHA any cluster of illness among staff or students. • Provides requested logs and information to the LPHA in a timely manner. 	Lance Homan, Superintendent	Jason Gorham, Principal
School Support Staff as needed <i>(transportation, food service, maintenance/custodial)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advises on prevention/response procedures that are required to maintain student services. 	Lance Homan, Superintendent	Jason Gorham, Principal
Communications Lead <i>(staff member responsible for ensuring internal/external messaging is completed)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensures accurate, clear, and timely information is communicated including those who may have been exposed, a description of how the school is responding, and action community members can take to protect their health. • Shares communications in all languages relevant to the school community. 	Lance Homan, Superintendent	Jason Gorham, Principal
District Level Leadership Support <i>(staff member in which to consult surrounding a communicable disease event)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has responsibility over response during periods of high transmission. May act as school level support to Building lead/Administrator activating a scaled response. • Responds to media inquiries during the communicable disease event and ensures that those responsible for communication are designated speakers. 	Lance Homan, Superintendent	Jason Gorham, Principal

School planning team members	Responsibilities:	Primary Contact (Name/Title):	Alternative Contact:
Main Contact within Local Public Health Authority (LPHA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notifies Building Lead/Administrator of communicable disease outbreak and offers recommendations for appropriate response. • Key spokesperson to communicate on health-related matters with community members, health facility staff, and other local community partners. 	Dr. Powers Local Health Officer	
Others as identified by team	communicable diseases School Specific Response Consultation	Lance Homan Superintendent Joseph School District	



Section 2. Equity and Mental Health

Preparing a plan that centers equity and supports mental health

Preparing a school to manage communicable diseases requires an inclusive and holistic approach to protect access to in-person learning for all students. In this section suggested resources are offered to help prepare for communicable diseases management while centering an equitable and caring response.

Centering Equity

Identify existing district or school plans and tools that can be utilized when centering equity in prevention, response, and recovery from incidents of communicable diseases (e.g., district or school equity plans/stances/lenses/decision tools, Equity Committee or Team protocols, district or school systems for including student voice, existing agreements or community engagement or consultation models, Tribal Consultation¹, etc.)

- [Equity Decision Tools](#) for School Leaders

¹ Tribal Consultation is a separate process from stakeholder engagement; consultation recognizes and affirms tribal rights of self-government and tribal sovereignty, and mandates state government to work with American Indian nations on a [government-to-government](#) basis.

Table 3. Centering Equity

OHA/ODE Recommendation(s)	Response:
<p>Describe how you identify those in your school setting that are disproportionately impacted by communicable diseases and which students and families may need differentiated or additional support.</p>	<p>Joseph School District is a small rural school with approximately 4 students k-8. Due to the district's size, individual relationships are the starting place for the staff to identify students who need differentiated or additional support for various reasons including a disproportionate impact any communicable disease.</p>
<p>Describe the process by which the school will implement a differentiated plan for those that are disproportionately impacted, historically underserved or at higher risk of negative impacts or complications related to communicable diseases.</p>	<p>Due to Joseph's size, individual plans are provided for each student.</p>
<p>What support, training or logistics need to be in place to ensure that the named strategies are understood, implemented, and monitored successfully?</p>	<p>Joseph School District has a professional development calendar established that focuses on student success. Training and regularly scheduled collaboration time focus on student interventions and ensuring all students have access to supports needed to be successful.</p> <p>The Joseph SD teacher and administration are involved in all county-wide training.</p>

Mental Health Supports

Schools are encouraged to continue to prioritize cultivating care, connection, and community to support the mental, emotional, and social health and well-being of students, families, staff, and administrators.

Identify existing district or school plans and tools that can be utilized in supporting student and staff wellbeing and mental health during prevention, response, and recovery from incidents (e.g., counseling services; partnerships with community mental and behavioral health providers; school district suicide prevention, intervention, and post-vention plan; School Based Health Center resources; tribal resources, etc.)

- Joseph School District Suicide Prevention Plan
- Wallowa County Mental Health Resource List
- School based mental health counselors

Table 4. Mental Health Supports

OHA/ODE Recommendation(s)	Response:
Describe how you will devote time for students and staff to connect and build relationships.	<p>Joseph School District is a small rural school with a low student to teacher ratio, which allows teachers and staff to build relationships with each student and family.</p> <p>Routines are built into the school day/week to ensure time for connection. Students at the elementary level eat breakfast in the classroom which supports connection and relationship building. Morning announcements, “family groups, monthly assemblies, and more further that time for connection.</p> <p>Many family activities are planned throughout the year for parents and students to attend. The school is very much the center of the community.</p>

OHA/ODE Recommendation(s)	Response:
<p>Describe how you will ensure class time, and individual time if needed, for creative opportunities that allow students and staff to explore and process their experiences.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Joseph School District focuses on care and connection with students every day. Morning announcements, “family groups, monthly assemblies, and more further that time for connection. ▪ Teachers and prevention specialists have planned activities in the classroom that focus on building relationships, building social emotional skills and ensuring students feel comfortable and know how to access resources if they need additional help and assistance.
<p>Describe how you will link staff, students and families with culturally relevant health and mental health services and supports.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Joseph School District sends out communication in numerous methods to ensure families have access to options and services that are available. Examples include having an updated website, a facebook page, phone messenger and various other methods from the teacher. ▪ The mental health counselor coordinates to ensure students have access to the proper level of support both in and outside of school.
<p>Describe how you will foster peer/student lead initiatives on wellbeing and mental health.</p>	<p>The student group in Joseph functions much like a family. The students use the word “family” to describe their school environment. The small student base allows for each kid to be seen and their needs to be addressed both by peers and by staff.</p>



Section 3. Communicable Diseases Outbreak Prevention, Response & Recovery: Implementing mitigation activities, responding to periods of increased transmission, resuming baseline level mitigation, and debriefing actions to improve the process

Planning for and implementing proactive health and safety mitigation measures assists schools in reducing Communicable Diseases transmission within the school environment for students, staff, and community members. Communicable Diseases will continue to circulate in our communities and our schools for the indefinite future. Schools will utilize different mitigation measures based on Communicable Diseases transmission within their facilities and communities. In the following section, teams will document their school’s approach to the CDC, OHA and ODE advised health and safety measures at baseline, during increased communicable Diseases transmission, and as they roll back the increased mitigating measures, incorporating lessons learned.

Table 5. Communicable Diseases Mitigating Measures

OHA/ODE Recommendation(s) Layered Health and Safety Measures	BASELINE MEASURES: describe what mitigating measures will the school implement all of the time, each and every day of the school year to reduce the spread of Communicable Diseases And protect in-person instruction?
Face Coverings	Joseph School District works closely with our Local Health Officer regarding the need to wear face coverings. Students and staff are not currently required by the state to wear face coverings, however, they may make the choice to do so and that choice is welcomed by the school. Joseph School District has established an environment where an individual's choice is respected. Face coverings are available at the entrance to each building.
Isolation	Joseph has an isolation room established in each building that is monitored by office staff. These staff members are trained on isolation protocols.
Symptom Screening	Teachers will be responsible for monitoring their own classrooms for any students with symptoms. If they have sick or symptomatic students they will send them to the main office to be screened. If symptoms are present, students will be placed in the isolation room and parents will be contacted. In addition, parents will be encouraged to screen their children and to keep them home if they have Communicable Diseases symptoms.
Communicable Diseases Testing	Individuals responsible for their own testing/screening.

OHA/ODE Recommendation(s) Layered Health and Safety Measures	BASELINE MEASURES: describe what mitigating measures will the school implement all of the time, each and every day of the school year to reduce the spread of Communicable Diseases And protect in-person instruction?
Airflow and Circulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Regular service checks of the HVAC system are completed to optimize ventilation. Checks will ensure the system is meeting code requirements, providing acceptable indoor air quality as defined by ASHRAE Standard 62.1 for the current occupancy level for each space in the school. ▪ Administration will educate school staff on the importance of increasing ventilation and outdoor air supply by opening windows and doors. Outdoor spaces will be utilized when it is possible and conducive to learning.
Cohorting	Due to the small size of the school, natural cohorting occurs within grade levels. In the elementary, there is one classroom per grade level creating clear cohorts. The middle and high school have schedules that create natural cohorting for both junior high and high school students.
Hand Washing	Proper handwashing procedure will be posted throughout restrooms at Joseph School District and will be encouraged frequently.
Cleaning and Disinfection	<p>Surfaces will be cleaned daily at Joseph School District to reduce the risk of germs spreading by touching surfaces.</p> <p>When a communicable disease is reported in the school building the infected areas will be cleaned and disinfected within 24 hours.</p>
Training and Public Health Education	Joseph School District meets monthly with the Local Health Officer and other county school districts to review local communicable diseases data. In this meeting mitigating efforts are discussed and adjustments are made if necessary. When new or changing information needs to be communicated to families it is sent out in a coordinated effort county wide to all the school families through various means. Information is communicated from each school district, the ESD and the medical community. If an outbreak or changes are isolated to the Joseph School District, the information is sent only to Joseph families. If there is an outbreak, the Joseph School District utilizes a phone tree, facebook, written letters and/or the website to communicate with parents and families. These communications are meant to provide clarity and supporting materials to community members about the outbreak in the school and specific health and safety protocols in place.

Table 6.

Communicable Diseases Mitigating Measures

<p>OHA/ODE Recommendation(s) Layered Health and Safety Measures</p>	<p>MEASURES DURING PERIODS OF HIGH TRANSMISSION*: describe what mitigating measures the school will implement during periods of high transmission to reduce the spread of Communicable Diseases and protect in- person learning? *Within the community, high transmission is defined at the county level through CDC Communicable Diseases Community Levels. Within a school, high transmission may be defined as high absenteeism or unusual spread within a cohort (e.g., a large outbreak in a classroom).</p>
	<p>During periods of high transmission Joseph School District will continue to advertise the location of resources from the LPHP.</p>
<p>Face Coverings</p>	<p>Joseph School District works closely with the Local Health Officer and other county schools regarding mitigation efforts during periods of high transmission. When face coverings are recommended, this is communicated to families, but not required unless required by the state. Students and staff are welcome to wear masks any time.</p>
<p>Isolation</p>	<p>Per OAR 581-022-2220 schools must maintain space which isolates the sick or injured. During periods of high transmission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ As needed, additional spaces will be identified for isolation use during an active outbreak. ▪ Staff will have refresher training on isolation protocols for sick students and staff identified at the time of arrival or during the school day. Individuals with communicable diseases symptoms will be isolated, offered a test, and sent home.
<p>Symptom Screening</p>	<p>During periods of high transmission: Administration will communicate with families about the active outbreak or communicable diseases or other infectious disease. In family communications these messages will be reinforced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Watch for symptoms of infectious disease, including COVID-19, influenza, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and gastrointestinal infections. If symptoms are present students should stay home. ▪ Staying home when sick can lower the risk of spreading communicable diseases to other people. ▪ The school has adopted flexible, non-punitive, and supportive policies and practices, designed to encourage sick individuals to stay home without negative impacts. ▪ During periods of high transmission administration will review the screening protocol with staff on identifying symptoms of illness associated with communicable disease and asked them to

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	<p>monitor themselves and students daily. If symptoms are present, students will be placed in the isolation room and parents will be contacted.</p>
Airflow and Circulation	<p>During periods of high transmission, administration will re-educate school staff on the importance increasing ventilation and outdoor air supply by opening windows and doors. To the greatest extent possible, outdoor spaces will be utilized for breaks, lunches, and learning.</p>
Cohorting ²	<p>Due to the small size of the school, natural cohorting occurs within grade levels. In the elementary, there is one classroom per grade level creating clear cohorts. The middle and high school have schedules that create natural cohorting for both junior high and high school students.</p> <p>During periods of high transmission shared common areas, lunch and recess will be evaluated to determine if schedules need to be adjusted to decrease the spread of communicable diseases.</p> <p>During periods of high transmission, the school will monitor the percentage of students/staff absent within each classroom and within the school. When respiratory disease thresholds are met, administration will be notified. Communication with the Local Health Officer will determine if additional action is needed based on local communicable diseases numbers and students absent from school with symptoms.</p>
Hand Washing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Proper handwashing procedure will be posted throughout restrooms at Joseph School District and will be encouraged frequently. Teachers will monitor students to encourage handwashing before entering the classroom, and before and after mealtimes. ▪ Staff will reteach proper <u>handwashing</u> and covering <u>coughs</u> and <u>sneezes</u>. ▪ Alcohol based hand sanitizer will be available at the entrance to buildings and in classrooms.

² Cohorting refers to establishing a consistent group of students that stay together for a significant portion of the school day. Examples include stable mealtime cohorts, classrooms, table groups, lunch bunches, and other group situations. Cohorts should be as small as feasible to minimize exposure.

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<p>Cleaning and Disinfection</p>	<p>Surfaces will be cleaned daily at Joseph School District to reduce the risk of germs spreading by touching surfaces. Whenever there is a positive communicable disease case in the school building the infected areas will be cleaned and disinfected within 24 hours.</p>
<p>Training and Public Health Education</p>	<p>During periods of high transmission, meetings with the Local Health Officer and other county school districts are increased from monthly to weekly to review local communicable diseases data. In this meeting mitigating efforts are discussed and adjustments are made if necessary. When new or changing information needs to be communicated to families it is sent out in a coordinated effort county wide to all the school families in various means. Information is communicated from each school district, the ESD and the medical community. If an outbreak or changes are isolated to only the Joseph School District, the information is sent only to Joseph families. If there is an outbreak, Joseph School District utilizes school messenger (a phone system), facebook, written letters and/or the website to communicate with parents and families. These communications are meant to provide clarity and supporting materials to community members about the outbreaks in the school and specific health and safety protocols in place.</p>

Table 7.

Communicable Diseases Mitigating Measures

<p>OHA/ODE Recommendation(s) Layered Health and Safety Measures</p>	<p>STEPS FOR GRADUAL RETURN TO BASELINE RESPONSE: describe how does the school will gradually return to a baseline response. Describe how the school team will decide what measure(s) should remain at an increased level which others may not, prioritizing some measure(s) over others. How does the school reduce or make permanent implementation of enhanced mitigation measures once high transmission has ended?</p>
<p>Face Coverings</p>	<p>Joseph School District works closely with the Local Health Officer and other county schools regarding mitigation efforts during periods of high transmission. When face coverings are recommended, this is communicated to families, but not required unless required by the state. As transmission rates decrease, communication will be sent to families regarding the current communicable diseases status in the community and changes in recommendations on mitigating factors. Students and staff are welcome to wear masks any time. Face coverings are available at the entrance to each building.</p>
<p>Isolation</p>	<p>Joseph School District has an isolation space that is monitored by office staff. These staff members are trained on isolation protocols. During high transmission rates, extra isolation space is identified and as the school returns to the baseline, the isolation space will return to the one consistent isolation space.</p>
<p>Symptom Screening</p>	<p>Teachers will be responsible for monitoring their own classrooms for any students with symptoms. If they have sick or symptomatic students they will send them to the main office to be screened. If symptoms are present, students will be placed in the isolation room and parents will be contacted.</p> <p>In addition, parents will be encouraged to keep their children home if they have communicable diseases symptoms.</p>
<p>Airflow and Circulation</p>	<p>Updates to ventilation system and airflow circulation within Joseph school District began over the summer of 2022 and will continue through the 2022-2023 school year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Regular service checks of the HVAC system are completed to optimize ventilation. Checks will ensure the system is meeting code requirements, providing acceptable indoor air quality as defined by ASHRAE Standard 62.1 for the current occupancy level for each space in the school. ▪ Administration will educate school staff on the importance of increasing ventilation and outdoor air supply by opening windows and doors. Outdoor spaces will be utilized when it is possible and conducive to learning.

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Cohorting	Due to the small size of the school, natural cohorting occurs within grade levels. In the elementary, there is one classroom per grade level creating clear cohorts. The middle and high school have schedules that create natural cohorting for both junior high and high school students.
Hand Washing	Proper handwashing procedure will be posted throughout restrooms at Joseph School District and will be encouraged frequently.
Cleaning and Disinfection	<p>Surfaces will be cleaned daily at Joseph School District to reduce the risk of germs spreading by touching surfaces.</p> <p>Whenever there is a positive communicable diseases case in the school building the infected areas will be cleaned and disinfected within 24 hours.</p>
Training and Public Health Education	As transmission rates decrease, meetings with the Local Health Officer and other county school districts will decrease to monthly or bi-weekly if needed to review local communicable diseases data. In this meeting mitigating efforts are discussed and adjustments are made if necessary. When new or changing information needs to be communicated to families it is sent out in a coordinated effort county wide to all the school families in various means. Information is communicated from each school district, the ESD and the medical community. If an outbreak or changes are isolated to only the Joseph School District, the information is sent only to Joseph families. If there is an outbreak, Joseph School District utilizes school messenger (a phone system), facebook, written letters and/or the website to communicate with parents and families.

Training exercises are essential to preparedness ensuring individuals understand their role in a communicable disease event. Exercises can also help identify gaps in the planning, thereby building upon and strengthening the plan over time. Schools, districts, and ESDs should schedule to exercise this plan annually and when any revisions are made to update the plan. The plan, or component(s) of the plan, can be tested through conversations, practice exercises, or other activities.

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