

Returning To School General Protocols for Families - Fall 2020



Minden Public Schools will follow guidelines as determined by our local health district and local health officials. As COVID-19 implications change, these protocols are subject to change.

This information is being provided to Minden Public Schools families so they can help their students prepare for a successful transition back to school in August. We might not have all the answers, but will continue to develop plans for a successful return to school. Go to www.mindenwhippets.org or download the Minden Whippets app for updated information.

Bussing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students will be in assigned seats, can sit with siblings from the same household, masks will be worn when social distancing is not possible.• Drivers will wipe down bus surfaces between routes.
Cafeteria / Meals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social-distancing will be applied to the best of our abilities utilizing traditional and non-traditional eating spaces.• No self-serve items.• All food to be served by gloved employees.• Students will be allowed to bring lunches from home.• No sharing of food.
Calendar	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• First day of school is Thursday, August 13. Families will receive specific building information from their school principal.• We will follow the 2020-2021 Calendar approved by the Board
Cleaning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• High-touch surface sanitation throughout each day.• Hand sanitizer dispensers available throughout school.• Desks/tables will be cleaned frequently.• Other school materials will be cleaned as needed.
COVID-19 Alternative Learning Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We plan to open schools fully on August 13th. When buildings are open, our staff is focused on the students in school and remote learning will not be available.• We will be working with families who have a documented medical situation. School principals and nurse will reach out to families to discuss options for their child.
Hand Sanitizing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students and staff will sanitize their hands upon entering the building, each classroom, and cafeteria.
Masks	<p>Masks will be available for students and staff members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Masks will be worn when social distancing is not possible.• Masks will be worn by visitors when coming into the building.
Miscellaneous	<p>Several things that may not be able to occur in person until further notice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Large pep rallies, school assemblies, and field trips• NSAA/NDE Activities• Parent / Teacher Conferences

Pick Up / Drop Off and Students Exiting Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social distancing practices should be followed. • Students will not congregate at entrance or exit areas. • Parents are asked to stay in or by their vehicle during pick-up/drop off. • Students will be dismissed as usual. We will have a new pickup and drop off area for this year.
Response to Positive Cases	<p>When a positive COVID-19 case is confirmed in a school, that individual will be excluded and allowed to return based upon current guidance from CDC at the time. Health Departments will work with schools to consider the following questions when determining how that case will impact others in their classroom and/or school building.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the level of community spread outside the school building? • Was the individual with COVID-19 wearing a mask? • Were other students and staff masked who were within 6 feet of the individual with COVID-19 for more than 15 minutes? • Was the individual with COVID-19 part of a cohort within the building or did they interact with a large number of students and staff throughout their day? • To what extent is the school community implementing other non-pharmaceutical interventions (hand washing, hand sanitizers, etc.)? <p>The answers to these questions will help determine</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) the number of close contacts 2) if the close contacts who are not symptomatic may stay in the classroom 3) the number of other students and staff who will need to be quarantined
Screening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents screen children at home for temperature, cough, sore throat, and other symptoms. Kearney County Health may provide more public direction and information on screening. • Students do not report to school if symptomatic, parents are strongly recommended to call a medical professional. • Temperature Check will be done as needed.
School Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will follow the Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) in regards to school activities scheduling, practices, games, etc.
Visitors & Volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unfortunately, we will not be able to accommodate visitors like we have in the past. • Lunch guests, classroom volunteers, and other special drop-in guests, guest speakers and/or mentors will not be allowed until further notice.(e.g. No Teammates, Reading Volunteers) • Family members will be allowed for special meetings such as IEP's and health related meetings.