

## West Valley School District Guidelines for Reopening Schools

During the phased reopening, the West Valley School District will continue to work toward its mission to enable students to go “Above and Beyond” in everything they do.

Local Health Officers School Directive	Safety and Health Measures	On-site and/or Remote Learning
<b>Phase 0</b> Stay at Home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Food services provided remotely for all students</li> <li>All schools closed to public access</li> <li>Transportation is not provided</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All instruction and learning will be remote</li> <li>No school activities or school-related travel</li> </ul>
<b>Phase I</b> May Have Student Groups of 15 or fewer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Food services provided remotely for all students</li> <li>Parental involvement in health screening required prior to school entry</li> <li>Transportation provided</li> <li>Health screening and hand sanitizing upon entry</li> <li>Handwashing and germ transmission prevention pro-actively taught and frequently encouraged</li> <li>Frequent sanitizing of physical space and equipment</li> <li>Face coverings required for students and staff when in the presence of others</li> <li>Public access to schools limited to essential school business (deliveries, contractors)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Primary delivery of instruction and learning will be remote</li> <li>Limited and targeted one-on-one and/or small group support for academic and/or social emotional support</li> <li>Accommodations extended to students and staff who are required to stay home due to COVID-19 related reasons</li> <li>No school activities or school-related travel</li> </ul>
<b>Phase II</b> Groups Size not to Exceed 50  Static Grouping Not Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Food services provided on site for all students</li> <li>Transportation is provided</li> <li>Student groups allowed to mix, with gatherings not to exceed 50 students</li> <li>Parental involvement in health screening required prior to school entry</li> <li>Health screening and hand sanitizing upon entry when feasible</li> <li>Handwashing and germ transmission prevention pro-actively taught and frequently encouraged</li> <li>Frequent sanitizing of physical space and equipment</li> <li>Face coverings may be required in common and high traffic areas, during passing times, and on busses</li> <li>Public access to schools limited to school-related business (deliveries, contractors, guest speakers, trainers, curriculum-related activities)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Primary delivery of instruction and learning will be on site with traditional schedules</li> <li>For health related reasons, families may choose remote instruction and learning</li> <li>Accommodations extended to students and staff who are required to stay home due to COVID-19 related reasons</li> <li>School activities and school-related travel resume in compliance with limitations on crowd/group size, activity type, and health protocols</li> </ul>
<b>Phase III</b> No Limit on Group Size  Static Grouping Not Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Food services provided on site for all students</li> <li>Transportation is provided</li> <li>Students rotate through schedules and routines as normal</li> <li>Parental involvement in health screening required prior to school entry</li> <li>Health screening and hand sanitizing upon entry when feasible</li> <li>Handwashing and germ transmission prevention pro-actively taught and frequently encouraged</li> <li>Frequent sanitizing of physical space and equipment</li> <li>Face coverings are at discretion of each individual</li> <li>Public access to schools available</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Primary delivery of instruction and learning will be on site with traditional schedules</li> <li>Accommodations extended to students and staff who are required to stay home due to COVID-19 related reasons</li> <li>School activities and school-related travel resume</li> </ul>

These guidelines are based on guidance and recommendations from the Governor, Flathead City-County Health Department, Montana Office of Public Instruction, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, American Academy of Pediatrics, and additional resources, including review of numerous examples from other school districts in the state and country. Changes and updates will be made based on updated guidance and recommendations from those groups listed above.

## **Governor's Guidelines for All Phases**

- Individuals should continue to practice good hygiene by adhering to the following guidelines:
  - Wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer, especially after touching frequently used items or surfaces.
  - Avoid touching your face.
  - Sneeze or cough into a tissue or the inside of your elbow.
  - Disinfect frequently used items and surfaces as much as possible.
  - Strongly consider using non-medical face coverings while in public, especially in circumstances that do not readily allow for appropriate physical distancing (e.g., grocery/retail stores, pharmacies, public transportation).
- People who feel sick should stay at home.
  - Do not go to work or school.
  - Contact and follow the advice of your medical provider.
  - Follow local health department guidance on isolation and quarantine.
- Employers should:
  - Develop and implement appropriate policies, in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations and guidance, and informed by industry best practices, regarding:
    - Social distancing and protective equipment.
    - Temperature checks and/or symptom screening.
    - Testing, isolating, and contact tracing, in collaboration with public health authorities.
    - Sanitation. Use and disinfection of common and high-traffic areas.
  - Monitor workforce for indicative symptoms. Do not allow people with symptoms of COVID-19 to work.
  - Collaborate with public health officials when implementing policies and procedures for workforce contact tracing following an employee's COVID-19 positive test result.
  - Encourage voluntary participation of employees in any surveillance testing designed to provide community-wide early warning by local public health officials.
- If schools plan to reopen, they should consider:
  - Implementing an alternative educational delivery model that includes a mix of in-person and remote learning.
  - Providing focused individual education, especially for at-risk students.
  - How to reconnect and meet the educational needs of students who fall behind in a remote learning environment.
  - The importance of maintaining the connection between students, teachers, and parents.
  - The important role that schools play in the health of students, families, and communities.

## **Flathead City-County Health Department Guidance**

“If there is a positive case in the school we will do contact tracing to determine close contacts. Close contacts would be defined as anyone that had at least 15 minutes of exposure within 6 feet of the case. All close contacts will be required to quarantine for a period of 14 days from last exposure.”

## Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Guidelines

It is important to note, the [CDC Considerations for Schools](#) (Appendix D) are recommendations, not requirements.

### CDC's Guiding Principles to Keep in Mind

The more people a student or staff member interacts with, and the longer that interaction, the higher the risk of COVID-19 spread. The risk of COVID-19 spread increases in school settings as follows:

- **Lowest Risk:** Students and teachers engage in virtual-only classes, activities, and events.
- **More Risk:** Small, in-person classes, activities, and events. Groups of students stay together and with the same teacher throughout/across school days and groups do not mix. Students remain at least 6 feet apart and do not share objects (e.g., hybrid virtual and in-person class structures, or staggered/rotated scheduling to accommodate smaller class sizes).
- **Highest Risk:** Full sized, in-person classes, activities, and events. Students are not spaced apart, share classroom materials or supplies, and mix between classes and activities.

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 that are covered in the [CDC's guidance document](#). 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.

## Additional Resource and Guidance Documents

**Governor's Plan for Reopening Safe and Healthy Schools for Montana**  
[Governors Plan for Reopening Safe and Healthy Schools.pdf](#)

**Montana Office of Public Instruction Reopening Montana Schools Guidance**  
[REOPENINGMONTANA SCHOOLS GUIDANCE](#)

**American Academy of Pediatrics**  
[COVID-19 Planning Considerations: Return to In-person Education in Schools](#)

**Children's Hospital Colorado Risk-Based Approach to Reopening Schools Amid COVID-19**  
<https://www.childrenscolorado.org/49eee6/globalassets/community/reopening-schools-during-covid19.pdf>

**School Counselors Association and National Association of School Psychologists**  
[School Reentry Considerations Supporting Student Social and Emotional Learning and Mental and Behavioral Health Amidst COVID-19](#)

**National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) and Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC), May 2020**  
[Guidance for Opening up High School Athletics and Activities](#)

## West Valley School District Safe Practices for Staff, Students, and Families

To reduce communicable disease risk, it is imperative that we follow safe infection control practices as identified by the CDC and Flathead City-County Health Department in order to help keep ourselves, our students, our families, and our communities healthy. We should assume that there is potential for community spread of COVID-19 in the Flathead Valley and use every effort to reduce risk of contracting or spreading communicable illness of any kind.

### **BEFORE arriving on the West Valley School site (including riding a bus to campus): Parents, students, and staff should ask themselves the following questions about anyone who will be arriving on campus:**

- Is my temperature 100.0 °F or higher?**
- Has my temperature been 100.0 °F or higher in the past 72 hours (3 days)?**
- Do I have any symptoms of illness?**
  - These may be, but are not limited to: coughing, headache, sneezing, sore throat, runny nose, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, dizziness, shortness of breath, chest or nasal congestion, earache, swollen glands, loss of taste.
- Have I had close contact or is anyone in my immediate household able to answer YES to the questions above?**
- Have I or a close contact been asked in the last 14 days to remain in quarantine for COVID-19 testing, diagnosis, or treatment?**

If you answer **YES to any of the following, please stay home** and seek healthcare provider guidance if symptoms worsen or you need treatment.

### **WHEN arriving onsite at West Valley School students and staff need to:** **STAFF PROCEDURES**

- 1. ASK THE QUESTIONS** above to all students/parents entering the building. These can be asked in advance (e.g. the morning of or the day before). Encourage only students/parents to enter the building (e.g. avoid bringing siblings, etc.). Log/document student check-ins (names/time entering building).
- 2. TEMPERATURE CHECKS** - The building administrator will designate a point person to check students' temperatures before/as they enter the building. Each person's temperature must be below 100 °F.
- 3. MASKS** (face coverings) - Both students and staff may wear face coverings if they choose. These may include homemade or purchased masks. If a student would like to wear a facemask, the student is asked to bring the face covering with him or her before entering a school site.
- 4. REMIND STUDENTS OF PHYSICAL/SOCIAL DISTANCING** - Maintain six feet of distance when at all possible. Consider using tape to visually represent six foot boundaries.
- 5. HAVE STUDENTS WASH HANDS/SANITIZE AND REMIND OF THEM OF EXPECTATIONS**
  - **Hand Hygiene** - Wash hands with soap and water, or use hand sanitizer between tasks.
  - **Touching** - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. (If you must touch your face, clean your hands before and after.)
  - **Gloves** - Remember that gloves are effective for one time use in order to avoid contact with potentially contaminated surfaces. It is better to wash and clean your hands before and after touching potentially contaminated surfaces than to wear gloves for an extended length of time. Clean hands before and after gloving.
  - **Cover your mouth/nose** - Use a tissue, the inside of your collar, or your elbow, and then trash the tissue, and wash your hands.
  - **Disinfect** - Always disinfect any area of use after its use.



