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Newkirk Public Schools

Return to Learn Plan

2020-2021 School Year



Return to Learn Committee Members

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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 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. In these uncertain times we want to inform you of options we will have available to our students and their families as school resumes on August 13th, 2020.

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 recommended
 - Symptom screening expectations
 - Hand-washing and hygiene protocols
 - Group gathering limitations
 - Additional cleaning protocols will be required
- Educating Students:
 - **Traditional/Blended learning** - combines both traditional/on-site and virtual/remote learning.
 - **Virtual Learning** - done remotely through Edgenuity, but as a continuation of learning that normally would take place on-site.

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.

Traditional/Blended Learning & Virtual Learning

“**Traditional/Blended**” is the most conventional option. Students will receive on-campus classes and face-to-face instruction from teachers daily. “Blended” is a blend of traditional and virtual learning from home. If a student or family member becomes ill the student will transition to blended and do their work from home during times of heightened health concerns. Blended students will continue their current course schedule but will work from home through virtual experiences. Traditional/Blended learning will utilize our online learning management system on regular school days for easy transition to distance or blended learning days as needed. 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.

“**Virtual**” is our option where students perform all classwork from home on a learning management system called Edgenuity. Devices will be provided for students choosing this educational option. Internet services will be provided as needed on an individual basis. Virtual students must maintain passing grades for continued participation in our virtual school option. Virtual students will have school support as they work through the curriculum. Students that want to take advantage of the virtual school opportunity need to **contact 580-362-2388 prior to July 31st** register for virtual education.

We are allowing **ONE** change between options during a semester. If a student starts in one option they may transfer to the other option **one time**. Upon making the shift the current grades will transfer to the new learning option. Students may change options at semester or prior to September 4th.

During the blended or virtual learning options students are required to log in to the learning management system and complete the designated assignment for them to be recorded as present for the day.

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 on the criteria to be met before your child returns to school.

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

By sending your child to school, you are telling Newkirk Public Schools that the answer to each of these questions is “NO.”

Additional Protocols Due to the Covid-19 Virus

Daily Screenings/Temperature Checks: We are asking parents to use 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 and 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. Temperature checks **will** take place daily during the beginning of the school day and as needed for all students and staff members.

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 encouraged** to wear masks.

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. For the safety of your child and other children NPS is encouraging students and staff to wear masks.

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.

Students will not be allowed to share supplies as they have in previous years. This is a crucial step in limiting exposure.

Transportation: Parents are encouraged to transport their children to school if possible. We will not allow parents to leave the car and walk students into the buildings. 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; however, parents should not expect 6 feet of space between riders on school buses as that would not be possible without adding additional bus routes.

- 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.
 - Masks are strongly recommended for all students who are riding a bus to help minimize the exposure level of students.

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 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 pass the attendance questionnaire.
- Positive Covid-19 individual(s) and contact traced individuals will stay home for 14 days and may return after 14 days once they have been fever free for 72 hours without fever reducing medication and pass the attendance questionnaire.
 - Covid-19 at the Elementary: Class/Grade level quarantine of 14 days depending on the exposure of the positive Covid-19 case. Seesaw (PK-2) and Google Classroom (3-5) will be used for virtual instruction during this quarantine.
 - Covid-19 at the Middle School: Students exposed will be sent home for 14 days. Google classroom will be the virtual instruction opportunity for these identified students.

- Covid-19 at the High School: Students exposed will be sent home for 14 days. Google classroom will be the virtual instruction opportunity for these identified students.


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:** We anticipate opening at this level on August 13th and reassessing conditions as the school year progresses. We will coordinate with local health officials and could change this plan depending on their recommendations and the exposure levels at NPS.

- No student or staff positive cases of COVID-19 at NPS
- An initial positive COVID-19 case(s) will be managed by district/site policies and local health department recommendations.
- No directives from local and/or state agencies to reduce capacities
- School is fully open with COVID-19 well-being protocols in place
- Newkirk Public Schools will offer parents the option of either in-person instruction or virtual program (Semester long with 1 switch option with grades transferred)

 **Yellow Plan:** Two Covid-19 positive cases by students or staff at NPS at the same time in different buildings moves us from a Green Plan to a Yellow Plan for 14 days. Yellow Plan is a plan that moves NPS from a five day a week educational setting to a blended model where students are receiving direct teacher instruction in the classroom two days a week and a virtual classroom environment for three days. We will coordinate with local health officials and could change this plan depending on their recommendations and the exposure levels at NPS.

- Students will be divided into two groups at all sites at the beginning of the year. We will group siblings in the same group.
 - During a Yellow Plan Extra-Curricular activities/events will be canceled
 - Group A
 - Monday/Tuesday classes in school for group “A” students
 - Wednesday will be a virtual day with teachers at school while students are logging in and working from the house with teacher virtual assistance.

- Thursday/Friday will be a virtual day where students are to log in and complete work for attendance and grade purposes.
- Group B
 - Monday/Tuesday will be a virtual day where students are to log in and complete work for attendance and grade purposes.
 - Wednesday will be a virtual day with teachers at school while students are logging in and working from the house with teacher virtual assistance.
 - Thursday/Friday classes in school for group “B” students



Red Plan: If we are in a Yellow Plan and have another positive COVID-19 case we will go to the Red Plan for 21 days. We will coordinate with local health officials and could change this plan depending on their recommendations and the exposure levels at NPS.

- During a Yellow Plan Extra-Curricular practices/activities/events will be canceled
- Virtual learning for 21 days through our learning management system. In order for all students to return to the Yellow Plan at the end of 21 days, they have to be fever free for 72 hours and pass the attendance questionnaire.
- Upon the conclusion of the 21 days we will return to the Yellow Plan schedule for 14 days.

After we return to the Yellow Plan from the Red Plan:

- If we have another positive COVID-19 case we will return to the Red Plan.
- If we go 14 days in the Yellow Plan without any positive Covid-19 cases we return to the Green Plan. We will continue to coordinate with local health officials.

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, Yellow 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.
 - In response to a positive COVID-19 we will inform the community via all-call to parents and NPS staff members.
 - In response to a shift from Green plan, Yellow plan or Red plan we will communicate with parents and staff members with an all-call, website post and Facebook page post.