

USD 115 Nemaha Central Schools Return - to - School Plan 2020-2021

Nemaha Central High School

Nemaha Central Elementary & Middle School

Guidelines for Nemaha Central Schools

USD 115, in partnership with the Nemaha County Health Department, has developed a plan to support school buildings and the community for reopening schools. USD 115's Return-to-School Plan provides a tiered approach with clear, actionable steps that are advisable before students and employees return to the buildings.

This approach is built upon guidance and recommendations of local and state health officials; is aligned to the reopening guidelines that have been provided by our state and federal leaders, and it is designed to prioritize the health and safety of students and staff as we open school buildings and deliver instruction for the 2020-2021 school year.

USD 115's Return-to-School Plan focuses heavily on the health and physical requirements necessary for reopening school buildings. USD 115 is committed to provide support to school buildings on navigating the academic, social, and emotional effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on students and employees.




Guidance from the CDC and local health officials adjust as circumstances change. This document reflects current circumstances and guidelines with the intent to minimize the spread of COVID-19. Should the circumstances change, this document and its guidelines are also subject to change.



Addressing Community Spread in Nemaha County

Low Transmission	Moderate Transmission	High Transmission
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish and maintain communication with local and state health officials. Participate in contact-tracing efforts as directed by local health officials (to the extent feasible). Post signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread. COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols. Establish a protocol for students/staff who feel ill/experience symptoms when they come to school. Consider ways to accommodate needs of children, teachers/staff, and families at higher risk for severe illness, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish and maintain communication with local and state health officials. Participate in contact-tracing efforts as directed by local health officials (to the extent feasible). Implement enhanced social distancing measures. Post signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread. COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols. Establish a protocol for students/staff who feel ill/experience symptoms when they come to school Isolate and deep clean impacted classrooms and spaces. Consider ways to accommodate needs of children, teachers/staff, and families at higher risk for severe illness. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate with local and state health officials. Participate in contact-tracing efforts as directed by local health officials (to the extent feasible), Facilities are limited or closed. Implement distance/remote learning. Close off affected areas and if possible, wait 24 hours before cleaning and disinfecting. Accommodate needs of children, teachers/staff, and families at higher risk for severe illness. <p>For additional guidance on addressing community spread, see the CDC's Considerations for Schools.</p>

Definitions

Face Coverings 	<p>Face coverings differ based on the level of community spread. Information will be provided on proper use, removal, and washing of cloth face coverings. Policies regarding face coverings should be sensitive to needs of students and staff with medical issues.</p> <p>CDC Guidance</p>	Hand Sanitizer 	<p>Hand sanitizers should contain at least 60% alcohol and only used with staff and children who can safely use hand sanitizer.</p> <p>CDC Guidance</p>	Clean/Disinfect 	<p>Ensure safe and correct application of disinfectants and keep out of reach of children.</p> <p>CDC Guidance</p>
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USD 115 Instructional Model Matrix

USD 115 Return-to-School Plan provides guidance and expectations to leadership to implement plans based on the flexible framework to address challenges that may develop throughout the 2020-2021 school year. Instead of a one-size-fits-all approach, the following matrix provides a menu of instructional models and responses school leaders can adopt to ensure the continued success and safety of students and staff members.

Level of Community Transmission (Determined by State/Local Officials)	Low Transmission	Moderate Transmission		High Transmission	
Instructional Model	On-Site Model	Restrictive On-Site Model	Hybrid Model	Mandated Remote Learning Model	Parent Choice Remote Learning Model
Response	<p>School Facilities Open</p> <p>Implement preventative practices and additional proactive protocols</p>	<p>School Facilities Open</p> <p>Implement more intensive mitigation strategies; enhance social distancing</p> <p>Possible Targeted Closure If positive cases are found in specific classrooms, grade levels, or buildings.</p>	<p>School Facilities Partially Opened</p> <p>Implement alternating schedules for students to limit or stagger the number of students at one time.</p> <p>Possible Targeted Closure If positive cases are found in specific classrooms, grade levels, or buildings.</p>	<p>School Facilities Closed/Limited</p> <p>Short-Term Remote Learning Close/limit facility use for deep cleaning (2-5 Days)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>Long-Term Remote Learning Close/limit facility use for deep cleaning (6-14 Days)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>Extended Remote Learning Close/limit facility use for an extended period of time as defined through a county, state, or national mandate.</p>	<p>See following table for details and requirements for the Parent Choice Remote Learning Model.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Low Transmission</p> <p style="text-align: center;">On-Site Model</p>	<p>Students will attend in-person classes with health and safety guidelines in place to minimize the transmission of COVID 19 virus. The administration will determine the preventative practices and additional proactive processes/protocols that will be put in place based on KSDE guidance documents and consultation with Nemaha County Community Health.</p> <p>We recognize that a student may be an on-site student; however, he or she may need to be gone for a short or long-term period (2-14 days) due to sickness and/or quarantine. Please note the following regarding these absences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The student absence will be counted as an excused absence as long as the necessary documentation (doctor's note) is provided to the school. • Most of the class assignments/materials/lectures/instructional videos will be accessible through Seesaw (PS-2), Google Classroom (3-8), and Canvas (9-12). In order for the student to maintain learning throughout this period, assigned work during the absence should be completed at home in a timely manner to the greatest extent possible. • These students may have the opportunity to join the on-site classroom through Zoom or another tool to engage in the lesson with their peers and their teacher at designated times during the school-day. Parents (or the student, depending on age) should inquire about this directly with the teacher(s). • These students and parents will not be required to complete the sign-off document required for Parent Choice Remote Learners unless a pattern of extended excuses emerge.
<p style="text-align: center;">Moderate Transmission</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Restrictive On-Site Model</p> <p style="text-align: center;">or</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Hybrid Model</p>	<p>The administration will determine the more intensive mitigation strategies that will be put in place based on KSDE guidance documents and consultation with Nemaha County Community Health. Targeted closures will be implemented with consultation from Nemaha County Community Health.</p> <p>Hybrid Models should only be implemented if absolutely necessary and after factoring in additional logistical requirements/cost as well as childcare requirements placed on working families and additional burden on staff.</p> <p>Some possible examples of the Hybrid Model are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternating Days: Students divided into two groups based on last names (families will stay together). Groups would alternate face to face instruction and virtual instruction during the week. Group A would attend Monday & Tuesday and work virtually the remainder of the week. Group B would attend Thursday & Friday and work virtually the remainder of the week. Wednesday would be a virtual day for most staff and all students so buildings could be deep-cleaned during the week. • Alternating Weeks: Students divided into two groups based on last name (families will stay together). Groups would alternate face to face instruction and virtual instruction during the week. Group A would attend Monday & Tuesday and work virtually the remainder of the week. Group B would attend Thursday & Friday and work virtually the remainder of the week. Wednesday would be a virtual day for most staff and all students so buildings could be deep-cleaned during the week. • Specific Group Learning: Some student populations remain for onsite instruction while other student populations receive instruction remotely. <p>(Please Note: No final decision has been made regarding the specific format of the Hybrid Model as that will be determined by various factors at the time if this becomes necessary.)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Mandated Remote Learning</p>	<p>When the entire school is mandated to offer instruction through Remote Learning for either short, long or extended terms, it will be different from the Continuous Learning Plan that took place in the spring of 2020. It will be more rigorous and structured.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students and staff will be expected to complete hours similar to a normal school day.

<p>Short-Term, Long-Term or Extended</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If we reach this level, a more comprehensive plan will be shared with the details.
<p>Parent Choice Remote Learning</p>	<p>USD 115 is offering a choice to parents that are not comfortable sending their student to school for in-person learning. Parents who choose the remote learning option will need to adhere to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure their child participates in 6 hours of learning activities on a daily basis for K-12 students. • Ensure their child checks-in with the Remote Learning Coordinator on a daily basis. • Complete/sign-off on their child's logged activities to confirm accuracy on a daily basis. <p>Students being instructed with this model will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive instruction through Edgenuity or other district approved online learning programs. • Be assessed on the same standards and competencies as the on-site students. • Participate in Kansas State Assessments. <p>Failure of the student to complete the required number of hours, log the activities, and/or complete the assigned work may deem the student as truant. The administration will follow appropriate protocol to report truancy to the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and/or County Attorney, depending upon the age of the student.</p> <p>Parents may request permission to change to either Onsite or Hybrid Model for their child at any time (depending on what model the district currently in). However, the administration will determine whether or not to approve the request. If approved, the administration will determine the date the change may take effect.</p> <p>Under the Parent Choice Remote Learning model, students will not be assigned to a specific classroom teacher(s), but rather they will be assigned to a Remote Learner Coordinator who will facilitate the remote learning process. The Remote Learning Coordinator may designate another staff member to assist with the facilitation of the learning.</p> <p>Nemaha Central Remote Learning Handbook NC At-Home Remote Learning Sign Up for 2020-2021</p>

USD 115 Preventative Practices & Additional Proactive Protocols for Low Transmission (On-Site Model)

USD 115 Return-to-School Plan provides guidance and expectations to leadership to implement plans based on the flexible framework to address challenges that may develop throughout the 2020-2021 school year. Instead of a one-size-fits-all approach, the following matrix provides a menu of instructional models and responses school leaders can adopt to ensure the continued success and safety of students and staff members.

NCEMS & NCHS	Measures
General Prevention Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Install a UV lighting system to be installed in our HVAC units. UV light has been shown to help reduce the amount of mold, bacteria, and viruses in the air. ● Install thermal imaging cameras for each building entrance. This is both an effective and efficient way to take temperatures of all who enter the buildings. ● Remove all standard water fountains and replace them with refillable water bottle stations. ● Make deep cleaning and sanitizing the buildings a priority through purchasing electrostatic sprayers, extra hand sanitizing stations, and other disinfectant products. ● Clean & disinfect frequently-touched surfaces regularly. ● Post signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread. COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols. ● Keep doors open within the building to reduce the number of touches on door handles to the greatest extent possible. ● Teach and reinforce good hygiene measures such as hand washing, covering coughs, and face covering. ● Guidelines to Face Masks
School Day Schedule & Weekly Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The school day has been extended from 8:00 to 3:15. ● Students will have early release on Fridays (11:30 AM) to allow for professional development related to changes in education due to COVID 19. (This is applicable to the first semester only at this time.) This will start on Friday, August 28th. ● Lunch will be served on Fridays via Grab & Go.
Classrooms	<p>To the greatest extent possible, adhere to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reduce class sizes and maintain relatively stable classroom cohorts. ● Eliminate non-essential furniture and soft surfaces in the classrooms. ● Maximize the space/distance among students. ● Create individual materials/supplies bags/kits when necessary. ● Reduce transitions and have students stay in the classroom more. ● Allow the use of book bags in Grades 6-12 to reduce traffic in the hallways.
Temperature Screening of Students for	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All students must enter the main doors and their temperature will be recorded via the Thermal Imaging Cameras. If the system indicates your child has a temperature, he/she will be sent to a designated area and the school nurse or designee will evaluate whether or not they need to be sent home.

Arrival Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to social distancing and additional requirements this year, students are not allowed to arrive until 7:40 AM. (See the NCEMS & NCHS sections for specific guidelines for each of the buildings.)
Dismissal Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage students to walk quickly and briskly out of the building. • Students will be reminded to keep interactions with others brief.
Transporting Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff and students (PS - 12th grades) are required to wear masks on the bus/school vehicle. • Parents should conduct a daily self evaluation prior to sending their children to school (See below for details.) • Students should sit by their siblings on bus routes. All buses must have ASSIGNED seats. • Fill up from the back of the bus to front • Buses will not arrive until 7:50 so students are able to go DIRECTLY to the classrooms instead of loitering in common areas. • Buses need to be disinfected after each route.
Home Procedures Before Leaving for School	<p>It is up to each individual to take the precautions necessary so we can continue to attend school in person and participate in activities. Please do the following each day:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a daily self evaluation prior to sending their children to school by answering these questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Has your child had any of the following symptoms in the last 14 days? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Fever greater than 100° ■ Cough ■ Difficulty breathing/shortness of breath ■ New loss of taste/smell ■ Headache ■ Sore throat ■ Fatigue ○ Has your child visited any of the restricted travel advisory locations on the KDHE list within 14 days? ○ Has your child had close contact with anyone in the past 14 days who has been diagnosed with Covid 19? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ If any of these questions are answered yes, the student should not come to school. Contact the school nurse, your local physician, or Nemaha County Community Health if you deem necessary.
Masks/Coverings	<p>Guidelines to Face Masks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will be provided with one cloth mask. • A clean mask should be worn each day and must follow the dress code. • Please make sure that you label with your child's first and last name. Please discuss with your child your expectations for mask usage at the school.
Water Bottles	<p>Students must bring a water bottle each day as all of the water fountains have been turned into refillable water stations. USD #115 will provide each child with one water bottle at the beginning of the year. Water bottles brought from home need to meet these requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labeled with first and last name (NCEMS only)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No larger than 32 ounces (NCEMS only) • Sealable lid (NCEMS & NCHS)
School Nurse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 Exposure Plan/Student Illness & Absence Plan • NCEMS Nurse Policies • NCHS Nurse Policies
Serving Meals/Cafeteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will go through the thermal imaging cameras to help ensure no student with a fever is in the cafeteria. If the system indicates your child has a temperature, he/she will be sent to a designated area and the school nurse or designee will evaluate whether or not they need to be sent home. • The serving period for lunch will be extended to allow for smaller groups of cohorts. • Students will have assigned seats to allow for contact tracing. • Procedures will be implemented to increase distances between groups and keep things flowing quicker. • Students will no longer be allowed to bring food that requires the usage of the microwave. (NCEMS only)
Activities & Extra Curricular	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KSHSAA Return to School Activities • KSHSAA Activity Specific Considerations • KSHSAA COVID-19 Resources
Visitors, Parents, & Guardians	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All nonessential visitors, volunteers, and outside activities will be limited. • Lunch guests are not allowed. • Parents may no longer come into the building to pick up their child for an appointment. At NCEMS, once the parent is seen visually, an adult will release the student. • Parents may no longer come in the building to drop off lunch, uniforms, etc. Parents will be buzzed in. Parents must drop the item off on the table located in the vestibule. • Virtual options for parent meetings and conferences should occur whenever possible. • If parents want to meet with administration, counselors, and/or teachers, an appointment must be made. First preference, if possible, is to do the meetings via phone or video conference call. • Procedures for visitors if allowed in the buildings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All adults/visitors are required to wear a mask. ○ All visitors need to answer “no” to the following questions to be allowed in the building. These questions will be posted at the entrance. If a visitor answers yes to any one of them, he/she will not be allowed in the building: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Have you had any of the following symptoms in the last 14 days? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fever greater than 100° • Cough • Difficulty breathing/shortness of breath • New loss of taste/smell • Headache • Sore throat • Fatigue

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Have you visited any of the restricted travel advisory locations on the KHDE list within 14 days? ■ Have you had close contact with anyone in the past 14 days who has been diagnosed with COVID 19?
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NCEMS Only	Measures: Please note this is not an exhaustive list of measures as changes may occur as new information comes forward.
Morning Arrival Procedures for K-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staff and students (age appropriate) are required to wear masks during morning arrival times. If your child wears a mask, please make sure that it is clearly labeled with the student's first and last name. ● No parent may enter the school during arrival time. (See the section below for special considerations for Preschool students.) ● Due to social distancing and additional requirements this year, students are not allowed to arrive until 7:40. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We understand the drop-off lane will become congested in the morning time. Therefore, we are designating three Zones. This information will be shared with parents on a separate document. ○ Buses will not drop off students until 7:50. Bus students should go DIRECTLY to their classrooms and do not go into the gym. ● Walkers should not arrive until 7:50 AM. Walkers should go DIRECTLY to their classrooms and do not go into the gym. ● For students who arrive at 7:40 AM, there will be spots marked in the gym that are six feet apart. Students are expected to sit on the spots until 7:50 AM. ● When weather allows, MS students may be instructed to wait outside and be supervised in a designated area. ● Allowances may be made with the tardy procedures to allow for students to make it into their rooms and eat breakfast if necessary. If your child eats breakfast, strive to have him or her arrive at 7:40.
Morning Arrival Procedures for Preschool (PS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PS parents have the option of dropping their child using the OUTSIDE CLASSROOM doors behind the PS playground. If you choose to do this, park in the parking lot and use the crosswalk in front of the school to walk your child to the outside classroom door. ● One adult MUST ACCOMPANY the child. ● The adult/PS student SHOULD NOT arrive until 7:50. ● The classroom teacher or designee will use an infrared thermal temperature sensor to take the child's temperature before he/she is allowed to enter. ● Siblings who walk with their brother or sister should still go through the main doors.
Recess	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Grade levels will have separate recess times, separate recess equipment, and be in grade level cohorts.
PE & Music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Whenever possible, students will be taken outside for PE & Music. ● Social distancing will be encouraged to the greatest extent possible. ● Games and activities that include limited contact activities and limited equipment will occur. ● Students will be in grade level cohorts.

Thunder Learning Center (TLC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In order to better increase social distancing, grade levels served by this program will be limited to Preschool (PS) students to 3rd-grade students. Previously, 4th and 5th graders could attend, but it will be limited this year. Additionally, parents need to be aware of the following guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ TLC will be held outside to the greatest extent possible. ○ When students are not outside, all students and staff will be required to wear face masks or maintain six feet of social distancing space since this will be a mixed group of students. ○ Parents need to be aware that if the level of community transmission shifts from low to moderate as determined by local/state officials, TLC will be restricted to even fewer students or possibly discontinued.
Project Success (K-8th)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We will continue this program, but it will be in a limited structure. We will schedule students with adult tutors who have been in their cohorts throughout the day.
STEAM Club (4th & 5th)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We will not offer this program for the first semester. Whether or not to offer STEAM Club in the second semester will be evaluated at a later date.
Steel Thunder & Drumming Thunder (5th & 6th)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We will not offer Steel Thunder for the first semester. Whether or not to offer Drumming Thunder (February to May) in the second semester will be evaluated at a later date.
Bigs in Schools (K-8th)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We will not offer Bigs in School for the first semester. Whether or not to offer Bigs in School in the second semester will be evaluated at a later date.
Thunder Power Hour (TPH) (6th-8th)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We will continue this program with the following guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Project Success tutors will have been in the students' cohort group throughout the day. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ It is possible that we may have to limit the number of evenings we offer this program depending on availability of staff. ○ Since this is a mixed group of students, all students and staff will be required to wear face masks or maintain six feet of social distancing space. ○ Parents need to be aware that if the level of community transmission shifts from low to moderate as determined by local/state officials, TPH will be restricted to even fewer students or possibly discontinued.

NCHS Only	Measures: Please note this is not an exhaustive list of measures as changes may occur as new information comes forward.
Morning Arrival Procedures for NCHS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No parent may enter the school during arrival time. ● Due to social distancing and additional requirements this year, students are not allowed to arrive until 7:40 unless prior arrangements have been made with a specific teacher. ● Buses will not drop off students until 7:50. ● At 7:40 AM all students will enter through the front (east) doors and their temperature will be checked with our camera system as they walk in. Students will drop their belongings off at their lockers and proceed straight to their first block class.

**USD 115 More Intensive Mitigation Strategies for Moderate Transition
(Restrictive On-Site Model and/or Hybrid Model)**

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NCEMS & NCHS	Measures
	<p>Changes may occur in the following areas, along with others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mask usage ● Transportation ● Breakfast/Lunch ● Break/Transitions ● PE/Music/Band ● Elective Courses ● Extracurricular Activities ● After school programs <p>Specific changes will be dependent upon the situation at the time.</p>

NCEMS Only	Measures

NCHS Only	Measures

USD 115 Remote Learning

USD 115 Return-to-School Plan provides guidance and expectations to leadership to implement plans based on the flexible framework to address challenges that may develop throughout the 2020-2021 school year. Instead of a one-size-fits-all approach, the following matrix provides a menu of instructional models and responses school leaders can adopt to ensure the continued success and safety of students and staff members.

NCEMS & NCHS	Measures
	Specific changes will be dependent upon the situation at the time.

NCEMS Only	Measures

NCHS Only	Measures