**Meeker SCHOOLS COVID-19 INFORMATION AND PROCEDURES FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR**

This plan outlines Meeker Public Schools’ strategy in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from the pandemic, COVID-19. It serves as a guide for the safe reopening of the school. This document, based on local, state, and federal guidelines, will continue to change and develop over time.

Thank you for participating in district-wide surveys, the surveys were used to help make important decisions for the new school year.

***All plans are subject to change based on the most current COVID-19 related information.***

**SAFETY PROCEDURES**

**Daily Temperatures:**
Each morning the school will scan student’s temperature with a touchless infrared thermometer. If a student has a fever of 100.4 or greater, than you will be asked to pick up your child. Please keep your child home to monitor for additional symptoms for a minimum of 72 hours.

**Face Coverings:**
The district will recommend students and staff to wear a face covering during the school day. Evidence shows a decrease in COVID-19 when a face covering is worn. Students and staff will be responsible for providing face covering. Students/staff will be required to wear a face covering on the bus.

**Social Distancing:**
While it will be difficult to maintain distance between students in our school, each school site will be working to the best of their ability to provide distance between students in classrooms, hallways, cafeterias, and gyms.

**Hygiene:**
Students will be reminded to wash their hands often with soap and water for a minimum of 20 seconds. Alcohol-based hand sanitizer will be provided throughout our campuses.

**Breakfast/Lunch/Snacks:**
Students will be reminded to sanitize their hands prior to eating and after finishing meals. Hand sanitizer will be located in both cafeterias. Students will not be permitted to bring shared snacks for classrooms (ex: birthday parties, classroom celebrations, etc.). Visitors will not be permitted in the cafeteria during the lunch period.

**Oklahoma State Department of Education Guidelines**

<https://sde.ok.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Oklahoma%20School%20Safety%20Protocols.pdf>

<https://coronavirus.health.ok.gov/covid-19-alert-system>

<https://coronavirus.health.ok.gov/sites/g/files/gmc786/f/county_risk_levels_trends_20200723.pdf>

**Will social distancing be observed on buses and how will seating arrangements be determined?**
Students will be spaced as much as possible by the bus driver. Meeker has a limited number of bus drivers, so maintaining a six-foot radius between each student is not possible. The bus driver and students will be required to wear face coverings. The bus driver and students will use hand sanitizer that will be provided when boarding the bus. Students are required to remain seated at all times and keep their hands and arms to themselves. Students should not touch each other or share any items. School buses will be cleaned and disinfected twice per day.

**How can I help the school as a parent?**

* Taking your child’s temperature on a daily basis prior to them leaving the house.
* Keeping students home if they exhibit any symptoms of any illness.
* Preparing your home and child with supplies and devices for remote learning if possible and feasible.
* Having masks or other appropriate face coverings available for students to have at school.
* Openly communicating any concerns regarding the health or academic needs of your student directly with your child’s teacher or school site.
* Practice wearing a face covering with your child to help successfully protect our staff and other students who may be in the vulnerable population.
* Working with the school site as they change visitor protocols and the check-in/check-out processes as warranted.
* Assisting with COVID tracing through the State Health Department.

**ELEMENTARY PROCEDURES**

**Face Coverings:**The district will recommend students and staff to wear a face covering during the school day. Evidence shows a decrease in COVID-19 when a face covering is worn. Students will be responsible for providing face covering.

**School Supplies:**
Students will not be sharing supplies. Students will keep items at his/her desk or designated space in the classroom. Any items that must be shared will be disinfected between each student use.

**Arrival and Dismissal:**
When our students begin to arrive at school, they will be directed to their classroom or designated space. Parents and/or visitors will not be permitted to walk students inside the buildings to classrooms. All parents will be asked to remain in cars while students are being dropped off or picked up. Students will be escorted to cars at the end of the day.

**Recess:**
Play is an important part of the educational day. Students will have designated recess times.

**Library/Media Centers:**
Providing reading and research opportunities for our students is an important focus for our students. We do plan to keep our library/media centers open for that purpose. Books will be quarantined for 72 hours before being placed back into circulation.

**Water Hydration Stations/Restrooms:**

Traditional water fountains will not be in service as a form of prevention. Students and staff are encouraged to bring water bottles to remain hydrated throughout the day.

School restrooms will be cleaned throughout the day. In addition, schools will be creating restroom schedules to maintain small groups of student traffic throughout the day.

**How will social-emotional or mental health concerns be addressed?**
Counselors are available to support students academically, socially, and emotionally and can provide mental health support or resources for families who may be struggling emotionally. Access to schedule a meeting with a Meeker counselor can be found by contacting your school site directly.

**SECONDARY PROCEDURES**

**Face Coverings:**The district will recommend for students and staff to wear a face covering during the school day. Evidence shows a decrease in COVID-19 when a face covering is worn. Students will be responsible for providing a face covering.

**Arrival and Dismissal:**
Arrival routines will look different this year in an effort to allow students to maintain a safe physical distance from one another as they wait for their first hour bell to begin class. Each site will work with the layout and options in their specific building to maximize opportunities for social distancing before school begins. At the end of the day, students will be released in a staggered manner to avoid all of them traveling simultaneously through the halls to exit the building.

**School Wide Assemblies:**
All school assemblies will be limited at the beginning of the school year to avoid the likely possibility of exposure that would occur when large numbers of students gather. As the year progresses, such events may be reinstated based on virus infection levels.

**Locker Use:**
At every opportunity, we will be seeking ways to minimize unnecessary materials and items being brought into the school. Students will need to take personal belongings home daily.

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**School and Sanctioned OSSAA Activities:**Extra-curricular activities are vital elements of a secondary student's experience. Responses to COVID-19 in these environments will vary, using proven practices in prevention and protection. At this time, all extra-curricular activities are scheduled as normal. Check with the school’s activity sponsor for specific schedules and or changes.

**Attendance at Athletics and Extra-Curricular Activities:**
While we cannot guarantee what fall and winter athletics and extra-curricular activities will look like, we will follow recommendations from the Oklahoma Secondary Schools Activity Association (OSSAA) and the CDC. Information about practices and precautions will be posted through each activity’s sponsor or department. We do expect our fan experience will look different. While inside or outside our athletic facilities, it is recommended to wear a face covering and social distance.

**COVID-19 EXPOSURE INFORMATION**

* Anyone who has had close contact with someone positive for COVID-19 should stay home for 14 days after exposure, based on the time it takes to develop the illness. Close contact is defined as within 6 feet of a positive person for 15 minutes or longer.
* The school will work cooperatively with the Lincoln County Health Department in suspected exposure or positive cases of COVID-19.
* As always, be sure to call the school to report your child's absence.

**COVID-19 Symptoms While at School:**If a teacher or school employee suspects that a student has symptoms consistent with COVID-19, he/she will be seen by designated school office staff. Parents or guardians may be contacted to pick up their student. Symptoms include:

* Fever (100.4) or chills
* Cough
* Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
* Fatigue
* Muscle or body aches
* Headache
* New loss of taste or smell
* Sore throat
* Congestion or runny nose
* Nausea or vomiting
* Diarrhea

For more information, visit the following website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus>

**Illness at School**If a student is identified with a temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher or begins exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 while at school, he or she will be isolated, sent home immediately, and encouraged to be tested. If found to have COVID-19 or been directly exposed to COVID-19, these individuals should not return to school until they have met the CDC’s criteria for being around others. In order to return to school, a release from a physician or the county health department stating the student may return to school.

**School Closure Due to COVID-19**In the event of a positive COVID confirmation of a student or staff member at a school site, district or school leadership will make contact with state and county health officials for guidance on appropriate actions. This may include contract tracing to determine if more than one school site has been affected. Decisions on school closure will be made on a case-by-case basis in an expedited manner. Patrons with students at identified school sites will be notified as soon as possible.

The goal is to clean and disinfect identified school sites as quickly and thoroughly as possible in order to reopen school and resume in-person learning. This will include use of electrostatic sprayers.

**VIRTUAL Instruction**

**What is Virtual Instruction?**
Virtual Instruction means the student takes all of his/her courses in a virtual setting away from the school regardless of schools being open or closed. A certified teacher directs the instruction through the use of a curriculum management system. The Virtual Instruction option is a semester long commitment. Virtual Instruction is offered K-12. Students enrolled in Virtual Instruction may participate in extracurricular activities. Students will be responsible for transportation to and from extracurricular activities practices.

**How will virtual school be different from at-home learning during the closure last spring?**
Students who select virtual school will be required to participate in class daily, and instruction will be led by a certified teacher. Virtual school this year will be a full course load of instruction and assignments that is comparable to what students who are attending school in-person will be required to complete. Students will need a computer device and internet connection.

**What is a curriculum management system?**
A curriculum management system that provides an online/digital learning content for students who wish to learn in a full-time virtual classroom setting.

**How do I enroll my student in virtual instruction?**
If interested in the virtual option, an application and intake process must be completed and finalized. The appropriateness of these options for individuals will be determined through the application and intake process.

To apply to the Meeker Schools Virtual Academy, please complete the Meeker Virtual Eligibility Form found on the school web site www.meeker.k12.ok.us

**If I choose one learning option and want to change the choice later in the year, can I make a switch?**
Enrollment for virtual instruction must be completed by August 5th in order for Meeker to properly staff the program. Those enrolled for virtual instruction are expected to commit to the program for at least one semester. Students may return to traditional learning if the student is struggling to progress academically and has discussed this school administration.

**Will meals be provided for students who select virtual instruction?**
Yes

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Classroom Precautions**

* Masks are recommended for students and staff
* Disinfect desks, keyboards, and screens
	+ Schedule desk sanitation during the school day at appropriate transitions
	+ Custodial staff routinely clean highly touched surfaces
* Desks -- arrange to account for physical distancing as possible
* Hand sanitizer available in every classroom
* Integrate good hygiene practices into instruction and classroom expectations
* Limit the use of shared materials and spaces
	+ Keep student belongings separate
	+ Avoid sharing supplies
	+ Avoid sharing electronic devices, toys, books, and other games or learning aids
	+ Avoid sharing of music instruments
* Avoid outside food in the classroom
	+ Students eating lunch off campus will not be allowed to bring food into the classroom
* Students and staff use personal water bottles and water bottle filling stations rather than hallway/classroom drinking fountains
* Every teacher will have Google Classroom set up for their classroom or course sections

**Remote Learning Days**In the event of school closure due to COVID-19, Meeker will be prepared to offer a remote learning environment for our students. These remote learning days will count as instructional days, with students learning new material with teacher support through Google Classroom (learning management system) and Apex as a curriculum management system for Secondary Students (grades(6-12) and Edmentum Exact Path for Elementary students (Grades K-5). Attendance will be taken. Students will have the opportunity to collaborate with teachers and peers through virtual interactions. Regular support and contact from Meeker staff will take place until on-campus class can resume. Remote learning days may extend beyond COVID-19 closures and could include inclement weather or other unforeseen conditions. Devices will be provided to families (rather than individual students) based on identified need and availability.

**In the event of a remote learning day, will laptops be given per household/family or per student?**
Laptops will be provided for families based on need and availability. Parents/Guardians will be required to sign a liability waiver prior to receiving the devices. Any devices issued during school closure/remote learning will be expected to be returned promptly when school reopens. Families will be responsible for providing internet access.