

**FRENCHTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT #40 – RETURN TO SCHOOL – 2020-2021**

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Safe School Topic	Governor’s Plan	OPI’s Plan	AAP Plan (American Academy of Pediatrics)	Frenchtown Public Schools School District #40
<i>Basic Principles</i>	Noting the uniqueness of every school district in Montana, our goal for this document is not to be prescriptive, but to provide effective, flexible guidelines to all schools in hopes that we can safely resume in person instruction in the fall.	As we approach the beginning of the school year, we encourage school leaders to plan for multiple scenarios and consider the different consequences of each. Concurrently, we want to ensure, regardless of the scenario, when we re-engage with students that schools continue to take safety precautions to ensure the health of their students, staff, and greater community.	<p>The AAP strongly advocates that all policy considerations for the coming school year should start with a goal of having students physically present in school.</p> <p>The importance of in-person learning is well-documented, and there is already evidence of the negative impacts on children because of school closures in the spring of 2020.</p> <p>Policy makers should acknowledge that COVID-19 policies are intended to mitigate, not eliminate, risk. No single action or set of actions will completely eliminate the risk of transmission, but implementation of several coordinated interventions can greatly reduce that risk.</p>	<p>Frenchtown Public Schools will offer high quality and robust education opportunities for students who attend in person and onsite. Frenchtown Public Schools will offer high quality and robust education opportunities for students who are unable to attend in person.</p> <p>Frenchtown Public Schools will also focus on the social emotional health of students and staff.</p>
<i>Phasing Model</i>	<p><i>Phase I, II, III</i></p> <p>Reopening for school districts has been categorized into three phases that align with Phase I, Phase II, and Phase III of the Governor’s Reopening the Big Sky Plan.</p>	<p><i>Scenario 1,2,3,4</i></p> <p>As COVID-19 impacts are fluid, we anticipate that multiple scenarios may occur when schools re-open in the fall of 2020 or may occur throughout the school year.</p>	General guidance given for all situations, not dependent on any particular phasing model.	Frenchtown Public Schools has already provided remote instruction due to the shutdown last spring and now is in position to offer robust learning opportunities in the event of having to go back to Phase I. Staff has the resources and training to move between phases.
<i>Phase II, Scenario 3</i>	Stay at home lifted in order to allow for gradual re-opening while minimizing the spread of COVID-19 through strict social distancing and building safety protocols. Schools may re-open for in-person instruction depending upon the circumstances of their community.	A mixed model of traditional and off-site learning. A limited number of students will be present in the school building at one time, with remote learning occurring for all students not onsite. This will require a blended approach for the planning and delivery of learning opportunities for students.	N/A	<p>Frenchtown Public Schools will open for full onsite and in person instruction. Frenchtown Public Schools will offer remote instruction/learning opportunities for those students and families that will be unable to attend in person.</p> <p><a href="#">Click to see Daily Plan</a></p>
<i>Group Size</i>	This phase eases most restrictions, but still encourages social distancing	Near full capacity of attendance and operations in a traditional	N/A	Frenchtown Public Schools will not have a class over 50 people. Our concerns are bus

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	<p>and limitations on large social gatherings to allow the economy to strategically reopen while continuing to prioritize public health. While this phase will facilitate a return to a “new normal” for schools and communities, it will be equally important to continue to monitor public health indicators and adjust strategies to mitigate community spread.</p>	<p>setting, with remote learning for students not onsite.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For ALL INDIVIDUALS there is no limit on group size, however, everyone should observe physical distancing and minimize contact</li> </ul> <p>time with others, and limit time spent in crowded environments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VULNERABLE INDIVIDUALS may still need to take precautions, and remote learning for students not onsite should be available.</li> </ul>		<p>riders, lunch, recess, before school, and after school.</p> <p><a href="#">Click to see busing plan.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Click to see K-5 lunch and recess plan.</a></p> <p>(Several tabs at bottom of page)</p> <p>The start of our school day will start with staggered arrivals of students and students will go straight to classrooms with grab and go breakfast opportunities.</p> <p>Lunches will be spread out over several locations and release times will be staggered.</p> <p>School will be released at varying times to minimize the opportunity of congregating.</p>
<p><i>Grouping &amp; Scheduling</i></p>	<p>Non-school setting: Phase I limits group size to 10 if social distancing is not possible. Under phase II group size is limited to 50 if social distancing is not possible.</p> <p>School Setting: Under Phase I and Phase II: Occupancy limits that follow local and state guidelines on classroom size and that allows for social distancing</p>	<p>Under Scenario 3, Phase II, Avoid GATHERING in groups of more than 50 people in circumstances that do not readily allow for appropriate physical distancing. It is recommended to continue physical distance in gatherings of any size. Groups larger than 50 people should be canceled unless physical distancing can be maintained.</p>	<p>Strict adherence to a specific size of student groups (eg, 10 per classroom, 15 per classroom, etc) should be discouraged in favor of other risk mitigation strategies.</p>	<p>All classes at all levels will have fewer than 30 students.</p> <p>Elementary students are in class and grade level cohorts. Middle School students will remain in rooms and teachers will rotate most of the day. High School A/B block schedule rotation – four periods a day and cancellation of all period day on Mondays to limit contacts and transitions. Seating charts will be used to assist with contact tracing.</p> <p>Classes will be held outside whenever possible and appropriate.</p>
<p><i>Social / Physical Distancing</i></p>	<p>Establish protocols for students to remain in the same groups or classroom, while teachers rotate, when practical.</p>	<p>Consider alternative schedules for class instruction. Keep students in same groups or classroom, with teachers rotating when practical.</p> <p>Alter the bell schedule to limit the number of students in transit between classes at any one time. Realign a bell schedule to include times for hand washing/sanitizing. School districts should create a unique plan that is appropriate for their school size. It is recommended that gatherings occur in shifts (recess, cafeteria and hallway passing).</p>	<p>The risk reduction of reducing class sizes may be outweighed by the challenge of doing so. Cohort classes to minimize crossover among children and adults. Have teachers rotate instead of students when possible. Use of block schedule at MS and HS to assist with cohorting of students. Stagger class periods by cohort for movement between classrooms.</p>	<p>Physical distancing of students will occur whenever possible and to the best of our ability. 3’-6’ is possible in most classrooms. Lockers will not be used to avoid congregation. Outside classrooms will be utilized whenever possible and appropriate. Classes will not transition at the same time as to mitigate cross sectioning for contact tracing.</p> <p><a href="#">Click to see K-5 Plan</a></p> <p><a href="#">Click to see 6-8 Plan</a></p> <p><a href="#">Click to see 9-12 Plan</a></p>

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<p><i>Face Coverings</i></p>	<p>Under Phase I and Phase II, the school Health &amp; Safety plan SHOULD consider strict social distancing; for example, rules for traffic flow in congregational spaces and occupancy limits that allows for social distancing.</p> <p>Under Phase I and Phase II, the school Health &amp; Safety plan MAY consider methods of limiting the number of individuals in classrooms and other learning spaces.</p>	<p>Scenario 2 (Phase I) Students may alternate school days, prohibit congregation in hallways and lunchrooms, install physical barriers in areas where it is difficult for individuals to remain at least 6 feet apart, provide physical guides such as tape on floors or sidewalks.</p> <p>Scenario 3 (Phase II) Recommended to continue physical distancing in gatherings of any size. Continue to limit communal spaces such as cafeterias and playgrounds.</p>	<p>There is a conflict between optimal academic and social / emotional learning in schools and strict adherence to current (CDC) physical distancing guidelines.</p> <p>In many school settings, 6 feet between students is not feasible without limiting the number of students. Evidence suggests that spacing as close as 3 feet may approach the benefits of 6 feet of space, particularly if students are wearing face coverings and are asymptomatic. Schools should weigh the benefits of strict adherence to a 6-foot spacing rule between students with the potential downside if remote learning is the only alternative.</p>	<p>Frenchtown Schools will be following the Governor's order and the Missoula County Health Department's order and all people in the building will be wearing masks unless there is a medical condition that prevents a mask from being worn of which the district will require medical documentation of said condition. We are installing plexi glass barriers for situations that arise with mask difficulties.</p>
<p><i>Health Screening</i></p>	<p>No specific requirement or recommendation for use of masks. "Provide masks for those present in the school building. The school Health &amp; Safety plan should consider guidelines on the use of masks by all staff and/or students."</p> <p><b><i>This was the original statement with the Gov. plan...</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Now all are required to wear masks.</i></b></p>	<p>No specific requirement or recommendation, but restates CDC guidance. The CDC recommends cloth face coverings when physical distancing is not possible. This recommendation may be challenging for students (especially younger students) to wear in all-day settings such as school. If schools require face coverings, they should provide instructions to students and staff on the proper use, removal, and cleaning of cloth face coverings.</p>	<p>Yes for Adults and Middle/High School students. Maybe for elementary students.</p> <p>Although ideal, universal face covering use is not always possible in the school setting for many reasons. When developing policy regarding the use of cloth face coverings by students or school staff, school districts and health advisors should consider whether the use of cloth face coverings is developmentally appropriate and feasible and whether the policy can be instituted safely. School staff and older students (middle or high school) may be able to wear cloth face coverings safely and consistently and should be encouraged to do so.</p>	<p>All staff, students, and families are asked to be personally responsible to monitor their health and well-being before school starts each day. If ill, then the Frenchtown School District asks that the individual remains symptom free of any illness for 24 hours before returning to school. As per Missoula County Health Department recommendation. If an employee or students gets tested for COVID, then Frenchtown School District will follow the guidelines and recommendations of the Missoula County Health Department.</p> <p><b><i>*Please Click to see the Missoula County Health Department guidelines.</i></b></p>
<p><i>Testing for COVID-19</i></p>	<p>Under all phases: Process for monitoring student and staff for symptoms and history of exposure. No specific process defined.</p> <p>Monitor and screen any non-school staff, including parents, when entering school buildings.</p>	<p>No specific guidance regarding testing or health screening. Require anyone (student and staff) with COVID-19 symptoms to stay at home.</p>	<p>Recommended to be done at home, not at school.</p> <p>The list of symptoms of COVID-19 infection has grown since the start of the pandemic and the manifestations of COVID-19 infection in children, although similar, is often not the same as that for adults. School policies regarding temperature screening and temperature checks must balance the practicality of performing these screening procedures for large numbers of students and staff with the information known about how children manifest COVID-19 infection, the risk of transmission in schools...</p>	<p>Frenchtown School District will not be testing for COVID. It is encouraged to monitor each day and if symptoms do occur, then the district encourages students and staff to remain home and symptom free for 24 hours. The district is willing to review attendance policies on a case by case basis and the district will work with employees regarding this sensitive matter and does not want illness in the school setting. The district will follow the recommendations made by the Missoula County Health Department and each case will be handled on a case by case basis.</p> <p><b><i>*Please Click to see the Missoula County Health Department guidelines.</i></b></p>

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		<b><u>The American Academy of Pediatrics and the Missoula County Health Department seem to be saying the same thing about screening, better done at home than at school even though we will have to deal with this at school...</u></b>	In lieu of temperature checks and symptom screening being performed after arrival to school, methods to allow parent report of temperature checks done at home may be considered.	
<i>Hallways/Lockers</i>	Create rules for traffic flow and congregational spaces (bathrooms, concession areas, hallways, etc.); establish methods of staggering the use of communal spaces and hallways and ensure regular cleaning. Clean all hallways, common areas, and the outside of lockers.	Provide physical guides, such as tape on floors or sidewalks and signs on walls, to ensure that staff and children remain at least six feet apart in lines and at other times (e.g. guides for creating “one way routes” in hallways).	Consider creating 1-way halls to reduce close contact. Physical guides on floor or sidewalk for traffic flow. Stagger class periods by cohort for movement between classrooms. Eliminate use of lockers or assign by cohort to minimize mixing of students before/after school.	Classes will not be in hallways together. 6’ spacing will be used when possible and practical to mitigate and class cohort groups will be used when transitioning. Routines will be taught, procedural, and expected. Lockers will not be used to mitigate areas of congregation.
<i>Playgrounds</i>	Keep libraries, gyms, playgrounds off-limits unless they can be sanitized between groups.	Continue to limit communal spaces, such as cafeterias and playgrounds with shared playground equipment. If this is not possible, stagger use, and disinfect between uses.  Outdoor areas, like playgrounds, generally require normal routine cleaning but do not require disinfection. (Source: CDC)	Enforcing physical distancing in an outside playground is difficult and may not be the most effective method of risk mitigation. Emphasis should be placed on cohorting students and limiting the size of groups participating in playground time. Outdoor transmission of virus is known to be much lower than indoor transmission.	Elementary recess schedules are established in zones and color coded so students may stay in their cohort groups.  <a href="#">Click to see K-5 Plan</a>
<i>Meals / Cafeteria</i>  <b><i>All are similar we have plans and ideas to help with mitigation.</i></b>	Establish procedures for restricting the use of cafeterias and other congregate settings, and serving meals in alternate settings such as classrooms	Consider remote meal service options that maximize safety and physical distancing, such as grab and go breakfasts and lunches.  No self-serve stations or buffets. Staff wear masks and gloves while interacting with individuals. Establish hours of operation that allow for facility occupancy that meets physical distancing requirements. Develop traffic flow patterns and seating arrangements for each venue. Adopt school breakfast in the classroom strategies for lunch. Designate entrances for those leaving campus for lunch.	Consider having students cohorting, potentially in their classrooms, especially if students remain in their classroom throughout the day. Create separate lunch periods to minimize the number of students in the cafeteria at one time. Utilize additional spaces for lunch/break times. Utilize outdoor spaces when possible. Wash hands or use hand sanitizer before and after eating.	Students will be spread out over various rooms throughout each school building. Students will have the ability to eat lunch outside weather permitting. Classes will be released at staggering times to mitigate cohort mixing. Time between groups is worked into schedules to allow for disinfecting and cleaning prior to the next group arriving. No self-serve. Food will be served directly from the kitchen staff to students.

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<p><i>Visitors &amp; Adult Protocols</i></p>	<p>The Health &amp; Safety plan may include processes for identifying and restricting non-essential visitors or volunteers.</p>	<p>No specific restrictions for adults and/or visitors.</p>	<p>Given what is known about transmission dynamics, adults and adult staff within schools should attempt to maintain a distance of 6 feet from other persons as much as possible, particularly around other adult staff. Physical distancing by and among adults is strongly recommended, and meetings and curriculum planning should take place virtually if possible. In addition, other strategies to increase adult-adult physical distance in time and space should be implemented. Parents should, in general, be discouraged from entering the school building. Physical barriers, such as plexiglass, should be considered in reception areas and employee workspaces where the environment does not accommodate physical distancing, and congregating in shared spaces, such as staff lounge areas, should be discouraged.</p>	<p>During the school day, Frenchtown School District will do its best to protect medically fragile and immunocompromised students and staff by limiting the visitors to school. For the most part only staff, students, and family members will be allowed in the school. Masks will be required for those family members who are given permission to access the school. All visitors will be asked to be screened.</p>
<p><i>Organized Activities / Extracurricular</i></p>	<p>The Health &amp; Safety plan may include processes for identifying and restricting non-essential visitors or volunteers.</p>	<p>No specific restrictions for adults and/or visitors.</p>	<p>Given what is known about transmission dynamics, adults and adult staff within schools should attempt to maintain a distance of 6 feet from other persons as much as possible, particularly around other adult staff. Physical distancing by and among adults is strongly recommended, and meetings and curriculum planning should take place virtually if possible. In addition, other strategies to increase adult-adult physical distance in time and space should be implemented. Parents should, in general, be discouraged from entering the school building. Physical barriers, such as plexiglass, should be considered in reception areas and employee workspaces where the environment does not accommodate physical distancing, and congregating in shared spaces, such as staff lounge areas, should be discouraged.</p>	<p>Frenchtown School District will follow the guidelines of the Missoula County Health Department, the Governor, and Montana High School Association.</p> <p>New information is coming soon and this will help us navigate.</p> <p>The District may limit occupancy to follow the guidelines provided. Events could be staggered to help with mitigation.</p> <p>Extra space will be utilized to help with the 6' spacing.</p> <p>Masks will be required.</p> <p>The District may require attendance charts and seating charts to assist with contact tracing.</p>