

HIGHLAND JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT #305

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

Website Link: <http://www.sd305.k12.id.us/>

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## **Introduction**

Schools are an important part of the infrastructure of communities. Highland Joint School District is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for students that support social and emotional development, provide access to services and improve life outcomes. Although COVID-19 outbreaks have occurred in school settings, multiple studies have shown that transmission rates within the school setting, when multiple prevention strategies are in place are typically lower than community transmission levels.

Highland Joint School District is committed to working with the local public health department to determine necessary protocols and prevention strategies. School Administrators consider multiple factors when they make decisions about implementing prevention strategies against COVID-19. Highland Joint School District 305 has created a Covid 19 Committee consisting of school administrators, teachers and the Board of Trustees that creates and reviews protocols that the district follows to ensure the safety of staff and students on a daily basis.

## **Mitigation Strategies (Table 1)**

### **Promoting Vaccination**

Vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to prevent COVID-19. People who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are at a lower risk of symptomatic or severe infection. Evidence suggests that people who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are less likely to have an asymptomatic infection or transmit COVID-19 to others than people who are not fully vaccinated. According to the CDC, people who are fully vaccinated can safely resume activities they did before the pandemic, in most settings.

For additional information regarding vaccination clinics or additional information, contact North Central Health District at (208) 882-7506 or access the website at: <https://www.idahopublichealth.com/>

### **Universal and Correct Wearing of Masks**

When individuals who are not vaccinated wear masks consistently and correctly they protect others as well as themselves. Consistent and correct mask use is especially important in crowded settings, when physical distancing cannot be maintained.

- Indoors. Mask use is recommended by the CDC for those who are not fully vaccinated including students, teachers and staff. Children under 2 years of age should not wear a mask.
- Outdoors. In general, people do not need to wear masks when outdoors. However, CDC recommends people who are not fully vaccinated to wear masks when in a crowded outdoor setting or during activities that involve sustained close contact with others who have not been fully vaccinated.

When masks are worn by teachers, staff or students, the masks should meet one of the following criteria:

[CDC Mask Recommendations](#)

[ASTM International Standard Specification for Barrier Face Coverings](#)

[NIOSH Workplace Performance and Performance Plus Masks](#)

***\*Highland Joint School District will be supportive of people who are fully vaccinated, but choose to continue to wear a mask, as a personal choice or because they have a medical condition that may weaken their immune system.***

### **Modifying Facilities**

Staff and families of students will be made aware of any situations where students and/or staff have been exposed. If there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the school district, parents and students will be notified and given safety/ health recommendations or guidelines to follow. If necessary, classrooms may be rearranged or moved to a different area to allow for different physical distancing.

Highland Joint Schools may implement the use of Cohorting when working in small groups. The use of Cohorting can limit the spread of COVID-19 between cohorts but should not replace other prevention measures within each group. Cohorting means keeping people together in a small group and having each group stay together throughout an entire day. Cohorting can be used to limit the number of students, teachers and staff who come in contact with each other, especially when it is challenging to maintain physical distancing.

Physical Distancing: Based on studies from 2020-2021, the CDC recommends schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within the classroom for people who are not fully vaccinated

### **Contact Tracing**

Highland Joint School District will continue to collaborate with state and local health departments to confidentially provide information about people diagnosed with or exposed to COVID-19. This allows the district to identify which students, teachers and staff with positive test results should isolate and /or quarantine. School officials will notify, to the extent allowable by law, teachers, staff and families of students who were close contacts as soon as possible (within the same day if possible) after the district is notified that someone within the school has tested positive.

***\*Refer to the Quarantine/Isolation requirements and the end of this document.***

### **Diagnostic and Screening Testing**

Screening testing identifies infected people, including those with or without symptoms. In K-12 schools, screening can help promptly identify and isolate cases, quarantine those who may have been exposed to COVID-19 and are not fully vaccinated, and identify clusters to reduce the risk to in person education.

Students, teachers and staff who have symptoms of infectious illness, such as influenza (flu) or COVID-19, will be expected to stay home are encouraged to speak to their healthcare provider for possible testing and care.

## **Vaccinations**

Existing laws and regulations require certain vaccinations for children attending school. Parents are encouraged to provide documentation of students' vaccination status to enable quicker identification of non-vaccinated students who may need to be quarantined if they are exposed to someone who has tested positive with COVID-19.

The protocol to collect, secure, use and disclose information will comply with relevant statutory and regulatory requirements, including Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) statutory and regulatory requirements.

## **Accommodations for Children with Disabilities**

Staff and Students of at-risk students will be encouraged to speak to a health care provider about safety protocols that are being recommended for them in a school environment. The Highland Joint School District 305 will comply with any accommodations written in IEP's or 504 plans regarding Covid preventative measures or procedures.

## **Attendance and Absenteeism**

Highland Joint School District will monitor student and staff attendance on a daily basis. Students and staff will be encouraged to stay home when sick, especially if they have any cold or flu like symptoms. Students will also be sent home if they are running a fever (100.4) or display any signs of cold or flu like symptoms. Students and staff may return to school after 24 hours with no fever, no cough and no signs of illness are evident.

If the district has confirmed cases, schools will only operate under the guidance of the local health department. If school is in session, staff may take personal, sick or vacation leave unless there are other state or federal protocols in place.

If parents are uncomfortable sending students back to school, they are encouraged to speak to Administration about possible options for Online instruction.

## **Visitors**

Highland Joint School District will be limiting non-essential visitors, volunteers and activities involving external groups or organizations with people when there is moderate-to-high Covid-19 community transmission. All Visitors are required to be checked in and registered at the district office before entering the building.

## **Communication Plan**

Highland Joint School District has created a COVID Committee which will meet a minimum of every 6 months to review current protocols and the district "Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services".

Covid-19 updates will be provided to the local school board and school staff when there are confirmed cases within the school community. No individual or personal information will be released to the community as a whole.

## **Narrative Information Required in District Plan (Table 2)**

### **How the LEA is addressing and plans to address students' academic needs?**

Highland School district will offer limited online instruction as well as in-person instruction for students during the 2021/2022 school year. If parents are uncomfortable sending students to school, parents may contact District Administration to determine what options are available for their child(ren). Online services will be provided by Idaho Digital Learning Alliance (IDLA) for the 2021/2022 school year.

Online students must be signed up for a minimum of a semester at a time. Attendance will be counted based on the student's academic progress in the online program. District assessments will be offered to students on days when school is not in full session (PD days).

Highland School district will continually progress monitor all students and work to provide additional support and resources in student's individual areas of need.

### **How the LEA is addressing and plans to address students' social, emotional, mental health, and other needs?**

Highland Joint District has a district wide focus on social emotional learning. The Highland Joint School District is a School Wide Positive School District (SWPBIS) that focuses on the social well being and healthy connections between peers and adults. Communications between schools, families and community is important. The Highland Joint School District has placed an emphasis on building lines of communication between the school district and homes of our students.

The district allocates professional development days throughout the school year to assess students who may be at risk academically, socially, emotionally etc. The district has created a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) that also addresses the academically and/or behavioral needs of students K-12. The district works to ensure that every student has at least one adult they have a connection with in the district.

### **How the LEA is addressing and plans to address their staff's social, emotional, mental health, and other needs?**

The district will hold staff meetings with staff on a regular basis to keep staff informed of any updates or information that needs to be shared regarding students/staff exposure, changes to status of district etc. The district also employs a counselor and who is available on a regular basis to support students and staff within the district. The district has and will continue relationships with outside mental health resources whom staff can access. The district medical insurance also allows staff to receive counseling through an additional EAP

(Employee Assistance Program).

**The process and timeline for review and revision of the plan no less than every 6 mon. through Sept. 30, 2023.**

<b>Time line</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Persons</b>
Jan 2022	Mid-Year Plan Review	Covid Committee
Jan 2022	Submit any changes to Board of Education for review.	Supt. Gion
May 2022	Plan Review – Planning for 2022/23 school year.	Covid Committee
May 2022	Submit any changes to Board of Education for review	Supt. Gion
November 2022	Mid-Year Plan Review	Covid Committee
November 2022	Submit any changes to Board of Education for review	Supt. Gion
May 2023	Plan Review – Planning for 2023/24 school year.	Covid Committee
May 2023	Submit any changes to Board of Education for review	Supt. Gion

**Lea’s need to support and/or technical assistance related to implementing strategies identified in Table 1/ Mitigation Strategies and Table 2/ Narrative Information if applicable.**

Highland Joint School District 305 will continue to provide support to staff and students regarding the use of 1:1 device within the district and for those who are participating in limited online learning. Professional development is planned for the staff regarding the use of programs, security options and supporting students in an online environment.

Highland Jt. School District  
 Pandemic Operations Plan

- Category 1—Mild to Moderate Community Transmission
- Category 2—Moderate to Substantial Community Transmission
- Category 3—Substantial Community Transmission

**Category 1**

**PPE Strategies**

- Optional Masks and/or Face Shields.
- Any employee/student or visitor exhibiting any of the following symptoms should wear a mask until leaving campus. It is expected that parents will pick up their children promptly if any of these symptoms are exhibited.
  - 100.4 Fever or greater
  - Nausea or vomiting

- Diarrhea
- If an employee/student is exhibiting 2 or more of the following symptoms (not including the above symptoms) they should wear a mask until leaving campus. It is expected that students will be picked up promptly.
  - Loss of taste/smell
  - Cough
  - Difficulty breathing
  - Headache
  - Sore throat
  - Congestions or runny nose
- Establish and maintain hand hygiene stations throughout the building.

## **Classroom**

- Maintain social distancing when available:
  - Desks will be arranged as far away from each other as possible
  - Table separators for classrooms with tables are recommended.
- Secondary teachers will sanitize desks, pencil sharpeners, high touched surfaces between classes.
- Elementary teachers will sanitize desks, pencil sharpeners, high touched surfaces throughout the day.
- All teachers will sanitize desk and high touched surfaces in their classrooms at the end of the day.
- Integrate good hygiene practices into instruction and classroom expectations.
- When possible, windows will be open
- Limit the use of shared materials and spaces:
  - Students belongings separated
  - Avoid sharing supplies, electronic devices, books, etc.
- Avoid outside food in the classroom.
- Students and staff will use personal water bottles and only use the water bottle filling stations, not the drinking fountains.

## **Cafeteria**

- Use of hand sanitizer at the start of the serving line.
- Students should be spaced out as much as possible while in the cafeteria.
- Salad bar availability will be determined in consultation with the public health department.

## **Visitors**

- No irregular/unscheduled visitors.
- Limit visitors to parents, by appointment, and critically important visitors on campus.
- Parents may not go past the office unless approved by administration:
  - All lunches, school work, etc. must be dropped off at the office

## **Gatherings**

- Discourage gatherings for areas such as the bus lane, restrooms, recess, hallways, lunch, before and after school.
- Field trips will may not be allowed if there is community spread where the field trip is to take place.
- Limit mixing groups.
- Avoid personal contact such as hugs, high fives, etc.

## **Busing**

- Students and drivers will use hand sanitizer when they enter the bus.
- Students will sit one to a seat when possible (except siblings or those living in the same household will sit together).
- When possible an empty seat between passengers
- Busses will be disinfected after each use.

## **Recess**

- If outdoor recess is not feasible, indoor recess will occur in the classrooms.

## **Confirmed Case in School, Regardless of Community Transmission**

- If there is a confirmed case in the school, it might be necessary to initiate a short-term dismissal in order for local health officials and school administration to gain a better understanding of the COVID-19 situation impacting the school. This allows the local health officials to help the school determine appropriate next steps, including whether an extended dismissal duration is needed to stop or slow further spread of COVID-19.
- Local health officials' recommendations for the scope and duration of school dismissals will be made on a case-by-case basis.
- During school dismissals all extracurricular group activities, school-based afterschool programs, practices, etc. will also be canceled.
- During school dismissals, school facilities will be disinfected according to CDC and local public health official's guidance.

## **Category 2**

All Category 1 operations are in place, plus:

- Coordinate with the local public health district.



- When social distancing of 6 feet or more cannot be maintained masks will be worn. Masks shall be worn by students. Staff may choose to wear masks or face shields. Students that cannot wear a mask will be physically distanced from other students.
- Students riding the bus must wear a face mask.
- Conduct daily health screenings of employees and students for COVID-19 as they enter the facility. Isolate and send home students and staff that show symptoms. Parents will be expected to promptly pick their child up from school. Siblings will also be picked up at that time.
- Encourage parents to screen students every morning before attending school. Parents do not send students to school that exhibit symptoms.
- All visitors will be screened before entering the building and must wear a mask
- Lunch will be closed. Students remain on campus during lunch. Secondary will be separated by class levels.
- Recess: Each class will have a designated area for play; there will be no co-mingling of classes.
- Field trips, assemblies, etc. will be canceled.
- No loitering in the hallways:
  - Elementary students will enter the building using the outside doors directly into their classrooms.
  - Secondary students will be expected to go directly to their 1<sup>st</sup> period classroom after going to their lockers to get their materials
- Students and employees that have symptoms of COVID-19, the Decision Tree for Symptomatic People is followed.

Highland School Board will determine if the school needs to enter Category 2 Protocols.

### Category 3

School will go to distance learning mode.

Highland School Board will determine if the school needs to enter Category 3 Protocols with the exception of a short term Category 3 distance learning mode.

## COVID SCENARIOS

### **UNVACCINATED:**

- Positive test results:
  - 5 day isolation for positive person
    - 5 day isolation begins on day of onset of symptoms or positive test result with release on day 6, if not showing symptoms. Once the 5 day isolation ends, masks will be required for an additional 5 calendar days.
- **Close contact/Exposure**
- **Asymptomatic**
  - 10 day monitoring period, if individual starts to show any symptoms of Covid-19, will presume positive and isolate from 5 days of initial exposure.
  - Monitor symptoms daily through day 10.
- **Symptomatic**
  - May test at any time, however, will remain in isolation pending results
- Negative test during 5 day isolation
  - Remain in isolation for the rest of the 5 day isolation period for a positive person (being a close contact of a known case would make a symptomatic person a probable case)
- Positive test result
  - 5 day isolation begins on day of onset of symptoms or positive test result with release on day 6, if not showing symptoms. Once the 5 day isolation ends, masks will be required for an additional 5 calendar days.

### **VACCINATED: (Exposure/Close Contact)**

#### **Asymptomatic:**

- No quarantine
- Monitor daily for symptoms for 14 days.
- Recommend testing 3-5 days after last exposure
  - If test is negative Monitor for symptoms for remaining 14 days

- If test is positive, follow guidelines for “positive case” and start isolation for 10 days from day of test

**Symptomatic:**

- May test at any time, however, will remain in isolation pending results
  - o Negative test during 5 day isolation
    - Remain in isolation for the rest of the 5 day isolation period for a positive person (being a close contact of a known case would make a symptomatic person a probable case)
  - o Positive test result
    - 5 day isolation begins on day of onset of symptoms or positive test result with release on day 6, if not showing symptoms. Once the 5 day isolation ends, masks will be required for an additional 5 calendar days.

Updated on 1/24/22