

Heart Butte Schools Covid-19 Safety Plan

Face Coverings

Face coverings will be required of students and staff while in school, class, and when appropriate, during extra-curricular activities. It is strongly encouraged that face coverings be provided by families or individuals to maximize comfort and fit. When utilizing outdoor spaces, students and staff may remove face coverings provided physical distance can be maintained. Individuals who can not wear a face covering due to a documented medical reason(s) will be required to follow physical distancing and hand hygiene protocols to ensure the safety of others and themselves.

Physical Distancing

To the greatest extent possible, students and staff will practice physical distancing in classrooms, hallways, and other areas in school buildings, through restrictions on congregations and expediting transitional times. The CDC's Consideration for Schools (2020) recommends school and classroom space be maximized to allow for six feet of physical spacing when feasible, with desks/tables facing the same direction when feasible.

Hand Hygiene

Hand hygiene is a simple, effective, and critical means in preventing the spread of disease. Evidence supports hand washing to be the most effective practice, thus it will be the highly encouraged method used in hand hygiene. When possible, creatively incorporate hand hygiene into lessons, and students and staff are expected to follow hand hygiene protocols following recess/lunch, and other times as appropriate. When hand washing with soap and water is unavailable, the CDC's Consideration for Schools (2020) recommends using hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol for students and staff who can safely use it. To supplement hand hygiene, all schools will be equipped with hand sanitizer stations throughout the buildings and if possible, in each classroom.

General Screening Protocols

Parents and staff will be provided information about COVID-19 symptoms (see Parent/Guardian Responsibilities Guide). By sending their student(s) to school, parents/guardians are acknowledging their student(s) is/are not symptomatic." If staff report to work, they are affirming they are symptom free. If a student or staff member is exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, such as fever, shortness of breath, and loss of taste/smell, they should stay home, contact their health care provider, and their school.

Building Cleaning and Disinfecting

The school has been deep cleaned and disinfected and continues to be cleaned and disinfected daily as they are used. Custodial staffing will be adjusted to perform increased routine cleaning and disinfection during the school day per the recommendation from the CDC's Considerations for Schools (2020) to increase cleaning and disinfecting for frequently touched surfaces, such as door handles, desks, handrails and light switches. All classrooms and restrooms will be disinfected at least twice per day when school is in session. To facilitate the increased disinfecting process, each school will receive **ionizing disinfecting sprayers** and each classroom will have disinfectant for staff to use as needed. Facility Enhancements and Modifications Plexiglas shields have been installed in all of the main office areas in schools to provide transparent barriers as appropriate. Additional barriers may be used in areas such as counseling offices. All drinking fountains have been disabled; however, some bottle filling stations will remain in operation, if possible. Classroom Modifications Following the CDC's Consideration for Schools (2020), classroom configuration will be utilized to maximize space, ideally six feet, between desks, with student seats facing the same direction whenever possible. To increase space, to the greatest extent possible, non-essential classroom furniture, props, etc.. will be removed from classrooms. Items within classrooms that cannot be sanitized/disinfected will be removed. Teachers will be encouraged to utilize outdoor space for class as weather permits. Signage Highly visible, standardized signage compliant with CDC, state, and local standards will be used throughout school buildings. Signage will reinforce physical distancing, wearing face coverings, and hand hygiene.

Policy 1905 option 2 (adopted 8-17-20)

Meals delivered to classrooms (Elementary only)

Breakfast: Breakfast will be delivered by Food Services staff to the classroom and students will have the choice of two menu options. Meals will be placed on a table outside the classroom to provide contactless delivery. A supervising adult will record on a class roster the students that eat. Trash will be placed in a bag and placed in the hallway and be picked up by Custodial staff. For students that are late meals can be picked up in the school office and the student name will be recorded by the office staff.

Lunch: The lunches will be delivered and placed on a table outside the classroom to provide contactless delivery. The supervising adult will distribute meals to students in the classroom. Custodial staff will pick up the lunch cart and trash bags.

Middle School/High School

All menu items will be packaged as a grab and go. School administration will control the flow of students entering the serving area to ensure physical distancing; instructions will also be posted.

Arrival/Dismissal/Student and Staff Movement

To support physical distancing efforts, the use of multiple points for entry and exit, without jeopardizing school safety, will be encouraged. Upon arriving at school, students will be directed to their designated area and/or point of entry as identified by building administration. At the conclusion of the school day, student dismissal may be staggered with multiple points of egress as feasible. To assist the school district, it is imperative that families transporting their child make arrangements to limit congregation.

Transportation

In following recommendations from the Governor's Plan for Reopening Safe and Health Schools for Montana (2020), the Montana Office of Public Instruction's Reopening Montana Schools Guidance (2020), and Heart Butte Schools safety protocols, the following are guidelines for school transportation services:

- Parents/guardians will need to conduct the daily screening protocols before having their student(s) ride the school bus. (See screening protocol below)
- All busing students and drivers must wear face coverings during transportation.
- All students will have assigned seating and must sit in the assigned seat daily unless the driver directs them otherwise. Any concerns about the assigned seating needs to be addressed with the school bus driver.
- Bus drivers have been instructed to seat one (1) student per seat if possible. If it is not possible to assign one (1) student per seat, Bus drivers have been instructed to seat siblings together first before assigning students two (2) per seat.
- Transportation Dept. Personnel will be responsible for the cleaning and disinfection of all school buses.
- Parents who have health and safety concerns about their student(s) riding the school bus are encouraged to transport their student(s) to and from school whenever possible.

If a student is exhibiting any of the symptoms, please keep him or her home. Please do not put your child on the bus if they have any of the following:

- cough
- fever or feverish feeling
- chills
- muscle aches
- headache
- sore throat
- loss in taste or smell
- vomiting or diarrhea

If YES to any of the above, the student should remain home and parents should follow up with the school based clinic by calling 338-4872.

Technology Equipment

When possible, technology equipment should not be shared between students. When sharing of devices is unavoidable, it is strongly recommended that equipment is cleaned/disinfected between each use, see below Device Cleaning protocol. Minimal exchange and contact sharing should be practiced at all times. When practical, each student should be assigned a device to be used only by that student.

Device Cleaning For cleaning of electronic devices including touch screens and keypads:

- Per the CDCs Detailed Disinfection Guidance (2020), and Apple and HP manufacturers, the use of alcohol-based cleaners containing at least 70% alcohol is recommended. A mix of 70% isopropyl alcohol/30% water is appropriate. Approved cleaners are antibacterial (Clorox type) wipes and 3M Quat disinfectant which is currently being used in schools as a disinfectant by our custodial staff.
- Do NOT spray the cleaner/disinfectant directly on the electronic device. Instead moisten a microfiber or soft, lint free cloth with the cleaning solution and gently wipe the item. Do NOT use abrasive cloths, towels, paper towels, or similar items or unapproved cleaning solutions.
- Avoid getting moisture into any openings on the device.

Student Support Services and Special Education General Expectations

- Special Education Classrooms Accommodations will be made based on the student's disability in regards to face coverings, physical distancing, and hand hygiene. All community-based instruction through travel training and orientation, and mobility will follow the proper safety precautions based on the type of transportation (BPS bus or public) and destination, while providing meaningful experiences for students. Instructional Models Special Education and 504 Services - Traditional Learning Model Special Education students, in all programs including preschool, participating in the Traditional Learning Model will follow the normal expectations of the school, teacher and classroom. It is recognized that there may be barriers which prevent some students from complying with all the guidelines or completing learning activities on a daily basis. Each student's individual need will be addressed by the IEP or 504 team.

Special Education and 504 Services - Remote Learning Model Special educators and service providers will continue to create meaningful lessons and activities, as well as provide support to all students with disabilities. Students enrolled in specialized classrooms will continue in their educational programming to the maximum extent possible via remote learning. IEPs for students with disabilities and those with 504 Plans will continue to be implemented through Remote Learning Plans (RLP). Remote Learning teams will work with parents to develop a RLP based on each student's IEP goals, instructional accommodations, supplemental aids and services, and transition plans. The RLP will be developed through a process of prioritizing goals conducive to being delivered in the virtual environment, including ways the student could access instruction and how progress would be monitored. Some students with related services (speech/language pathology, occupational therapy, social work, etc.) may receive direct services from a special educator or service provider through tele-intervention. For students requiring accommodations, adaptive computer software may be provided.

Testing/Screening:

Psychological, Speech, Hearing, Health, Vision Initial psychological testing requires approximately 50 hours of 1:1 close proximity assessment and classroom observation to complete. Speech, hearing, vision and health also require 1:1 and physical contact with the student. An in-person setting, following safety protocols, is the preferred method. For students who are unable to be assessed in-person, other alternatives, i.e. surveys, telephone conferences or virtual video, will be considered for use in collecting data. With safety precautions such as face coverings, gloves, barriers where needed, and with parent consent and a signed waiver in place, psychological, speech, hearing and health 1:1 assessments are available to students. All testing materials will be sanitized/disinfected before and after each student assessment. The student must be able to wear a face covering provided it does not interfere with the assessment or the student's disability, and the student must wash hands prior to the assessment. If a parent/guardian is needed to assist in the assessment, he or she must wear a mask and wash hands prior to assisting. Staff will wear a face covering and wash hands prior to administering the assessment. No eligibility decision will be made without the full evaluation process and information available to make a determination. Additional digital options for transition assessments as well as more technology for special education students will be provided.

IEP/504 Meetings Whenever possible, it is recommended to continue holding IEP/504 meetings virtually. It is necessary to allow for in-person IEP/504 meetings if this is more accessible for parents. Child Find screening meetings are best in-person as the child needs to be present to allow for the screening and initial observation to help inform the decision-making about whether testing is needed or not. Recommended safety protocols will be in place: all participants will wear a face covering (the only exception will be for the child if he or she is too young, or the disability prohibits use of face covering), use of a space large enough for physical distancing, any materials used will be collected and disinfected, and all surfaces will be disinfected before and after the meeting.

Related Services Related service providers include staff such as speech/language pathologists, occupational and physical therapists, social workers, vision, hearing, and nursing staff. Typical services often require hands-on therapeutic intervention and close proximity with students. These service providers will utilize proper safety protocols, including face coverings, gloves, and barriers. Students will need to wear a face covering, as long as it does not interfere with the disability or skills being addressed and use proper hand hygiene. They will also provide as much therapy as possible in the classroom, reducing the need to occupy additional spaces. IEP/504 teams will determine how related services will be delivered for students enrolled in the Remote Learning Model. Use of tele-therapy in conjunction with students who are in in-person sessions may be used to provide services to students working on similar goals.

Employees should do a daily self screening based on the following questions as outlined by CDC. Have you had a new onset of any of the following symptoms that are not explained by another known medical condition?

- cough

- fever or feverish feeling
- chills
- muscle aches
- headache
- sore throat
- loss in taste or smell
- vomiting or diarrhea
- tested for COVID-19 within the past 14 days?

If YES to any of the above, the employee should remain home and follow up with their physician. **It is the responsibility of the employee to report symptoms or exposure to their supervising administrator within 24 hours. If it is determined that the employee needs to complete a COVID-19 test, the employee cannot return to work until test results are confirmed (negative or positive); this process, if not the Rapid test, can take 3 to 7+ days per the State Lab's capabilities. Public health protocols will be followed for direct or close contact exposures Direct Contact: A person can be exposed to COVID-19 when one has been in direct contact with the secretions (droplets) of someone who has COVID-19 (being coughed or sneezed on, kissing, sharing utensils, etc.). Close Contact: For COVID-19, a close contact is defined as anyone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 48 hours before the person began feeling sick until the time the patient was isolated.