

MAINTAINING IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION DURING AN EPIDEMIC or PANDEMIC

Munich Public School District #19 Board Updated: July 9, 2024

Dear Parents, Guardians, Students of Munich Public School District #19;

Due to some Federal requirements, this Health and Safety Plan is required to be reviewed every six months through December of 2024. As it is hoped that the immediate threat of COVID-19 is no longer with us, this Document will not focus solely on COVID-19, but any other possible outbreak of a severe contagious disease such as COVID-19.

For academic, social-emotional, and economic reasons, we will be compelled to strive maintain an in-person education model at all times. Yet, if a deadly contagious disease once again attacks our community, we will not disregard the health and safety concerns associated with any contagious disease. The district will consider all practical steps to keep our school from contributing to any contagious spread in our community.

We realize that this plan may not address every future situation. We recognize that in the event of an epidemic some concepts and actions would be polarizing, and that there are always strong opinions about what a school should or should not do. However, as is the case in any crisis, we must remain open to what is possible and consider all options so moving forward is a possible.

Thank you for your time reviewing this plan. Remember that this plan is to be reviewed every six months. We are sure there are improvements to be made. We encourage thoughts and ideas to be communicated to School Administration. Together, our school can provide quality education to our children in a safe manner no matter what the threat may be.

Respectfully,

Robert Bubach Susan Harder

Superintendent

School Board President

RISK LEVEL PHASES

Munich Public School will make decisions regarding mitigation factors in school as well as the Instructional Model used (Face to face or Distance Learning) based on risk level phases. These phases will be determined by administration and local health officials. With the understanding that how “risky” a pandemic or epidemic truly is can be based on circumstances and not hard numbers the following considerations which will lead to the risk level phase will include the following factors: 1) Known community spread within Cavalier County and the area which encompasses Munich Public School District; 2) The number of Active Cases in Munich Public School; 3) If risk levels are assigned by county, that will also be a determining factor, but not the most important or only factor. The phase will be determined by looking at ALL of the above factors and taking into account any other factors which may affect risk level, such as a large number of cases due to a “Super-Spreader” event, such as a wedding.

Phase 0- The Epidemic or Pandemic is no longer considered an ongoing threat. Although cases still may be reported, and hospitalizations may still occur, the threat of disruption to daily activities for the majority of the immediate population and the State of North Dakota is “minimal.”

Phase I – The threat of continued spread is still within the immediate community. Hospitalizations are at a dangerously elevated rate as compared to Hospitalizations before the Pandemic or Epidemic.

Phase II – The threat of disease is apparent both within the community and overall in the state of North Dakota. In this phase, immunity by a large segment of the immediate population has not yet been achieved. Hospitals face an increased risk of being overwhelmed.

Phase III-The threat of both spread and severe illness is apparent both within the immediate area and the State of North Dakota as a whole. Hospitals are either near the point of being overwhelmed or are, in fact, overwhelmed.

Phase IV-The disease is spreading at an uncontrolled rate within the area which encompasses Munich Public School. Because this phase would include closing school and moving to distance learning, this phase would only be declared in close consultation with local health officials as well as the Munich School Board President to be followed by a special school board meeting.

PHASED MITIGATION STANDARDS

Phase 0 –Other than “normal” hygiene practices such as washing hands, coughing into the elbow and other actions which are simply considered both considerate and good practices, there will be NO other mitigation required. This would include no masks required or even suggested and social distancing would not be planned for. Although in this phase there are no formal mitigation standards, it is anticipated that quarantines may still be a fact of life due to contagious disease.

Phase I – In addition to Phase 0 mitigation practices, masks and social distancing will be encouraged.

Phase II- In addition to Phase 0 mitigation practices, masks will be advised if social distancing is not possible.

Phase III – The school will put into place social distancing practices in every possible way. Masks will be mandated inside buildings with the exception of eating and other instances where masks are impractical. This exemption will not be applied to Physical Education or Choir, it will be applied to band, where social distancing must be strictly enforced.

Phase IV-School will move distance learning. (Note: NDDOH may close a school at their discretion)

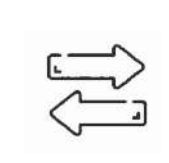
Instructional Models

The instructional models used by the district will be guided, in part, by the risk level of the disease in the community as defined within the phases above. This is a guide as instructional models could be altered based on other factors, such as occupancy levels, age of children, and abilities to move certain classes online.



Traditional Learning

All instruction is delivered in-person with some building and group modifications. Teachers and most students maintain a normal daily schedule. Safety precautions are implemented to enhance staff and student safety.



Blended Learning

Most Students report to school. Multiple hybrid models of instructional delivery may be appropriate to meet the educational needs of those students not reporting to school through a variety of delivery models.



Distance Learning

All instruction is provided off-campus through the use of distance learning resources or suited to the unique needs of the student.

School (Classroom Operations)

Phase 0- Other than “normal” hygiene practices, School will operate in a “normal” fashion. High School Students will go to lockers and move from classroom to classroom. Elementary Classes will not be required to be arranged so as to have social distancing.

Phase I- Masks will be and social distancing will be encouraged.

Phase II- Classroom seating will be arranged to maintain social distancing. When social distancing is not possible, masks will be advised.

Phase III- Classes will be “self-contained” at all levels. Students, at all grade levels, will stay as much as possible, in individual classrooms. In addition to Phase II precautions, masks will be required at all times when social distancing is not possible.

Phase IV- Munich Public School will be in distance learning.

Best Intentions

Despite taking every reasonable precaution, there is no guarantee that our school will be without risk as it relates to any infectious disease. Any disease may be present on our buses, in our classrooms, and at our activities. Our actions, as outlined in this plan, cannot guarantee that any student or staff member will not become sick from an infectious disease.

Health & Safety Protocols

Monitoring the health of students and staff will be an important component of a safe and healthy educational environment. Munich Public School will take the following measures to ensure all students and staff are healthy while they are at school.

Identifying Students & Staff at Higher Risk

- When the NDDoH or Cavalier County Health inform the district of a student or staff member has tested positive for a contagious disease, that information will be passed on to individuals as allowable within district policy and law.

Isolation & Quarantine

Definitions

*Isolation – For people who are already sick from a contagious disease. A prevention strategy used to separate people who are sick with the virus from healthy people.

*Quarantine – For people who are not sick but have been exposed to a contagious disease for which quarantine is recommended or required by NDDoH. A prevention strategy used to monitor people who were exposed for a period of time.

*Munich Public School will make all information for isolation and quarantine provided by NDDOH and Cavalier County Health available to the Public. Individuals who pose a risk either through personal infection or close contact will be recommended to follow the guidelines put for by NDDOH and Cavalier County Health.

If a student or staff members becomes sick at school (or school event) (these procedures should apply to any contagious disease)

- Student
 - Direct / escort the child to the office.
 - The child shall be provided a facial covering and isolated in the building sick room. (this will be the stage in the Gymnasium)
 - Parent / guardian will be contacted to pick up their child.
 - Students are recommended to quarantine using NDDOH guidelines will be given the option to continue to learn from home through Distance learning, provided the staff members involved agree this is in the best interests of the student.
- Staff

Inform your supervisor immediately and wear a face mask until they can be replaced if supervising students at that time

On an individual basis, staff who, by using NDDOH guidelines are recommended to quarantine, but are healthy enough to continue daily activities, will be given the option to teach through electronic means and will have no sick days applied against them.

Activities: (Concerts, Athletics, etc.)

Note: The following Guidelines are subject to change based on recommendations from NDDOH and the state government regarding public gatherings.

Phase 0-Allowed with no restrictions

Phase I-Allowed, Social Distancing is encouraged.

Phase II-Allowed, Masks encouraged if Social Distancing is not possible.

Phase III-Allowed, only immediate family (parents, siblings, anyone from the same house hold) allowed to attend. Masks are required if Social Distancing between family groups is not possible.

Phase IV- Students may still participate in activities. This decision would be made in conjunction with Langdon Sports

Co-op. Another factor would be the reason for moving to Phase IV. Questions to be asked; 1) By continuing with activities, are we placing students at risk? and 2) Have the students involved followed protocols to reduce the spread?

Facility Accommodations & Protocols

In the event the Munich Public School would be in Phase III, the following accommodations and protocols will be put in place:

- Each grade will be assigned a classroom to avoid, as much as practical, movement in the hallways.
- To foster contact tracing in the event of a positive test, assigned seating will be used throughout the school
- Noon Meals will be eaten in the individual classrooms.
- Noon lunches sent to the school will be allowed, as in “normal” years.
- Snacks for celebrations will not be allowed unless they are store bought.
- The Sensory room will be utilized on a schedule. The sensory room may be used if not scheduled. The adult in charge of the sensory room will be responsible for ensuring disinfecting.
- Students will report to their classrooms immediately in the morning. NO LOITERING IN THE HALLWAYS!!!
- Dismissal at the end of the day will be staggered to limit contact.

Transportation

- Phase 0-No restrictions.
Phase 1-Masks encouraged if “one to seat” cannot be obtained.
Phases 2-Masks will be advised by all passengers on school transportation.
Phase 3-Masks are required by all passengers on school transportation. (Unless, due to age or medical condition an exemption is granted.

Noon Meal Plan and Guidelines.

Phase 0- No Restrictions are in place.

Phase I-Meals served in lunch room. Social Distancing and minimum time spent in lunch room are both encouraged.

- In Phase II Students and adults in the lunch room will be advised to wear masks.

Phase III guidelines

- Students and adults in the lunch room will be required to wear masks.
- Student and class meal times will be staggered to limit the number of students in the lunch room at one time.
- Food trays will be handled by adults until tray is loaded.
- For students in grades pk-3, trays will be loaded on cars and transported to rooms.
- Grades 4-12 will receive their trays and will move to their rooms for lunch
- Following the lunch period, meal trays will be picked up from each classroom (pk-12) by food service personal.
- At the conclusion of the lunch period, students and teachers (as appropriate) will clean their classrooms.
- During this time, traffic flow will be controlled to minimize interactions in the hall