

**Medicine Valley Public Schools
2021 - 2022
Safe Return Plan**

Purpose Statement(s):

- 1.) It is the desire of our teachers, administration, board and state department of education that children be in school learning from their teachers.
- 2.) Because of the COVID-19 Pandemic we have to prepare for circumstances beyond our control and prioritize both the health and safety of our students, staff and community and the quality of education that is essential for our student's future success.
- 3.) It is the charge of the Nebraska Department of Education that schools have in place a plan that will help districts to both act decisively and be flexible to the situation moving forward into the foreseeable future.

Due to Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department not having a Risk Dial in place for the start of the school year, this plan is addressing some of the items for the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year. Should SWNPHD reinstate the Risk Dial, it is possible the district may return to the previous plan.

Sport practices for High School Fall Sports start on Monday, August 9 in "GREEN".

School will open for students in Grades K-12 on Tuesday, August 17 and Pre-Kindergarten students start on Wednesday, August 18 in "GREEN".

Risk Dial:

GREEN

Little or no COVID cases in the district and no cases in the student/staff population. All students in school using traditional school day and school calendar with social distancing recommended when possible.

YELLOW

Mild to Moderate COVID spread in the district and very few cases in the student/staff population. All students in school using the traditional school day and school calendar with extra attention stressed on social distancing, frequent hand washing and frequent disinfection of high traffic areas.

RED

Significant COVID spread in the district and enough cases in the student/staff population to create a disruption in the learning environment. Alternative methods of education may be considered.

(All details that follow may be adjusted as necessary)

Screening and Masking:

- 1.) Parents will screen children at home for temperature, cough and other symptoms. DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL IF THEY ARE ILL OR RUNNING A TEMPERATURE. Staff members are not to report to work if symptomatic and a medical professional should be contacted.
- 2.) Masking will be optional in school buildings and are encouraged on buses. The school will keep a supply of masks on hand for students/staff if they need them but both are encouraged to provide their own.
- 3.) Students may be required to have temperatures taken upon entering the building. If their temperature is 100.4 or above, they will be referred to either the School Nurse or Building Office for further screening.
- 4.) The response to any sick student is that student will be sent home along with communication with all classroom families and classroom being disinfected.

Busing:

- 1.) Students will have assigned seating and are encouraged to wear masks due to the close proximity to others.
- 2.) Surfaces will be disinfected between routes.

Social Distancing:

- 1.) Maintain at least 3-to-6 feet of physical distance when possible.
- 2.) Limit the number of people in hallway or entryway at one time.
- 3.) Classroom desks will be spread apart with as much distance in between students as possible.

Cafeteria/Meals:

- 1.) Breakfast/Lunch will continue to be offered. Salad bar will be available as conditions warrant.
- 2.) Social distancing will be emphasized.
- 3.) Students will be allowed to bring lunches from home.
- 4.) No sharing of food.

School Calendar:

- 1.) The adopted calendar for 2021-2022 will be followed.
- 2.) The same dismissal times as what have been established previously will be utilized.

Recess:

- 1.) As scheduled, with students being outside as much as possible, with social distancing measures in place.

School Activities:

- 1.) We will follow the Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) guidelines.
- 2.) The district will make every effort to participate in scheduled activities. Due to circumstances in other school districts or facilities, activities/contests may be postponed or cancelled.

Environmental Safety & Cleaning:

- 1.) Maintain an adequate inventory of cleaning supplies, sanitizers, disinfectants and applicable equipment for

Communication:

- 1.) Signage will be posted in facilities directing risk-minimizing behaviors.
- 2.) COVID-19 symptoms, what to look for and how to respond and stop the spread
- 3.) Importance of staying home if sick.
- 4.) Screening and testing access, process and requirements.

Facility Usage:

- 1.) Before/after school programs that operate in school facilities will follow state guidelines.
- 2.) The district reserves the right to limit (or eliminate) usage of facilities to outside groups as necessary.

Other Item(s):

- 1.) Visitors will be allowed at school as conditions warrant. Screening may be required in order to accommodate guests.
- 2.) Classroom parties and celebrations may have to be modified as situations change.
- 3.) Large pep rallies and/or school assemblies may have to be modified as situations change.
- 4.) Parent-Teacher Conferences may have to be modified.

This plan will continue to be a “work-in-progress” with changes being made as we progress in the school year. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Alan Garey, Supt. (agarey@medvalley.org).