



**Noxon Public Schools
School Reopening
Health and Safety
Plan**

Noxon Public Schools: School Reopening Health and Safety Plan, Fall 2020

The Noxon Public Schools School Reopening Health and Safety Plan is based on local, state and federal guidelines as of July 27, 2020. The procedures contained within this document may contain information different from past procedures and will remain in effect during the duration of the board declared emergency or modifications by board approval.

State or Local Health Directives		Safety and Health Protocols	On-site and/or Remote Learning
Phase 0	Local or State Stay at home order	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All school facilities are closed to the public 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full time remote learning
Phase 1	Restricted local or state operations Limits on group size at 10-15, without social distancing, as per local or state order.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health screening for students done upon arrival at school. Monitoring during the day. Handwashing and steps to limit germ transmission are pro-actively taught and dedicated time throughout the day. Frequent sanitizing of any common areas, surfaces and bathrooms. Face coverings are strongly recommended, unless mandated by local or state agencies. Face coverings will be available for staff and students upon request. No public visitors to schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blended Model of on-site and remote learning Learning will occur using a blended model. In the event there is a confirmed case, either staff or student, there could be a short term school closure for contact tracing and additional disinfecting of facility.
Phase 2 <i>Currently the State and County are in Phase 2 of reopening</i>	Modified local or state operations Limits on group size at 50, without social distancing, as per local or state order	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health screening for students done upon arrival at school. Monitoring during the day. Handwashing and steps to limit germ transmission are pro-actively taught and dedicated time throughout the day Frequent sanitizing of any common areas, surfaces and bathrooms. Face coverings are recommended, unless mandated by local or state agencies, when social distancing is not possible. Face coverings will be available for staff and students upon request. No public visitors to schools beyond the office. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-site learning will return for all students, with possibly a modified schedule. Near to full capacity in schools with modified operations and school activities (modified lunch, passing times and recess to limit large grouping) Limited or modified extra-curricular activities in conjunction with plans provided by the MHSA. In the event there is a confirmed case, either staff or student, there could be a short term school closure for contact tracing and additional disinfecting of facility. Upon parent request due to health concerns, parents may request educational instruction through remote learning.*
Phase 3	Return to normal local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Handwashing and steps to limit germ transmission are pro-actively taught and dedicated time throughout the day 	<i>Traditional School Model</i>

	<p>or state operations There may be limits on group size</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequent sanitizing of surfaces and bathrooms • Visitors will be allowed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-site learning will return to a regular schedule, all students will return to on site instruction except for students with documented 504 or IEP health concerns. • Students will rotate through schedules and routines as normal. • No restrictions on extra-curricular activities
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Health Precautions for all:

- ❖ Teach and reinforce washing hands and covering coughs and sneezes among children and staff. Keeping hands away from face.
- ❖ Additional key times to wash hands include:
 - o After blowing one’s nose, coughing, or sneezing.
 - o After using the restroom.
 - o Before eating or preparing food.
 - o After contact with animals or pets.
 - o Before and after providing routine care for another person who needs assistance (e.g., a child).
- ❖ Parents should help students do a daily self-evaluation before coming to school or boarding school transportation.
- ❖ Practice social distancing; six-foot separation between individuals whenever possible.
- ❖ Provide face coverings for staff. Face coverings may be challenging for students (especially younger students) to wear in all-day settings such as school. Face coverings may be worn by staff and encouraged in students (particularly older students) if feasible.
- ❖ If available, hand sanitizer will be provided in each classroom and should be used frequently when hand washing cannot occur.
- ❖ Encourage students to bring their own clearly labeled water bottles for drinking water throughout the day as a means to reduce unnecessary contact at water drinking stations.
- ❖ At school drinking fountains, the fill station is the only usable option.
- ❖ The first line of defense to prevent the spread of disease is to stay home when you are feeling ill or have a temperature. This approach may cause increased use of sick days for staff, requiring dipping into the sick pool days. This may become problematic if the district does not have enough subs on hand to cover staff absences. For parents, it means they will have to stay home with a sick child and not try to mask temperatures by giving the student aspirin, Tylenol, etc.

❖ The Noxon School District will contract with Cabinet Peak Medical Center to provide 1 day of school nursing per week provided by a registered nurse. The registered nurse will be involved in the health aspects of the implementation of this plan. They will consult with district staff on best practice procedures and provide trainings to staff as needed.

❖ Daily health screenings will take place for students by school staff before school starts by taking temperatures and monitoring for symptoms of illness. Symptoms alone will not prohibit a student's attendance, but will trigger a secondary screening and contact with parents to determine further attendance eligibility. In the case of a student who has failed a screening (i.e. or has symptoms consistent with COVID-19) or has a positive COVID-19 diagnosis, the student must stay home throughout the infection period, and cannot return to campus until the school screens the student to determine if any of the below conditions for campus re-entry have been met:

at least 3 days (72-hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications) AND

the child has improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) AND

If the child has symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and the parents want their child to return to school before the above criteria is met the child's parents must obtain a medical professional's note clearing the child for returning based on an alternative diagnosis. If the child has been in prolonged close contact with a person who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, they should notify the school and should not return to school until the end of the 14-day self-quarantine period from the last date of exposure, or until they obtain a medical professional's note clearing the child for returning based on a COVID-19 free diagnosis.

Protocols:

◆ Self-monitoring

To ensure a safe learning and working environment, students and staff are asked to monitor his/her health and conduct a daily health screening before entering school buses or facilities, being alert for symptoms of COVID-19:

fever or chills

cough

shortness of breath or difficulty breathing fatigue

muscle or body aches

headache

new loss of taste or smell

sore throat

- congestion or runny nose
- nausea or vomiting
- diarrhea
- feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit
- known close contact with a person who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 or experiences any of the symptoms of COVID-19

****All staff and students are expected to stay home if they have a fever, feel sick, or are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19.****

Cleaning:

Cleaning will be frequent using CDC approved cleaning materials or a bleach solution. Under all phases, sanitizing will occur daily: The district will be increasing the custodial coverage time with current contractor to have custodial staff sanitizing frequently throughout the school day including in all common areas. The cafeteria if used will be sanitized between groups.

Classrooms:

- ❖ Commonly touched surfaces disinfected frequently throughout the day
- ❖ Desktops and table tops disinfected daily.
- ❖ Disinfect desks, surfaces and door knobs between use of different groups of students.
- ❖ Laptops will be cleaned daily by students.
- ❖ Rooms aired out weekly if weather permits or if a Covid case is found in the class.
- ❖ Windows open as much as possible during fall and spring.

Buses:

- ❖ Seats sanitized daily
- ❖ Sanitize commonly touched areas (handrails, seat backs, etc.) sanitized daily.
- ❖ Windows opened to air out the bus.
- ❖ Seat students every other seat. Siblings can be seated together to provide enough seating for all riders.

Restrooms:

- ❖ Sanitized frequently throughout the day
- ❖ Attention to commonly touched surfaces (handles, knobs, dispensers, switches, etc.)

Signage:

- ❖ Signage at each public entrance of the facility to inform all faculty, staff and students that they should: avoid entering the facility if they have a respiratory symptom such as cough, shortness of breath, sore throat and/or a fever; maintain a minimum six-foot distance from one another; and not shake hands or engage in any unnecessary physical contact.
- ❖ Signage posting a copy of the Social Distancing Protocol at each public entrance to each building. (distance guidelines will be according to the Governor's Office and CDC.). If no visitors will be allowed in the building, signage needs to include this.
- ❖ Helpful signage within the school building for students and staff.
- ❖ Post signage from CDC on how to use face masks, how to wash hands, how to use hand sanitizer.
- ❖ Progressive usage of school buildings. Opening should be limited to school day only. With time, buildings can be opened after hours, keeping copious sign-in documentation of individuals who have been in the buildings.
- ❖ Signage that drinking fountains will not be used but fill stations may be used.

Food Service:

- ❖ All Food Service staff personnel will continue to practice "personal hygiene" standards as required and will wear PPE while serving food.
- ❖ Additional sanitizing
- ❖ No outside food will be allowed (i.e., food, gifts, etc.).
- ❖ Students may bring their own lunch.
- ❖ Grab and go style meals may be served in the cafeteria and taken to areas as designated by campus administration, (students will be eating with their grade or designated group.
- ❖ Meal pickup for students who are learning off campus will be available for pick up drive through style at Noxon School Campus.

Attendance:

- ❖ Communicate with all stakeholders (staff, students, families) the importance of staying home when sick.
- ❖ Communicate with all stakeholders the procedures that will be used to send home staff and students who may display symptoms while on campus.
- ❖ Implement a plan to accommodate COVID affected students in the attendance policy or any practices that link grading and attendance.

Plan for when a staff, child, or visitor becomes sick:

- ❖ Work with school administrators, nurses, and other healthcare providers to identify an isolation room or area to separate anyone who exhibits COVID-like symptoms.
- ❖ Establish procedures for safely transporting anyone sick home or to a healthcare facility.
- ❖ Notify local health officials, staff, and families immediately of a possible case while maintaining confidentiality as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- ❖ Close off areas used by a sick person and do not use before cleaning and disinfection. Ensure safe and correct application of disinfectants and keep disinfectant products away from children.
- ❖ Advise sick staff members not to return until they have met CDC criteria to discontinue home isolation.
- ❖ Inform those exposed to a person with COVID-19 to stay home and self-monitor for symptoms, and follow CDC guidance if symptoms develop. Provide options for virtual learning.
- ❖ For COVID-19 tested individuals, If the test result is negative, individuals will need to provide a note from their health care provider with a return date and be symptom and fever free as per CDC guidelines.

*Further information will be available on delivery of remote learning on August 10th.

*Availability of remote learning for out of district students will be provided in accordance with MCA 20-7-118.

Information Sources:

[Governor's Plan](#) for Reopening Safe and Healthy Schools for Montana
[Office of Public Instruction](#), Reopening Montana Schools Guidance
[American Academy of Pediatrics](#), COVID-19 Planning Considerations, Guidance for School Re-Entry
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [The Importance of Reopening America's Schools](#) this Fall, July 23, 2020
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [Preparing K-12 School Administrators](#) for a Safe Return to School in Fall 2020

Thank you to the Sanders County Health Department Director Karen Morey, R.N. for her input.