

**ELLENDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL**  
**Return to In-Person Instruction & Continuity of Services Plan**

1. **Assumption of Risk**—The Novel Coronavirus, Covid-19, has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization. COVID-19 is extremely contagious and is believed to spread mainly through person-to-person contact.
  - A. The Ellendale School District has put in place preventative measures to reduce or slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus; however, the District cannot guarantee that individuals will not become infected with COVID-19. And school attendance could increase the risk of contracting COVID-19.
  - B. The mitigation planning and strategies laid out in the plan are intended to be responsible, reasonable, realistic strategies that the school can implement on a daily basis.
  
2. **Mitigation Efforts**—To limit close contact scenarios and slow the spread of COVID-19 at school:
  - A. Campus facilities are cleaned on a regular basis to provide our staff and students with a clean, safe, and healthy environment.
  - B. Promote healthy hand hygiene along with proper cough/sneeze etiquette. Allow for optional mask wearing, promote social distancing where practical, encourage home screening before school and expect people with symptoms/illness to stay home and consult medical professionals, if appropriate.
  - C. The District supports, but does not require, members of the school community to get vaccinated. Face coverings are supported, but not required.
  - D. Appropriate social, emotional, and mental health needs will be available for the school community upon request.
  - E. Classroom and Special Education modifications and accommodations will be provided to the fullest extent possible, with the health and safety of students and staff a priority.
  
3. **Positive Cases**—In the Building:
  - A. Report any COVID-19 related symptoms immediately. If symptomatic, students/staff will be required to leave the school, quarantine and consult with their medical provider about being tested for COVID-19. The District does have a limited supply of test kits for student use.
  - B. When students are required to be out of school for self-isolation they will:
    - Not be eligible to participate in activities unless there is a virtual option.
    - Make contact and arrangements with each teacher to meet virtually and/or make up missed work.
    - Any student required to be out of school can participate in school lunches that will be take-home sack lunches. Parents must contact the school by 8:45 AM on the first day of the week, for the time their student will be out of the building.
    - Parents are encouraged to monitor their student’s social, emotional, and mental health. The school will provide counseling services with school personnel upon request.
  
4. **COVID Testing**—Exclusion from school:
  - A. Whenever a student has been identified as having signs and symptoms of COVID-19, an at-home test is recommended, or they can be tested by their health care professional. The District does have a limited supply of test kits. Students will be required to stay home until their test results come back.
    - **Positive Result:** Stay home 5 days from the day of testing (day 0); return fever-free without fever-reducing medication for 24 hours.
    - **Negative Result:** Stay home until fever free without fever-reducing medication for 24 hours.

Ellendale Public School Board Approved: 8/10/2020 Updated: 10/08/2020, 12/14/2020, 04/12/2021, 06/14/2021, 12/14/2021, and 06/13/2022

Amended 10/10/2022—Reviewed January 26, 2023. Reviewed June 12, 2023. Reviewed 02/12/2024

## 5. School Instructional Phases:

- A. **Phase 1**—Open for live attendance following mitigation processes listed above. The District will work to keep school open for as much on-site instruction as possible.
- B. **Phase 2**—Remote learning when the school building is closed to on-site attendance.
- C. The School District may move to remote learning for one of the following reasons: (The number of closure days required for remote learning will depend on the circumstances.)
  - Due to state or federal mandate.
  - If there is no longer enough staff in the building to provide direct instruction due to their own exposure to COVID-19. When adequate staffing is available, the district would return to on-site instruction for all healthy students.
  - Administrative discretion deemed necessary in extreme circumstances.
- D. All Ellendale Public School employees are considered essential employees.
- E. The District ICU program for JH/HS students, and the after-school program for elementary students provides extra support to ensure minimal learning loss.

Further resources and guidance on Covid-19 related matters may also be found at:

1. <https://www.health.nd.gov/> (North Dakota Department of Health)
2. <https://www.cdc.gov/>(United States Center for Disease Control)
3. This plan will be reviewed within every 6 months per ND DPI requirement.
  - January 2023
  - June 2023
  - January 2024
  - June 2024
4. Localities should monitor community transmission, vaccination coverage, screening, testing, and occurrence of outbreaks to guide decisions on the level of layered prevention strategies (e.g., physical distancing, screening, testing).
5. Contact tracing in conjunction with state and local entities will not be utilized until mandated.
6. This document is available online as well as in each building. Translation services are available through each administrative office as requested.

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