



Getting Back to School

WBCSD's Fall 2020 Reopening

Introduction:

Our goal is to reopen schools in fall 2020. While reopening schools is the goal in West Bonner County School District #83 (WBCSD), we know we can't control COVID-19 so WBCSD has crafted a plan that allows us to respond quickly to changing local, regional, state and national conditions. As conditions change, we may be forced to change how we provide instruction during the school year. WBCSD's Reopening Plan includes a Green-Yellow-Red system that outlines what students, staff and parents can expect under different conditions. Categories as determined by recommendations from Panhandle Health District:

- **GREEN/Category 1 – No to Minimal Community Spread:** WBCSD students will attend school fulltime and schools will implement reasonable procedures in accordance with health guidance. A remote/online option will be available for students.
- **YELLOW/Category 2 – Moderate Community Spread:** WBCSD will shift to a hybrid schedule with students attending school on alternate days so some students are learning part-time in school and some students are learning part-time at home. Based on conditions, hybrid schedules could be implemented in a single school, within a cluster of schools or districtwide. A remote/online option will be available for students.
- **RED/Category 3 – Substantial Community Spread:** In extreme conditions, which could include a local or state stay-at-home order, WBCSD will close schools and shift to remote learning for all students. Based on conditions, the board could close a single school, a cluster of schools or close all schools.

WBCSD's Reopening Plan includes recommendations from health officials, and reasonable procedures to try and mitigate risks and minimize the spread of COVID-19. To accomplish our goal of reopening schools, it is imperative all students, staff and parents do their part by following health guidance whether they're at school or out in the community. Everyone will also need to monitor their health and stay home if they are feeling sick or showing symptoms of COVID-19.

WBCSD's Reopening Plan was drafted with input from hundreds of stakeholders including parents, teachers, staff and officials with Panhandle Health District. **The plan is a living document and will be updated in accordance with new guidance** from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Governor's office, the State Board of Education, the State Department of Education, the Idaho High School Athletics Association and other extracurricular governing bodies, Panhandle Health District and other state and local officials.

WBCSD's Focus Everyday:

- Provide a rigorous, **comprehensive education** for all students no matter the mode of instruction.
- **Respect health guidance** from the Centers for Disease Control and local and state health officials, and adopt reasonable practices we can control to mitigate risks and minimize spread.
- **Be flexible, empathetic and ready to respond quickly** to support families as conditions change.
- **Clearly communicate shared expectations** for students, staff and parents.
- Provide **parents and teachers with support so they** can use tech tools and resources.
- **Update policies** to ensure students and staff who are sick or showing symptoms stay home.

- Remote options for parents uncomfortable about sending children back to school in person.

Keeping Schools Open Will Take Community Effort:

Health Checks: To accomplish our goal of reopening WBCSD's schools and keeping them open, it will be important for students, staff, parents and patrons to do their part by following health guidance and monitoring their health.

In cooperation with Panhandle Health District, we ask that as students and staff prepare for school each day, they ask themselves these questions:

- **Since your last day in school have you had any of these symptoms that are NOT attributable to another condition?**
 - Fever or Chills (A fever is considered having a temperature of 100.4 F)
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Congestion or Runny Nose
 - Nausea, Vomiting or Diarrhea
 - Muscle or Body Aches
 - Headache
 - Sore throat
 - New loss of taste or smell
- **If the answer is YES to any of these symptoms we ask that:**
 - You DO NOT send your child to school.
 - Contact your healthcare provider for guidance to determine if testing for COVID-19 is recommended.
- **If your child has tested positive for COVID-19 OR was directed by a healthcare provider or Panhandle Health District to stay home we ask that:**
 - You DO NOT send your child to school UNTIL:
 - Your child has isolated for at least 10 days from symptom onset and at least 3 days have passed since symptoms have improved. (*See Panhandle Health District Tree.*)OR.....
 - Your medical provider has determined a different illness than COVID-19 and cleared your child to return to school.
- **If your child has had close contact (within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes) with someone testing positive for COVID-19, we ask that:**
 - You DO NOT send your child to school UNTIL your child has isolated for 14 days and experiences no COVID-19 symptoms.
 - If symptoms DO present during the isolation period, follow instructions above for seeking medical guidance and possible testing for COVID-19

Responding To A Confirmed Case of COVID-19: An important part of limiting the spread of COVID-19 in our community is identifying those who may be sick, infected or who have been exposed, and requires all of us working together to keep the virus in check.

Students/Families:

- If your child has tested positive for COVID-19 we ask that:
 - You do not send your child to school.
 - Notify your school of the positive test.

- Follow guidance from your health provider and Panhandle Health District regarding isolation and contact tracing.

School & District:

- School personnel or health officials will alert Nurse/Student Services.
- Nurse/Student Services will contact Panhandle Health District, and will assist Panhandle Health District with contact tracing and investigation.
- District will coordinate efforts to communicate to staff, students, and parents the possible exposure to COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality as required by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and the Americans with Disability Act (ADA).

Next Steps:

- WBCSD's Draft Reopening Plan will be shared to gather additional input.
- WBCSD's ReOpening Plan will go to the Board of Trustees for approval.
- Principals/Directors will develop plans outlining how they will implement new health protocols in their schools/departments and special programs.
- Promote plan and new health protocols to parents, staff, and patrons in late early August.

Resources:

- **Results of Parent Survey**
- **Panhandle Health District Decision Tree** (<https://panhandlehealthdistrict.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/COVID-19-Guidance-Schools.pdf>)
- **CDC Considerations for Schools** (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools.html>)
- **CDC Guidance for Cleaning & Disinfecting** (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>)
- **COVID-19 Guidance for Schools** (<https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/>)
- **Input from Panhandle Health District**

Green-New Normal:

WBCSD schools will reopen but incorporate health guidance and protocols to try and mitigate risks and limit the spread of COVID-19. Here's what to expect:

- Social distancing where possible and reasonable.
- Masks or cloth facial coverings will be encouraged, but not required.
- Buildings routinely cleaned and disinfected according to CDC guidelines. Special focus on high traffic areas.
- Handwashing integrated throughout the day.
- Hand sanitizer available throughout buildings.
- Schools share "Stop The Spread" information with focus on preventative measures and symptoms.
- Support for parents who need help accessing technology, tools and online curriculum.
- Social distancing on school buses will be difficult so we encourage parents to consider alternate transportation to school such as having children walk or bike.

Districtwide Practices:

Classroom Spaces:

- Limited use of shared materials and supplies.
- Desks arranged to allow for cohort groups and social distancing where possible and reasonable.
- Staff working closely with small groups of students will be encouraged to wear face shields.

School Spaces:

- Sneeze guards and other protective measures will be implemented in all offices.
- Some school events, assemblies and gatherings may be changed or cancelled to limit large gatherings.
- Access to campus may be limited with new protocols for volunteers/visitors to campus.
- Schools may offer Internet access in areas such as cafeterias, libraries, gymnasiums and parking lots.

Common Spaces:

- Students move in cohort groups where possible and reasonable to try and limit possible exposure.
- School schedules may be adjusted to reduce the number of students passing in hallways.
- Lunch times may be staggered to reduce the number of students in the cafeteria and allow for some social distancing. Some students may eat in other areas of the school or outside, weather permitting.

Extracurricular Activities:

- We will follow guidance and directives from the Idaho High School Athletic Association and the governing bodies of other extracurricular activities.

Priorities in Green:

- * Ensure students and staff who are sick or showing symptoms stay at home.
- * Implement social distancing and cohort groups where possible and reasonable.

Yellow: Hybrid

Based on guidance from health officials, the Board of Trustees may decide to shift WBCSD to a hybrid schedule where students would attend on alternating days and learn part-time in school and part-time at home. Depending on conditions, hybrid schedules could be implemented in a single school, within a cluster of schools or districtwide. Here's what to expect:

- Social distancing where possible and reasonable.
- Masks or cloth facial coverings are highly recommended, but not required.
- Buildings routinely cleaned and disinfected according to CDC guidelines. Special focus on high traffic areas.
- Handwashing integrated throughout the day.
- Hand sanitizer available throughout buildings.
- Schools share "Stop The Spread" information with focus on preventative measures and symptoms.
- Support for parents who need help accessing technology, tools and online curriculum.
- Social distancing on school buses will be difficult so we encourage parents to consider alternate transportation to school such as having children walk or bike.

Districtwide Practices:

- Students will attend school on a hybrid schedule and school times may be adjusted. Based on input from parents/staff we're looking at an alternate days schedule, and will try to ensure children from the same families attend school on the same days.
- Students will attend school on either Mondays/Tuesday or Wednesday/Thursday. When a federal holiday falls on Monday those students will attend on Friday, that week.
- Fridays would be used for teacher prep, planning and staff development and academic labs and interventions for students who need additional support.
- Teachers will provide direct instruction on the days students are at school.
- Students will work independently to practice concepts and grow mastery when they're working independently at home. In general, students would not be learning new material at home.

Classroom Spaces:

- Sneeze guards and other protective measures will be implemented in all offices.
- Some school events, assemblies and gatherings may be changed or cancelled to limit large gatherings.
- Access to campus may be limited with new protocols for volunteers/visitors to campus.

School Spaces:

- Students will move in cohort groups where possible and feasible to try and limit possible exposure.
- School schedules may be adjusted to reduce the number of students passing in hallways.
- Lunch times may be staggered to reduce the number of students in the cafeteria and allow for some social distancing. Some students may eat in other areas of the school or outside, weather permitting.

Common Spaces:

We will follow guidance and directives from the Idaho High School Athletic Association and governing bodies of other extracurricular activities.

Extracurricular Activities:

Priorities in Yellow:

- * Ensure students and staff who are sick or showing symptoms stay at home.
- * Maximize social distancing cohort groups by reducing the number of students in school buildings.

Red: Learn At Home & Stay Safe

In extreme conditions, which could include a local or state stay-at-home order, WBCSD will close schools and shift to remote learning for all students. Based on local conditions, the board could close a single school, a cluster of schools or close all schools. Here's what to expect:

- Focused, rigorous instruction on key standards in each grade and content area.
- Traditional grades and accountability.
- Clear expectations and communication with students and families.
- Some of the structure of a regular school day with face-to-face online instruction with some flexibility for families.
- Support for parents who need help accessing technology, tools and online curriculum.

Remote Instruction:

School Spaces:

- Closed to the general public except by special appointment.
- There may be opportunities for in-person small group instruction or intervention.
- Schools may offer Internet access in areas such as cafeterias, libraries, gymnasiums and parking lots.

Extracurricular Activities:

Priorities in Red:

- Athletics and other extracurricular activities would be suspended.

* Reduce the risk of further community spread by closing schools.