

## HSCSD #1 COVID 19 Mitigation Plan 2021

### Hot Springs County Schools COVID-19 Mitigation Goals

1. Keep staff, students and families safe and healthy.
2. Keep staff and students at school and engaged in the learning process.

Last year we were successful in keeping schools open, with one temporary digital learning period. We worked closely with our local and state health officials throughout the year and followed prevention strategies closely including all of the state health orders. Because of this, we had very limited spread of the virus at any of our schools. We had many, many positive cases, but because the spread was not at school we were able to keep our doors open.

As we enter the 21-22 school year, cases are on the rise. The prevention strategies recommended by the Wyoming Department of health are listed below along with the district plan regarding each recommendation. We will continue to work closely with the WDH to inform and adjust our protocols and plans as we move forward.

Masking, social distancing and vaccination will not be required as we start the year. With personal choice comes personal responsibility so we ask that you choose a strategy that works for you.

- Vaccinate or,
- Mask or,
- Social Distance
- Or any combination.

As we did last year, we will need to work together to make this year as safe and as effective as possible for everyone.

Below you will find the CDC/WDH prevention strategies, their rationale for these strategies and our district plan regarding the strategies. You can find more details information using the following links:

[WDH COVID 19](#)

[CDC COVID 19](#)

### CDC/WDH Prevention Strategies

### CDC/WDH Rationale

### District Plan

Promoting Vaccination	Achieving high levels of COVID-19 vaccination among eligible students, staff and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Vaccination will be a choice for staff and eligible students</li><li>• HSCSD #1 will work with public</li></ul>
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	<p>households is one of the most critical strategies to help schools safely resume/continue full operations.</p> <p>Vaccination is the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. People who are fully vaccinated against COVID-10 are less likely to become infected and develop symptoms and are at substantially reduced risk from severe illness and death from COVID-10 compared with unvaccinated people.</p>	<p>health to provide vaccination clinics for staff and students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff and students who have been vaccinated and are not symptomatic will not have to quarantine if exposed.</li> <li>• It is recommended that staff and students who have been vaccinated and are exposed test 3-5 days after their exposure and mask for 14 days regardless of symptoms or until they receive a negative test based on updated CDC guidance</li> </ul>
Consistent and Correct Mask Use	<p>When teachers, staff and students who are not fully vaccinated consistently and correctly wear a mask, they protect others as well as themselves. Consistent and correct mask use by people who are not fully vaccinated is especially important indoors and in crowded settings, when physical distancing cannot be maintained.</p> <p><b>Indoors:</b> CDC recommends indoor masking for all individuals ages 2 years and older, including students, teachers, staff and visitors, regardless of vaccination status.s</p> <p><b>Outdoors:</b> In general, people do not need to wear masks when outdoors, CDC recommends that people who are not fully vaccinated wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings or during activities that involve sustained close contact with other people. Fully vaccinated people might</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mask use will be optional for staff, students and families while on school grounds</li> <li>• Mask use will be recommended on school buses.</li> <li>• Masking will be encouraged for staff and students who choose not to or cannot vaccinate</li> <li>• A distance of 6 feet is highly recommended for staff/students who are not fully vaccinated.</li> <li>• Required mask use may be used to stop or mitigate spread in classrooms/buildings as needed when health official/state official directed.</li> <li>• Staff who have not been vaccinated will be encouraged to mask when working with other staff or students in close range, especially students ages 5-12 who are unable to get vaccinated at this time.</li> <li>• Students and staff who have COVID symptoms or positive test results at school will need to mask until they are off school grounds</li> </ul>

	choose to wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings if they or someone in their household is immunocompromised.	
Physical Distancing	Because of the importance of in-person learning, schools where not everyone is fully vaccinated should implement physical distancing to the extent possible within their structures, but should not exclude students from in-person learning to keep a minimum distance requirements. In general, CDC recommends people who are not fully vaccinated maintain a physical distance of at least 6 feet from other people who are not in their household. If you are masked the recommendation is 3 feet.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HSCSD #1 will work to create space in classrooms/lunchrooms etc., that will allow for 6 feet of social distance as much as possible.</li> <li>• Staff and students will be encouraged to keep an appropriate social distance as much as possible.</li> <li>• Parents of students as well as staff who are at high risk should contact their building's administrator or their supervisor to develop a plan for social distancing as needed and appropriate.</li> </ul>
Screening testing to promptly identify cases, clusters and outbreaks	Screening testing identifies infected people, including those with or without symptoms (or before development of symptoms) who may be contagious, so that measures can be taken to prevent further transmission. In K-12 schools, screening testing can help promptly identify and isolate cases, quarantine those who may have been exposed to COVID-19 and are not fully vaccinated, and identify clusters to reduce the risk to in-person education. CDC guidance provides that people who are fully vaccinated do not need to participate in screening testing and do not need to be quarantined if they do not have any symptoms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HSCSD #1 will offer voluntary screening testing for staff and students. This allows us to find staff or students who may be positive but asymptomatic.</li> <li>• As part of our testing program we will also provide Rapid Antigen testing for those staff and students who are symptomatic or have been exposed.</li> <li>• We will encourage participation in the testing program in an attempt to avoid school based transmission which could result in school closures.</li> <li>• Test participants and test results will be kept confidential with results being reported to the test participant, the district testing contact. If the result is positive the Wyoming Department of Health will also be notified.</li> </ul>

Ventilation	Improving ventilation is an important COVID-19 prevention strategy that can reduce the number of virus particles in the air. Along with other preventative strategies, including wearing a well-fitting, multi-layered mask, bringing fresh outdoor air into a building helps keep virus particles from concentrating inside. This can be done by opening multiple doors and windows, using child-safe fans to increase the effectiveness of open windows, and making changes to the HVAC or air filtration system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HVAC improvements will take place as funding allows.</li> <li>• Filters will be changed with increased frequency.</li> </ul>
Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	People should practice handwashing and respiratory etiquette (covering coughs and sneezes) to keep from getting and spreading infectious illnesses including COVID-19. Schools can monitor and reinforce these behaviors and provide adequate hand washing supplies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HSCSD #1 will teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.</li> <li>• We will remind everyone in the facility to wash hands frequently and assist young children with handwashing when necessary.</li> <li>• Hand sanitizing stations will be made available throughout facilities.</li> </ul>
Staying home when sick and getting tested	Students, teachers, and staff who have symptoms of infectious illness, such as influenza or COVID-19, should stay home and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care. Staying home when sick with COVID-19 is essential to keep COVID-19 infections out of schools and prevent spread to others. It also is essential for people who are not fully vaccinated to quarantine after a recent exposure to someone with	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HSCSD #1 asks students and staff to self monitor for COVID-19 symptoms prior to coming to work or school.</li> <li>• Schools will survey students each morning to determine possible COVID exposure or symptoms.</li> <li>• Staff and students with symptoms should stay home and contact their health care provider or school nurse for further guidance.</li> <li>• Students and staff will follow the guidelines regarding symptoms, isolation and</li> </ul>

	COVID-19.	quarantine.
Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine	Schools should continue to collaborate with state and local health departments, to the extent allowable by privacy laws and other applicable laws, to confidentially provide information about people diagnosed with or exposed to COVID-19. Staff and students with positive COVID-19 tests should isolate and those that have been in close contact with a COVID-19 positive case should quarantine.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HSCSD #1 will coordinate with the Wyoming State Department of Health regarding quarantine and isolation protocols.</li> <li>• Staff and students who are COVID positive or have been in close contact with someone who is COVID-19 positive will need to follow the district isolation and quarantine requirements.</li> <li>• HSCSD #1 school nurses will coordinate with WDH for contact tracing and issue quarantine and isolation letters.</li> </ul>
Cleaning and disinfecting	In general, cleaning once a day is usually enough to sufficiently remove potential viruses that may be on surfaces. Disinfecting removes any remaining germs on surfaces, which further reduces any risk of spreading infection.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HSCSD #1 will clean and sanitize buildings each day.</li> <li>• Additional cleaning and sanitization of high touch areas in buildings and classrooms will be conducted throughout the school day.</li> </ul>