



HSCSD #1 Smart Start & In-person Learning Plan

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Superintendent of Schools**

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Letter from Superintendent Dustin Hunt

Dear HSCSD #1 Students, Families, Employees and Community Stakeholders,

The *HSCSD #1 Safe In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan* that is outlined in the following pages provides an overview of the plans the district has developed in order to mitigate risk while offering a high quality education for all students during the 2022-2023 school year.

HSCSD #1 plans to open all public schools for in-person instruction and learning starting August 24th. We will consider [CDC Guidance for Schools](#) in establishing District COVID-19 response protocols as well as guidance from local and state health officials. While we are hopeful that we will be able to maintain full time in-person learning for the entire 2022-2023 school year, we are prepared to provide education digitally should a partial or full closure of school(s) be required due to changes in state or local health orders or through direct communication with the Hot Springs County or Wyoming Departments of Health/Health Officer.

While we have developed the following plan and will do everything we can to keep students and staff safe and healthy while at school, we cannot keep schools open without the support of students, parents/guardians, our employees and the community. Please review this plan to learn more about our efforts to provide the safest possible learning environment for students and employees while also providing a high quality education.

Expectations

Parents/guardians will be expected to monitor their child's health each morning for the following COVID-19 like symptoms:

- A cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- A fever of 100.4 F or higher or a sense of having a fever
- A sore throat
- Chills
- New loss of taste or smell
- Muscle or body aches
- Nausea/vomiting/abdominal pain
- Headache
- Congestion/running nose not related to seasonal allergies

- Unusual fatigue

If students exhibit these symptoms, they may not attend school. Please review the updated guidelines put out by the CDC -

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/if-you-were-exposed.html>

If employees exhibit these symptoms, they are expected to submit a Frontline leave request through the normal process and follow the same guidance provided in the CDC link above. Please contact your principal/supervisor if you have questions.

Masking and vaccination are recommended by the Centers for Disease control, and the Wyoming Department of Health, but will be personal choice in HSCSD #1 unless there is a change in state orders. Social distancing has been built into furniture arrangement and operating protocols as much as possible, and staff and students may be reminded to utilize social distancing. Additionally, school staff will remind students about proper hand washing and respiratory etiquette.

Throughout the upcoming school year, HSCSD #1 will provide regular updates to families and the community using existing communication methods (district wide email, text, principal and teacher newsletters and district website). Parents/guardians are asked to be accurate when completing the 2022-2023 online registration process or contact their child's school to ensure current contact information is on file.

Thank you for your adherence to these guidelines and doing your part to keep our students and employees safe which will be essential for our schools to provide in-person instruction and learning.

Dustin Hunt

Superintendent of Schools

Hot Springs County School District #1

MITIGATION STRATEGIES

Health Screening

Each day parents shall screen students for symptoms, prior to school in accordance with current [CDC Guidance](#). Teaching and promoting proper hand washing and respiratory etiquette will be posted throughout all buildings.

COVID Symptoms

Staff and Students - If symptomatic, stay home and consult with a physician for testing and care. If a student develops symptoms during the school day, the individual will report to the nurse's office, wearing a face covering. A school nurse may perform a rapid COVID-19 test if deemed necessary and after consulting with the parent/guardian. The student will be isolated from others while waiting to be picked up by a parent/guardian or emergency contact. The student should be picked up within 30 minutes of being contacted by the school.

If an employee develops symptoms during the school day he or she will notify the building principal or supervisor and will have the option to be tested for COVID-19. Once testing is complete the staff member will be immediately sent home.

Building Access

Each school will establish arrival and dismissal schedules for all students to minimize the number of students congregating immediately before and after school. Students and staff will follow public health hygiene requirements and guidelines during all transitions between classes, meals, recess, restrooms, and other times when leaving the classroom. Students will be advised to bring full water bottles as water fountains stations will be turned off throughout the buildings. Touchless water bottle refill stations will be available.

In coordination with the superintendent, the building principals will determine the number and type of visitors allowed at each school.

Nursing Services and Testing

School nurses will be on site or available throughout the school day. HSCSD #1 will provide various testing options for students and staff including rapid tests for symptomatic students and staff. Free surveillance tests will be available from the district school nurse for anyone who would like to participate in regular testing. Students engaged in activities may be asked to participate in surveillance testing. HSCSD #1 nurses will continue to support the Hot Springs County Health Department in conducting school based contact tracing, promoting vaccinations as well as encouraging and supporting screening and testing efforts.

Vaccinations

Hot Springs County Health Department has offered and will continue to offer vaccinations

to staff, and or students of appropriate age. Please contact Hot Springs County Public Health if you need more information.

PPE

HSCSD #1 will follow all state and local public health orders, including any pertaining to mask wearing. Unless state or local health orders require mask wearing, HSCSD #1 will establish mask protocols with consideration of Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance, community transmission and recommendations of health officials. It is recommended that masks are worn indoors or in crowded outdoor settings when there is substantial or high transmission in the community.

Transportation

Regular bus routes will be maintained.

Students will be encouraged to walk/bike to school and/or parents will be encouraged to self transport when possible.

Hand sanitizer will be provided as students load and unload.

Seats will be assigned where possible and practicable to promote social distance.

To the fullest extent possible, the department will track student ridership on all buses, should contact tracing be needed.

Transportation for after school activities may be limited based on demand and availability.

Buses will be disinfected once per day.

Nutrition/Food Service

Cleaning and sanitation protocols will meet or exceed USDA, state health department, and federal food service guidelines. Social distancing, use of face coverings, and appropriate hygiene measures will be maximized in serving meals in accordance with health orders or recommendations.

Breakfast and lunch will occur in spaces that allow for distancing to occur using multiple locations including classrooms and school cafeterias. Spaces used to eat meals will be sanitized after each use which meet or exceed USDA guidelines. Hand sanitization will be required before and after meals.

Activities

Guidance from the Wyoming High School Activities Association will be followed.

Shared equipment will be disinfected in between uses to the best of coach/participants' abilities.

Face coverings will be recommended for all students when participating in all indoor activities and when participating in crowded outdoor activities when there is substantial virus transmission in the local community. Activity participants and coaches will wash hands/use hand sanitizer before and after practices and competitions.

For competitions in other counties, the host county's regulations and ordinances will be observed.

All students, sponsors, and coaches will be recommended to wear face coverings on busses.

Student gatherings/congregation of students

Class dismissal times may be staggered to reduce the number of students in the hallways at one time. Elementary students follow the 3 feet distancing recommendations for all classroom changes. It will not be possible to ensure social distancing recommendations will be followed at the secondary level during passing periods.

Gatherings beyond single classrooms may be considered based on community transmission data. Student desks shall be spatially separate in accordance with CDC guidance when and where possible.

Custodial

The HSCSD #1 Enhanced Cleaning Practices were developed using the [CDC Guidelines for cleaning and disinfecting Schools](#) framework. All disinfectants used are EPA approved disinfectants.

All buildings will be disinfected each night, with high touch surfaces cleaned at least once per day. Food service areas will be cleaned after every use. Monthly fogging will be conducted at each school, unless more frequent fogging is deemed necessary.

Cleaning supplies will be provided for each classroom so that students may wipe their desks or other frequently touched surfaces during the day.

Facilities

District vehicles used during the day will be disinfected daily
Tools used will be disinfected after each use.

Water fountains are turned off and students will be expected to use personal water bottles throughout the day. Touchless water bottle fill stations are available.

Hand sanitation stations or wash stations are available at all building entrances/exits, common spaces and classrooms.

Hot water and touchless faucets and dryers have been installed.

Ventilation and air flow is maximized in accordance with American Society of Heating Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning (ASHRAE).

Plexiglass dividers used as necessary and where possible to create barriers between students and/or staff.

Restrooms are disinfected daily and will adhere to local health department requirements.

An isolation area has been identified in each school for symptomatic students while they await pick up by a parent/guardian/emergency contact.

CONTINUITY OF SERVICES

Instruction

Local and state public health directives or orders will be followed during in-person instruction and learning. High-quality standards-based Instruction will be provided via face-to-face learning for all students. In the event a student or class is quarantined, asynchronous learning options will be provided during the time the student or class is under quarantine orders.

Technology/1:1

All K-12 students will have access to a personal electronic device in order to implement a 1:1 instructional technology model. All electronic devices will be disinfected on a weekly basis.

Parents and students will be able to access technology support during school hours for assistance if needed including connectivity options in the event of a move to digital learning.

Attendance

Standard daily attendance tracking will be in place for all students. Attendance will be tracked twice a day (elementary) or class period (secondary).

Special Education/Individualized Educational Program (IEP) and English Language Learner (ELL)

Special Education programming will be individualized to each student's unique needs as outlined in their IEP. Special Education staff in collaboration with IEP team members monitor each student's IEP closely and adjust programming as appropriate. English

Language Development programming and English Language Learner (ELL) support will continue to be provided by ELL teachers/staff.

Student Engagement and Social-Emotional Learning

Developing strong teacher-student relationships is a critical element in education, but especially as students return to school in an effort to re-engage all students, notably those who exhibited stress and isolation during the previous two school years. Each school will foster student engagement by focusing on developing and sustaining strong student-teacher and family-school relationships throughout the school year. These relationship building efforts may include home-visits, small-group gatherings, community building and relationship building efforts.

Social-emotional learning will continue to be explicitly taught through our Second Step Curricula for students in grades K - 8, and Sources of Strength Curricula for students 5-12. In addition, by using student screener data, attendance tracking data, and ongoing input from classroom teachers, school based intervention teams composed of counselors, school psychologists, principals and teachers will continuously improve upon existing systems of identifying students in need of additional Social-Emotional supports and interventions.

Monitoring Achievement and Grading

Student learning needs and student learning gaps will be assessed using WY-TOPP and other assessments at the beginning and during the school year. A clear set of teaching and learning expectations have been established for each grade level and content area. Building level intervention teams and Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) will establish an evaluation plan to determine content gaps and set targets to close student learning gaps to grade level.

The district will continue with grading for learning protocols established and approved by the Curriculum Coordinating Council.

COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC INPUT

HSCSD #1 is committed to providing families, employees and the community with timely and accurate information related to COVID-19 and our response to this global pandemic.

We will use the following methods to communicate with all stakeholders:

- **Regular district wide updates on how current health orders and conditions impact the operations of our schools.**

All communications/updates will be posted to the HSCSD #1 website (<https://www.hotsprings1.org/>) and district social media platforms. Updates will be provided to the Board of Education during their monthly public meetings which occur the third Thursday of each month and available by live stream through a link posted on the District website www.hotsprings1.org

- **Monthly principal updates** regarding issues pertaining to a single school.
- **Weekly teacher updates** regarding issues pertaining to a single classroom/class.
- **School nurses** will serve as the primary contact for COVID-19 related questions/follow up.
- Regular and ongoing **coordination with local, state and federal governmental agencies** including the Hot Springs County Department of Health, Hot Springs County Health Officer. HSCSD #1 staff will continue to work with all appropriate governmental agencies to monitor the current COVID situation locally and in Wyoming to ensure we are aware of the current number of cases in our community and all applicable health orders and recommendations. This includes participation in public meetings, working groups and other community efforts as appropriate.
- **Coordinate with independent schools and childcare programs in Hot Springs County.**
HSCSD #1 will continue to work with providers of educational services in our community to ensure awareness, and where appropriate, alignment in service of Hot Springs County children and families.
- **Media Relations**
HSCSD #1 will work with local media outlets to provide accurate and timely information to the media regarding the district's response to the COVID situation while ensuring student and employee privacy is protected.
- [Office of Civil Rights Guidance regarding Long COVID as a disability](#)

Periodic Review

This plan will be reviewed regularly and changes will be made if/when CDC guidelines are updated.

APPENDIX

Resources used in developing the HSCSD #1 Safe Return to In-Person Learning and Continuity of Services Plan

County/State Guidance

[Wyoming Department of Education](#)

[Wyoming Department of Health Testing Resources and Guidance for Schools](#)

National Guidance

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

[CDC Guidance for Schools](#)

[Guidance from the American Association of Pediatrics](#)

[American Society of Heating Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning \(ASHRAE\)](#)

[CDC Transportation Orders](#)

[Long COVID Under Section 504 and IDEA](#)

[US Department of Education Roadmap to Returning to School](#)

Scholarly reports/articles

<http://aasacentral.org/guidelines-for-reopening-schools/>

<https://returntoschoolroadmap.org/>

<https://www.marshallmemo.com/articles/Coronavirus%20crisis%20ideas%20Apr%2027.pdf>

https://www.aft.org/sites/default/files/covid19_reopen-america-schools.pdf

https://medical.mit.edu/sites/default/files/COVID-19_Flow_Chart.pdf

[HSCSD #1 Notice of Nondiscrimination](#)