JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT #171

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

Website Link

Introduction

Schools are an important part of the infrastructure of communities. Joint School District 171 is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for students that support social and emotional development, provide access to services and improve life outcomes. Although COVID-19 outbreaks have occurred in school settings, multiple studies have shown that transmission rates within the school setting, when multiple prevention strategies are in place, are typically lower than community transmission levels.

Joint School District 171 is committed to working with the local public health department and public health officials to determine necessary protocols and prevention strategies. School Board of Trustees and Administrators consider multiple factors when they make decisions about implementing prevention strategies against COVID-19.

Mitigation Strategies (Table 1)

Promoting Vaccination

Vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to prevent COVID-19. People who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are at a lower risk of symptomatic or severe infection. According to the CDC, people who are fully vaccinated can safely resume activities they did before the pandemic, in most settings. Joint School District 171 does not require staff or students to be vaccinated, nor do we require proof of vaccination. The district will be taking action to quarantine students and staff as positive tests are found.

For additional information regarding vaccination clinics or additional information, contact North Central Health District at (208) 882-7506 or access the website at: https://www.idahopublichealth.com/

Wearing of Masks

Layered prevention strategies — like staying up to date on vaccines and wearing masks — can help prevent severe illness and reduce the potential for strain on the healthcare system. Wear a mask with the best fit, protection, and comfort for you.

- People may choose to mask at any time. Masks are recommended but optional and not required.
- Face coverings for all students, staff and visitors will be optional.

Know the COVID-19 Community Level where you live

COVID-19 Community Levels are a tool to help communities decide what prevention steps to take based on the latest data.

When masks are worn by teachers, staff or students, the masks should meet one of the following criteria:

CDC Recommendations

CDC Mask Recommendations

NIOSH Workplace Performance and Performance Plus Masks

Joint School District 171 will be supportive of people who are fully vaccinated, but choose to continue to wear a mask, as a personal choice or because they have a medical condition that may weaken their immune system.

Modifying Facilities

Staff and families of students will be made aware of any situations where students and/or staff have been exposed. If there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 within your child's class and a true exposure has occurred, parents and students will be notified and given safety/ health recommendations or guidelines to follow.

Handwashing and Health Etiquette

Staff and students will be encouraged to practice handwashing and respiratory etiquette (covering coughs and sneezes) to keep from getting and spreading infectious illnesses including COVID-19.

- Hand sanitizer will also be available within/outside of every classroom for students to utilize.
- Students will be encouraged to wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 sec.
- Teaching healthy habits such as covering mouth and nose appropriately.

Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities

- Standard cleaning procedures will be done daily.
- Bathrooms are cleaned daily.
- Desks and chairs are wiped down daily.
- Handrails, door knobs, light switches, telephones, sinks, drinking fountains, countertops wiped down daily.
- Lunchroom tables will be cleaned prior and after each meal service.
- Classrooms will be vacuumed daily.
- Computer labs / keyboards will be disinfected after use.
- Trash will be removed daily from the classroom / building.
- Cafeteria will be cleaned as required on a daily basis.
- Food service staff will wear proper PPE.
- Hand sanitizer, soap/paper towels and tissues will be made available to all employees/students.
- Plastic gloves will be made available to all employees.
- Gymnasiums and locker rooms will be cleaned daily.

Transportation

The following procedures will be in place throughout the school year regarding the cleaning and sanitizing of buses used for student transportation.

- Cleaning of seats will be done following every route or event.

Contact Tracing

Joint School District 171 will continue to collaborate with state and local health departments to confidentially provide information about people diagnosed with or exposed to COVID-19. This allows the district to identify which students, teachers and staff with positive test results should isolate and /or quarantine. School officials will notify, to the extent allowable by law, teachers, staff and families of students who were truly exposed as soon as possible (within the same day if possible) after the district is notified that someone within the school has tested positive.

CDC recommends masking and monitoring for symptoms for ten after exposure, regardless of vaccination status.

Diagnostic and Screening Testing

Diagnostic testing- As supplies are available

We will offer diagnostic testing with Rapid Antigen Covid 19 testing to exposed and symptomatic staff. This will only be offered if supplies are available. If a staff member does test positive they should self isolate, follow protocol for positive covid 19, and we recommend seeking follow up care with primary care physician as additional testing and treatment may be necessary.

Screening testing identifies infected people, including those with or without symptoms. In K-12 schools, screening 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.

Joint School District 171 will not be screening students or staff.

CDC recommends masking and monitoring for symptoms for ten after exposure, regardless of vaccination status.

Vaccinations

Existing laws and regulations require certain vaccinations for children attending school. Parents are encouraged to provide documentation of students' vaccination status to enable quicker identification of non-vaccinated students who may need to be quarantined if they are exposed to someone who has tested positive with COVID-19.

The protocol to collect, secure, use and disclose information will comply with relevant statutory and regulatory requirements, including Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) statutory and regulatory requirements.

Accommodations for Children with Disabilities

Staff and Students of at-risk students will be encouraged to speak to a health care provider about safety protocols that are being recommended for them in a school environment. Joint School District 171 will

comply with any accommodations written in IEP's or 504 plans regarding Covid preventative measures or procedures.

Attendance and Absenteeism

Joint School District 171 will monitor student and staff attendance on a daily basis. Students and staff will be encouraged to stay home when sick, especially if they have any cold or flu-like symptoms. Students will also be sent home if they are running a fever (100.4) or display any signs of cold or flu like symptoms. Students and staff may return to school after 24 hours with no fever, and symptoms have improved.

If the district has confirmed cases of COVID-19, schools will only operate under the guidance of the local health department. If school is in session, staff may take personal, sick or vacation leave unless there are other state or federal protocols in place.

Visitors

At this time Joint School District 171 will have no restrictions on visitors. This could change as we watch the community levels related to covid-19. Limiting non-essential visitors, volunteers and activities involving external groups or organizations with people when there is moderate-to-high Covid-19 community transmission. All Visitors are required to be checked in and registered at the district office before entering the building.

Communication Plan

Joint School District 171 has created a COVID Committee which will meet a minimum of every 6 months to review current protocols and the district "Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services".

Covid-19 updates will be provided to the local school board and school staff when there are confirmed cases within the school community. No individual or personal information will be released to the community as a whole.

Narrative Information Required in District Plan (Table 2)

How the LEA is addressing and plans to address students' academic needs?

Joint School District 171 will offer in-person instruction for students during the 2022/2023 school year. If a student is quarantined or ill due to COVID-19 they will be provided alternative forms of instruction and completion of assignments. Online services will be provided by Idaho Digital Learning Alliance (IDLA) for the 2022/2023 school year.

How the LEA is addressing and plans to address students' social, emotional, mental health, and other needs?

Joint School District 171 has a district wide focus on social emotional learning. Communication between schools, families and communities is important. Joint School District 171 has placed an emphasis on building lines of communication between the school district and homes of our students. During the 2022/23 school year the district purchased additional technology K-12 to allow teachers to provide direct supplemental instruction with students regardless of the student's location.

The district allocates professional development days throughout the school year to assess students who may be at risk academically, socially, emotionally etc. The district has created a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) that also addresses the academically and/or behavioral needs of students K-12. The district works to ensure that every student has at least one adult they have a connection with in the district.

How the LEA is addressing and plans to address their staff's social, emotional, mental health, and other needs?

The process and timeline for review and revision of the plan no less than every 6 mon. through Sept. 30, 2023.

Time line	Activity	Persons
August 16, 2021	Draft Review by Board	Dr. Garrett/BOE
August/September 2021	Review/Refine Draft	Covid Committee
February 9, 2022	Mid-Year Plan Review	Covid Committee
February 14, 2021	Submit any changes to Board of Education for review.	Casey Downing, RN Dr. Garrett
May 11, 2021	Plan Review – Planning for 2022/23 school year.	Covid Committee
May 16, 2021	Submit any changes to Board of Education for review	Dr. Garrett Casey Downing, RN
November 16, 2021	Mid-Year Plan Review	Covid Committee
November 21, 2021	Submit any changes to Board of Education for review	Dr. Garrett Casey Downing, RN
May 10, 2022	Plan Review – Planning for 2023/24 school year.	Covid Committee
May 15, 2022	Submit any changes to Board of Education for review	Dr. Garrett Casey Downing, RN
August 25, 2022	Covid Committee reviewed new CDC guidelines for k-12	Covid Committee

September 13, 2022	Updating guidelines with new mask “recommendations”	Covid Committee
Sep 14, 2022	reviewed/discussed changes with leadership team	Casey Downing, RN Dr. Garrett
September 19,2022	submitting changes for board approval	Dr. Garrett
November 1, 2022	no changes made, with agreement from committee.	Casey Downing, RN with Covid Committee
February 19, 2023	agreed with covid committee to remove the physical distancing portion of our plan.	Casey Downing, RN with Covid Committee
February 27, 2023	submitting changes and review of plan to board	Dr. Garrett

Lea’s need to support and/or technical assistance related to implementing strategies identified in Table 1/ Mitigation Strategies and Table 2/ Narrative Information if applicable.

Joint School District 171 will continue to provide support to staff and students regarding the use of 1:1 devices within the district. Professional development is planned for the staff regarding the use of programs, security options and supporting students in an online environment.

COVID-19 Committee Members

Casey Downing, RN

Lenne Bonner

Julie Kessinger

Jesse Daniels

Christine Erbts

Nicole Turcott