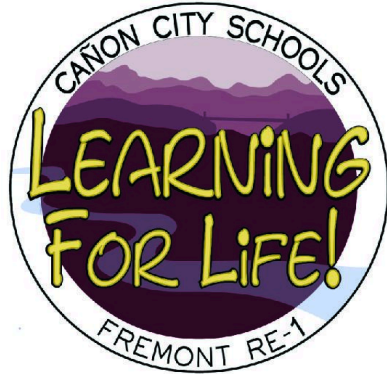


Plan for Safe Return to Learn Cañon City School District



**2021-2022
School Year**

Prepared June 2021

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Canon City Schools Safe Return to Learn Plan SY21-22

Life changed for everyone beginning in March 2020 when the world experienced an event like no other we had ever known. The worldwide pandemic of COVID-19 caused us to rethink almost everything in our lives, including how we would educate our children. Our immediate and number one priority has always been to support our students, staff and our community. We have accomplished this by providing food in unprecedented quantities, internet access for distance and virtual learning, student and staff devices, improved cleaning protocols, personal protective equipment, in-person instruction, and a variety of resources for social and emotional support. We cannot thank the staff enough for all of their efforts. As we navigated through the 2020-2021 school year with great success, we understand that there is still much to be accomplished as we prepare for the 2021-2022 school year and beyond. We will continue to rely on research and support from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Center for Disease Control, Colorado Department of Education, Fremont Department of Public Health and Environment, as well as our community. We will continue this important work with our parents, students, staff and stakeholders and greatly appreciate your feedback as we navigate this next phase of recovery from COVID-19.

Sincerely,

George Welsh
Superintendent

Part 1 - *Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Learning and Continuity of Services*

Important Dates:

- The plan will initially be reviewed June 2021 and reviewed again in December 2021 to determine any needed updates.
- In person and optional remote learning will begin on Tuesday, August 17, 2021. Remote learning is offered at the 9-12 level, directly through the state approved Tigers Online program. For more information regarding this program, please contact Rachel Lyons at rachel.lyons@canoncityschools.org.
- In person Board of Education Meetings will be held the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month (with a few holiday exceptions) during the 21.22 School Year. The dates are as follows:
July 12th & 26th
August 9th & 23rd
September 13th & 27th
October 11th & 25th
November 8th
December 13th
January 10th & 24th
February 14th & 28th
March 14th & 28th
April 11th & 25th
May 9th & 23rd
June 13th & 27th

Academic Needs (in-person and remote learning process):

Students in Cañon City Schools will have the following options for their learning needs for the 21-22 School Year:

- All PK-8th grade students will be fully in-person for the entirety of the school year unless a State or Federal directive is issued, limiting the size of gatherings. (Ex. COVID-19, etc.)
- Students that are in High School (9th-12th grade) will be in-person for the entirety of the school year, unless they have been pre-approved and accepted into the Tigers Online Learning program.
- Students in grades K-5 (K-6 for CES) will be utilizing Google Classroom for communications to and from teachers.
- All assignments will be issued via Google Classroom and other digital learning resources.
- Students in Grades 6-12 (7-8 for CES) will be utilizing Schoology for communications to and from teachers.
- All coursework will be accessed and submitted through Schoology or Google Suite.

Student and Staff Social, Emotional, Mental Health or Other Needs:

- Support Services and the Behavioral Health team has developed a comprehensive plan for supporting in-person and remote learning that includes providing training to staff on trauma-informed classroom management to include Circle-up and/or Welcoming Activities, Engaging Activities and SEL Lessons, and Closing Activities. All of the activities engage all five of the SEL competencies and are aligned with principles of learning, culturally responsive teaching practices, Restorative Justice, PBIS, and most importantly, trauma-informed practices.
- We will provide staff with the tools and resources to prepare for this challenge. These resources will provide effective and purposeful interactions using key social and emotional learning (SEL) practices in the small moments of a classroom.
- Behavioral Health team will work with all schools to support trauma-informed practices by staff. A focus will be placed on supporting a positive climate and culture that acknowledges universal trauma care strategies for students. Best practice guidelines will be available for students who may need more support.
- The District will continue to cultivate family-school partnerships that emphasize relationship building and engagement to enhance building climate and culture.
- Counselors will support both in-person and remote learners by coaching teachers, directly delivering curriculum, and individually supporting students and staff.
- The District will continue to increase awareness of available school and district human resources support for all staff (e.g., who to contact and what supports are available). We will strive to make accessible the health services staff need through employee assistance programs.
- Leaders will build-in time for recurring debrief sessions with all staff members and, when necessary, hold debrief sessions after stressful days. This will be supplemented with unplanned drop-ins into classrooms as a positive touchpoint. Leaders will also regularly survey educators to gather data on wellness, including staff perception on workload and morale.
- Students and staff will receive direct instruction and modeling of COVID safety precautions as required by public orders on the following school routines:
 - ❖ Transportation (Bussing)
 - ❖ Entering/Exiting Building
 - ❖ Restroom
 - ❖ Nurse
 - ❖ Meal Service
 - ❖ Classroom Peer Interactions (this includes social distancing and mask wearing restrictions and recommendations from the CDPHE and local Public Health)
 - ❖ Hallway Transitions
- In response, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) provided flexibilities and waivers including how and when meals are served in Canon City will utilize these flexibilities and continue to establish various creative food distribution models, including mobile points of distribution, non-school day and holiday meal distribution, delivery to accessible community locations (such as community parks) for remote or hybrid

students. These strategies enhance the schools' abilities to provide this critical resource to students and families. Multiple meals (i.e., breakfast, lunch, snack, and dinner) will be provided as well as multiple days' worth of meals at a time, regardless of whether they are tied to an educational or enrichment activity, and meals will be provided to parents or guardians without the presence of a child.

- The District will provide information of meal sites in multiple accessible formats (e.g., social media, flyers, phone calls, community listservs) and distributing information through partners (e.g., government agencies, local nonprofit organizations)

Part 2 - Layered Prevention Strategies

The Districts prevention strategies will continue to follow CDC and Public Health recommendations that will maximize safety and comply with provided guidance. The links provided below will lead our community to the most up to date information in regards to our continued strategies. However, basic information about the strategies that will be employed are provided in this document and will be communicated to staff, students and families to ensure compliance.

CDC Recommendations

- Universal and correct use of [masks](#)
- [Physical distancing](#)
- [Handwashing and respiratory etiquette](#)
- [Cleaning and Maintaining healthy facilities](#)
- [Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine](#)
- [Summary of Recent Changes](#)

Mask Wearing:

- The CDC recommends the use of multilayered cloth masks or surgical masks (one use and discard) for those folks who may still be required to wear a mask.
- Students or staff that have medical conditions or disabilities that do not allow for the use of masks are asked to contact their supervisor and necessary accommodations will be made.
- Signs will be posted indicating any required use of masks.
- The school will provide a mask for any student or staff member who needs or desires one.
- Staff members and students 12 years of age and older that have been fully vaccinated, are *not* required to wear a mask.

Physical Distancing and appropriate Ventilation:

- The standard will be to honor appropriate physical distancing to the best extent possible.
- Grouping of students may be utilized to reduce the risk of exposure.
- Building upgrades are ongoing to improve air quality and ventilation.
- Many floors will remain marked for social distancing to the best extent possible.

- Grab and go/pre-packaged meals may be offered, along with staggered lunch schedules, cleaning between lunch services. Additionally, meals in the classroom may be an option dependent upon circumstances.
- Recesses may be staggered to accommodate social distancing guidelines.
- Every effort will be made to increase access and quantity of outside air as long as it does not pose a safety or health risk to students and staff.
- Visitors to buildings may be limited as necessary to reduce the risk of exposure for staff and students.
- Screening protocols may be implemented if necessary due to increased COVID cases in the district. This would include symptom and temperature self checks before entering any district facility.
- Staff and eligible students that have been fully vaccinated will not be required to quarantine.
- Athletics and extracurricular activities will be adjusted if necessary.

Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette:

- All students and staff will be asked to effectively wash their hands frequently throughout the day to prevent the spread of disease.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in congregate areas as well as in classrooms for student and staff use.
- Covering coughs and sneezes with the elbow or a tissue are encouraged and washing hands or utilizing hand sanitizer afterward is advised.
- Wash hands after exposure to high touch surfaces.
- All students and staff will be asked to stay home when sick or when they have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

Cleaning and Healthy Facilities:

- The District will continue to deploy enhanced cleaning protocols with atomizers and disinfectants in congregate settings and high traffic areas.
- Desks and common surfaces will be cleaned frequently throughout the day.
- Buses will be disinfected regularly.

Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine:

- The District will work with the local health department and conduct contact tracing on District property and transportation.
- Cameras and seating charts will be utilized as necessary to determine close contacts.
- Someone is considered a *close contact* if they were within six feet for 15 minutes of time (cumulative) over the previous 24 hours of a positive COVID case.
- If a student (12 y/o and up) or staff member has been identified as a close contact, they will not be required to quarantine if they have reached full vaccination status or have had a previous diagnosis with COVID-19 within three months. Others will isolate/quarantine based on most current public health guidance.

- If COVID-19 is known or suspected and an individual has not received full vaccination status, they will self isolate for 10 days since the date symptoms first appeared. Testing after the fifth day will be encouraged.
- Efforts to provide vaccines for the benefit of students, staff and the community will continue.
- According to CDC guidance, fully vaccinated people can resume activities without wearing a mask or physically distancing themselves.

Part 3. Levels of Community Risk and Phased Prevention

Collaboration with Public Health Officials To Determine the Risk of Transmission:

Cañon City Schools will continue their partnership with state and local public health departments to navigate COVID-19. The district will collaborate with and seek guidance from these entities for all COVID related activities throughout the 2021-2022 school year. Up to date information on community transmissions and other COVID related data is available on this [Fremont County COVID-19 Dashboard Link](#).

How Decisions are made about Risk and Phased Prevention:

The District will continue to use data from our local health department to guide how our district makes decisions about preventative actions and strategies. We will follow current outbreak guidance [CDPHE Outbreak Guidance For Schools](#) to determine any modified schedules, remote learning decisions or school closures.