



**Strasburg 31J**

**2020-2021**

**Academic Year**

**Plan for Academic and**

**Social Safety During**

**COVID-19**

## Reopening School

This reopening plan was developed as the result of examining the feedback from staff and parents. Additional guidance was taken from the Metro Denver Partnership for Health (MDPH). “Given the growing data on low transmission potential from young children to others and the relative harms of keeping kids out of school, we believe that we can implement a suite of complementary infection control and prevention measures that can provide a comparably safe environment for students and staff” (MDPH).

According to MDPH, no reopening structure can ensure zero transmission and some infections are likely to occur among students, staff, and families, whether from exposure in the home, community, or in school. The American Academy of Pediatrics Colorado Chapter argues that the harms of school closures, including isolation and loss of community, will lead to adverse risks that can and should be mitigated by thoughtful prevention measures to allow a return to school.

The District strongly believes that students benefit from face-to-face instruction given in a traditional setting. However, with the current health threat and state health department guidelines, the District has had to develop a plan that will maximize face-to-face instruction and minimize exposure and transmission of the COVID-19 virus.

The District is committed to providing students with the level of instruction that meets their individual needs. This includes delivering instruction in a variety of styles, including completely remote and a combination of remote and face-to-face. A complete description of the two delivery styles will be explained within this document.

### Commitments:

- Strasburg School District is committed to the safety and well-being of its students, teachers, and staff. All decisions will be made with this leading commitment as a contributing factor and be at the forefront of the decision-making process.
- Strasburg School District is committed to providing as normal of a school year as possible.
- Strasburg School District recognizes the diversity of perspectives on the COVID-19 pandemic and will do our best to balance those perspectives while delivering a high-quality educational experience for our students.
- Strasburg School District is committed to working and communicating with all of our partners regarding decisions that could be impacted by COVID-19.
- ***Strasburg School District understands that conditions and expectations are constantly changing and our practices and safety measures will be reviewed, updated, and communicated to our partners as frequently as possible to ensure the safety and well-being of our students, teachers and staff.***

## **Safety Measures:**

### ***Masks***

- District administration requires that masks and other protective equipment be worn by both students and staff unless six feet of physical distancing can be maintained or mitigating circumstances preclude use.
- The District will adhere to the guidelines established by the Tri-County Health Department. Administration believes that masks are an effective barrier and should be worn as much as possible.
- At the Middle and High school, masks will be required for all students and staff in common areas according to age appropriate guidance.
- At the Middle and High school, masks will be required within classrooms if social distancing cannot be implemented.
- Elementary students in 5th grade and below, and those with mitigating circumstances, will not be required to wear a mask.
- The District will honor the right of parents to have their child wear a mask at all times.
- All masks must meet the student dress code.
- If a student does not have a mask one will be provided to them.
- If a student refuses to wear a mask a warning will be given and parents contacted on the first offense. On the second offense parents will be told that a third offense will result in the student being enrolled in the online platform.

### ***Sanitation***

- Strasburg School District commits to expand sanitation practices in which the role of keeping a clean school no longer just rests with custodians, but with all of us.
- The District has contracted a commercial company to fog the buildings and buses with sanitizer. This will be done when the buildings are closed and will remain closed to allow the sanitizer to settle and dry.
- Professional fogging will be conducted twice a month.
- Professional cleaning will be conducted within 24 of identification of contamination. Contamination will be determined by the school nurse with advice from Tri-County Health.
- Custodial staff will be increased to ensure that all commonly touched surfaces are cleaned throughout the day. Deep cleaning of the building will be done each night by custodial staff.
- Keeping the classrooms and buses clean and safe cannot only be the responsibility of custodial staff. All staff will share in ensuring that our classrooms, common areas, and buses are clean. Staff will have cleaning supplies in classrooms, offices, kitchen, and buses and will be required to wipe down surfaces.

## ***Screening and Health Safety***

- Strasburg School District believes that the first point of screening of students and staff is at home, and we will work with parents and staff to ensure that they are aware of the best screening practices.
- Physical distancing of at least six (6) feet should be maintained in indoor and outdoor settings. Lockers will not be used in the high school or middle school and the elementary will stagger recess times.
- Hand washing will be encouraged and foam hand sanitizing stations will be available in all classrooms and common areas.
- Temperature checks showing a fever of over 100.4 and symptoms of illness will be self-reported by families or staff members.
- A temperature scanning device will be used on all students and adults as they enter buildings. An individual showing a fever of over 100.4 degrees will either be placed in an isolation room or placed in an alternative room if the primary room is occupied until a parent or guardian can pick them up. Any staff member will be immediately sent home without entering the building. The individual will not be allowed to mix into the population within the school.
- If a student or staff member is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 or any other illness they must stay home to protect the health of others.
  - Symptoms of illness could include fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea.
- Should a student or staff member exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 after entering a building, a designated room will be available until he/she can safely return home or seek care. A parent or designee will be required to pick up their child within an hour of being contacted by a school employee.

## ***Visitors to the Building***

- Each building will establish entry and exit procedures to limit the number of students and adults in any common areas such as doorways, cafeterias, gyms, etc..
- Contact by parents or other community members will be limited in all buildings.

## **Transportation –**

The Colorado Department of Education has issued a toolkit for transporting students in District buses, cars, and all other District vehicles. According to the guidelines, a 77 person bus can fit approximately 10 students with 6 feet distance. Students should not be in the same seat unless they are from the same household.

Students should not be seated within 6 feet of the driver.

Masks will be required by all passengers and the driver at all times.

These restrictions are going to make it very difficult for the District to transport students to and from school. The District is asking all parents to transport their child (children) to school. If your child normally rides a bus and you are unable to transport your child, please contact James Spence, Transportation Director at - [jspence@strasburg31j.com](mailto:jspence@strasburg31j.com) to make arrangements.

## **Breakfast and Lunch -**

- The District will use disposable/compostable plates, cups, cutlery, condiment packets, etc. The District will utilize the cafeteria areas if social distancing can be achieved. The Department of Education recommends that lunch be provided inside the classrooms. Students wishing to eat breakfast before school will receive grab and go items and then follow the entry procedures set forth by their building.
- Lunch will be eaten in classrooms or other designated areas in order to maintain small groups. The District will maximize the space we have using both cafeterias and classrooms. The high school will continue to allow open campus at lunch, but strongly encourage students to adhere to all social distancing guidelines. This policy is subject to change at any time depending on recommendations from local health authorities.

## **Instructional Time and Student Attendance**

State law requires each school board to adopt a calendar that includes at a minimum 160 student contact days. For the 20-21 academic year, contact days may include remote learning days as implemented as a result of public health and safety measures.

For each course for which a student is scheduled, whether completely remote or under the hybrid model, students will be required to demonstrate at a minimum of 4 hours of independent work per day as well as logging into classroom discussions and meeting with the assigned certified teacher. (CDE)

**Rationale:** State health guidelines along with direction for the Center for Disease Control require students to be grouped into cohorts whenever possible to reduce the range of contact between individuals.

**Elementary** students remain in the same grouping throughout the day. The health risk to elementary age students appears to be significantly less than older children and adults. The District can ensure we meet the guidelines for elementary age students and staff who serve them and allow them to attend school full-time face to face. Proper measures will be put in place to ensure the health and safety for all students and staff in the elementary school.

**Secondary** students in grades 6-12 do not stay in the same class groupings throughout the day. With limited physical space to ensure adequate social distancing with all students present and changing groups, the District has minimized risk to students by dividing students into two groups (A and B).

**2020-21 school year will begin in the Yellow Phase, which is described in more detail in subsequent pages).**

- **Elementary students** will attend school face to face with teachers and support staff 5 days a week following appropriate health guidelines.

- **Prairie Creek High School** - Students will attend 5 days a week - face-to-face. PCHS has small groupings of students who stay in the same class all day.
- **Strasburg High School and Hemphill Middle School** - Secondary students, including grades 6 – 12, will be assigned a rotating schedule that is designed on a 2 week basis (ABABA and BABAB). Students will receive 5 days of in person face to face instruction every two full weeks. An academic calendar will be provided.
- When students are not in class face-to-face they will access instruction through remote learning utilizing a variety of distance learning options, including but not limited to I-READY, Schoology, and Google Classroom.
- Core classes may be equipped with technology that will allow students to remote in to participate live with the class and teacher.
- Teachers will have the ability to record and post their classroom instruction to their individual webpage or through Schoology.
- Students will be expected to log into their remote classroom and attendance will be taken when they are not participating in face to face instruction.
- Calculating hours of remote learning for the purposes of determining teacher-pupil contact and teacher-pupil instruction will be based on the following:
  - Academic content covered
  - Student demonstrations of learning
  - Estimated times for students to complete independent work
  - Other methods identified by the teacher and building administration

## **Special Education Services**

All students who have an IEP and receive services within the *Center Based Program* will attend school 5 days a week on a normal schedule.

Middle school and High school students on an IEP who receive services within the District resource rooms and integrated classes will receive face to face instruction on a rotating basis and will receive direct, remote instruction from their teachers via Zoom on the days they aren't scheduled to be in the classroom. The District staff will work closely with the ECBOCES to ensure that all services identified within the IEP are in place.

## **English Language Learners**

Students receiving services from the ELL staff will continue to receive instruction according to their needs and plans.

## Options parents can select for educating their students

<b>Home Schooling</b>	<b>District remote-online</b>	<b>District in person and hybrid model</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Under this model parents will withdraw their students from the District.</li> <li>● Parents will select a homeschool curriculum and provide all instruction necessary to students either directly or through a third party.</li> <li>● Parents will notify, in writing, the District of their intent to homeschool and let the District know the name of the curriculum that will be used.</li> <li>● Funding for the student will not come to the District therefore, the District will ask parents to continue in this model for the full year.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students will enroll in the Strasburg School District.</li> <li>● Parents will notify the school administration of their desire to participate in the fully online program.</li> <li>● Students will be assigned to the online PLATO program.</li> <li>● Computers can be provided.</li> <li>● A certified teacher will be assigned to assist students and will check in with students several times a week.</li> <li>● The student remains enrolled in Strasburg SD and will be allowed to enter the face-to-face model only after meeting with building administration.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● This model is detailed in the following pages based on the current health and safety guidelines that are in effect.</li> <li>● Students enroll in Strasburg SD.</li> </ul>

## Face-to-Face/Hybrid Instruction

**All Phases are directed by the guidelines that are in place as a requirement of State and Local Health regulations.**

**Green Phase** – This is considered the closest to normal instructional services. This phase is almost back to normal with some non-invasive processes and procedures. This phase will likely go into effect when all or most guidelines have been lifted by the state and county health officials.

- In-person instruction in which all students receive direct instruction from teachers and paraprofessionals.
- Modified transition times as necessary.
- Feasible social distancing.
- Masks worn only in common areas if social distancing is not possible and according to age appropriate guidance.

**Yellow Phase** - This phase is a period in which there is a direct threat not only within the District, but to the community as well. Guidelines and restrictions that are in place per the state and local health departments. This phase complies with the current Safer at Home restrictions.

- At the Middle School and High School, all students will use a rotating block model. Half of the students will attend each day following an ABABA schedule the first week and then BABAB the next. The district will make every attempt to have siblings assigned to the same days. Those who physically attend will receive direct instruction from a teacher and paraprofessionals. Remote instruction will be provided through Google Classroom, Zoom and/or Schoology. Technology will be added to classrooms that will allow students to remote into the class to hear the lecture and ask questions.
- Elementary students will attend five days a week staying in their assigned grade level cohort group.
- Social distancing will be required and social interactions will be limited to smaller groups.
- At the Middle and High school, masks will be required for all students and staff in common areas according to age appropriate guidance.
- At the Middle and High school, masks will be required within classrooms if social distancing cannot be implemented.
- Administration believes that masks are an effective barrier and should be worn as much as possible. Elementary students in 5th grade and below, and those with mitigating circumstances will not be required to wear a mask.

- The District will honor the right of parents to have their child wear a mask at all times.

**Red Phase** - This phase will be directed by the state health department and the Governor's office if a statewide closure is ordered. The District could also implement this phase if the cases of COVID-19 escalates within our District. This complies with the Stay at Home order.

- All students will receive direct and practice instruction through online distance learning (i.e. Google Classroom, Zoom and/or Schoology). Attendance will be required on a daily basis. If allowed by the health department, some students may still receive small group direct instruction in the buildings.

Resources:

COVID-19 Strategies for Schools June 25, 2020. Metro Denver Partnership for Health (MDPH).  
<https://www.coloradohealthinstitute.org/research/metro-denver-partnership-health>

Colorado Department of Education COVID-19 toolkit. <http://www.cde.state.co.us/safeschools> (CDE).

Colorado State Government <https://covid19.colorado.gov/> Guide for COVID-19 (State).