

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan



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Introduction

On March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plans (ARP) Act was signed into law. In it, the U.S. Department of Education is providing an additional \$121.9 billion for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER III Fund). This legislation will award grants to state educational agencies (SEAs) for providing local educational agencies (LEAs) with emergency relief funds to address the impact that COVID-19 has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools across the nation.

Wisconsin will receive \$1,540,784,854 in ESSER III funds from the Act, with 90 percent being awarded to school districts with amounts determined in proportion to the amount of Title I, Part A funds they received in summer 2020 from funds under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The remaining funds will be used for state-level activities to address issues caused by COVID-19.

This plan describes how the School District of Neillsville will provide a safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services for all schools, including those that have already returned to in-person instruction.

Maintaining Health and Safety

Weekly Schedule

- In-person instruction 5 days per week for all students in grades 5K-12.
- 4K Children will be divided in to two groups (M/W, T/TH). Students will attend school all day on their assigned attendance days. Fridays will be family outreach days for 4K.

Health Services

- The School District of Neillsville employs one full-time CAN who will continue to offer health services in-person or virtually.
- The school district also contracts with multiple outside agencies to provide mental health support for families.

Transportation Plan

- There will be assigned seats and loading and unloading protocols.
- The district must follow the federal transportation guidelines. Currently, masks are required on buses.

Student Meal Plans

- All meals free for any children between the ages of 0-18 until August 31, 2021. The district will be delivering meals until August 31, 2021, upon request.
- Beginning September 1, 2021, all meals will be free for any students attending school in the School District of Neillsville.
- Additional eating areas, assigned seats for all students, and safe serving protocols have all been put in place for safety purposes.

Remote Learning Option 2021-2022

- If a family wants a remote learning option for the 2021-2022 school year, they must register for classes through the Rural Virtual Academy. Please contact the building principals for more information.
- In the event of school closure due to the pandemic, the district has purchased Chromebooks and iPads to support remote learning. Printed materials will also be delivered to the homes of students as needed. Hotspot devices have also been purchased for the families without a strong internet connection.

Mitigation Measures

Daily Operation Plan

- A daily self-screening symptom checklist will be provided for all families, students, and staff. No one should come to school if the symptoms checklist indicates the student or staff member should remain home.
- Masks are being highly recommended for all students and staff by the CDC. Masks and shields will be available from the district.
- If 4% of the total staff and student population become positive for Covid at any one time, masks will be required for everyone while indoors until the percentage of those infected falls below 4%
- The district will continue to limit non-essential visitors during school hours. Any approved visitors must follow all district safety protocols.
- The district will regulate access to the buildings, and directional flow in the buildings.

Physical Spaces Plan

- Barriers will be used in public spaces where advisable.
- There are also separation markings in high-traffic areas.
- Safety signage for hand hygiene, protective measures and symptoms awareness are displayed throughout the buildings.
- Bottle filling stations will be available throughout the buildings, but water fountains will not be available. Students should bring their own water bottle.

Healthy Environments Plan

- The district has established daily and weekly protocols for cleaning and disinfecting.
- Staff will continue to reinforce safety protocols.
- Modified building layouts have been adjusted for safer student traffic patterns and eating.

Points of Contact Regarding Covid-19

- Points of contact for any COVID-19 issues involving students are the building principals, and Sam Warden, CNA.
- Superintendent John Gaier, Board of Education Office, is the point of contact for staff concerns or questions.
- Both John Gaier and Sam Warden will work directly with the Clark County Health Department to monitor cases, develop vaccine options, and to share timely information.

Case Monitoring

- The district will post the number of student and staff positive cases on the district's Covid-19 dashboard. Safety protocols will be in place. Monthly plans will be developed based on the latest information available.
- Should numbers rise significantly, the district may enforce stricter protocol.

Student and Staff Quarantines

- The district will contact families of close contacts and provide the families with the quarantine options approved by the Clark County Health Department.
- Names of individuals identified as possible close contacts will be communicated to the Clark County Health Department.
- Vaccinated students and staff will not have to quarantine if they do not have symptoms.

Remote Learning Option 2021-2022

- If a family wants a remote learning option for the 2021-2022 school year, they must register for classes through the Rural Virtual Academy. Please contact the building principals for more information.
- In the event of school closure due to the pandemic, the district has purchased Chromebooks and iPads to support remote learning. Printed materials will also be delivered to the homes of students as needed. Hotspot devices have also been purchased for the families without a strong internet connection.

Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies and practices.

- When circumstances require specific policies or procedures designed to protect the health and safety of students, 504 and IEP teams will determine if modifications and/or reasonable accommodations are needed for individual students with disability-related issues.

Periodic Review

Case Monitoring

- The district will post the number of student and staff positive cases on the district's Covid-19 dashboard.
- Monthly plans will be developed based on the latest information available.
- Should numbers rise significantly, the district may enforce stricter protocol.

Public Input

Monthly Board Meeting Public Comments

- Public input will be scheduled at each regular board meeting.