

Minidoka County School District
School Reopening Plan for Families
August 3, 2020

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INTRODUCTION

The procedures and protocols contained in this plan are designed to facilitate the reopening of schools while reducing the potential impact of the COVID-19 virus on the health and welfare of MCSD students and employees. The guidelines are based on recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Idaho State Department of Education, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and state and local health agencies. **Regular adjustments will be made to this plan based on updated information provided by these organizations as well as local factors which may arise after the resumption of school operations. Minidoka County School District will work closely with South Central Health District and local health care providers at Minidoka Memorial Hospital when making decisions regarding the health and safety of students and staff.**

The goal has been to create effective, flexible, and developmentally appropriate practices that will align with recent guidance provided by the American Academy of Pediatrics: *“All policy considerations for the coming school year should start with a goal of having students physically present in school.”* ([LINK to full AAP Guidance](#))

MITIGATION PROTOCOLS

DAILY WELLNESS SCREENINGS

COVID-19 is a highly contagious and potentially life-threatening virus. To be able to keep our schools open while protecting the health and welfare of students and staff, it is critically important that **ALL families** exercise strong discretion before sending a possibly ill child to school. Staff will be asked to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms prior to reporting to work each day.

RESPONSE TO POSSIBLE SYMPTOMS

While many children with COVID-19 will present with fever initially, many will not. Other symptoms that may develop initially include the following: chills, cough, headache, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion, runny nose, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. Any of these are cause for keeping a child home. During the school day, teachers will actively monitor students and refer to the nurse if symptoms are present.

HYGIENE

Handwashing is one of the best means of protection against infection. Students will be reminded to wash their hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing their noses, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating. They will also have access to an alcohol-based hand sanitizer throughout the school building and school transportation when hand-washing opportunities are not readily available.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

While it will be difficult to maintain distance between the students at school, each site will be devising plans to provide for this precaution in the common areas of hallways, classrooms, restrooms, cafeterias, and gyms. Teachers will be encouraged to space student desks at a minimum of three feet apart, where possible and reduce activities which necessitate close contact between students.

FACE COVERINGS

Evidence strongly supports the role and importance of face coverings in interrupting the spread of COVID-19. The latest indication is that the use of face coverings protects both the wearers and those with whom they come in contact. Staff will be required to wear face covering (mask or face shield) when social distancing or other measures are not possible. MCSD will have shields available for staff and masks available for those who do not have their own. Students are highly encouraged to wear a mask, especially when physical distancing is not possible. State and local guidelines will be followed regarding face coverings.

COVID-19 MONITORING & DECISION-MAKING MATRIX

Traditional	Enhanced Traditional/Modified Schedule		Distance Learning
<p>-No community spread and no positive cases in schools.</p> <p>-No active emergency orders or local health restrictions are in place.</p>	<p>Minimal Community Spread</p> <p>-Some local health guidelines in place (i.e. wearing of masks in public, limits on gatherings)</p>	<p>Moderate Community Spread and/or positive cases with some risk of exposure in a school, classroom or within the District.</p> <p>-Some local health guidelines in place (i.e. wearing of masks in public, limits on gatherings)</p>	<p>-Evidence of significant active transmission of COVID-19 at a school site or district-wide. The district is unable to maintain normal school operations due to excessive absences or lack of capacity.</p> <p>-State is under emergency orders which limit school operations</p>
<p>-Regular school procedures alongside COVID-19 protocols/precautions.</p> <p>-General disinfecting and cleaning protocols in place.</p> <p>-Teachers and staff are highly encouraged to wear face coverings at all times when physical distancing is not possible.</p> <p>- During the school day, students may need to wear face coverings in hallways, common areas, and some classrooms depending on the ability to maintain adequate separation between students and classes.</p> <p>- Schools will provide instruction to students on digital platforms and academic expectations in the event of school cancellation and short-term move to distance learning.</p>	<p>- Maintain a regular school schedule with enhanced COVID-19 protocols.</p> <p>-Increase frequency of cleaning and disinfecting of rooms.</p> <p>- ALL teachers and staff will wear face coverings to the maximum extent possible.</p> <p>-Students are highly encouraged to wear face coverings at all times when physical distancing is not possible.</p> <p>-Schools will consider options for greater restrictions on student movement and interaction. Increase social distancing in hallways, restrooms, and cafeteria.</p> <p>- The district will coordinate with local health agencies to develop procedures to reduce spread on COVID-19 in schools</p> <p>-Students will be trained on digital platforms and academic expectations in the event of school cancellation and short-term move to distance learning.</p>	<p>- Maintain a regular school schedule if possible with enhanced COVID-19 mitigation protocols.</p> <p>-Increase frequency of cleaning and disinfecting of rooms.</p> <p>- ALL teachers and staff will wear face coverings to the maximum extent possible to include classrooms and hallways.</p> <p>-Students are highly encouraged to wear face coverings at all times when physical distancing is not possible.</p> <p>-Increased social distancing in hallways, restrooms, and cafeteria.</p> <p>- The district will coordinate with local health agencies to develop and implement enhanced procedures to reduce spread on COVID-19 in schools.</p>	<p>- Suspension of in-person school operations.</p> <p>- Students and teachers move to a distance learning model based on analysis of current conditions.</p> <p>-School facilities closed to the public; enhanced protocols to ensure staff safety at school.</p> <p>-Coordinate with local health agencies to develop standards for a safe return to school after the outbreak subsides.</p>

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The information on the following pages details specific procedures and protocols that will be implemented to address each of the areas above. **The guidelines use GREEN as the default.** If the district moves to **YELLOW or ORANGE**, these procedures will be expanded to include additional safeguards and restrictions.

PROTOCOLS & PROCEDURES

ABSENCES

ACADEMICS & DISTANCE LEARNING PLANNING

The district will focus on student and staff health and safety while also providing a positive learning environment. The district understands the importance of in-person learning, not just to support students **moving forward** academically, but also for the social and emotional benefits it provides for children. Therefore, our goal is to start school in person on **August 20**. This is the original calendar start date set by Minidoka County School Board.

IF the district moves to **ORANGE or RED**, a decision may be made to close a classroom, school, or the entire district due to a rise in confirmed cases of COVID-19. If we need to move to a distance learning model we want parents to be confident that our teachers and their children are equipped with the resources and knowledge to conduct and participate in remote instruction through an approved Learning Management System (LMS).

If students or families are uncomfortable with a return to regular face-to-face instruction at this time, **an option for full time virtual school is available**. For parents considering virtual education for their child(ren), students shall be enrolled in a full semester to maintain continuity of instruction and to avoid challenges related to the tracking of academic progress and educational gaps that might arise due to students moving back and forth between virtual and in-person learning. For more information on the virtual school option, or to enroll in Minidoka Online, visit the school district website or email minidokaonline@minidokaschools.org.

IMPORTANT NOTE: To assist us in planning for technology and staffing needs, we request that families notify us of their intention to enroll their child in virtual school by August 14.

DISTANCE LEARNING

If we are successful in mitigating the transmission of COVID-19, any disruptions to the regular instructional calendar will be minimal. However, if levels rise to the point where it is difficult to continue to preserve the health of students and staff, the district will be prepared to implement a longer-term distance learning model.

This model will be significantly different than the approach from last spring. Students will mirror a typical instructional day at home and be expected to progress academically. Students' teachers will likely remain in the classroom to prepare and record lessons for students. Grades will be kept and participation tracked as part of student attendance. Students will be at home working remotely on their district provided device. To receive credit and attendance for the courses for this school year students are expected to complete the assignments.

For **elementary students**, teachers will provide instruction through Google Meet, Google Classroom or SeeSaw, regular instructional activities delivered electronically, iReady instruction for math and iStation for reading among other programs. These programs will be integrated from the start of school in the regular classroom to aid with remediation, enrichment of student skills, and to facilitate a more seamless transition to distance learning if the need arises.

At the **secondary level**, teachers will deliver lessons using Google Classroom and Canvas. Remote learning is self-led with teachers checking in and monitoring progress. Students work on lessons individually and submit their work through Google Classroom and Canvas. With this model, teachers will maintain regular "office hours" and be available to answer individual questions during typical school hours. Additional tutoring or support may be provided as necessary.

Gatherings

In **Green**, all-school assemblies will be limited to avoid the possibility of exposure that would occur when hundreds of students gather. In **Yellow** field trips, assemblies, and other large gatherings may be limited. In **Red** all activities and gatherings will be cancelled. These activities may be reinstated if the virus takes a turn toward diminishing infection.

ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL

As elementary students arrive at school in the morning, they will be directed to go to their classrooms or a general area in which social distancing is feasible. Students will not be gathered in large groups to wait for their school day to begin when possible. Parents will not be able to escort their children into the building. All parents will be asked to remain in their cars and drive through the drop-off line to ensure a safe exit from and entrance into their family vehicles.

For secondary students, routines will be adjusted to allow students to maintain a safe physical distance from one another as they wait for the first hour bell to begin class. Each site will work with the layout and options in their specific building to maximize opportunities for distancing in the minutes before school begins. At the

end of the day, students may be released in a staggered manner to reduce overcrowding in the hallways or at lockers.

BREAKFAST & LUNCH

Students will be asked to wash hands prior to eating. Accessible hand sanitizer dispensers will be available as well. As much as possible, students will be seated in the cafeteria in a manner to allow for distancing. Students will be reminded that sharing food is not a safe practice.

We will have disposable lunch trays that can be taken from the cafeteria to the classroom or outside to eat. Students will come to the cafeteria so their names can be entered in the computer as they come through the line.

No guests will be allowed to have lunch on-site as long as the threat of COVID exposure exists in the community. This may change how meals are served depending upon the color code the District is in.

COMMUNICATION PROTOCOLS

We encourage families to stay updated on the most up-to-date information:

1. Visit the MCSD Website: minidokaschools.org
2. Follow our Facebook Page: @minidokaschools
3. Be alert for messages sent via Remind
 - o Parents should confirm mobile phone numbers are up-to-date in PowerSchool

What	When	How
Confirmed Staff Case of COVID-19	Parents will be notified of a confirmed STAFF case IF their child has had possible contact with the affected staff member.	MCSD will notify families via: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remind
Confirmed Student Case of COVID-19	Parents will be notified of any confirmed case IN their child's classroom(s).	MCSD will notify families via: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remind
School Closure / Change in COVID-19 Level	Based on the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 among students and/or staff, MCSD may need to close schools and/or conduct instruction virtually.	MCSD will notify families via: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remind - Website - Phone System

COVID-19 SYMPTOMS AT SCHOOL

If a teacher suspects that a student may have COVID-19 symptoms, he/she will contact the office, to notify them that the student is coming to the office. The student will immediately be required to wear a mask if not already wearing one. Parents will be contacted and asked to pick up their child and seek a medical opinion. A student shall not return to school until fever free for 24 hours and 10 days post COVID-19 onset of symptoms, unassisted by medication.

EXPOSURES, DIAGNOSES, & RETURN TO SCHOOL AFTER COVID-19

In regard to exposures, diagnoses, and positive tests, the CDC recommends the following:

- Anyone who has had close contact with someone positive for COVID-19 should stay home for 10 days after exposure, based on the time it takes to develop the illness.
- Any child or staff member who tests positive or has COVID-19 symptoms may return to school after three days with no fever (no fever reducing medication) **AND** improved respiratory symptoms **AND** TEN (10) days since symptoms first appeared. Two consecutive negative COVID-19 tests given 24 hours apart would also indicate that a child may return to school.
- A child who tested positive for COVID-19 but had no symptoms can return to school after TEN (10) days have passed since the test. Two consecutive negative COVID-19 tests given 24 hours apart would also indicate that a child may return to school. The negative test results should be provided to the school upon return.
- As always, parents are asked to contact the school to report their child's absence.
- For more information, visit the following website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus>

FACILITIES SANITARY PROTOCOLS

The safety of our employees and students is our top priority. Upon reopening, our schools have been completely cleaned and disinfected and we will continue to adhere to all necessary safety precautions. In addition to the deep clean of the office and school before employees and students return, the cleaning steps outlined below are to be taken to disinfect workplace surfaces, chairs, tables, etc. to protect employees and reduce the risk of spread of infection. We will require employees to maintain this safety standard by continuously cleaning and disinfecting based on the frequency stated below.

GENERAL DISINFECTION PROTOCOLS

Elementary schools

- Hand sanitizer stations will be available at every entrance
- Direction of travel will be laid out with social distancing being a main priority
- Teachers should block their doors open to allow students to come into the classroom before the bell rings.
- Upon entering the classroom, we recommend that students line up and wash their hands with soap and water before proceeding to their assigned seat
- During recess and lunch breaks the following procedures should be taken by the teaching staff. Remove your disinfectant spray from a safe location in your room. Spray a fine mist over all desks and hand touch areas to include door knobs. Allow 5 to 10 minutes of drying time before letting students occupy desks.
- The Custodians will spray the bathrooms throughout the day with a sanitizer once maybe twice before the nightshift does a thorough job of sanitizing.

Middle Schools

- Hand sanitizer stations will be available at every entrance
- Direction of travel will be laid out with social distancing being a main priority
- Teachers should block their doors open to allow students to come into the classroom before the bell rings and should open the doors between class transfers.
- Upon entering the classroom, we recommend that students use 1 pump of the hands sanitizer before proceeding to their assigned seat.
- Once bell has rung to start classes the day doors should be closed for security reasons.
- If a student should have to leave the room for any reason, they should adhere to the signs for direction of travel and go directly to their destination. Upon return to the classroom they should again sanitize their hands.
- During class change and lunch breaks the following procedures should be taken by the teaching staff. Remove your disinfectant spray from a safe location in your room. Spray a fine mist over all desks and hand touch areas to include door knobs. Allow 5 to 10 minutes of drying time before letting students occupy desks.
- The Custodians will spray the bathrooms throughout the day with a sanitizer once maybe twice before the nightshift does a thorough job of sanitizing.

High Schools

- Hand sanitizer stations will be available at every entrance
- Direction of travel will be laid out with social distancing being a main priority
- Teachers should block their doors open to allow students to come into the classroom before the bell rings and should open the doors between class transfers.
- Upon entering the classroom, we recommend that students use 1 pump of the hands sanitizer before proceeding to their assigned seat.
- Once bell has rung to start classes the doors should be closed for security reasons.
- If a student should have to leave the room for any reason they should adhere to the signs for direction of travel and go directly to their destination. Upon return to the classroom they should again sanitize their hands.

- During class change and lunch breaks the following procedures should be taken by the teaching staff. Remove your disinfectant spray from a safe location in your room. Spray a fine mist over all desks and hand touch areas to include door knobs. Allow 5 to 10 minutes of drying time before letting students occupy desks.
- The Custodians will spray the bathrooms throughout the day with a sanitizer once maybe twice before the nightshift does a thorough job of sanitizing.

Category	Area	Frequency
Workspaces	Classrooms, Offices	At the end of each use/day using disinfecting wipes/sprays on frequently touched surfaces.
Appliances	Refrigerators, Microwaves, Coffee Machines	Daily
Electronic Equipment	Copier machines, Shared computer monitors, TV's, Telephones, keyboards	At the end of each use/day and/or between use
General Used Objects	Handles, light switches, sinks, restrooms	At least 4 times a day. Other measures, such as keeping classroom doors open, may reduce the frequency of cleaning.
Buses	Bus seats, handles/railing, belts, window controls	Between routes as possible using disinfecting wipes/sprays. Transportation employees will perform a full disinfecting of each bus at the end of each school day.
Common Areas	Cafeteria, Library, Conference rooms, Gyms, Common Areas	At the end of each use/day; between groups if possible

MEDIA CENTERS

Honoring the importance of reading for both pleasure and research, the school media centers will remain open for staff and student use. While there may be some changes in routines and scheduling, we are optimistic we will be able to serve our students with high quality media services. Books will be sanitized before being reshelved.

RECESS

Each elementary site will develop a recess schedule that allows daily outdoor playtime for all students. Recess schedules may vary at sites due to limiting the number of students in any one area. Playground equipment will be cleaned as often as it is feasible. Additional restrictions may occur if the district moves to ORANGE.

SNACKS & OUTSIDE FOOD

No class wide snacks will be allowed or distributed at school unless commercially produced and individually wrapped. Students choosing to bring a snack to school may bring an individually wrapped snack for themselves. Students may not share their personal snacks with others.

STUDENT SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL HEALTH

The social and emotional wellbeing of our students is as important as their academic learning. The district is currently developing plans to implement instruction and services to ensure the needs of our students are met. In addition to classroom teachers, our site counselors will be prepared and available to help our students and families.

SUPPLIES

Sharing of supplies such as crayons, markers, scissors and pencils will not be allowed. Students will keep their individual supplies separated from those of others in individually labeled containers or cubbies. Any manipulatives needed for instructional purposes will be sanitized prior to use by another student.

TRANSPORTATION PROTOCOLS

Transportation will be following all State recommendations and mandates.

Provide and recommend hand sanitizer for students and bus drivers

- Require drivers to wear face masks
- Highly recommend that students wear masks while on the bus
- Watch for sick students and inform the school and parents if we believe we have sick children
- There will be no field trips at this time.
- Buses will be disinfected every day after morning and afternoon routes.
- We will have assigned seating on all the buses and families will be sitting together.

We are working on adding stops to in-town routes to spread out the high number of students at stops in order to limit exposure and to run more in-town shuttles to limit the high number of students on the buses. This may not be possible due to time restraints.

VISITOR RESTRICTIONS

To mitigate the potential transmission of COVID-19 by adults to students and staff, visitation of classrooms and other areas of the school beyond the main office will be restricted to those visitors and guests with a defined need. Site principals will be responsible for reviewing any requests for visitation. The use of face coverings and social distancing are expected by all visitors, students, and staff in main offices. If granted permission to enter the school, visitors must complete a self-screening. These guidelines will be reviewed often as conditions change.

WATER FOUNTAINS & RESTROOMS

As school reopens, at some locations water fountains will be shut off. Some schools have water bottle filling stations; these will remain connected and available to students and faculty. Students and staff are encouraged to bring filled water bottles or other non-breakable clear water containers to school with them. Student restrooms will be cleaned multiple times throughout the day. Staff restrooms will also be disinfected periodically throughout the school day.