

updated 2/21/23



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

#BulldogNationAheadofthePack



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Mexico School District #59

Plan Development for Re-entry and SRCSP Planning

Mexico Public Schools was able to utilize the district's 2020 Re-entry Plan to successfully start school in August 2020. School re-entry and re-opening documents provided an opportunity to review practices and policies. This SRCSP document offers guidance on how the district will approach the continued operation of our schools and facilities. These guidelines, along with coordinated approaches, will assist to safely continue academic, extracurricular, and athletic activities. Aligning these with district strategic goal areas allows for encompassing all planning aspects. This document is intended to hold hope for the best as we continue safe operations to maintain the health and safety of all students and staff.

Many safety measures have been put into place since August 2020. Mexico Public Schools will continue to implement those measures and will make every effort to minimize contact to Covid 19 and other communicable diseases; however, attending school will inherently introduce a greater risk of exposure.

The original 2020 Re-entry Planning Team collaborated to develop plans for the 2020-2021 school year. This team provided input in original planning and was given the opportunity to provide input on this SRCSP.





Mexico School District #59

Return-to-School Guidance

Beginning in the spring of 2020 and continuing throughout the summer of 2020, Mexico Public Schools conducted meetings to develop a safe re-entry plan. The plan incorporates guidance from the CDC, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Department of Health and Senior Services, the Audrain County Health Department, and a Covid 19 team consisting of community and MPS staff stakeholders. This plan was developed to safely and effectively re-open our schools. The safety of our students and staff are paramount, and implementation of this plan was developed by what is feasible, practical, acceptable, and tailored to the needs of the Mexico community.

GOALS OF BULLDOG NATION

SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION

- To continue in-person learning as a district
The importance of in-person learning is well-documented and is the primary goal of MPS. Beyond the educational impact, there has been substantial impact on social interactions, mental health, food security, and physical activity for some children and families. Our goal is to keep students as close to a traditional educational setting as possible while also having safeguards in place for their health and safety.
- To maintain and promote the health and safety of our staff and students
As a district, we will utilize information and guidance from the Audrain County Health Department, the Department of Health and Senior Services, and the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to evaluate and adjust our Safe Return Plan as needed.

OUR SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON IS A PROCESS THAT INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING:

- **CONTINUED SANITATION**
- **PARENT EXPECTATIONS**
- **PHYSICAL DISTANCING**
- **STAFF AND STUDENT SCREENING MEASURES**
- **PROCEDURES FOR COVID-19 INFECTIONS**
- **CONTACT TRACING**
- **PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT**



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INTRODUCTION

The top priority for the Mexico School District remains the education of our students. Additionally, we recognize the importance of implementing reasonable precautions to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of students, employees, and community members.

Our Safe Return to In-Person Plan is a fluid document, changing as the circumstances dictate and based on guidance we receive from national, state, and local health experts. Please check the district's website at mexicoschools.net for the latest information.

This document highlights reasonable precautions the district intends to implement and is designed to assist parents and families in making the best decision on behalf of their child.

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Continuity of Services

Procedures have been developed to support the continuity of services for students should an interruption of in-person instruction occur.

Depending on the grade level and specific needs of the student, teachers will use a variety of instructional strategies including, but not limited to, remote participation through video, interactive lessons shared through Google Classroom, virtual meetings with the classroom teacher and/or school counselor or social worker, and learning packets.

MPS has a well-developed system of social, emotional, and mental health supports throughout the district. In addition to employing the recommended number of professional school counselors at each building, MPS has 4 full-time social, emotional, behavioral staff members to support the wellness of students and staff. Whether in-person or learning remotely, staff will check in with students on a regular basis to ensure their social, emotional, and mental health needs are being met.



CLEANING & MAINTAINING FACILITIES

- Nightly, targeted cleaning of high-touch surfaces and all classrooms
- Nightly, the Hydrostatic guns will be used to spray school buses and used, as needed, in classrooms.
- Daily, desks and high-touch areas will be cleaned.
- Cleaning materials will be readily available. Staff will be expected to support the cleaning and disinfecting of classroom surfaces and supplies, as needed.
- As needed, the playground equipment will be cleaned.



KEEPING YOUR CHILD & FAMILY SAFE AT HOME



Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are unavailable.



Cough or sneeze into your elbow or a tissue. Throw the tissue in the trash. Wash hands or use hand sanitizer.



Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands.



Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.



Avoid contact with people who are sick and stay home if you are sick.

#MEX59TLC

HANDWASHING & RESPIRATORY ETIQUETTE

Mexico School District #59 staff will be intentional and dedicated to teaching proper hand washing and respiratory etiquette and maintaining heightened protocols for symptomatic individuals.



Hand sanitizer will be placed in every classroom and in communal areas.



Students and staff will have times throughout the day to wash/sanitize hands.



Masks will be available to students and staff, as needed.



Bus drivers will undergo sanitation training, and all school buses will be thoroughly sanitized after each route.



**The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends washing hands for at least 20 seconds to stop the spread of COVID-19.*

SONGS FOR A 20-SECOND* SCRUB



Song: "Happy Birthday"

"Happy birthday to you,
Happy birthday to you,
Happy birthday dear (insert name)
Happy birthday to you"
(Sing twice)

Chorus: "Let It Go" from Frozen

"Let it go, let it go
Can't hold it back anymore
Let it go, let it go
Turn away and slam the door!
I don't care what they're going to say
Let the storm rage on
The cold never bothered me anyway!"

Chorus: "Just the Way You Are" by Bruno Mars

"When I see your face
There's not a thing that I would change
'cause you're amazing
Just the way you are
And when you smile
The whole world stops and
stares for a while
'Cause you're amazing
Just the way you are"





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Mexico School District #59 will strive to create an environment that supports health guidelines without interrupting the education of our students. The mitigation strategies below will be implemented as outbreaks occur.

MASKING

- Masks will be optional for individuals while on District property.
- All students and staff are encouraged to wear a mask when physical distancing is not possible.
 - Disposable masks are available upon request.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING

- Staff and students will do their best to maintain as much distance as possible from others within school buildings.
- Seating charts will be given within classrooms when occupying common areas and for riding the bus.
- Small groups will be utilized to the extent possible. This will assist with contact tracing.
- Modifications within the school day will be made as needed.
- Modifications to meals will be made as needed.

VACCINATION EFFORTS

- MPS will continue to collaborate with ACHD to bring awareness to and publish vaccination events for staff and students.

DIAGNOSTIC & SCREENING TESTING

- Testing for Covid-19 is provided in Mexico, MO and with health care providers
- MPS will continue to collaborate with ACHD to host testing events in the event of an increase in cases.



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DAILY SELF-SCREENING CHECKLIST

- ☒ No fever or chills
- ☒ No cough
- ☒ No shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- ☒ No sore throat
- ☒ No headache
- ☒ No muscle aches
- ☒ No nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
- ☒ No new loss of taste or smell
- ☒ No new runny nose or congestion
- ☒ Extreme fatigue

**FEELING SICK?
STAY HOME!**



**CONNECT WITH
YOUR SCHOOL**



**TAKE TIME TO
FULLY RECOVER**





Procedures for Covid-19 Infections

Contact tracing will be used in the event of an outbreak.

What is Contact Tracing?

Contact tracing is a fundamental activity that involves working with a patient (symptomatic and asymptomatic) who has been diagnosed with an infectious disease to identify and provide support to people (contacts) who may have been infected through exposure to the patient. This process prevents further transmission of disease by separating people who have (or may have) an infectious disease from people who do not. It is a core disease control measure that has been employed by public health agency personnel for decades. Contact tracing is most effective when part of a multifaceted response to an outbreak.

Source: The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention

- Exposure is defined as being within 3 feet of the positive person for a cumulative of 15 minutes or more in a 24-hour period.
- If a Mexico school receives notification of a student or staff member testing positive for COVID-19, a contact tracing investigation will be conducted by the district to determine who the individual may have had close contact with 48 hours before symptom onset or, in the absence of symptoms, 48 hours before the test was collected.



Staff & Student Screening Measures

Mexico Public Schools will constantly monitor the number of positive cases occurring within the individual school buildings. Based on the building's positivity rate, it will fall into 1 of 3 levels (green, yellow, or red). Each level will have corresponding mitigation protocols.

GREEN

Range: Active positive cases equal to **0-3%** of total school population.

- Key pillars of COVID Reentry Plan are in place, including physical distancing, handwashing and respiratory etiquette, staying home when sick.
- Masks are not required.
- Field trips are permitted.
- School gatherings and assemblies are permitted.
- Close contacts will not have to be excluded from school.
- Visitors are permitted.

YELLOW

Range: Active positive cases equal to **3.1-6%** of total school population

- Key pillars of COVID Reentry Plan are in place, including physical distancing, handwashing and respiratory etiquette, staying home when sick.
- Masks are encouraged indoors when physical distance of 3 feet cannot be maintained.
- Field trips permitted upon approval.
- School gatherings are permitted. Masks are encouraged.
- Close contacts will not have to be excluded from school.
- Visitors are permitted.

RED

Range: Active positive cases equal or greater than **6.1%** of total school population

- Key pillars of COVID Reentry Plan are in place, including physical distancing, handwashing and respiratory etiquette, staying home when sick.
- Masks are encouraged indoors when physical distance of 3 feet cannot be maintained.
- Field trips are not permitted.
- School gatherings and assemblies are restricted unless approved & determined to meet physical distance and other applicable mitigation strategies.
- Student & parent will be contacted & made aware of exposure so they can monitor for symptoms. Exclusion from school will be at the parent's discretion.
- Visitors will be restricted.

Staff & Student Screening Measures

Mexico Public Schools will constantly monitor the number of positive cases occurring within the individual school buildings. Based on the building's positivity rate, it will fall into 1 of 3 levels (green, yellow, or red). Each level will have corresponding mitigation protocols.

- If a school is moved from a lower to a higher level (from green to yellow or yellow to red), the corresponding mitigation protocols will remain in place for a minimum of 10 calendar days to allow active cases to complete required exclusion protocols.
- If after 10 calendar days the percentage of active positive cases within the school environment drops back into the range for a lower level, the school will move back to the corresponding mitigation protocols.
- Staff and parents will be notified of any changes to levels for their individual school community.

Procedures for Covid-19 Infections

When School Level is RED

What is the procedure if a student is exposed to someone at school who is positive for COVID?

School level is

RED

- Student and parent will be contacted and made aware of the exposure.
 - Exclusion from school will be at the parent's discretion.
 - If symptoms develop, stay home.
-
- If exposed, watch for symptoms until 10 days after your last contact with someone with COVID-19. After your 5-day exclusion, it is encouraged to wear a mask around others for the next 5 days.
 - Quarantine is no longer recommended for people who are exposed to COVID 19. If exposed, people are encouraged to follow recommendations to wear a mask and get tested.

Procedures for Covid-19 Infections

Return-to-school guidelines

following a positive COVID-19 test:

Persons with COVID-19 who HAVE symptoms

- Must be fever free a minimum of 24 hours without fever-reducing medication,
- AND have an improvement in symptoms (cough/shortness of breath),
- AND be at least 5 days since symptoms first appeared.
- A negative test is not required to return to school.
- A negative COVID test will not shorten the length of exclusion.
- It is encouraged to wear a mask when around others for the next 5 days.

Persons infected with COVID-19 who NEVER develop COVID-19 symptoms

- May return 5 days after the date of their positive test.
- It is encouraged to wear a mask when around others for the next 5 days.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Accommodations for Children with Disabilities

- MPS will create and follow accommodations, as needed, for students with Individualized Education Plans, 504 Plans, or Health Plans

Social, Emotional, Behavioral Considerations

- In addition to school counselors, MPS has 4 full-time Social, Emotional, Behavioral staff members who will monitor and work with students and staff who exhibit social, emotional, and mental health needs. Whether in-person or learning remotely during exclusion, specialized staff will check in with students on a regular basis.

Periodic Revision

- This SRCSP will be reviewed at a stakeholders meeting with updates and revisions to be finalized by December 20th, 2022. The plan will be reviewed again in the spring, and updates and revisions will be finalized by June 20th, 2023. Periodic revision will continue for the life of the plan dependent on current public health needs.

General List of Stakeholders

Superintendent of Schools
 Assistant Superintendent of Schools
 Director of Special Education
 Transportation & Maintenance Director
 Communications Director
 Director of Nurses
 Building Administrators
 Teachers
 Parents
 Community Members

DOCUMENTS & ONLINE RESOURCES FOR MORE INFORMATION

[Mexico School District Website](#)

[CDC: Checklist for Parents & Teachers](#)

[CDC: Coronavirus Symptoms](#)

[CDC: How to Protect Yourself & Others](#)

[CDC: When & how to wash your hands](#)

[CDC: Social Distancing](#)

The Mexico Public School's plan is subject to change if local conditions warrant a tightening or loosening of any of the proposed guidelines.

If needed, a copy of the plan will be provided in the language of your choice.



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