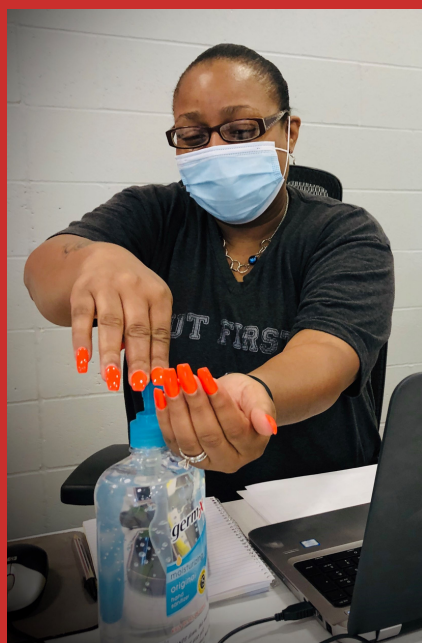


as of 12/2/2020



# A CARING COMEBACK

*Bringing Bulldogs Back-to-School*



Mexico School District 59  
2101 Lakeview Road, Mexico, MO 65265  
(573) 581-3773  
[mexicoschools.net](http://mexicoschools.net)  
[communications@mexico.k12.mo.us](mailto:communications@mexico.k12.mo.us)



#MEX59TLC



Dr. Tammy Lupardus  
Superintendent

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR SUPERINTENDENT

July 31, 2020

Mexico Bulldog Families,

This has been an incredibly challenging time for our entire school district and community. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we have dealt with this unprecedented situation.

We are excited for the upcoming school year and for the opportunity to welcome students and staff back into our buildings. Our survey results indicate parents and families overwhelmingly wish to return to in-seat instruction for our first day of school on August 26.

While the first day of school is nearly a month away, we must acknowledge the possibility of our public health situations changing, necessitating a revision to our re-entry plan.

Thank you for your continued support as we respond to an evolving reality while implementing reasonable precautions to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Yours Truly in Education,  
Dr. Tammy Lupardus

*Teaching-Learning-Caring*  
#MEX59TLC



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## COLLABORATION & GUIDANCE

The Mexico School District continues to seek the guidance of the following organizations to determine a safe re-entry plan for students and staff. Decisions will be made based on objective information provided by science, public health, and medical experts.



CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL & PREVENTION (CDC)

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS (AAP)

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY  
EDUCATION (MO DESE)

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR  
SERVICES (MO DHSS)

OFFICE OF THE MISSOURI GOVERNOR

AUDRAIN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT (ACHD)

FEEDBACK FROM STAFF & PARENT SURVEYS

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE MEXICO RE-ENTRY  
REASONABLE PRECAUTIONS TASK FORCE

MEMBERSHIPS WITH EDUCATIONAL PROFESSIONAL  
ORGANIZATIONS (MASA, MOSPRA, MOASSP, MAESP, MOASBO)

# 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.

We envision our re-entry plan being 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](http://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. Recommendations have been adopted from the Mexico Reasonable Precautions Task Force, representing all schools and departments within the district, the Board of Education, and community partners.

Most recent CDC guidance recommends decisions be made locally, in collaboration with local health officials and experts, who are best positioned to help determine the prevalence of COVID-19 in the community.

## #MEX59TLC





## KEY PRIORITIES

As we return for the 2020-2021 school year, the Mexico School District will work to minimize the risk of exposure to COVID-19 for students and staff. However, we must all acknowledge that returning to in-seat instruction will introduce a greater risk of exposure in spite of our best efforts. The following key priorities have been identified for implementation across the district in order to allow for the return to in-seat instruction this fall. Parents will receive more detailed information about how these key priorities will be applied at their student's school building(s) between now and the start of school. Our plan for returning to school is built around the following foundational priorities:

**01****INCREASED DISINFECTION EFFORTS****02****SOCIAL (PHYSICAL) DISTANCING****03****STUDENT & STAFF MEMBER  
PROTECTIVE MEASURES****04****VISITORS****05****STUDENTS & STAFF MEMBERS  
WHO TEST POSITIVE****06****REMOTE LEARNING**

## INCREASED DISINFECTION EFFORTS

The Mexico School District custodial team members will undergo a thorough disinfectant and sanitation training, including discussion of proper product use and review of CDC and State of Missouri health department cleaning expectations during school and after hours.

During school hours, custodians will thoroughly clean high-touch surfaces in buildings, including bathrooms, water bottle fill stations, doorknobs, entrance/exit handles, handrails, walls, etc.



## 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



# INCREASED DISINFECTION EFFORTS

Mexico 59 staff will be intentional and dedicated to teaching proper hand washing and hygiene.

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



Classrooms and other common spaces will be frequently disinfected throughout the day. Cleaning materials and hand sanitizer will be placed in every classroom.



Handwashing stations with soap and/or hand sanitizer will be available in classrooms, commonly used areas, and at the entrances and exits of all buildings.



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



Drinking fountains will be turned off, but refillable water bottle stations can be used for individual drinking containers such as cups or bottles as outlined by each school building.



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

## 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"



# **SOCIAL (PHYSICAL) DISTANCING**

Mexico 59 will strive to create an environment that supports health guidelines without interrupting the education of our students.

The goal is to limit exposure to as few other students and staff members as possible. Staff and students must do their very best to maintain as much distance as possible from others within the school buildings.

Assigned seats will be given within the classrooms, when occupying common areas, and for riding the bus. Additionally, small groups will be utilized to the extent possible. This will assist with contact tracing efforts through our local health department as needed.

Students will go immediately to designated classrooms upon arriving at school and will not congregate in hallways or common areas.

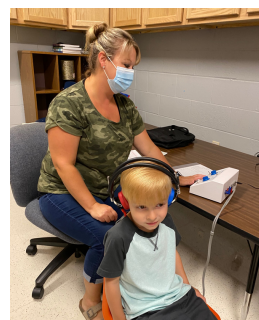
Modifications to meals will be made as needed (for example, some students may eat meals in the classroom or other common areas to limit the number of students in the cafeteria). If eating meals in the cafeteria, the number of students will be limited and students will be seated with fellow students from their small groups to minimize exposure.

Modifications within the school day will be made as needed to limit the amount of movement within buildings.

Desks in classrooms will be spaced as far apart as possible to allow for physical distancing; non-essential furniture and other soft surfaces, such as carpets and seating, will be removed for sanitation purposes.

In-school gatherings, such as assemblies, rallies, school parties, dances, etc., will not be held unless physical distance can be maintained and students can remain limited small groups.

Additional details and guidelines regarding extra/co-curricular activities and competition will be released at a later time pending specific guidance from the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) and the North Central Missouri Conference (NCMC).





# SOCIAL (PHYSICAL) DISTANCING

Mexico 59 will strive to create an environment that supports health guidelines without interrupting the education of our students.



Modifications to bus loading and unloading procedures may be made; hand sanitizer will be available to students for boarding and unloading from the bus; and students will be assigned seats to limit exposure.

Students will only be able to ride the bus they are assigned to, except in cases of true emergency.

\*\*It is required that students in grades K-12 wear a mask while riding the bus. Bus riders without a mask will be provided one upon pick up.

Parents who can transport students to/from school are encouraged to do so to help minimize the number of students riding the bus and minimize contact. Thank you, parents!



# STUDENT & STAFF MEMBER PROTECTIVE MEASURES

Students and staff members will do their best to maintain as much distance as possible from others within school buildings. Effective, December 7, 2020, it is required that students and staff members properly wear a mask or face covering while on our campus and while riding the bus.

On November 12, 2020, the guidance related to identifying close contacts in the school setting was modified. If the person diagnosed with COVID-19 and the close contact were both wearing masks appropriately during the time of exposure in a school setting, the close contact would not need to quarantine.

To comply with updated state guidance from Governor Parson, as well as DHSS/DESE, regarding COVID-19 mitigation strategies, our district has implemented a mask mandate effective December 7, 2020.

In situations where either the person with COVID-19 or the person exposed to the case is not following the mask mandate or was not wearing an appropriate mask correctly during the time of exposure, the close contact will not be permitted to attend school and will likely be required by our local health department to quarantine at home for 14 days.

Persons who are identified as close contacts but are not required to be quarantined, per modified guidance, can still attend school. However, the individual is not authorized to participate in school-associated sports, extra-curricular activities, or any other activities outside of the school setting. Other than attending school, these close contacts should continue to quarantine.

Parents should discuss the importance of social distancing with their students. It is difficult to ensure students maintain distance, but it is necessary for staff and student to understand the importance of doing so to prevent exposure.

[View CDC guidance and recommendations on face coverings here](#) (see cloth face covering section).

[See CDC guidance on how to wear masks here.](#)



# STUDENT & STAFF MEMBER PROTECTIVE MEASURES

From the CDC "At-Home Screening for Students"  
[www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

## COVID-19 AT-HOME SCREENING QUESTIONS

### SYMPTOMS (SECTION 1)

- ☐ 100.4 F temperature
- ☐ Sore throat
- ☐ New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing
- ☐ Diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal pain
- ☐ New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever

### CLOSE CONTACT (SECTION 2)

Within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 48 hours before the person began feeling sick until the time the patient was isolated.

- ☐ Had close contact with a person with confirmed COVID-19, or
- ☐ Traveled to or lived in an area where the local, Tribal, territorial, or state health dept is reporting large numbers of COVID-19 cases as described in the Community Mitigation Framework, or
- ☐ Live in areas of high community transmission (as described in the Community Mitigation Framework) while the school remains open.

If the individual answers YES to any question in Section 1 but NO to any question in Section 2, the individual must stay at home until symptom-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medications.

If the individual answers YES to any question in Section 1 AND YES to any question in Section 2, the individual should seek medical attention through his/her healthcare provider and possible testing. Schools should not require testing results as a part of return to school policies. Individuals who have received a negative test result should be allowed to return to school once they are symptom-free for 24 hours without fever reducing medications.

Individuals diagnosed with COVID-19 OR who answer YES to any question in Section 1 AND YES to any question in Section 2 without negative test results should stay home, isolate from others, monitor their health, and follow directions from their state or local health department. The local health department may contact the individual and family for contact tracing. If contacted by the health department, the individual or individual's family should notify the contact tracer if the individual has attended school. The individual should be permitted to return to school after at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared and at least 24 hours with no fever without fever reducing medication and after symptoms have improved. A negative test or doctor's note should not be required for return.

# STUDENT & STAFF MEMBER PROTECTIVE MEASURES

Students or staff who display symptoms of COVID-19 while at school will be moved to a designated area within the school building for observation and to minimize contact with others until they return home.

Students and adults who have come into close contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19 should closely monitor for any COVID-19 symptoms and should follow all instructions given by the local health department related to contact tracing.

When students are kept home due to illness, the school attendance secretary may ask additional screening and entry questions regarding symptoms to confirm whether COVID-19 is a factor.

Where appropriate, handheld thermal temperature readers may also be used at buildings, at additional entrances, by parent educators before meeting with families, or activities purposes, etc.

### DO choose masks that

-  Have two or more layers of washable, breathable fabric
-  Completely cover your nose and mouth
-  Fit snugly against the sides of your face and don't have gaps

### Appropriate Mask Wearing



### Special Situations: Children

-  If you are able, find a mask that is made for children
-  If you can't find a mask made for children, check to be sure the mask fits snugly over the nose and mouth and under the chin
-  Do NOT put on children younger than 2 years old

### Gaiters & Face Shields

-  Wear a gaiter with two layers, or fold it to make two layers
-  Caution: Evaluation is ongoing but effectiveness is unknown at this time

### Special Situations: Glasses

-  If you wear glasses, find a mask that fits closely over your nose or one that has a nose wire to limit fogging



# VISITORS



In order to minimize the exposure of all students and staff to others outside of their assigned small groups, non-essential visitors and parents will not be permitted beyond the secure vestibules at school buildings. Due to these restrictions, traditional Open House events will not be held at schools this fall.



Any essential visitors who do enter the building will be required to enter through the main entrance, required to wear a mask while in the building, and tracked in a visitor log to include date and time of visit, where in the building they travel to, and which, if any, students or staff they have contact with.



These restrictions will apply during the school day but may differ somewhat for activities held outside the school day which are optional to attend.



# STUDENTS & STAFF MEMBERS WHO TEST POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, he/she must isolate at home for 10 days AND be fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medications AND experience an improvement in symptoms.

Students and staff may be contacted to assist with contact tracing efforts, to review assigned seating charts, and to determine which individuals a COVID-19 positive case had contact with while contagious.

If a student is found to be a close contact through contact tracing completed by the Audrain County Health Department, parents/families will be directly contacted by the health department.

While the health department is not permitted to share names of positive COVID-19 cases, if the school district becomes aware of an official positive COVID-19 case, likely affected staff and families will be notified as soon as possible.

Students and staff who are identified as a close contact of a COVID-19 positive case will be permitted to return to school following a 14-day quarantine, regardless of a positive or negative test result.

If a building is closed, all school activities associated with that building will be canceled or rescheduled.



**PANDEMIC  
#COVID19**

# REMOTE LEARNING

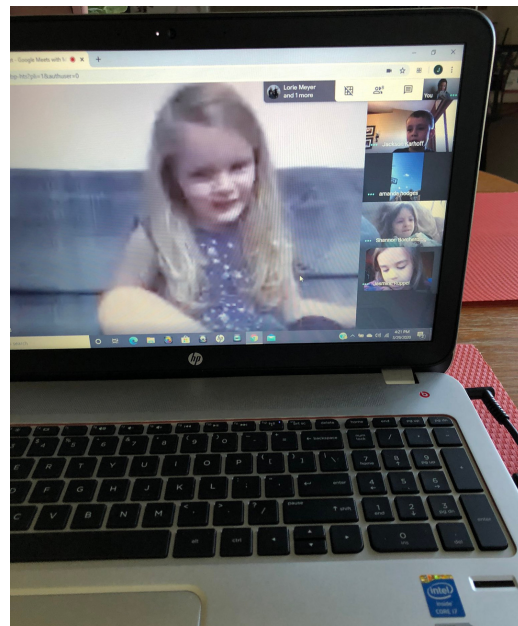
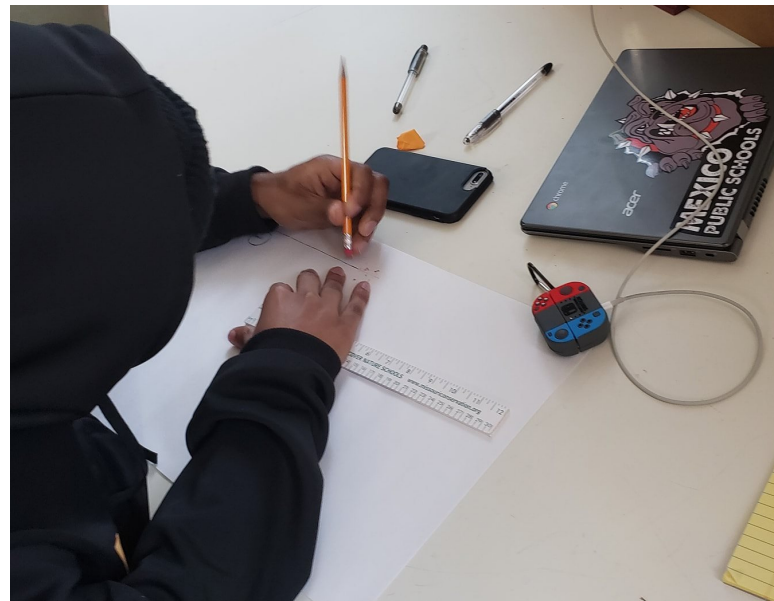
Families who do not feel comfortable sending students to school to receive in-seat instruction may enroll and participate in remote learning via Edgenuity. Edgenuity is an online education platform used by Mexico Public Schools in the past.

## What is Edgenuity?

Edgenuity Instructional Services offer an engaging, content-rich K-12 curriculum that can be customized to meet the unique needs of students. Standards-aligned courses are taught by highly qualified, state-certified virtual instructors who focus on providing the personalized attention students need to excel.

## How do I apply?

Families can enroll online for remote learning beginning August 3, 2020 by visiting the school website at [mexicoschools.net](http://mexicoschools.net). Enrollment must be completed by Friday, August 14, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. Please allow up to 2 weeks to receive detailed information regarding your child's enrollment.





# REMOTE LEARNING

Students participating in remote learning will begin on August 26 and will have until September 7 to transfer back to in-seat instruction if so desired. Otherwise, students must remain in the Edgenuity program for the duration of the semester for which they were approved.

Students participating in remote learning for the first semester of the 2020-2021 school year can return to in-seat enrollment for the second semester if so desired, or may remain remote for the duration of the school year.

If a student is not successful with Edgenuity, he/she may not participate in remote learning in future semesters. Grades from Edgenuity courses will be transferred to Mexico Public Schools and will factor into the student's GPA.

Students who require a technology device in order to participate in remote learning will be issued a device.

Students participating in remote learning may participate in extracurricular activities as long as they meet MSHSAA requirements.

To help us secure student materials and plan for a successful student experience, we are asking all requests to enroll in remote learning be made no later than August 14, 2020.



## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

*4 core courses per semester:*

English Language Arts  
Math  
Science  
Social Studies

*Electives or "Extras"*  
(Music, Art, Health, PE)

Workbook activities included  
Support for student as well as facilitator  
State certified teachers

## MIDDLE SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL

Rigorous standards-aligned curriculum

Delivered through combination of  
teacher-led videos, interactive media,  
and text

Support for students struggling with  
coursework or adapting to online learning

State certified teachers

NCAA approved courses



# GUIDING DOCUMENTS & ONLINE RESOURCES

[DESE & MO DHSS Re-opening Guidelines](#)

[Governor Parson Announces Changes to Quarantine Guidance](#)

[DESE Reopening Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Audrain County Health Department \(ACHD\)](#)

[Mexico School District Website](#)

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

[CDC: Self-Check Symptoms](#)

[CDC: How to wear cloth face coverings](#)

[CDC: Coronavirus Symptoms](#)

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

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

[CDC: Social Distancing Considerations](#)

