



**CREIGHTON COMMUNITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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## **Covid 19 - Return to Learn Plan - 2021-2022 Year**

### **Message – Please read closely.**

8.26.21 – According to the CDC website, Knox County has entered the “red/high” zone in regards to Covid spread in our region. Our local hospital and hospitals across the state have seen significant increases in Covid illness due to the new, much more transmissible Delta Variant. The most recent data suggests that the Delta Variant is also more likely to adversely impact our younger children. Additionally, schools and districts across the state of Nebraska have had seen rapid spread in their schools which has resulted in enhanced safety measures or temporary closures.

The number one goal of our school board and administration is to ensure that we are keeping students and staff safe and in school. Therefore, we are considering the recommended changes from the state and local health department as well as local health professionals.

Our school board policy committee utilized input from our new Covid Response Information Team that is comprised of board members, administrators, local health professionals, and our school nurse. Recommended changes to be considered by our board of education are in **red**. Please also carefully review the newly added Appendix A and B at the end of this document. Once again, please understand that these proposed changes are based upon new guidance from our state and local health departments. Our original and current approved plan states that we will follow the guidance from these organizations.

While it is our hope to continue throughout the school year with limited enhanced health and safety measures, we believe it is important to be proactive in a transparent way and have measures in place to help mitigate any potential Covid spread in our school system.

NOTE –Our new recommendation is that masks should be highly encouraged to be worn by staff and students. We are also considering the use of masks to be utilized as a temporary tool to help stop the spread of actual, documented cases within our schools. However, our

current recommendations do not include a universal mask requirement at this time.

### **Rationale for Return to Learn Plan**

1. Our main goal is to ensure that our students, staff, and families are remaining safe and healthy.
2. A second priority is ensuring that we are keeping our students in school and avoiding remote learning situations.
3. We are required by the American Rescue Plan of 2021 (ARP) to develop and implement a Return to Learn plan with public input. The ARP requires 9 components for the Return to Learn Plan which is the basis for our district plan.

### **Creighton Community Public Schools: 2021-22 Covid 19 Return to Learn Plan**

\*Plan is divided by the components required by the American Rescue Plan

#### **1. Wearing of Masks**

While masks are not required at this time as a universal precaution, we strongly encourage students and staff to wear masks to protect themselves and others.

We also strongly encourage students and staff to closely follow the CDC guidelines which can be found at the following link:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/index.html>

Rationale – Masks are proven to mitigate the spread of Covid-19.

## 2. Physical distancing

- Desks will continue to be separated as much as possible in each classroom. Close contact group classroom activities will need to be eliminated if we see any type of school spread.

Rationale - The CDC still recommends at least 3 feet of distance where possible between each student in a classroom

## 3. Handwashing and cleanliness

- The school will continue to promote good hygiene practices and will provide hand sanitizer at entrances and in classrooms.

Rationale - Continued good practices in this area will not only help with Covid spread but will also help during cold/flu season.

## 4. Healthy Facilities and ventilation

- The custodial and maintenance staff will continue with enhanced cleaning and sanitizing practices.
- The district has already made improvements to the building ventilation system.

Rationale - Enhanced sanitizing practices will continue to be beneficial to stop spread of any type of illness.

## 5. Contact Tracing/Quarantine Procedures

- The school district will comply with all current state and local health district requirements and recommendations. Local health departments have continued contact tracing and will inform the school of any isolation and/or quarantine recommendations and/or requirements.
- Please refer to Appendix B to review Screening, Exclusion, and Re-Admittance protocols. Students will be provided with opportunities to stay caught up with school work while absent and to make up school work once they return (refer to absence policy in handbook). High school students will not be subject to a reduction in credit if absences are due to covid.

Rationale – Contact tracing and quarantine can help to mitigate the spread of covid in our schools and communities.

## 6. Screening and Testing

- Students will not be screened upon entering the building. Families should continue to screen for symptoms before coming to school each day.
- The school district will utilize the recommended Screening, Exclusion, and Re-Admittance guidelines from the local health department. Please refer to Appendix B at the end of this plan.

Rationale - While screening at school can be helpful, we do not have a need at this time to continue with this practice.

### **7. Provide opportunities for vaccinations**

- Vaccinations remain a family and/or individual choice.
- **However**, the school district will coordinate with our local health district to **promote opportunities** for staff and student vaccinations as needed.

Rationale - Vaccinations are proven to be a valuable tool in addressing our pandemic.

### **8. Accommodations for children with special needs**

- The district will continue to follow all IEP and 504 plans. Individual student health needs should be addressed within these plans.

Rationale - The school district will always follow applicable federal and state laws.

### **9. Coordination with State and Local Health Officials**

- The school district will continue to seek out and follow the advice of state and local health officials. Changes to our plan will be considered as needed.
- We will review and revise our plan a minimum of once every 6 months as required by the ARP.

Rationale - Covid 19 has provided a lot of unpredictability. It is important for our district to continue to seek out guidance and make changes as needed to keep our students, staff, and community safe.

### **10. Policy to address documented classroom/school Covid spread**

\*\* Please see Appendix A at the end of this plan to carefully review our adopted practices to address classroom covid spread. K-6 and 7-12 will follow separate procedures.

### **11. Exclusion, Screening, and Re-Admittance Protocols**

The school board has adopted the Nebraska Association of Local Health Directors recommended guidelines for exclusion, screening, and testing.

\*\*Please see Appendix B at the end of this plan to carefully review our newly revised protocols for symptom screening and exclusion.

### **12. Other Components**

- Every effort will be made to first approve any changes to this plan via the Creighton Board of Education (BOE). However, the Creighton BOE has authorized the superintendent the ability to make immediate changes if needed to protect our students and staff as well as to keep our schools open. **Any changes will be communicated to all families in a timely manner.**

- Food service - School administration will continue to collaborate with our food service staff to provide food in a safe, sanitary manner.
- Drinking fountains will be available. However, Students are encouraged to bring and use their own water bottle during the school day and during school activities.
- Transportation - Our school district will make every effort to spread students out on school busses to the greatest extent possible. **If a positive case is documented or we have spread within our schools, masks may be required on busses and school vehicles.**
- Schedules/Shared Classroom Use - Elementary and middle level students will be able to travel to and use shared classrooms (middle level core subjects, PE, music, art, etc.). Administration will make changes as needed with traveling classes if our situation changes.
- 6/30 - Current draft and a survey was shared with all school district employees.
- 7/1 - Current draft and a survey was shared with families and the community (website and Facebook)
- 7/8 - Committee meeting to review plan and survey feedback. The Committee includes administration, staff, BOE members, and parents. Members also sought out input from students prior to the meeting.
- 7/12 - Plan officially board approved at July BOE meeting.
- 7/15 - Plan posted to district website for public viewing.
- **8/20 – Policy committee met to review new recommendations from the state and local health department**
- **8/25 – Covid Response Information Team (policy committee and 4 local health professionals) met to review new recommendations from the state and local health department**

### 13. Plan Timeline

- All Return to Learn Plans should be posted on district websites no later than July 15th, 2021. All plans should be reviewed every 6 months for the next two years.

### 14. Public Input Timeline

- June - Current plan and requirements were reviewed.
- 6/29- Current draft was reviewed by district administration.

- **8/26 – Survey was created and shared with families and community members via our website and social media.**

## Appendix A - Creighton Return to Learn Plan

### Policy to address documented classroom/school Covid spread

#### Kindergarten - 6th Grade

##### **1st documented positive case\*\* in a classroom (student was present in the classroom during contagious period)**

- Send letters/emails home to all families notifying them of a potential classroom exposure
- Monitor symptoms at school and home

##### **2nd positive case in the same classroom (documented link to the first case)**

- Send letters/emails home to all families notifying them of a 2nd potential exposure
- Require mask wearing in the classroom - 14 days
- Students will not rotate to different classrooms
- Students will eat lunch in an alternate location
- Continue to monitor symptoms at school and home

##### **3rd positive case in the same classroom (documented link to the first 2 cases)**

- Immediately communicate with families
- With guidance from the local health department for each instance, the school should strongly consider requiring the entire class to quarantine at home for 14 days since last exposure. Students and staff may return to class early if:
  - They wait 5 days after the last exposure to test for covid
  - If they receive a negative test result by a licensed healthcare provider and clinic, they may return to school on the 8th day as long as they continue to not show any Covid symptoms.
  - Those that return early will be required to wear a mask for the remainder of the 14 day period.
- School will provide remote learning during this time period.

\*\*If multiple K-6 classrooms are experiencing rapid Covid spread, we will work with the local health department and consider the following options:

1. K-6 mask requirement for students and staff reviewed every 14 days
2. At-home quarantine and remote learning for a limited time as determined by school and health department

## Appendix A Continued

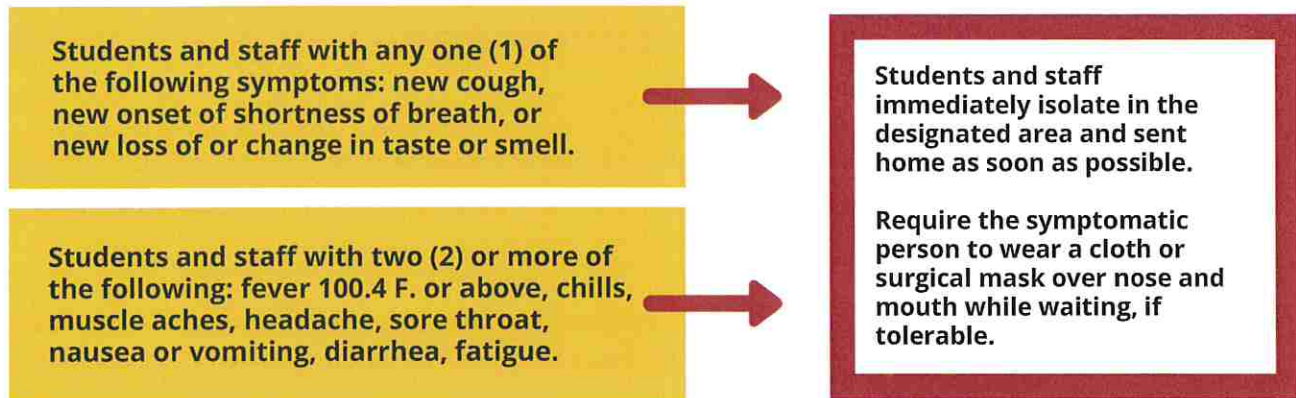
### Junior High and High School Plan

The school will coordinate with the local health department and local officials to determine if we have a rapid increase in positive Covid cases or known exposures. If the school district determines that we have a documented spread of Covid in our junior high and high school, we will require the following precautions:

1. Families will be notified of Covid spread at these levels. They will be asked to monitor their students for symptoms.
2. Masks should be worn by students and staff. This requirement will be revisited after 14 days.

\*\*Documented cases must be confirmed by a licensed healthcare provider and/or the local health department.

## Recommendations for Schools: Screening, Exclusion, and Re-Admittance of Sick Students and Staff with *No Known COVID-19 Exposure*



### Re-Admittance Criteria

#### Symptomatic staff /student who tests positive:

- Exclude until:
- At least 10 days have passed since first symptoms
- AND**
- At least 24 hours have passed since last fever without the use of fever-reducing medications
- AND**
- Symptoms have improved

#### Asymptomatic staff /student who tests positive:

- Exclude until:
- At least 10 days have passed since the positive test
- AND**
- allow to return if no symptoms develop. (If symptoms develop, refer to symptomatic positive instructions.)

**Note:** A COVID-19 positive individual does not need a repeat COVID-19 test or a doctor's note in order to return.

#### Symptomatic staff /student who tests negative:

- Exclude until:
- At least 24 hours have passed since last fever without the use of fever-reducing medications (or meets the school's requirements for readmission)
- AND**
- Symptoms have improved

#### Symptomatic staff /student not tested:

- Exclude until:
- At least 10 days have passed since first symptoms
- AND**
- At least 24 hours have passed since last fever without the use of fever-reducing medications
- AND**
- Symptoms have improved

*May return to school if a doctor establishes an alternative diagnosis, provides a return to school note, and the student meets the school's requirements for readmission.*

**Note 2:** The length of exclusion may need to be extended for people who have severe illness or are immunocompromised. Please consult your LHD or a health care provider for further guidance on those situations.