

Prairie Home School District

COVID-19 Guidelines and Protocols



2020-2021 School Year Re-Entry

The guidelines and protocols outlined in this document are subject to revision as needed to reflect local, state, and federal guidance.

Guidelines and protocols may also be revised as appropriate to reflect the needs of local conditions.

Category 1- Little to No Community Spread

- Use the protocols within this document.
- The use of a mask is strongly encouraged when social distancing is difficult (example: hallways, bus routes, etc.)
- Continue monitoring students and staff.

Category 2- Community Transmission

- Mask mandatory for staff and students.
- Possible classroom closures.
- Coordinate with local health officials.
- Work with students and families on remote learning measures.

Category 3- Widespread Community Transmission

- Continue to coordinate with local health officials.
- Consider extended school dismissals and implement large scale remote learning measures.

Commentary regarding COVID-19 guidelines and protocols

- The Prairie Home School District is committed to providing a quality education to all students, while also ensuring their safety and well-being.
- The COVID-19 guidelines developed and presented below follow all applicable local, state, and federal guidelines, to the greatest extent feasible, and incorporate many best practices advocated by school associations and groups.
- Parents/guardians with questions or concerns are asked to call the Prairie Home School District at 660-841-5296 to discuss and address those concerns.

General information for students and faculty/staff

- Students and faculty have the option of wearing protective masks and are strongly encouraged to wear them in accordance with the Cooper County Health Department Guidelines. When we are in Category 2, then masks will be required of all students and staff.
 - If a student or faculty/staff member is unable to obtain masks, the district will provide masks. Homemade masks are acceptable but must meet school dress code guidelines.
 - Availability of district-provided masks is subject to the district's ability to procure masks (shortages of masks may limit availability).

- Student requests for masks are subject to approval from parents/guardians.
- Masks must be in clean, sanitary condition.
- Students may not share masks.
- Students will be guided to wash hands multiple times per day.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided at multiple locations throughout the school.
- Drinking fountains will not be used, except for the bottle filling capabilities.
 - Students should bring personal water bottles from home.
 - The water bottle should be labeled with the student name, and in clean, sanitary condition.
- Social distancing will be observed to the extent possible by all faculty, staff and students. When social distancing is difficult, we strongly encourage masks to be worn. When in category 2, all students and staff will wear masks.
- Student activities and athletics will be conducted as usual to the extent they are permissible under local, state, and federal guidelines.
- Daily sanitizing and disinfecting will be a priority at all district facilities.
- Attendance incentives for students will cease. Staff and/or students who are sick need to stay home.

Understanding and recognizing COVID-19

- Faculty and staff will be trained to recognize symptoms that may be associated with COVID-19. Training will include, but will not be limited to, online modules provided by the Missouri United School Insurance Council. The CDC lists the following as possible symptoms of COVID-19
 - Fever or chills
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Headache
 - Sore throat
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea
 - Loss taste and smell

General health information for students and faculty/staff

- Parents and students, as well as staff members, are encouraged to self-screen for potential COVID-19 symptoms before coming to school. Anyone with symptoms of illness should stay home.
- Students at school who display health symptoms that could suggest COVID-19 concerns will be checked by the health aide. If evaluation by the health aide suggests potential for COVID-19 infection, the student will be masked (if the student does not have one) until picked up by a parent/guardian.
- Students with a temperature of 100 degrees or higher will be sent home.
- A student excluded from the school environment due to COVID-19 concerns may return to school in accordance with guidelines provided by the health department. Please understand that guidelines may change over time. At the time of this publication, the guidelines are as follows:
 - Students/staff with symptoms, but not tested for COVID-19 may return if the the following conditions are met:
 - No fever for 72 hours or more without use of medicine that reduces fever and showing significant improvement for 7 days after the onset of symptoms.
 - Students/staff with symptoms, but tested negative for COVID-19, may return if the following conditions are met:
 - No fever for 24 hours without use of medicine that reduces fever and showing significant improvement of symptoms
 - Students/staff that have tested positive for COVID-19 may return if the following conditions are met:
 - 10 days have passed without symptoms
 - No fever for 24 hours without use of medicine that reduces fever
 - Released and given written approval to return by a healthcare provider
 - Other scenarios regarding student health will be handled according to guidance from and consultation with the Cooper County Health Center.

Transportation information

- Parents/guardians are encouraged to drop off students at school instead of using bus service. Drop-off and pick-up systems will be organized to ensure social distancing to the greatest extent possible.
- The school will only be open during posted hours. Early drop-offs will not be permitted.
- Students riding the bus from the same household will be required to sit together.

- Buses will be sanitized multiple times per day.
- Hand sanitizer will be available on school buses.
- Drivers may use personal protective equipment (PPE), such as masks.
- Students will also be strongly encouraged to wear a mask. When we are in Category 2, students and staff will be required to wear a mask.

Arrival at school

- K-6 students will go directly to classrooms upon arrival. Breakfast will be served in the classroom.
- 7-12 students will report to their 1st hour classroom. Breakfast will be served in the classroom. Band students will eat in the cafeteria. Students will be required to spread out in the cafeteria in an attempt to maintain social distancing.
- Students will not be allowed to congregate in hallways or other areas.
- Limit visitors to parents, by appointment, and critically important visitors on campus.
- Please contact the office to set up an appointment.

During the school day

- K-6 students will remain in classrooms or grouping of classes for specials (K, 1/2, 3/4, 5/6). Cooperative activities with other classrooms will not be permitted.
- K-6 students will remain with their grouping of classes (K, 1/2, 3/4, 5/6) during recess. Other groupings will not commingle during recess.
- We are working on having technology devices (Chromebooks or Tablets) be assigned to students on a 1:1 basis during the school day.
- Sharing of supplies (art, other) will be minimized and/or eliminated. Students may be asked to bring personal supplies (art boxes with supplies, etc.).
- Equipment used by more than one student will be sanitized between uses.
- No field trips, assemblies, or visiting presenters will be allowed at this time.
- For changing classes for HS/JH students, students are strongly encouraged to wear a mask. When we are in Category 2, students and staff will be required to wear a mask.

At lunch

- Lunch shifts will be staggered as possible to minimize the number of students gathered.
- All lunches will be plated or boxed.
- Students will sit with their classes or groupings and not commingle with other classes/groupings.
- All tables will be cleaned thoroughly between uses.
- Some classes/groupings will eat in the cafeteria while others are in classrooms.
- On good weather days, some classes/groupings will be allowed to eat outside.

Other information

- Attendance policies will be adjusted in order to remove any incentive for students to attend school while sick. The school district will not be providing attendance awards and/or incentives.

Virtual Option

- Our district plan above is to offer in seat classes. We will have situations where we will need to offer blended classes due to quarantine.
- If you are needing a virtual option, then please contact Mr. Shore to discuss your options.
- If you choose virtual, then you will remain virtual the entire semester.
- If you choose virtual, then you will not be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities.
- If you choose virtual, then you will not be allowed to attend BTEC.

Guidelines and protocols considered but NOT ADOPTED

- Temperature screenings
 - Many young people are asymptomatic and may not run a fever with COVID-19.
 - Temperature screenings are not considered determinate and are not advised by the local health department.
- Plastic shields placed on tables/desks
 - Hygiene, especially with younger students, is a major concern.
 - Behavior issues (throwing items over the shield, etc.) are a concern.
 - A “jail-like” message/environment in the classroom is a concern.
- Staggered hallway passing times for JH and HS students
 - Changing classes already requires co-mingling students. Different passing times would provide minimal benefit.

- Students attending school on alternate days, alternate times, staggered school start times.
 - Creates significant hardship for families, especially those with younger children, and those who are economically disadvantaged.
 - Limited benefit is gained if students still commingle in junior high/high school classes, at activities, athletics, or on social occasions.
- Limiting buses to one student per seat, or limiting students to every other seat
 - The rural nature of the school district makes it necessary for many bus routes to be quite long. It is very difficult to run a second route, or double routes, when bus routes are 45 minutes or longer.
 - This protocol reduces bus capacity by 50% or more and the district is unable to provide the buses and drivers necessary to implement.
- Placing/constructing clear plastic shields between bus drivers and students
 - These modifications are not permitted under federal bus standards.