

HUMPHREY PUBLIC SCHOOL
SAFE RETURN TO LEARN FRAMEWORK
2021-2022 School Year



Updated: February 14, 2022
Updated VERSION

Introduction

The Humphrey Public Schools COVID-19 Safe Return to Learn Framework initially developed during the summer of 2020 allowed us to successfully hold in-person learning throughout the 2020-2021 school year. That plan has been updated for the 2021-2022 school year to ensure the continuation of in-person learning for the 2021-2022 school year. The updates are based on new guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Nebraska Association of Local Health Departments (NALHD), the East Central District Health Department (ECDHD), the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE), and the United States Department of Education. The format, components, and name have all been adjusted to meet the requirements set forth by the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act.

The Humphrey Public Schools Safe Return to Learn Framework will be reviewed at least every 6 months and may be adjusted as new information/guidance becomes available.

Safe Return to Learn Framework

Threat Assessment and Safety Response Team

Greg Sjuts, Superintendent --- and Humphrey Public Parent

Brandon Kirby, Grades 7-12 Principal --- and Humphrey Public Parent

Brice King, --- Grades PK-6 Principal

Dawn Baumgart, --- Grade 4 Elementary Teacher

Barbara Lovercheck --- Grades 7-12 Math Teacher

Matt Bertrand --- Grades 5-12 Instrumental Teacher and Humphrey Public Parent

Cami Oelsligle --- Guidance Counselor

General Information (Pursuant to the Federal American Rescue Plan)

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021, Public Law. The ARP Act includes nearly \$122 billion for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER III) Fund that allows state and local education agencies (LEAs) to take additional steps for continued safe in-person instruction and to address unfinished teaching and learning to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic. The ARP Act requires each school district that receives ARP ESSER funds to develop and make publicly available on the school district's website, no later than 30 days after receiving ARP ESSER funds, a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction, and continuity of services for all schools (Safe Return Plan). The ARP Act further requires that the district seek public comment on the Safe Return Plan and take those comments into account in finalization of the Safe Return Plan. A school district must periodically, but no less frequently than every six months through September 30, 2023, review and, as appropriate, revise its Safe Return Plan.

Planning Purpose: The purpose of this Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Framework is to a plan for keeping our students, staff, and families safe and in-school should the pandemic situation reoccur. The framework was developed to allow for changes and updates throughout a pandemic, based upon COVID incidences within our community and guidance from local, state, and federal governments and health officials.

COVID Transmission Levels

This framework was developed based upon the COVID transmission levels and positivity rates within our school district and our geographical region.

If COVID transmission levels/positivity rates increase, this framework may be revised to include additional COVID mitigation measures. Humphrey Public School remains committed to working with the East Central District Health Department, our local hospitals and other health agencies to keep students and staff safe from COVID. Continued communication and partnership between schools and public health remains critical to our shared fight against COVID. Consistent with the remediation of ALL communicable diseases, (e.g. whooping cough, norovirus), the ECDHD will issue guidance to Humphrey Public to institute a mask mandate for a period of no less than 14 days in those buildings with an 11% absenteeism rate due to any illness. Absenteeism due to illness will be reviewed on a weekly basis thereafter and mask recommendations extended as needed.

Layered Prevention

The CDC recommends that all schools implement and layer prevention strategies, including:

- Universal, correct use of masks
- Physical distancing
- Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
- Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, and
- Contact Tracing (in combination with isolation and quarantine)

All prevention strategies provide some level of protection, and layered strategies implemented at the same time provide the greatest level of protection. (CDC)

Components

Universal and Correct Wearing of Masks

Mitigating Measures/Safety Protocols:

1. Face masks are encouraged for staff and students who have not been vaccinated.
2. Face masks may be required temporarily or for the remainder of the school year for staff, students, and visitors if COVID cases rise and it is believed that this safety precaution is necessary to prevent further spread and a possible school closure. The school may also mandate masks if there was a local, state or federal mandate that requires school districts to mandate masks.

Modifying Facilities to Allow for Physical Distancing

Mitigating Measures/Safety Protocols:

1. Social distancing measures (goal of maintaining 3 feet between students where feasible) may be taken to prevent the spread of COVID as needed.
2. Non-essential furniture may be removed from classrooms to maximize social distancing between students if needed. Desks will all face the same direction if additional preventative measures are needed.
3. Non-essential visitors and volunteers may be limited if case levels increase.
4. Six feet of social distancing may be encouraged for all students if COVID cases rise and it is necessary to prevent the further spread and possible school closure.
5. If the school would have a significant increase in COVID activity, the school would implement physical distancing in the facility and would develop/follow similar protocols used in the 2020-2021 plan.

Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette

Mitigating Measures/Safety Protocols:

1. Proper handwashing, cough and sneeze etiquette will be taught, reinforced and monitored.
2. Students will be asked to wash their hands frequently. If handwashing is not feasible, hand sanitizer will be provided and used.
3. In addition, the district will Post signage about frequent hand washing, cough etiquette, and nose blowing. Signage will be widely posted, disseminated, and encouraged through various methods of communication.

Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities and Improving Ventilation

Mitigating Measures/Safety Protocols:

1. High-touch surfaces will be cleaned routinely (at least daily and between uses when possible).
2. Shared supplies and equipment will be sanitized between uses if COVID cases and it is necessary to prevent the further spread and possible school closure.
3. Heating, ventilation and air condition settings will maximize ventilation and bring in as much outdoor air as possible.
4. Air filters will be changed regularly.
5. Windows will be opened if feasible.

Contact Tracing

Mitigating Measures/Safety Protocols:

1. If contact tracing, isolation and quarantines are reinstated, Humphrey Public Schools will cooperate and coordinate with the East Central District Health Department.
2. Humphrey Public Schools District's normal health procedures will be followed, including:
 - a. Students and staff who are sick must stay home.
 - b. Students and staff must be fever free for 24 hours (without medication) before returning to school.
3. The district will monitor students and staff who may have been exposed. If symptoms occur, the student or staff member will be sent home. Students will continue to be excused for COVID-related absences.

Diagnostic and Screening Testing

Mitigating Measures/Safety Protocols:

1. Students and staff who exhibit COVID-related symptoms will be encouraged to stay home.
2. If COVID levels rise, Humphrey Public Schools will consult with local officials to determine if screening should be considered for students, staff and visitors.
3. The temperature check system is in place if needed. The district will not temperature check or screen students and staff until there is determined a need by the Superintendent based on current conditions. We will be asking all parents to continue helping eliminate the spread of any virus by keeping their students home when they are not feeling well.

Efforts to Provide Vaccinations to School Communities

Mitigating Measures/Safety Protocols:

1. The administration will work with the East Central Health District to provide space at school for vaccination clinics if there is a large enough demand from our student body and staff.
2. Humphrey Public Schools provided the opportunity for on-site vaccinations for all staff.
3. Humphrey Public Schools will provide information to parents and students regarding when/how they should receive vaccinations if needed or as requested.
4. Humphrey Public Schools will continue to monitor information regarding vaccinations and provide updates to staff, students and parents, when necessary.
5. Vaccination information will be included on the district's webpage if the need arises.

Appropriate Accommodations for Children with Disabilities

Mitigating Measures/Safety Protocols:

1. Students qualifying for extra support through an IEP or through a 504 plan will continue to receive services and support according to their plans throughout the 2021-2022 school year. Accommodations, modifications, and related services will be provided as outlined in a student's plan during in-person learning that apply to the health and safety of students, relative to COVID.

Coordination with State and Local Health Officials

Mitigating Measures/Safety Protocols:

1. Humphrey Public Schools will continue to collaborate with our local and state health department on a regular basis, monitoring case levels and new guidance.
2. Information about levels of community transmission will be combined with information about cases within the district; implementation of prevention strategies will be increased if needed.
3. Humphrey Public Schools will implement or revise strategies when necessary.
4. This plan will be revised at least once every 6 months.

Continuity of Services

Mitigating Measures/Safety Protocols:

1. It is our goal to continue to provide in-person learning to all students, addressing their academic, social, emotional, and mental health via the many programs in place within our district. We intend to follow the 2021-22 school year calendar and our normal curriculum and assessment schedules.
2. If the district is closed due to a mandatory closure by state or federal officials, ALL K-12 students have a digital learning tool provided to ensure continuity of instruction. In addition, students will continue to be provided accommodations as stated in their IEP or 504 plans during remote learning. Parent input will be sought to develop a plan for the provision of remote IEP services and student progress will be reviewed by the student's team when in-person learning resumes.
3. If COVID cases rise significantly and we are required to close schools, every effort will be made to provide these services remotely, all special education services will be provided according to the student's IEP's.
4. If COVID cases rise significantly and the district has to go to remote learning, we can ensure equitable access for students because of our 1:1 initiative.
5. If a school district is closed due to mandatory closure by state or federal officials, breakfast and lunch may be provided to students through a USDA approved system. School counselors and mental health support staff will be available online by appointment for any students or staff in need of assistance.

Symptoms Screening

Mitigating Measures/Safety Protocols:

1. Parents and guardians will be encouraged to screen students for COVID-related symptoms at home, and to follow health department guidance regarding testing, isolation and quarantine.
2. If necessary to prevent the further spread and possible school closure, on-site symptom checks may be reinstated for everyone entering our facilities.

Other

Mitigating Measures/Safety Protocols:

1. Water fountains will be unavailable, hydration stations will remain on and available for students and staff to fill water bottles. Students and staff are encouraged to bring clear water bottles to school. If a water bottle is needed, the school will provide one.
2. All students will continue to receive free meals.
3. Breakfast and lunch will be served in the kitchen area. If COVID levels increase social distancing measures will be utilized similar to last year to prevent the further spread and possible school closure.

Planning, Review and Consideration of Public Comment

- July 12, 2021: Draft sent to building level Principals & Board Members for review
- July 12, 2021: Draft reviewed and discussed at Public Board Meeting. Public Comment was taken for feedback.
- July 13, 2021: Administrative meeting to discuss, review, and revise the plan
- July 13, 2021: Draft shared with PK-12 Staff
- July 15, 2021: Feedback from staff reviewed; suggestions considered
- July 15, 2021: Updated Draft shared with all parents to review
- July 16, 2021: Draft will be posted on School District Webpage and district will continue to ask for continued feedback from all stakeholders on the document.
- August 2, 2021: Final draft will be shared with all staff, parents and students on the school web page.
- August 9, 2021: Safe Return to Learn Framework adopted by Board of Education
- February, 2022: The 6-month required review of the document will occur and public feedback will be taken at that time.

Summary

Humphrey Public Schools is committed to providing students and staff with a safe, in-person learning environment. The strategies outlined in this plan will be implemented to mitigate the risk of COVID spread in our school. The strategies will be reviewed and revised at least every six months based on COVID cases within the district and our community, and any new research/evidence that becomes available.