

Arthur County Schools

Planning a Safe Return to Schools



The “Return to School Considerations” included in this document are based on the following 3 assumptions:

1. State health officials in partnership with the Nebraska Department of Education, and the Governor’s office have developed a color coded risk dial that will assist local school districts in assessing their current Covid 19 risk levels. The dial will also provide recommended actions aligned to each risk category (green, yellow, orange and red).
2. A primary outcome for this plan is to keep students and staff in attendance at the schools for as long as we can provide a safe environment for teaching and learning.
3. Anticipating a resurgence of the Covid 19 virus sometime during the 2020-21 school year and in order to accomplish item 2, the return to school this fall likely requires us to create new routines and procedures that integrate best practice health measures.

Level of Community Spread (as determined by state and local health officials)	Low/No Spread RECOMMENDATIONS:	Moderate Spread RECOMMENDATIONS:	Elevated Spread RECOMMENDATIONS:	Significant Spread RECOMMENDATIONS:
Virus Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Few, if any, active COVID-19 cases locally. Corresponds to late phase three or early stage four of the Nebraska Directed Health Measures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percent of positive tests, daily hospitalizations and number of deaths clearly declining. Corresponds to phase three of the Nebraska Directed Health Measures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing percentage of positive tests and daily hospitalizations. Corresponds to phase two of the Nebraska Directed Health Measures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing percentage of positive tests and daily hospitalizations. Corresponds with phase one of Nebraska Directed Health Measures
School Operating Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open for in-person instruction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open for in-person instruction with increased precautions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Situation dependent. May require a hybrid model. See Teaching & Learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools are closed
Practicing Prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teach and reinforce good hygiene measures such as handwashing, covering coughs, and face coverings. Provide hand soap and hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Post signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread, COVID-19 symptoms, and preventative measures. Clean/disinfect frequently touched surfaces at least daily and shared objects after each use. CDC Guidance Allow students and staff to bring hand sanitizer and face masks/coverings to use from home. Allow staff to wear face masks/covering, and other appropriate PPE as desired. Take steps to ensure all water systems and features are safe Conduct deep cleaning of schools prior to students/staff returning; schedule periodic cleanings during weekends or 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teach and reinforce good hygiene measures such as handwashing, covering coughs, and face coverings Provide hand soap and hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Post signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread, COVID-19 symptoms, and preventative measures. Clean/disinfect frequently touched surfaces at least daily and shared objects after each use. CDC Guidance Provide masks and other appropriate PPE to staff. Allow students and staff to bring hand sanitizer and face masks/coverings to use from home. Allow staff to wear face masks/covering, and other appropriate PPE as desired. Take steps to ensure all water systems and features are safe Turn off water fountains and provide bottled water or allow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teach and reinforce good hygiene measures such as handwashing, covering coughs, and face coverings. Provide hand soap and hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Post signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread, COVID-19 symptoms, and preventative measures. Clean/disinfect frequently touched surfaces at least daily and shared objects after each use. CDC Guidance Provide masks and other appropriate PPE to staff. Allow students and staff to bring hand sanitizer and face masks/coverings to use from home. Require staff to wear face masks/covering, and other appropriate PPE. Take steps to ensure all water systems and features are safe Turn off water fountains and provide bottled water or allow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use social media and other communications to inform parents, students, and staff about COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures, good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols. Encourage COVID-19 testing. <p>CDC Guidance</p> <p>Nebraska Department of Education COVID-19 Resources</p> <p>West Central District Health Department:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Risk Dial -Screening Questionnaire

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> school holidays/breaks. CDC Guidance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> students and staff to bring water bottles from home. Conduct deep cleaning of schools prior to students/staff returning; schedule periodic cleanings during weekends or school holidays/breaks. CDC Guidance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> students and staff to bring water bottles from home. Conduct deep cleaning of schools prior to students/staff returning; schedule periodic cleanings during weekends or school holidays/breaks. CDC Guidance 	
Transporting Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide hand sanitizer for students and drivers. Allow face masks/coverings. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide hand sanitizer for students and bus drivers. Provide face masks for drivers and students. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily. Limit field trips to low risk areas. <p>CDC Guidance - Bus Operators</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide hand sanitizer for students and bus drivers. Require face masks for drivers and students. Screen drivers and students for symptoms and utilize spaced seating when possible. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily. Eliminate field trips. <p>CDC Guidance - Bus Operators</p>	Suspended
Entering School Buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide hand sanitizer for students and staff. Limit unnecessary congregations of students and staff. Post signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread, COVID-19 symptoms, and preventative measures. Establish a protocol for students/staff who feel ill/experience symptoms when they come to school (see When a Child, Staff Member, or Visitor Becomes Sick at School). Require visitors to call the office before entering and sign visitors log. Students not allowed in the building until 7:30. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide hand sanitizer for students and staff Limit unnecessary congregations of students and staff. Post signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread, COVID-19 symptoms, and preventative measures. Establish a protocol for students/staff who feel ill/experience symptoms when they come to school (see When a Child, Staff Member, or Visitor Becomes Sick at School). Visitors must call the office before entering. Students not allowed in the building until 7:30. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide hand sanitizer for students and staff. Limit unnecessary congregations of students and staff. Post signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread, COVID-19 symptoms, and preventative measures. Establish a protocol for students/staff who feel ill/experience symptoms when they come to school (see When a Child, Staff Member, or Visitor Becomes Sick at School). No visitors allowed in the building. Students not allowed in the building until 7:30 Temperatures checked before boarding the bus or entering school and again before lunch. 	School buildings are closed; essential staff may report in-person to carry out functions that are absolutely necessary.
Lunch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide hand sanitizer for students and staff. Encourage hand washing before and after meals. Allow students and staff to wear face masks/coverings. Conduct cleaning of lunch areas throughout the school day. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide hand sanitizer for students and staff. Encourage hand washing before and after meals. Allow students and staff to wear face masks/coverings. Conduct cleaning of lunch areas throughout the school day. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide hand sanitizer for students and staff. Encourage hand washing before and after meals. Allow students and staff to wear face masks/coverings. Conduct cleaning of lunch areas throughout the school day. Closed campus - no kids leaving 	School buildings are closed.

			<p>but students could have food delivered.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eat meals in classrooms. • Stagger lunches per grade. • Stagger dismissal times for lunch to limit congestion at microwaves. 	
Transitioning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow students and staff to wear face masks/coverings. • Clean hallways and high-touch surfaces throughout the day. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow students and staff to wear face masks/coverings. • Clean hallways and high-touch surfaces throughout the day. • Limit mixing between groups (to the extent practicable). • Provide additional time for transitions. • Line formations should be spaced 6 feet apart. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require students and staff to wear face masks/coverings. • Clean hallways and high-touch surfaces throughout the day. • Limit mixing between groups (to the extent practicable). • Provide additional time for transitions. • Plan staggered class movement by grades, rooms, etc. • Have students stay in the same room (to the extent possible) with teachers rotating. • Have the same group of students stay with the same staff as much as feasible. • Line formations should be spaced 6 feet apart. 	School buildings are closed.
Recess/After Lunch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit physical interaction. • Clean equipment daily. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit physical interaction. • Clean equipment daily. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit physical interaction. • Clean equipment daily. • Stagger dismissal and returning times for recess to limit congestion in hallways. • Students play alone or in small groups. • Students do not use any equipment during recess. 	School buildings are closed.
Teaching & Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard Operating procedures with preventative measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provide hand sanitizer for students and staff ○ Clean classrooms and high-touch surfaces daily ○ Limit physical interaction through partner or group work • Survey families for input on Continuity of Learning Plan • Establish an academic baseline. • Administer formative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard Operating procedures with preventative measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provide hand sanitizer for students and staff ○ Clean classrooms and high-touch surfaces daily ○ Limit physical interaction through partner or group work • Survey families for input on Continuity of Learning Plan. • Establish an academic baseline. • Administer formative 	<p>Local decision to follow standard operating procedures with greater preventative measures, implement hybrid model, or move to distance/remote learning</p> <p>Hybrid Models: (Implemented if absolutely necessary)</p> <p>A/B Schedules</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Alternating Days</i>: students divided into 2 groups and would alternate virtual instruction during the week. Example 1: Group A would attend on Mon/Tues and Group B on Wed/Thur. Building would be thoroughly cleaned on Tues. evening. • <i>Alternating Weeks</i>: Group A 	<p>School buildings are closed. Revert to Continuity of Learning Plan from Spring 2020. (Revise as needed from input gathered in Survey)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESU 16 Instructional Guidance (for consideration)

	<p>assessments at the start of school year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify gaps in learning from Spring 2020. Provide additional instructional supports to address gaps and/or learning loss. Prepare for potential remote learning by increasing current blended learning and integrating virtual learning practices. ESU 16 Instructional Guidance (for consideration) 	<p>assessments at the start of school year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify gaps in learning from Spring 2020. Provide additional instructional supports to address gaps and/or learning loss. Prepare for potential remote learning by increasing current blended learning and integrating virtual learning practices. ESU 16 Instructional Guidance (for consideration) 	<p>students in week 1 and Group B students in week 2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ESU 16 Instructional Guidance (for consideration) 	
After School Activities (Including Athletics)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activities are allowed to continue per normal procedures following NSAA recommendations. Spectator events are allowed per normal procedures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow guidance from NSAA and local public health departments. Equipment should be disinfected before and after use. Handshakes, fist bumps, and other unnecessary contact should be minimized. Each participant should use a clearly marked water bottle for individual use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow guidance from NSAA and local public health departments. Equipment should be disinfected before and after use. Handshakes, fist bumps, and other unnecessary contact should be minimized. Each participant should use a clearly marked water bottle for individual use. Clothes may not be kept in locker rooms. Must be removed daily. Spectators may be required to wear masks and may be limited in number. 	All activities are suspended.
When a Student, Staff Member, or Visitor Becomes Sick at School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify isolation rooms or areas to separate anyone who exhibits COVID-like symptoms. Elementary - Office; Middle School - Boiler Room; High School - Boiler Room Person caring for an individual should wear a mask. If a person presents with symptoms, refer to the COVID-19 Screening Flowchart for next steps. Students sent home from school should be kept home until they have tested negative or have completely recovered according to CDC guidelines. Parents must call prior to arriving and the caretaker will walk the individual out of the building. Close off areas used by a sick person and do not use before cleaning and disinfection. Parents should be notified of the presence of any positive cases in the classroom and/or school to encourage closer observation for any symptoms at home. In the event that a student tests positive, immediate efforts should be made to contact any close contacts (those who spent more than 10 minutes in close proximity to the student) so that they can be quarantined at home. Classmates should be closely monitored for any symptoms. In the event of a positive test among staff or a student, the classroom or areas exposed should be immediately closed until cleaning and disinfection can be performed. Follow the Quarantine and Isolation guidelines outlined by West Central District Health. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the person was in the school building without a facial covering, or large areas of the school were exposed to the person, short term dismissals (2-5 days) may be required to clean and disinfect the larger areas. This decision should be made in concert with the local health department. 			