



Smart Start Updates - January 4, 2022
Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

Fremont County School District #2 is dedicated to ensuring that our students have the best possible opportunities to learn and grow. The school environment has a significant impact on the learning process.. We know the challenges that families have faced and will continue to face into the foreseeable future related to the pandemic. The diversity in opinions related to COVID-19, precautions, mitigation methods and treatments is profound.

As we look to the start of school, it is imperative that we make sound decisions regarding our responses to the pandemic based on the best available medical advice. We are not doctors. We have to trust the professionals who are helping to provide us with the guidance we need to make the best decisions.

In an effort to communicate with our families, staff and students, the following draft guidance has been developed through collaboration with the district's management team and input from health professionals in Fremont County and the Wyoming Department of Health. It is important to understand that the operational guidelines below may be changed as the best practices and information change. If we have learned anything from the pandemic, it is that the situation has and will continue to evolve over time. We intend to be responsive as the situation develops. Our response will be determined, in part due to on-going dialogue and input from stakeholder groups throughout the school year.

The information below is divided into two phases. Phase 1 represents the steps our district will undertake to ensure a safe learning environment under reasonably normal operations. Phase 2 represents additional measures to be taken should the district experience an outbreak or cluster of COVID cases or have received mandated response guidelines from local, state or national agencies. In both phases, our goal is to work to ensure in-person learning takes place in the safest possible environment.

The complete WDH recommendations for COVID-19 prevention in schools can be found [HERE](#).

The complete WDH guidance for "Test to Stay" protocols for K-12 Schools can be found [HERE](#).

Phase 1 - Protocols that will be implemented at the start of the school year and carry forward until no longer necessary, updated as a result of changes to best practices or Phase 2 must be added.

Continuity of Services

1. Our student's academic needs will be met through continued full-time, in person instruction. Summer learning and extended enrichment opportunities will be offered to our students.
2. Social, emotional and mental health needs will be met through the district's curriculum and counselor.
3. Student health and food service needs will be available to all students. All students will have access to free breakfast and lunch as well as school nursing services.

Coordination with Wyoming and Fremont County Health Officials

1. We will meet regularly with officials in order to be better informed on the latest health data.
2. We will look to the medical experts to provide guidance on best practices to address the pandemic.

Accommodations for Children with Disabilities

1. Students with an IEP or 504 Plans will have all appropriate accommodations and supports made available to them.

Hygiene Measures

1. Hand washing will continue to be an essential activity during the school day.
2. Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the school and students will be encouraged to use it.
3. Efforts will be made to ensure social distancing in the classroom. The minimum goal is six (6) feet.
4. Students will be screened prior to leaving home for the school day. Students will stay home whenever they are feeling ill. Parents should promptly notify the school to report the student's absence.

Isolation/Quarantine

1. Staff or students who have tested positive for COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status, need to remain home from school until they meet all of the following criteria
 - a. The individual has not had a fever (without the use of fever-reducing medication) for at least 24 hours
 - b. Other symptoms are improving.
 - c. It has been at least 5 days since symptoms first started.
 - d. If the individual did not have symptoms, he or she should stay home from school until 5 days have passed since the positive test was collected.
 - e. Individuals with a positive test should continue to wear a mask around others for an additional 5 days after returning to school.
2. Close Contacts - There are several circumstances in which an individual with exposure to an infectious individual does not need to stay home from school:
 - a. These individuals should wear a mask for 10 days after exposure. They should also be tested on day 5 after exposure, if possible, with the exception of persons who have tested positive within the past 90 days.
 - b. Both the infectious individual and the person exposed were wearing masks at the time of exposure.
 - c. The person exposed has completed a COVID-19 vaccine primary and has gotten a booster dose if eligible. *Specific details regarding vaccine requirements and quarantine orders are

available at

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>.

Unvaccinated individuals or individuals who did not complete a full primary series need to stay home from school.

- d. The person exposed tested positive for COVID-19 using a molecular or antigen test performed by a provider or laboratory during the three months prior to exposure.
- e. All other close contacts should stay home from school for 5 days after exposure. After returning to school, they should continue to wear a mask around others for an additional 5 days.
- f. Any close contacts who develop symptoms or test positive for COVID-19 should follow the recommendations for individuals who test positive (above orders).

“Test to Stay” for Close Contacts Only

- g. This protocol applies to individuals who have been identified as close contacts to an individual who is infectious with COVID-19 and would otherwise be recommended to stay home from school.
- h. The close contact remains asymptomatic.
- i. Any close contacts 2 years of age or older wears a mask to school at all times for 10 days following exposure, other than when eating, drinking, sleeping, or participating in artistic or athletic activities that cannot be done while wearing a mask. When not wearing a mask, distancing of six feet should be maintained to the extent possible.
- j. The close contact tests negative on a rapid COVID-19 test (molecular or antigen) on each school day for 5 days after exposure. Testing is not necessary beginning on day 6 after exposure
 - i. If school events occur on weekends, the close contact should receive a negative test on that weekend day prior to participation in the event.
 - ii. On weekend days or holidays without school events, the close contact does not need to be tested. WDH recommends that the close contact stay home on these days if they fall within the first 5 days after exposure.
- k. If the close contact develops symptoms or tests positive, he or she should stay home from school and refrain from participating in extracurricular activities.

Cleaning and Disinfecting of Facilities

- 1. Cleaning and disinfecting protocols in place during the 2020-21 school year will be continued.
- 2. High traffic areas will receive additional attention (door knobs, light switches, PE equipment and classroom surfaces)
- 3. The district will be purchasing cleaning and disinfecting equipment to aid staff.

Vaccinations

- 1. Efforts will be made to work with local health officials to provide opportunities for eligible individuals to receive the vaccine if desired.

Diagnostic Testing

- 1. In school, rapid testing is available to all staff and students.
- 2. This option would be available to students with parental permission. Consent forms are available [HERE](#). Forms are also available in the nurse's office.

Masks

- 1. Masks are optional for students and staff.

Meals

1. Meals (breakfast and lunch) will be eaten in assigned classrooms.

Visitors

1. Visitors and guests are expected to follow health guidelines (checking temperature, staying home if ill, etc.)

Phase 2 - In the event that we experience an outbreak in confirmed cases and/or receive additional mandates we will institute Phase 2. All protocols from Phase 1 will stay in effect unless outlined below.

Visitors

1. All visitors and guests will be required to wear masks.

Masks

1. Masks will be required should the district see an outbreak in positive cases. (Except in cases where the school nurse has a note from a medical professional stating the reason the student or staff member is unable to wear a mask.)
2. IF positive cases rise above 5% of the building's student/staff population, masks will be required.

Isolation/Quarantine

3. Staff or students who have tested positive for COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status, need to remain home from school until they meet all of the following criteria
 - a. The individual has not had a fever (without the use of fever-reducing medication) for at least 24 hours
 - b. Other symptoms are improving
 - c. It has been at least 5 days since symptoms first started.
 - d. If the individual did not have symptoms, he or she should stay home from school until 5 days have passed since the positive test was collected.
 - e. Individuals with a positive test should continue to wear a mask around others for an additional 5 days after returning to school.
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