

Diller-Odell Public Schools

A Safe Return Plan

2021-2022



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Section I: A Safe Return Plan

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.

***Please Note:** The district plans to operate in a traditional learning environment during the 2021-2022 school year unless there is a state or federal mandate that requires school districts to implement the protocols listed below or if there is a COVID-19 outbreak (10% or more of the student/staff population testing positive for COVID). If a COVID-19 outbreak were to occur, the district would look to implement some or all of the safety protocols listed below for a short timeframe (1 to 10 consecutive days that school is in session).*

Universal & Correct Wearing of Masks

The district shall require masks to be worn if there is a state or federal mandate that requires school districts to implement Universal & Correct Wearing of Masks or if there is a COVID outbreak (10% or more of the student/staff population testing positive for COVID). If a COVID-19 outbreak were to occur, the district would look to implement some or all of the safety protocols listed below for a short timeframe (1 to 10 consecutive days that school is in session).

Modifying Facilities to Allow for Physical Distancing (e.g., Cohorts or Podding)

All students and staff will need to follow social distancing guidelines at all times during classroom instruction. All desks will need to face the same direction and they will need to remain six feet apart. For classrooms that have tables, students will need to sit on opposite ends of the table.

Handwashing & Respiratory Etiquette

Elementary School (PK-6):

Students will be asked to wash their hands 3-4 times a day. Each self-contained classroom teacher will set up a time in the morning and a time in the afternoon for their class to wash their hands. Students will also wash their hands before lunch every day.

Jr./Sr. High School (7-12):

Students will be asked to wash their hands 3-4 times a day. Students will wash their hands on their way to get their lunches.

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 & Maintaining Healthy Facilities (Including Improving Ventilation)

The following essential actions will be taken to ensure that the facilities are safe for students and staff to inhabit. The district will:

- Change air filters regularly.
- Distribute wastebaskets, tissues, and CDC approved soap to every office and classroom so that these materials can be used upon entry and exit into any discrete location and during transition between classrooms (Pending availability).
- Post signage about frequent hand washing, cough etiquette, and nose blowing. Signage will be widely posted, disseminated, and encouraged through various methods of communication.
- Follow guidance from the CDC when performing all cleaning related duties.

Contact Tracing (Isolation & Quarantine)

The district will follow the contact tracing (Isolation & Quarantine) guidelines from Public Health Solutions during the 2021-2022 school year.

Diagnostic & Screening Testing

We are advising all parents to take your children's temperature before they get on a bus or before you drop them off at school. Any student with a fever of 100.4°F or higher (Or if the student is displaying other signs of illness) will need to stay home for up to 24 hours.

Efforts to Provide Vaccinations to School Communities

The administration will work with Public Health Solutions to promote local vaccination clinics in our region and allow Public Health Solutions the ability to use our facilities to provide vaccinations to all eligible students and patrons in our community.

Accommodations for Children with Disabilities

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.

Coordination with State & Local Health Officials

Similar to the 2020-2021 school year, the superintendent will meet as needed on a regular basis with the state and local health officials.

Continuity of Services

The district has invested in one to one technology for all PK-12 students and provided our teachers with remote learning trainings to ensure continuity of instruction will still occur should in-person learning not be possible due to a COVID-19 outbreak. 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.

In the event of a COVID-19 outbreak, regular communication, using all available modalities, with students will be required of administrators and teachers to ensure the safety, academic engagement, and wellness of students. If in-person instruction is not possible, breakfasts and lunches 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.

Closures

The district would like to personally thank all Diller-Odell staff members, students, and parents for your dedication and efforts during the 2020-2021 school year. Everyone worked tirelessly to ensure that students were being educated in-person again during a global pandemic. The district has appreciated everyone's flexibility and patience. We all know that there will be some uncertainty of what lies ahead this school year regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, but the district's plan is to operate in a traditional learning environment during the 2021-2022

Please Note: The district's Safe Return Plan may change as new guidance becomes available from the Nebraska Department of Education, the CDC, and other state or local public health agencies.