

## School Reopening Q&A

LCSD#2 has assembled some commonly asked questions to assist our patrons with the process of school reopening. These answers are effective as of 8/4/2020. If guidelines provided by state or county health officials change, this information will be updated. [Please review the District's Return to School Plan, which is also attached to the website, for additional information.](#)

### 1. Are we going back to classes in the buildings or virtual classes?

We anticipate returning to classes in the buildings as we would any other year, with heightened safety precautions as directed by state and county health advisors.

[We understand that some individuals may not feel comfortable with returning to the buildings at this time for many different reasons. We have added the option of a virtual education for those individuals in our district who choose not to return to the traditional setting. In order to be prepared to support students choosing this method of education, please complete the Virtual Learning Form on the district website to notify the district of your intent. Virtual Learning will be primarily taught by Albin Elementary and Pine Bluffs Jr/Sr High School.](#)

### 2. What is it going to look like when we open school in August?

At this time, we plan for students and staff to return to their schools/buildings in a normal capacity with additional safety precautions in place, such as frequent hand washing, sanitizing and appropriate social distancing when feasible. Masks may be recommended in certain situations.

- a. Per the state health department, when students are in their normal classrooms, around their regular peers, the classroom becomes an extension of their family and masks are not required. An effort should be made to social distance, but is not required.
- b. However, interaction with students in other grade levels should be minimized.
- c. Those efforts are more easily obtained in an elementary school than in a high school.
- d. Due to the variance in our school sizes, each building could vary slightly. A building whose largest combined group would be 30 may still be able to combine classes, where a school that may have combined groups greater than 50 would not be able to combine those classes.
- e. Homemade treats or meals for groups will not be allowed in the classrooms. If a parent wants to provide treats or drinks for a student(s) birthday, the treats must be individually pre-packaged store-bought items.

### 3. Are we wearing masks?

Due to county health requirements, masks will be required on buses in order to facilitate the transport of students.

[Students: Students are required to wear masks whenever social distancing can not be maintained, or elementary students are outside of their cohort. Students shall wear a mask when arriving at school and until they are in their classrooms, as well as upon departure at the](#)

end of the day or when stepping outside of their cohort during the day. Secondary students shall also wear masks during transitions and in classrooms where social distancing is not possible.

Staff: Staff shall wear masks when they are unable to social distance, or elementary staff are outside of their cohort. Shared teachers/traveling staff (i.e. nurses, computer science, art, music) will be required to wear masks in all buildings due to their interactions with multiple buildings. Secretaries shall don a mask whenever someone comes to interact with them.

**4. Will secondary & elementary be on the same path/plan?**

Yes.

**5. If there is an issue in one school, will that affect all schools?**

No. Decisions and adjustments will be made building by building, even classroom by classroom, when/if issues arise.

**6. Are we going to have sports?**

We certainly hope so. At this time, fall sports are scheduled to take place, adhering to county and state directives.

- a. If a game is scheduled at a location where there is an outbreak, the game will be canceled. The cancellation will not count against either team and it will not be rescheduled.
- b. Parents/attendees to these events may be limited per specific indoor or outdoor guidelines, depending on the sport. Social distancing guidelines will be followed.

WHSAA has released its fall sports guidelines, which LCSD#2 will follow. You can review the WHSAA Smart Start Sports Guidelines attached to the district Return to School plan on the district website or visit <http://whsaa.org>

**7. How will you keep schools clean and safe?**

Schools and district buildings will continue to be thoroughly cleaned every night and throughout the day. Additional efforts made towards sanitizing will continue.

**8. What if I don't want to come back? How will you provide an education to me?**

At this time, we are working closely with other school districts that have established online learning programs to determine what would work best for our students.

- a. If a student chooses to attend a virtual program facilitated by another district, they would still

be considered part of **our** district and could participate in activities through **our** district, meaning students cannot use this as a means of changing their home area school to participate in sports or other activities for another school. Costs through WHSAA are \$100 per family plus \$7 per student.

We understand that some individuals may not feel comfortable with returning to the buildings at this time for many different reasons. We have now been approved to add the option of a virtual education for those individuals in our district who choose not to return to the traditional setting. In order to be prepared to support students choosing this method of education, please complete the Virtual Learning Form on the district website to notify the district of your intent. Virtual Learning will be primarily taught by Albin Elementary and Pine Bluffs Jr/Sr High School.

#### **9. What will you do to make up for time lost last spring?**

Students who need extra assistance are encouraged to enroll in Jump Start, which is scheduled for July 20 – August 6. MAP testing will be performed at the beginning of the school year. Results will drive each student's needs. For those who need extra assistance, Friday school is available and those hours will be lengthened if there is a need.

#### **10. What drives your decision-making process?**

There are many factors that the district must take into consideration. The district is obligated to follow the guidance of the State and County health officials. From there, the district will be able to make decisions on how to adhere to those guidelines and what the costs and ramifications will be for various scenarios. First and foremost, the decisions made will always be geared for the health and safety of our students and staff. There are several links we follow closely to monitor the ever-changing status of events:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

<https://health.wyo.gov/publichealth/infectious-disease-epidemiology-unit/disease/novel-coronavirus/>

<https://covid19.wyo.gov/>

<https://covid19.wyo.gov/governors-orders>

[https://www.laramiecounty.com/departments/Health/coronavirus\\_info.aspx](https://www.laramiecounty.com/departments/Health/coronavirus_info.aspx)

#### **11. How are you going to communicate what is going on?**

Information will be distributed through multiple feeds to include the district website, district social media (Twitter & Facebook) and district all-calls from Superintendent Abrams.

#### **12. How will sick individuals be identified?**

Students and staff who feel ill will be checked by a school nurse for temperature and symptoms.

The student will be required to put on a mask and the nurse, or the individual designated to fill in for the nurse, will be called to come to the classroom to escort the student to an appropriate area.

### **13. Will the buildings conduct health screenings as students arrive each day?**

No. Parents are responsible for screening their children each morning prior to leaving for school. It is not practical for the amount of time, materials, cost and effort that it would take for the buildings to conduct individual screenings. However, students should still be monitored in case they are displaying symptoms.

\*\*There should be a heightened awareness by parents and staff regarding their own health and that of their children. Everyone needs to monitor any possible symptoms and if they are not feeling well they should not go out in public.

Parents must be responsible for conducting health screens with their children every day prior to sending them to school. Please utilize the CDC symptom check list:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

### **14. What are the protocols for dealing with sick students and staff?**

- a. The district is obligated to notify the county health department if any positive COVID-19 cases are identified. The county health department will dictate how the district responds.
- b. If students exhibit symptoms, including any temperature over 100 degrees, they will be separated from other students (including other sick students) to await parent/guardian pick up. If a student's temperature is 100 degrees or more at home, the student should NOT be sent to school.
- c. The district does not have the ability to test for COVID-19. Students and staff will be sent home if symptoms are detected and referred to their medical professional.

### **15. How are you going to deal with transportation?**

Transportation will be provided by regular bus routes. Based on county health requirements and the inability to social distance, students will be required to wear face masks while on the bus. Buses will

also be equipped with hand sanitizer that each student will need to utilize upon boarding the bus. If parents do not want their students to wear masks, they have the option of transporting their student(s) directly to school themselves.

**16. How will you maintain social distancing in the schools, particularly in elementary lunch rooms & at recess?**

- a. Students will not be allowed to enter the buildings prior to the required times for staff to report, which is 7:30 am. Students should not be dropped off earlier than that time. When students arrive, they will need to report directly to their classroom.
- b. Masks will not be required in the **elementary** classrooms **at this time**. **Secondary will be based on the ability to social distance**.
- c. Breakfast/nutrition breaks will be provided in the same manner as prior years.
- d. Every effort will be made to maintain social distance whenever possible. However, the district understands how challenging that can be for children. Groups will be kept to, or under, the guidelines as directed. As noted previously, guidance is that students and staff sharing the same classroom daily are considered an extension of family.
- e. Recess will be limited to the small groups/grade levels that students are already in daily contact with.
- f. Additional hand washing and cleanliness will be emphasized.
- g. Lunches will look different in each of the schools based on their numbers and space available. Larger schools may need to split lunches and some students may need to take their lunches back to their classrooms. Salad bars and share tables have to be discontinued until further notice. Schools are in the process of developing lunch plans based on their size.
- h. At end of day dismissal, parents picking up students should wait outside the doors (maintaining social distance) or in their vehicles for the student(s) to come out.

**17. How will schools support the mental health of students and staff and combat any stigma towards those who have been sick?**

Counselors are available at each of the schools for students and staff in need. The district also partners with outside resource providers if there is a need. Stigma can be combatted through educating students and staff. No students or staff names will be disclosed if an individual is diagnosed positive.

**18. How will the school provide child nutrition?**

Meals will continue to be provided in the schools as they would be in a typical year.

**19. Will the public be notified if there is a case in one of our buildings?**

Confirmed cases will be reported to county health officials. Names are not disclosed. Students, staff and parents of buildings affected will be notified regarding what directives the health officials provide.

**20. If you close down a building for a short period, what will education look like?**

If a building is directed to close for a minimal time, such as a couple of days, homework would be assigned. If a classroom or building is directed to close for a longer time, such as a couple of weeks, structured online learning would be implemented. Administrators are in the process of creating a structured online learning program, in the event it is needed.

**21. What will be the expectations of parents/guests when they come to the school?**

All safety protocols will be followed for volunteers/guests as they would be for staff. Those wanting to visit a school should contact that school in advance. In order to ensure the safety of our students and staff, we **will be minimizing** the number of visitors entering the buildings **to emergencies only**.

**22. Are there any mandates regarding quarantine for students traveling to/from another country or a state considered to be a hot spot?**

WDH is investigating this and will provide a response.

**23. Can we get clarification on what the notifications of a positive test for a student or staff member will reveal?**

WDH is investigating this and will provide a response.