

Covid-19 Return To School Plan Summary 2020-2021

Norfolk Public Schools (NPS) has drafted a comprehensive Return To School Plan based upon the 4-tier colored risk dial developed by the Elkhorn Logan Valley Public Health Department (ELVPHD). Coordinating efforts with them will enable the school district to respond quickly when there is a change in covid status within the community. NPS will be evaluating the situation on a weekly basis in conjunction with ELVPHD. As this pandemic changes, these protocols are also subject to change.



Elkhorn Logan Valley Public Health Department Covid-19 Risk Dial Example

Elkhorn Logan Valley Public Health Department Risk Dial Guidelines and Recommendations for Schools	NPS School Scenario
<p>Green: Low/Stable Risk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low/stable does not mean “no risk”. Precautions are still implemented as a means of remaining in an uninterrupted, in-person learning environment status. 100% of students on site for face to face learning 	<p>In Person Model: All students in school buildings. Face coverings recommended for students and staff members. (May be required for some designated staff.)</p>
<p>Yellow: Moderate Risk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced precautions are implemented as a means of remaining in an uninterrupted, in-person learning environment status. 100% of students on site for face to face learning 	<p>In-Person Model: All students in school buildings. Face coverings required for students, staff, and visitors.</p>
<p>Orange: Elevated Risk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further enhanced precautions are implemented as a means of minimizing disruptions to the in-person learning environment status. Hybrid Model with a combination of on-site/in-person instruction and remote (home-based) learning opportunities Students are divided into two learning groups with 2 days on-site/in-person instruction and 3 days remote/home-based learning opportunities each week. 	<p>Hybrid Model: Students will alternate days of learning on site and remotely to lessen capacity. Face coverings required for students, staff, and visitors.</p>
<p>Red: High/Severe Risk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remote/home-based learning only No students will report for on-site/in-person learning 	<p>Remote Model: All students learning remotely.</p>

Highlights of safety measures for in-person and hybrid models

- **Handwashing, Cleaning, and Social Distancing Protocols**

- Signage will be visible throughout all school buildings to remind students and staff to wash their hands regularly. There will also be signs to alert students and staff of the symptoms of covid. School staff will actively monitor handwashing, cleaning, and sanitation.
- Social distancing clues will be visible throughout the schools. Markings will be placed on the floor in common areas to encourage awareness of proper distancing. School staff will monitor the appropriate distancing throughout the day.
- Person to person contact will be discouraged (high fives, handshakes, hugs, etc.).

- **Symptom Checks**

- All parents are asked to screen their students for covid symptoms daily prior to sending them to school. **If the student is sick it is important they do not attend school!**
- All students and staff will be screened every school day. Their temperature will be taken using a non-contact thermometer and a basic symptom screen will be performed. If a student is running a fever of 100+, or covid symptoms are present, the student will be placed in an isolated space and parents will be contacted to come pick them up. Students arriving late will go directly to the school office to be screened prior to going to their classroom.

- **Face Coverings**

- Face masks, covering the mouth and nose, are the best way to reduce the risk to students and staff from potential exposure to COVID and the resulting 14 day quarantines.
- If the ELVPHD risk dial reaches “Moderate (yellow)” or “Elevated (orange)” level then face coverings are required for students and staff.
- Some staff positions may be required to wear face coverings at all risk dial levels.
- Face covering waivers for medical exceptions may be allowed as needed.
- NPS will provide two cloth masks for all students and staff to wear at school. Staff and students may wear their own cloth masks, as long as the mask meets all dress code expectations. Bandanas are not allowed.



Feeling Sick?
Stay home when you are sick!

If you feel unwell or have the following symptoms please leave the building and contact your health care provider.

DO NOT ENTER if you have:

 Cough	 Fever	 Chills	 Muscle pain
 Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing*	 Sore throat	 New loss of taste or smell	

Symptoms can range from mild to severe illness, and appear 2-14 days after you are exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19.

 [cdc.gov/CORONAVIRUS](https://www.cdc.gov/CORONAVIRUS)

- **Classrooms**

- Classrooms will be minimized of any “extras” to enable seating to be spread apart to meet social distancing expectations.
- School supplies and equipment will not be shared unless disinfected.
- Support services and Special Education services will be determined by the student IEP to best fit student needs.
- Daily cleaning schedule for wiping desktops and chairs with sanitizer.
- Cleaning supplies and hand sanitizer will be available in every classroom and common area.

- **Entering/Exiting Buildings & Visitors**

- Upon entering the school door designated for symptom checks, all students and staff members will be screened.
- Parents are recommended to stay in the vehicle when dropping off or picking up students.
- Visitors will be limited. Visitors that are allowed will be screened for symptoms when they enter the building. Face masks are required.
- Students should not gather in groups before school doors open. Students should leave the school grounds promptly upon dismissal unless involved with an immediate after school activity.
- Building use by outside organizations will not be allowed.

- **Food Service**

- Student meals may be spread across multiple locations (cafeteria, classrooms, gyms, etc) to provide room for social distancing.
- No self-serve items. No sharing of food.
- Handwashing and social distancing protocols will be followed for all grades.

- **Restrooms & Drinking Fountains**

- Handwashing and social distancing protocols will be followed.
- Number of students will be limited to a few students using the restroom at a time.
- Restrooms and common areas will be cleaned often.
- Drinking fountains will be closed. Students are encouraged to bring their own water bottle from home. No other drinks are allowed.

- **Before/After School Programming (Aftershock, Y Kids Club, etc)**

- Before/After School Programming will be available. Please watch for specific details from those organizations.


- **Passing Periods**

- At the high school, students may be released in a staggered pattern to attempt to lessen the interaction and traffic in the hallways.
- Some hallways and staircases may be determined as “one way” traffic at the Middle School, Junior High, and High School.

Stop the Spread of Germs

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.

- Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms' length) from other people.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands.
- When in public, wear a cloth face covering over your nose and mouth.
- Do not touch your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

 [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

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- **Transportation**
 - Transportation services will be limited to transporting students to and from school for on-site instruction and district approved NSAA activities or similar events. Field trips will be postponed and not scheduled until further notice.
 - All district employees will be required to wear face masks when transporting students.
 - All district buses and vehicles will be sanitized daily when we are in green/yellow risk. When we are in orange/red risk, sanitation will occur between each use.
 - Temperature and symptom screening may occur on buses.
 - Students are encouraged to use hand sanitizer.
 - Depending on the risk dial level, bus capacity may be restricted and loading may be back to front, exiting front to back.
- **Group gatherings**
 - Group gatherings may not occur this school year. Some examples include pep rallies, school assemblies, PTO events, field trips, etc. Each event will be reviewed individually and a decision will be made in context of the current environment.
- **School Activities**
 - We will follow the recommendations of the Elkhorn Logan Valley Public Health Department and the Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) in regard to school activities.



Norfolk Public Schools response to the ELVPHD Covid-19 Risk Dial



Green: Low/Stable Risk	Yellow: Moderate Risk
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low/stable does not mean “no risk”. Precautions are still implemented as a means of remaining in an uninterrupted, in-person learning environment status. • 100% of students on site for face to face learning • Cleaning/ Disinfecting: Heightened • Symptom Checks: Required • Masks: Recommended for all staff and students • Transportation: Normal • Meals: Normal • Specials (Music, Art, PE, etc.): Normal • Students/Staff with Underlying Health Conditions: Individualized Plans • Visitors: Limited • Activities: As scheduled • Before/After School Programs: Available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced precautions are implemented as a means of remaining in an uninterrupted, in-person learning environment status. • 100% of students on site for face to face learning • Cleaning/ Disinfecting: Heightened • Symptom Checks: Required • Masks: Required for students and staff • Transportation: Normal procedures with daily sanitation • Meals: Spread across multiple locations in order to provide social distancing • Specials (Music, Art, PE, etc.): Continue in alternate locations • Equipment: Limited sharing, with cleaning between uses • Social Distancing: As feasible • Students/Staff with Underlying Health Conditions: Individualized Plans • Visitors: Extenuating circumstances only • Activities: Continue with precautions; postponements and cancellations possible • Before/After School Programs: Available with precautions
Orange: Elevated Risk	Red: High/Severe Risk
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further enhanced precautions are implemented as a means of minimizing disruptions to the in-person learning environment status. • Hybrid Model with a combination of on-site/in-person instruction and remote (home-based) learning opportunities • Students are divided into two learning groups with 2 days on-site/in-person instruction and 3 days remote/home-based learning opportunities each week. • Cleaning/ Disinfecting: Heightened • Symptom Checks: Required • Masks: Required • Transportation: Reduced number of students; symptom checks and masks required • Meals: Spread across multiple locations in order to provide social distancing • Specials (Music, Art, PE, etc.): Continue in alternate locations; some cancellations possible • Equipment: Individual student use only • Social Distancing: Enforced in classrooms; as feasible in commons areas • Students/Staff with Underlying Health Conditions: Individualized Plans • Visitors: Prohibited • Activities: Continue with precautions; postponements and cancellations likely • Before/After School Programs: Available at half-capacity, with precautions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remote/home-based learning only • No students will report for on-site/in-person learning • All activities cancelled

Face Coverings/Masks Protocol

The use of cloth face masks consistently among students/staff who are unable to physically distance by 6 feet is a critical factor in determining the need for quarantine if a covid positive case arises in our school.

In guidance received 8/11/2020 from the Elkhorn Logan Valley Public Health Department regarding cloth mask coverings they advised schools that *Cloth face coverings are a barrier to help prevent respiratory droplets from traveling into the air and onto other people. Wearing cloth face coverings (over the nose and mouth) is highly recommended when students are in close contact (within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more) to reduce the number of individuals who might be exposed to COVID-19. Quarantine guidelines when a positive COVID-19 case is identified:*

- ***If everyone wore a mask:*** quarantine is not automatically recommended
- ***If a mask was not worn by a positive COVID-19 individual:*** all close contacts are required to quarantine
- ***If a mask was worn by a positive COVID-19 individual:*** only close contacts not wearing masks are required to quarantine.

Although we are doing everything we can to create the safest environment possible for all students, it is not possible for Norfolk Public Schools to maintain 6 feet of social distancing space around each individual at all times throughout the day. Face masks are the best way to reduce the risk to students and staff from potential exposure to COVID and the resulting quarantines. We will provide two cloth masks for all students and staff to wear at school. Staff and students may wear their own cloth masks, as long as the mask meets all dress code expectations. Bandanas are not an acceptable face covering/mask.

- When NPS is operating within the Green Tier, masks will be recommended for all students and staff. (Masks may be required for designated staff).
- When NPS is operating within the Yellow Tier, masks will be required for students and staff.
- When NPS is operating within the Orange Tier, masks will be required for students and staff.
- When NPS is operating within the Red Tier, students will not be reporting to school on-site. Staff will be required to wear masks.

** Note: Individual waivers may be provided to those with legitimate and documented medical reasons for not wearing a face mask. If you need more information regarding a potential waiver, please contact your building principal.*

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions:

1. **When a student at my child's school tests positive what can I expect? When a teacher at my child's school tests positive what can I expect?**

As directed by the ELVPHD, when a positive COVID-19 case is confirmed in a school, that individual will be excluded and allowed to return based upon current guidance from CDC at the time. Local Health Departments will work with schools to consider the following questions when determining how that case will impact others in their classroom and/or school building.

- Was the individual with Covid-19 wearing a mask most of the time?
- Were other students and staff who were within 6 feet of the individual with Covid-19 for more than 15 minutes masked?
- Was the individual with Covid-19 part of a cohort within the building or did they interact with a large number of students and staff throughout the day?

The answers to these questions above will determine

- 1) the number of close contacts,
- 2) if the close contacts who are not symptomatic may stay in the classroom, and
- 3) the number of other students and staff who will need to be quarantined.

NPS Board Policy 5409: Communicable Diseases is also in place to protect the privacy of students and/or staff members in cases of any types of communicable diseases. ELVPHD will give the directives for quarantine. Identities of individuals will not be shared but persons of close contact to that individual will be notified.

- *Board Policy 5409, Part C: The privacy of the student and family must be protected, and knowledge that a student has a communicable condition should be confined to persons with a direct need to know. If it becomes necessary to inform others, these persons will be provided with information concerning necessary precautions, and they will be made aware of confidentiality requirements.*

2. **If my student or family members test positive for covid and we are required to quarantine as per the local health department, what will be the implications on my student's attendance and ability to successfully finish the current grade level?**

Norfolk Public Schools is focused on the success of student achievement. Each student scenario will be evaluated and a plan will be developed to help the student stay on track to finish the school year successfully.

3. **I do not feel comfortable having my child attend school on site under the "In-Person" or "Hybrid" model, what options do I have for remote learning?**

Norfolk Public Schools will not provide remote learning unless the health department risk dial reaches a "severe risk (red)" level and the "Remote Model" is initiated by the school district. Parents of students with underlying health conditions may contact Mary Luhr, Director of Student Programs to set up an individualized plan for your child or you may home-school your child.

4. **If the risk dial goes into "severe" and our school scenario becomes the "Remote Model" will it be handled like it was last spring?**

If NPS enters the "Remote Model" the expectations will be more robust than last spring and assignments will be graded. Additional resources and staff training have been provided to ensure a high quality education for all NPS students, regardless of the current color risk dial setting. We have also added some mobile hotspots to help with internet connectivity for our families that need support in this area.