



# Getting Back to School

## WBCSD's Fall 2020 Reopening

### Introduction:

Our goal is to reopen schools in fall 2020. While reopening schools is the goal in West Bonner County School District #83 (WBCSD), we know we can't control COVID-19 so WBCSD has crafted a plan that allows us to respond quickly to changing local, regional, state and national conditions. As conditions change, we may be forced to change how we provide instruction during the school year. WBCSD's Reopening Plan includes a Category 1 – Category 2 – Category 3 system that outlines what students, staff and parents can expect under different conditions. Categories as determined by recommendations from Panhandle Health District:

- **CATEGORY 1 – No (Green) to Minimal (Yellow) Community Spread:** WBCSD students will attend school fulltime and schools will implement reasonable procedures in accordance with health guidance. A remote/online option will be available for students.
- **CATEGORY 2 – Moderate (Orange) Community Spread:** WBCSD will shift to a hybrid schedule with students attending school on alternate days so some students are learning part-time in school and some students are learning part-time at home. Based on conditions, hybrid schedules could be implemented in a single school, within a cluster of schools or districtwide. A remote/online option will be available for students.
- **CATEGORY 3 Substantial (Red) Community Spread:** In extreme conditions, which could include a local or state stay-at-home order, WBCSD will close schools and shift to remote learning for all students. Based on conditions, the board could close a single school, a cluster of schools or close all schools.

WBCSD's Reopening Plan includes recommendations from health officials, and reasonable procedures to try and mitigate risks and minimize the spread of COVID-19. To accomplish our goal of reopening schools, it is imperative all students, staff and parents do their part by following health guidance whether they're at school or out in the community. Everyone will also need to monitor their health and stay home if they are feeling sick or showing symptoms of COVID-19.

WBCSD's Reopening Plan was drafted with input from hundreds of stakeholders including parents, teachers, staff and officials with Panhandle Health District. **The plan is a living document and will be updated in accordance with new guidance** from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Governor's office, the State Board of Education, the State Department of Education, the Idaho High School Athletics Association and other extracurricular governing bodies, Panhandle Health District and other state and local officials.

### WBCSD's Focus Everyday:

- Provide a rigorous, **comprehensive education** for all students no matter the mode of instruction.
- **Respect health guidance** from the Centers for Disease Control and local and state health officials, and adopt reasonable practices we can control to mitigate risks and minimize spread.
- **Be flexible, empathetic and ready to respond quickly** to support families as conditions change.
- **Clearly communicate shared expectations** for students, staff and parents.
- Provide **parents and teachers with support so they** can use tech tools and resources.
- **Update policies** to ensure students and staff who are sick or showing symptoms stay home.

- **Remote options for parents** uncomfortable about sending children back to school in person.

## Keeping Schools Open Will Take Community Effort:

**Health Checks:** To accomplish our goal of reopening WBCSD's schools and keeping them open, it will be important for students, staff, parents and patrons to do their part by following health guidance and monitoring their health.

In cooperation with Panhandle Health District, we ask that as students and staff prepare for school each day, they ask themselves these questions:

- **Since your last day in school have you had any of these symptoms that are NOT attributable to another condition?**
  - Fever or Chills (A fever is considered having a temperature of 100.4 F)
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - Fatigue
  - Congestion or Runny Nose
  - Nausea, Vomiting or Diarrhea
  - Muscle or Body Aches
  - Headache
  - Sore throat
  - New loss of taste or smell
- **If the answer is YES to any of these symptoms we ask that:**
  - You DO NOT send your child to school.
  - Contact your healthcare provider for guidance to determine if testing for COVID-19 is recommended.
- **If your child has tested positive for COVID-19 OR was directed by a healthcare provider or Panhandle Health District to stay home we ask that:**
  - You DO NOT send your child to school UNTIL:
    - Your child has isolated for at least 10 days from symptom onset and at least 24 hours have passed since symptoms have improved and no fever without fever reducing medications. (*See Panhandle Health District Tree.*) .....OR.....
    - Your medical provider has determined a different illness than COVID-19 and cleared your child to return to school.
- **If your child has had close contact (within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes) with someone testing positive for COVID-19, we ask that:**
  - You DO NOT send your child to school UNTIL your child has isolated for 14 days and experiences no COVID-19 symptoms.
  - If symptoms DO present during the isolation period, follow instructions above for seeking medical guidance and possible testing for COVID-19

**Responding To A Confirmed Case of COVID-19:** An important part of limiting the spread of COVID-19 in our community is identifying those who may be sick, infected or who have been exposed, and requires all of us working together to keep the virus in check.

### ***Students/Families:***

- If your child has tested positive for COVID-19 we ask that:
  - You do not send your child to school.
  - Notify your school of the positive test.

- Follow guidance from your health provider and Panhandle Health District regarding isolation and contact tracing.

#### ***School & District:***

- School personnel or health officials will alert Nurse/Student Services.
- Nurse/Student Services will contact Panhandle Health District, and will assist Panhandle Health District with contact tracing and investigation.
- District will coordinate efforts to communicate to staff, students, and parents the possible exposure to COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality as required by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and the Americans with Disability Act (ADA).
- District will be prepared for short-term closures (possibly 1-3 days), in the event of a positive case inside one or more schools.
- Each site will have a plan in place to allow for the immediate separation of students/staff who present COVID-19 symptoms at school.

## **Next Steps:**

- Principals/Directors will develop plans outlining how they will implement new health protocols in their schools/departments and special programs.
- Promote plan and new health protocols to parents, staff, and patrons in late August.

## **Resources:**

- **Results of Parent Survey**
- **Panhandle Health District Decision Tree** (<https://panhandlehealthdistrict.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/COVID-19-Guidance-Schools.pdf> )
- **CDC Considerations for Schools** (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools.html>)
- **CDC Guidance for Cleaning & Disinfecting** (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>)
- **COVID-19 Guidance for Schools** (<https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/>)
- **Input from Panhandle Health District**