

## **White River School District Start School Plan 2023-24**

### **Mission Statement**

The White River School District wants students and community members to be safe from communicable diseases such as COVID-19. We believe that our environment at school gives students the best chance to succeed academically, socially, and emotionally. We will need a group effort from parent(s)/guardian(s), school personnel, and students to make the school a safe environment for learning.

### **Home Health Screening**

- Parents are important to help make the school environment safe for students.
- Parents will screen their children for symptoms at home for symptoms of COVID-19.
- If the child is symptomatic, please call your family health care provider.

### **Masks**

- Masks are optional for all staff and students.
- Masks are available upon request.

### **Cleaning and Sanitizing**

- Hand sanitizer stations are located throughout each school.
- Disinfectant cleaning products will be used to sanitize areas of high traffic.
- Students are encouraged to maintain healthy hygiene and wash hands often.

### **Response to Students Who Become COVID-19 Symptomatic**

- Guidance from the SD Dept. of Health and the SD Dept. of Education will be considered.
- Students or staff members who become sick with COVID-19 symptoms during the school day will be sent home and encouraged to contact their health provider.
- If an individual is not COVID-19 positive, they will be allowed to return to school immediately as long as they have been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication.

### **Positive COVID-19 Cases**

- Please report positive COVID-19 cases to the school nurse.
- It is recommended to stay home and isolate for five (5) days from the date symptoms began. The school will not monitor the number of days. Staff must use sick leave during their absence.
- If symptoms improve after five (5) days, the student or staff member may return to school as long as they are fever-free for the previous 24 hours without the aid of fever-reducing medication.
- Masks are optional when around others until no longer testing positive or through the 10<sup>th</sup> day from symptom onset or 10<sup>th</sup> day from the positive COVID-19 test for those who are asymptomatic.

### **COVID-19 Close Contact/Contact Tracing**

- White River School District will not perform contact tracing.
- Students identified as close contact should be monitored for symptoms.
- Students identified as close contact do not need to isolate or quarantine. They may remain in school.
- Students identified as close contact will have the option to wear masks. Masks are not required.

### **Visitors to School – Transportation – Extracurricular Activities**

- Parents and visitors are welcome to visit schools if not symptomatic, under quarantine, or COVID-19 positive.
- Guidance from the SDHSAA will be followed for extracurricular activities.
- Student-athletes will not be required to wear masks during events.
- Restricting spectator attendance is not planned.
- Masks are optional at White River School District-sponsored events.

### **Phases for Instruction**

The administration and the White River Board of Education will follow school board-approved procedures to decide the education phase for the White River School District.

### **White River School District Start School 2023-24**

- ❖ August 22, 2023, was approved by the Board of Education as the school start date for students.

### **Revised Phase 1**

**Phase 1 - In-person Attendance.** Phase I will have traditional in-person attendance. The district will remain in Phase 1 unless determined by the superintendent in consultation with the board president the need to change phases.

- In-person instruction with no mitigation strategies.
- Mask wearing is optional.
- Staff will self-check for symptoms before reporting to work.
- Student health screenings will be conducted by the school nurse as needed. If a student has a fever over 100.0 degrees the student must stay home for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication.
- Food Service- Each building will have assigned breakfast and lunch schedules. Breakfast will be available in the lunchroom from 7:30 am – 8:00 am.
- Busing/parent transportation- Students will be dropped off at the following locations before 8:00 am: WREL- school lunchroom, MS- school lunchroom, HS- main entrance or school lunchroom, Norris EL- main entrance.
  - o Parents providing transportation will drop off students at the entrances listed above.

### **Phase 2 - In-person Attendance with the following mitigation strategies.**

- o All areas follow social distancing to the extent possible.
  - o Parent(s)/guardian(s) and other visitors will not be allowed in the building during school hours. (which includes first-day drop-off). Children will be met at school entry points by school personnel.
  - o Masks required for all regardless of vaccination status.
  - o Masks required indoors for all when not able to maintain social distancing.
  - o Masks required on buses and school transportation.
  - o Staff will self-check for symptoms before reporting to work.
  - o Student health screenings will be conducted by the school nurse as needed.
- If temperature of 100.0 I.C.E procedures- Isolate, Contact the parent, Exit the building. Each building will have their own isolation room.
- Norris Elementary- Speech office  
WR Elementary- Rm 314-315, East relocatable  
6-8 Room 314-315  
9-12 Nurses Office, Rm 125

- Food Service- Staggered schedule, meals in rooms, hallways, and in the cafeteria following social distancing guidelines.
- Physical Education and Recess- Masks not required when doing physical activity.
- Busing/parent-student transportation- Students will be dropped off at the following: WREL- designated grade level entrances, MS- lunchroom, HS- main entrance, Norris EL- main entrance.

### **Phase 3      *EMERGENCY CLOSURE***

#### **Emergency Closure for Positive Cases or Close Contact within the School(s)**

- A short-term emergency closure for extended cleaning may occur at administrative discretion given the unique circumstances of cases within a school(s).
- Short-term closures may not necessarily be universal across all attendance centers.
- Short-term closures will be a minimum of two calendar days.
  - The length of the short-term closure will be dependent upon each situation. This will allow for thorough cleaning of the affected areas of the building(s) and allow time for the administration to investigate for close contacts.
- All students identified as a positive case will be required to follow the school board-adopted guidelines for isolation.
  - ⊖ For a positive test the isolation is for 5 calendar days.

#### **Determining Emergency Closure**

The superintendent, in consultation with the school board president, has the authority to determine the length of a school(s) emergency closure and the move from one phase to another phase.

The White River School Board has approved all school employees as “Essential Employees” in the event that there is a closure of school(s). This ensures that the district will be able to carry on the necessary operations of the school(s). For example, if a school(s) is closed employees may be required to report to work unless required to isolate per school board-adopted guidelines or medical provider.

*This is a living document that is subject to change based on the COVID-19 pandemic in the region and the state. The White River Board of Education along with the administration will work together to adapt this document throughout the school year.*

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