

**CASSIA JT SCHOOL DISTRICT
SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION AND CONTINUITY OF
SERVICES
2023-2024**



**Balancing Health & Safety
With High Levels of Learning & Success**

Cassia Joint School District (CJSD) is proud to have maintained the full opportunity for in-person instruction for all students throughout the 2020-21 and 2021-22 school years. With the support of our faculty, staff, students, and community, we developed this plan in the summer of 2020.

The following pages outline Cassia Jt School District's Continuation of Educational Services Plan. Within this plan we prioritize educational excellence while also incorporating a number of health and safety prevention measures. The plan encompasses the full range of instructional settings – from 100% in-person instruction, to a hybrid plan that alternates days in-school with an equal number of days of remote instruction, to 100% remote instruction.

We intend to begin the school year in August, 2022 with 100% in-person instruction. Significant health and safety prevention measures are built into the continuation plan. We recognize that as situations change we may need to shift instructional settings to the hybrid or fully remote options.

Overarching Points of Emphasis:

- **Balance Health & Safety with Educational Integrity:** Our continuance of educational services goal will be to balance ongoing health and safety concerns with the central importance of educating children at the highest level. We will maximize safety while recognizing the intellectual, physical, social, and emotional benefits of in-person schooling for children.
- **Prioritize Key Interventions:** CJSD will have face masks available for those students and staff requesting them. The COVID-19 vaccine is not required or traced by the Cassia Joint School District for staff or students. Improved ventilation in the school building is being addressed.
- **Access Individual Health:** Anyone who is sick should stay home. Schools should suspend practices that encourage or reward students for attending school while sick or vulnerable.
- **Mitigation Is Our Goal:** The goal is to minimize the risk.
- **Accommodate Vulnerable Populations:** Make arrangements for vulnerable students and staff who require additional support or are unable to attend in-person.
- **Attend to Social and Emotional Well-Being:** Consider the immediate and long-term physical, psychological, social, and emotional needs of students and staff.

Attendance:

- Daily attendance will be recorded in accordance with district policy. Exceptions may be considered on a case by case basis.

Coursework and Grading

- We will offer a high-quality, rigorous and comprehensive educational experience for our learners, whether in-person or online. Standard grading practices will apply. Options to enroll in the online learning academy are available.

Activities (including fine & performing arts, sports, tech and ag)

It is the goal of Cassia Jt School District to offer a variety of before and after school activities. Operations of school activities will be directed from the categories of green, yellow, and red as indicated in this document and that of the Idaho High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) Reopening Guidance. These guidelines were developed with the assistance of the Cassia County School District Restart sub-committee for student activities, the Idaho State Board Idaho Back to School Framework, the South-Central Public Health District, and IHSAA. Please note that the guidance is subject to change based upon known or unknown conditions and as directed by the Board of Trustees.

In addition to the categories stated above the following information is provided:

1. All reasonable measures of safety and sanitation practices will be followed wherever possible.
2. Reasonable health screenings including possible temperature checks will be conducted as a condition for participation.
3. If a student reports a confirmed positive test for COVID, a return to participate medical clearance is required.
4. If a student reports close contact and is symptomatic, the student is ineligible and will need to follow CDC guidelines including possible self-isolation as directed by their parent or guardian. The student and family are highly encouraged to seek medical attention.
5. If a student reports possible close contact but is not symptomatic, CDC guidance and monitoring will be required.
6. In the event of possible team exposure but non-symptomatic, a protocol of CDC guidance and monitoring will follow. Additionally, South Central Public Health will be consulted as to a proper course of action.
7. It is the goal of each high school to participate and mitigate on a case by case basis. If it becomes necessary, cancellations will be determined by the superintendent.
8. In addition to routine sanitation, coaches and advisors may request additional procedures when necessary.
9. Where possible, social distancing on busses and vans. Where not possible, face coverings are highly encouraged.
10. Spectator and fan attendance will be managed in accordance with most current guidelines for groups and gatherings criteria and include to the extent possible all CDC guidelines. Fans are highly encouraged to wear a face covering and social distance.

Social and Emotional Support Services:

School leaders, educators, and staff should ensure physically, socially, and emotionally safe communities that prioritize creating environments that support students and respond to the trauma experienced by many students.

- Establish support and healing systems for both students and adults.
- Identify mental health support and training for staff on talking with and supporting

students.

- Provide resources, referrals, and professional development as needed. School counselors will be available to students who need assistance with social, emotional, and/or mental health. Counselors will make available resources through the Connect program.
- The Employee Assistance Program will be utilized to assist any staff member who needs assistance with social, emotional, and/or mental health. Employees who need leave due to COVID-19 related reasons will have access to medical and personal leave as outlined in FMLA, Board Policy, and the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Addressing Community Spread of COVID-19 in Schools:

With guidance from the South Central Public Health Department, the CDC, Idaho State Department of Education and Idaho State Board of Education, CJSD 151 has developed a strategic plan for the 2022-2023 school year to help us effectively address scenarios related to the unpredictable nature of COVID-19. The plan is based on the following categories as defined by the CDC and recommended by rebound.idaho.gov. All guidelines and protocols in the Continuation Plan are subject to change based on new information or direction from state and local officials.

Category 1 None to Minimal Regular school schedule with focus on prevention	Category 2 Moderate Spread School schedule may include modified traditional and/or hybrid model	Category 3 Substantial Spread Remote learning, may include targeted, short- term or extended school closures
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How and When Will Communication Go Out:

If we have a confirmed case at an individual school, those individuals who were known to be in close contact will be notified as soon as information is confirmed. All areas of impact will be sanitized. Exposed individuals will be encouraged to follow the CDC guidelines of isolating and monitoring for the recommended number of days. School operations will remain in the category of operations as indicated by South Central Public District Health or school will close for a determined number of days. If a parent is not contacted by phone or email, then their student is not considered to be at any significant risk, and they do not need to have heightened concern.

Detailed Reference Guide:

Appendix A is included with this plan to provide detailed information in regards to each category of spread.

Review and Revision of the Plan:

- The plan will be reviewed by the Emergency Operations team and approved by the School Board every six months through September 30, 2023.
 - July, 2021
 - January, 2022
 - July, 2022
 - January, 2023
 - July, 2023