



Notus School District Back to School Plan 2021-2022

We are all in this Together!

Notus School District is committed to adhering to the district's mission and vision. NSD Administration and teaching staff are committed to provide varied learning opportunities along with high quality education that will ensure the safety of our students, staff, and community. It is our goal to mitigate risk and minimize the spread of COVID-19. It is important students, staff, and parents do their part and follow health guidance at school and in the community. Everyone needs to monitor their health and stay home if they are feeling sick or showing symptoms of COVID-19.

We have developed the following plan and strategies for Return to School. The plan provides a tiered approach with clear, actionable steps that are advisable before students and employees return back to school on August 16, 2021, along with guidance that is applicable for the 2021-2022 school year. **This is a fluid/living document and will be updated according to recommendations and guidance** of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Governor's office, State Board of Education, State Department of Education, State Board of Education Idaho High School Activities Association, Idaho department of Health and Welfare, Southwest District Health, and other federal, state, and local officials. It is designed to help prioritize the health and safety of students and staff as they return to school. The most recent version of this framework will be posted on the Notus SD website (www.notusschools.org); it will list the version number and date of update. The Notus SD Board of Trustees will have the final say in the category under which the district will operate.

Thank you for trusting us with your children.

Resources Used to Create NSD Back to School Plan

Central District Health & Southwest District Health

Center for Disease Control NSD Staff and Administration

Parent Surveys & Input

Surrounding School Districts Re-Entry Plans

Governor's Office

Idaho State Board of Education

State Department of Education

Idaho High School Activities Association

How COVID-19 Spreads:

COVID-19 is mainly spread by respiratory droplets. When someone infected coughs, sneezes, or speaks, respiratory droplets that contain the virus are expelled and can be breathed in by someone nearby. The virus cannot enter the body through the skin, the droplets can get into your airways or mucous membranes of your eyes, nose, or mouth to infect you. The virus can spread if you touch a contaminated surface then touch your eyes, nose, or mouth.

When a student or staff member becomes ill at school:

When a student or staff member develops any symptoms of illness consistent with COVID -19 in school:

- Isolate the person in a separate room while they wait to be picked up or until they are able to leave the facility on their own. Ensure they have hygiene supplies, including a cloth face covering, tissue, and alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Remind those monitoring the sick person to wear a face mask and practice physical distancing.
- Close off the area used for isolation after the ill person leaves. Wait for as long as possible after they leave to clean/disinfect the area. Open outside doors/windows to increase air circulation in the area.
- Clean and disinfect all areas used by the person who is sick; high touch surfaces, and items they have touched
- Wear gloves when cleaning; wash hands after removing gloves

Procedures for Returning to School After COVID-19 Testing or A Family Member has tested positive for COVID-19:

- Anyone who is experience COVID-19 symptoms should stay home until they receive a diagnosis. If the diagnosis is **positive**, they should stay home for 10 days and monitor their health for 14 days. If the test is **negative**, they should remain home until all their symptoms are gone, without medication for 24 hours. (Guidance will be provided by SWDH and/or personal health care providers regarding protocols.)
- A COVID-19 positive patient must remain in quarantine until the health authority releases them.
- In K-12 instruction areas where there is close contact (close contact as defined by CDC and SWDH, is within 6 feet for 15 minutes or longer over a 24-hour period) between a person who has tested positive or is diagnosed with, COVID-19 (case) and student or staff (contact), and both persons were wearing masks, covering the nose and mouth, during the time physical distancing could not be maintained:
 - Those exposed may attend in-person classes but must monitor themselves closely for COVID-19 symptoms for two weeks. If they develop symptoms they should stay home and contact a health care provider.

- If they were not wearing a mask:
 - Those that were in close contact (close contact as defined by CDC and SWDH, is within 6 feet for 15 minutes or longer over a 24-hour period) will be contacted and sent home to isolate for 10 days or 7 days and then test for COVID-19 on or after the 8th day per CDC guidelines. If negative they may return to school while wearing a mask until the 14th day has passed.

If the confirmed cases are greater than 5% of the school's population, or if the schools' probable cases are greater than 1/3, the school building will close for an amount of time (Length TBD) and distance learning will be implemented. The district will work with local health officials to assess the situation and take proper steps to reopen.

- Local health officials' recommendations for the scope and duration of school closures will be made on a case-by-case basis.
 - During school closure, extracurricular group activities, school-based afterschool programs, and large events will be modified, canceled, or postponed.
 - During school closure, school facilities will be disinfected according to CDC and local public health officials' guidance.
 - During school closure, Red category Level 3 practices will be implemented (transition to Remote Learning)
- ✓ If at any time staff absences are greater than the number of substitutes for a building, that building will transition to remote learning or emergency closure.
- ✓ Plans may be changed or revised by the superintendent through the advisement of the board, based on most current information.
- ✓ Please click [here](#) if you would like information on the COVID-19 Vaccine in Idaho.

School facilities will be disinfected according to CDC and SWDH guidelines

- [SWDH Decision Tree](#)
- [Notus Flow Chart](#)
- [Quarantine and Isolation Guidance](#)

Our Commitment to You!

We will...

- Respect the guidelines established by federal, state, and local agencies, and have district protocols in place to support a safe place for students, staff, and families
- Continue to build positive relationships with students and parents
- Understand individual learner needs and provide support
- Respond to the needs of our students, families, and staff
- Provide a clear learning plan for all students
- Train staff and parents to use tools and resources that may be needed for various learning environments

Commitment we need from You!

We hope you will...

- Respect the CDC, and other health agency guidelines; follow district protocols to support a safe place for students, staff, and families
- Keep students at home if they are sick
- Communicate frequently with teachers and staff
- Students need to bring a mask to school.
- Remember, that we are all in this together!

Addressing Community Spread in Schools

Category 1 – Green Low/No Spread	Category 2 – Yellow Minimal/Moderate Spread	Category 3 – Red Substantial Spread
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish and maintain communication with local, state, and federal health officials • Post signage in buildings communicating how to stop the spread. COVID symptoms preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols. • Protocols for students/staff who feel ill/after arriving at school • Identify ways to accommodate needs of students, staff, and families at higher risk. (see Protecting Venerable Populations) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow enhanced Category 1 protocols. • Implement enhanced social distancing measures, and the use of mask and face coverings as needed. (see Transitioning, Large Group Gatherings, and Teaching and Learning) • Isolate and deep clean impacted classrooms/spaces. • Participate in contact tracing and other needed efforts as directed by health officials, as feasible • Temporary short-term closure of a classroom, grade level or single school may occur 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow enhanced Category 1 and 2 protocols. • Schools that are closed, remain closed. • Implement distance/remote learning. (see Food Service and Supporting Teaching and Learning) <p>For additional guidance on addressing community spread, see the CDC's Considerations for Schools</p>

Definitions

Face Covering - District employees and students may be required to wear a face mask/covering depending on the COVID spread level. Information will be provided on proper use, removal, and washing of cloth face coverings [CDC Guidance](#)

Clean/Disinfect - Ensure safe and correct use of sanitizer and disinfectant [CDC Guidance](#)

Hand Hygiene - Hand soap and water are the first recommendations for hand hygiene. Hand soap and water should be used, when possible, especially for younger children. Hand sanitizer should contain 60% alcohol and only be used by staff and children who understand how to safely use hand sanitizer. [CDC Guidance](#)

PPE - Personal protective equipment that is used to decrease exposure to disease causing organisms. Examples: Face mask/covering, face shield, hand sanitizer, gloves, aprons, desk dividers, etc. Other protective measures are: handwashing with soap and water, using tissues and discarding promptly, and maintaining six feet of distance.

Definitions

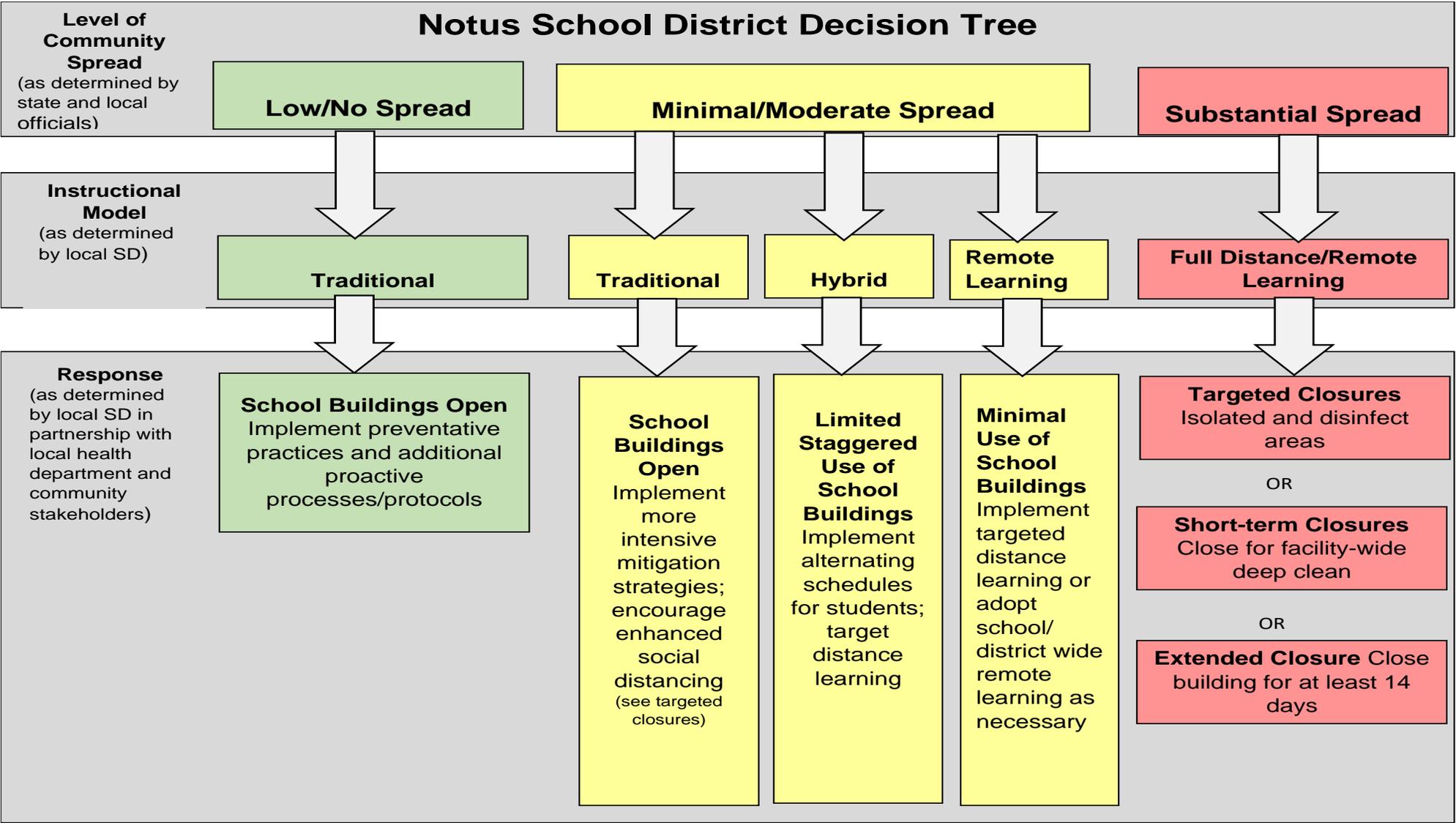
Isolation - Isolation keeps someone who is sick and/or confirmed positive for COVID-19 or tested positive and has no symptoms (asymptomatic) away from others, even in their own home. Isolation should continue until at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared, date of testing if positive for COVID-19, symptoms are improved, and NO fever without fever-reducing medication for a minimum of 24 hours. [Symptoms for COVID-19](#)

Quarantine - Quarantine keeps someone who has been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 away from others. A quarantine should be for 10 days after your last contact with the infected person: monitoring for symptoms for a total of 14 days. If a COVID test is taken with a negative result after 5 days of last exposure quarantine may be reduced to 7 days with monitoring for 14 days. Temperature should be checked twice daily and monitored for symptoms. Contact health care provider if fever or other symptoms occur during quarantine.

COVID-19 - is mainly spread by respiratory droplets. When someone infected coughs or sneezes, respiratory droplets that contain the virus are expelled and can be breathed in by someone nearby. The virus does not enter the body through the skin but can enter into your airway or mucous membranes of your eyes, nose, or mouth to infect you. That is why you should only touch your face with clean hands.

[Flowchart/Decision Tree](#)

Notus School District Decision Tree



Levels of Community Spread

Level of Community Spread (as determined by Notus School Board with recommendations from state and local health officials)	<p>Category 1 – Green Low/No Spread <u>Definition</u> Evidence of isolated cases, case investigations underway, no evidence of exposure in a large communal setting, e.g., healthcare facility, school mass gatherings. <u>Operations</u> Notus SD will open schools with all students attending full-time.</p>	<p>Category 2 – Yellow Minimal/Moderate Spread <u>Definition</u> Widespread and/or sustained transmission with high likelihood or confirmed exposure within communal settings, with potential for rapid increase in suspected cases. <u>Operations</u> Notus SD will open all schools with all students attending full time. Schools may implement updated procedures established under the guidelines of SWDH, SDH, SDE, and SBOE</p>	<p>Category 3 – Red Substantial Spread <u>Denifition</u> Large-scale community transmission, healthcare staffing significantly impacted, multiple cases within communal settings like healthcare, schools, mass gatherings, etc. <u>Operations</u> When required to compy with local or state stay-at-home orders, Notus SD will close schools and provide out of school learning opportunities for students.</p>
	RECOMMENDATIONS	RECOMMENDATIONS	RECOMMENDAITONS
Practicing Prevention	<p>District/School Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Masks/Face coverings optional Physical distancing when possible Teach and reinforce good hygiene measures: hand washing, covering coughs and face coverings Provide hand soap/sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, paper 	<p>District/School Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow enhanced Category 1 protocols Face coverings may be required <p>Protocols may be increased depending on level of spread in schools.</p>	<p>District/School Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow enhanced Category 1 and 2 protocols if buildings are used for special purposes Use social media and other communications to inform parents, students, and staff about COVID symptoms, preventative measures, good hygiene, school/district specific protocols Encourage COVID testing <p>RESOURCES: CDC Guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How to Protect Yourself and Others COVID-19 Symptoms

	<p>towels, disinfectant wipes, no-touch trash cans in all bathrooms, classrooms, and high traffic areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post signage in schools to communicate how to stop the spread. COVID symptoms preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols. • Clean/disinfect frequently touched surfaces at least daily and shared objects after each use • Students and staff are encouraged to bring hand sanitizer and face coverings from home • Optional mask usage • It is recommended that students and staff bring water bottles • Ensure ventilation systems work properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible as long as it does not 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 and Children <p>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDC Coronavirus Disease 2019 website – Includes information about the disease, situation updates, and information for specific audiences such as travelers, communities, schools, businesses, and others. • DHW Guidance for Cloth Face Coverings • CDC Guidance for Cloth Face Coverings <p>State of Idaho</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Idaho Governor Brad Little • Idaho Back to School Framework 2020 • Southwest District Health Website • Idaho Official COVID Resource Site <p>State of Idaho- Stages of Reopening</p>
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	<p>pose a health or safety risk for students or staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct deep cleaning of schools prior to students/staff returning; schedule periodic deep cleaning during weekends or school holidays/breaks • CDC Guidance for Schools • Reopening Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Schools • Guidance for Reopening Buildings After Prolonged Shutdown 		<p>State Board of Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-entry Criteria • COVID Guidance for Schools <p>Idaho COVID Hotline: 888-330-3010</p> <p>Idaho Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources for Schools • Testing Task Force Recommendations • COVID-19 Serological Testing FAQs – 4/17/2020 • Infographic: Should you be tested? • Smoking and vaping can increase your COVID-19 risks • Information on Assistance for Eligible Idahoans • Child Care Assistance • Interim Guidance for isolation for COVID-19 • Idaho Crisis Centers for Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders • Mental Health and Coping Tips • Back to School Guide for Parents
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<p>Entering School Buildings</p>	<p>District/School Considerations: Implement standard procedures while taking preventative measures such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide hand sanitizer • Limit unnecessary congregations of students and staff • Optional mask usage • Post signage in schools to communicate how to stop the spread, COVID symptoms, preventative measures (including staying home when sick) good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols • Follow protocols for students and staff who feel sick after arriving at school • Establish a protocol for visitors: call front office before entering, provide guidelines while in the building <p>American Health Care Association</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 Screening Checklist for Visitors 	<p>District/School Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow enhanced Category 1 protocols • Mark spaced lines and designate entrance and exit flow paths • Screen students and staff to the extent practicable • Face coverings may be required • Establish protocol for student pick-up/drop-off – staggered entry and release 	<p>District/School Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow enhanced Category 1 and 2 protocols if buildings are used for special purposes • Schools that are closed, remain closed • Only require essential staff to report in-person to carry out functions that are absolutely necessary • District/school leaders must remain vigilant and purposeful as they determine roles, responsibilities and reporting requirements for staff; refrain from blanket reporting requirements • District/school leaders should leverage virtual tools and platforms to conduct essential business and keep in-person reporting to a minimum during school closures <p>COVID Guidance for Schools</p>
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<p>Classroom Procedures</p>	<p>District/School Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assure staff and students know proper use of mask to mitigate exposure, physical distancing, handwashing, and respiratory etiquette Optional mask usage Sanitize high touch areas, desks, technology devices. (Classrooms will have spray disinfectant and wipes to use throughout the day) Custodial staff will routinely clean high touch surfaces throughout the day an in the evening Good hygiene practices will be reinforced thorough out the day Limit the use of shared materials and spaces Keep student belongings separate No sharing of food Statewide reopening criteria are met as defined in Rebound Idaho <p>*Policies are traditional per district and student handbook</p>	<p>District/School Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow enhanced Category 1 protocols Arrange desks/tables to account for physical distancing Face coverings may be required Avoid sharing supplies, materials Avoid sharing electronic devices, toys, books, and learning aids Use personal water bottles, eliminate use of drinking fountains, and only use filling stations Students will remain in pods/classroom groups in elementary Visitors are limited to scheduled appointments Attendance policy may be altered in accordance with ISBOE and SDE Options for social distancing may require adjusting schedules <p>*Policies may be altered to comply with health and safety needs</p>	<p>District/School Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow enhanced Category 1 and 2 protocols if buildings are used for special purposes Schools that are closed, remain closed. Implement distance/remote learning. Updates will be provided through routine district communication <p>*Policies may be altered to comply with health and safety needs *The current plan is fluid and may be updated as additional recommendations are made.</p>
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<p>Supporting Teaching and Learning</p>	<p>District/School Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make online learning information available to parents • Administer formative assessments at the beginning of the school year • Conduct meetings with teachers to identify academic levels of students • Provide extended learning opportunities 	<p>District/School Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow enhanced Category 1 protocols • Face coverings may be required • Limit partner or group work unless social distancing can be maintained • Utilize desk shields as needed • Utilize large spaces as needed for physical distancing 	<p>District/School Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow enhanced Category 1 and 2 protocols if buildings are used for special purposes • Distribute printed instructional materials when needed along with meals at designated collection/ drop-off points
<p>Transitioning</p>	<p>District/School Considerations:</p> <p>Implement standard procedures while taking preventative measures such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optional use of face masks in large groups • Ongoing cleaning of hallways and high-touch surfaces throughout the day • Designating directional entry/exit points 	<p>District/School Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow enhanced Category 1 protocols • Face coverings may be required • Limit mixing of groups as possible • Plan staggered class changes to decrease number of students in hallways at one time • Students will remain in pods/classroom groups in elementary 	<p>District/School Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow enhanced Category 1 and 2 protocols if buildings are used for special purposes

<p>Social Emotional Learning</p>	<p>District/School Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify social emotional goals for the school • Identify behavior expectations • Ensure that each student has one adult that check with them regularly • Provide opportunities for students to practice SEL skills; stress management, communication/listening skills, collaboration, etc. 	<p>District/School Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow enhanced Category 1 protocols • Coordinate with local mental health providers for students in need 	<p>District/School Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow enhanced Category 1 and 2 protocols if buildings are used for special purposes • Check-in with highest risk students to assure connection (counselors)
<p>Office and Other non-instructional space</p>	<p>District/School Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum six-foot distance when possible • Provide barriers at counters where the public or school visitors may stand or approach • Ongoing sanitization of high touch surfaces • Hand sanitizer placed strategically • Minimize use of staff lounge, practice physical distancing • Routine changing of air filters 	<p>District/School Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow enhanced Category 1 protocols • Face coverings may be required • Schedule additional deep cleaning during evenings, weekends, holidays/breaks as possible 	<p>District/School Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow enhanced Category 1 and 2 protocols if buildings are used for special purposes

<p>Extracurricular Activities</p>	<p>District/School Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow guidelines outlined by Idaho High School Athletic Association and other authorizers Assumption of Risk Waivers are in Place 	<p>District/School Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow guidelines outlined by Idaho High School Athletic Association and other authorizers Assumption of Risk Waivers are in Place 	<p>District/School Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow guidelines outlined by Idaho High School Athletic Association and other authorizers Assumption of Risk Waivers are in Place
<p>Staffing Considerations</p>	<p>District/School Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create plans for implementation of plans and expectations for staff at each level Identify needs of venerable staff based on CDC guidelines Survey at-risk staff to gage their intentions of returning to work while maintaining confidentiality outlined in ADA and other state and federal privacy laws <p>Encourage use of district Employee Assistance Program</p>	<p>District/School Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow enhanced Category 1 protocols Face coverings may be required <p>Schedule additional deep cleaning during evenings, weekends, or school holidays/ breaks</p>	<p>District/School Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow enhanced Category 1 and 2 protocols if buildings are used for special purposes Implement remote work policy for all staff <p>Reduce onsite work to essential job functions only.</p>

<p>Conducting Large Group Gatherings</p>	<p>District/School Considerations: Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing hand sanitizer for students and bus drivers • Optional masks for students, staff, and patrons • Restrict mixing groups when possible • Avoid personal contact such as touching, hugs, high fives, etc. • Limiting unnecessary congregations of students, staff, and patrons in parking lots and common areas • Follow Idaho High School Activities Association guidelines for events and practices <p>National Federation of High School Athletic Guidelines</p>	<p>District/School Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow enhanced Category 1 protocols • Face coverings may be required • Follow the guidelines as defined by the Governor’s current statewide Executive Order • Stagger the schedule for large group gatherings (recess, meals) • Utilize large spaces for social distancing • Face mask/covering required for students, staff, and patrons based on transmission levels 	<p>District/School Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow enhanced Category 1 and 2 protocols if buildings are used for special purposes
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<p>Visitors</p>	<p>District/School Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post Stop the Spread signs at entry points and in highly visible areas • No irregular/unscheduled visitors • Develop a visitation procedure • Doors locked during school hours • Develop parent pick-up and drop-off procedures 	<p>District/School Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow enhanced Category 1 protocols • Limit visitors to parents/guardians, by appointment, and critically important visitors on campus 	<p>District/School Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow enhanced Category 1 and 2 protocols if buildings are used for special purposes • No visitors
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<p>Protecting Venerable Populations</p> <p><i>Venerable Populations – Elderly individuals and/or individuals with serious underlying health conditions, including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma, and those whose immune system is compromised such as by chemotherapy and other conditions requiring such therapy</i></p>	<p>District/School Considerations: Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a point-of-contact with the local health department • Identify local COVID testing sites • Provide hand sanitizer • Provide PPE to vulnerable students and staff as needed • Establish a process for regular check-ins with vulnerable students and staff • Allow an early transition if needed • Limit large group gatherings/interactions for vulnerable students and staff • Masks may be required in classes with vulnerable students and staff 	<p>District/School Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow enhanced Category 1 protocols • Face coverings may be required • Refer students to remote/distance learning opportunities if needed • Evaluate the opportunity to offer special accommodations for personnel who are members of vulnerable populations • Adhere to FERPA and HIPPA requirements • Adhere to state and federal employment laws and extended leave allowances • Recommend the use of the Employee Assistance Program 	<p>District/School Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow enhanced Category 1 and 2 protocols if buildings are used for special purposes • Explore SWDH options for additional nurses and health care aides
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