

Hyannis Area Schools

Safe School Plan

2022-2023



Foundational Beliefs

- The emotional, mental, and physical safety of Hyannis Area School students and staff is the number one priority.
- A guiding principle will be to offer a high-quality education in the most normal academic setting possible.
- In-person instruction is the best place for students to receive high-quality education, to engage socially with peers, and to benefit from a positive and consistent routine.
- Keeping schools safe and open is a shared responsibility of the district and the community.
- It is the responsibility of the administration to keep Hyannis Area School stakeholders informed of the ever-changing climate surrounding school safety and response to pandemic protocols, and it is the responsibility of the stakeholders to work cooperatively with the Hyannis Area Schools to ensure student safety while school functions and activities are underway.

Panhandle Public Health (www.pphd.org)

Hyannis Area Schools operates under the auspices of Panhandle Unified Command and the Panhandle Public Health District. Our district will take into strong consideration recommendations and mandates put forth by Panhandle Public Health District, Nebraska Department of Health, the CDC and the Nebraska Department of Education, putting into practice actions that best fit the needs and associated threat level of our community.

Panhandle Public Health District (PPHD) has discontinued using the threat dial for communities and counties with populations under 20,000 people. PPHD and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) are currently working on a way to communicate threat levels to districts. Hyannis Area Schools will make threat level assessments in real time as they impact the district. We will have a graduated response based on current threat levels in our community.

Parents must monitor their child for the following symptoms:

- **Fever of 100.4 or greater and /or chills**
- **Cough**
- **Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing**
- **Fatigue**
- **Muscle or body aches**
- **Headaches**
- **New Loss of taste or smell**
- **Sore throat**
- **Congestion or runny nose**
- **Nausea or vomiting**
- **Diarrhea**

Returning to school after illness:

- **Child must be fever free without aid of medication for 72 hours.**
- **If experiencing any of the symptoms commonly associated with Covid must be symptom free for at least 72 hours without the aid of medication.**

Threat Levels**

** Threat levels will be based on a ratio of Covid Positive Cases/Total Students. We will update the plan when PPHD releases recommended ratios for each threat level. Until PPHD releases the new ratios we will base threat level on real-time evaluation of community and school cases.

Green: Low Risk of COVID-19 Spread:

Yellow: Moderate Risk of COVID-19 Spread

Orange: High Risk of COVID-19 Spread

Red: Severe Risk of COVID-19 Spread

Hyannis Area Schools Protocols:

Green:

- 1) Parents required to take temperatures before students leave for school; if temperature is 100.4 or above student must remain home from school and take part in remote learning for that day. **The child must be fever free for 72 hours to return to school if no other Covid-19 symptoms are present.**
- 2) Teachers and staff must take temperature before entering the building. If temperature is 100.4 or above they must remain home for the day. Faculty/Staff must be fever free **without the assistance of medication** for 72 hours to return to work.
- 3) Students will not be allowed to leave campus except for work study or if parents/guardians call that day to excuse students to leave campus at lunch.
- 4) Classrooms will be arranged in accordance with Social Distancing Guidelines.
- 5) Students will be required to sanitize hands when leaving and entering a classroom.
- 6) Students will be required to space 6' apart while waiting in lines.
- 7) Students will be dismissed one seat at a time on busses to ensure students do not congregate at school entrance. Students arriving via parent transportation will be required to stay in car until dismissed by staff member.
- 8) Recess equipment will be disinfected after every use.
- 9) When classrooms are free of children, high frequency touched surfaces will be disinfected.
- 10) Busses will be disinfected after each route (morning and afternoon)
- 11) Students will be eat lunch in a socially distanced cafeteria.
- 12) Restrooms will be disinfected Midmorning, Lunch time, Mid afternoon and at the end of the school day.
- 13) All patrons may attend school events adhering to state government and local health official attendance recommendations.

Yellow

- 1) All of the items in Green 1-10.
- 2) Most used facilities will be disinfected regularly.
- 3) Face coverings **suggested** for any student/staff that is unable to social distance for a period of greater than 15 minutes.
- 4) Largest 7-12 Class will receive core instruction in lecture hall to allow for proper social distancing and core teachers will rotate to them.
- 5) Deep Cleaning of the Building at the end of the school week.

Orange

- 1) All of the items Yellow 1-6.
- 2) Student will only be allowed to leave campus with a daily permission from parents.
- 3) Visitors will not be allowed to enter building.
- 4) Band and Choir classes operate in a lab free environment and become more of a “theory of vocal music” or a “theory of instrumental music.”

Red

- 1) Remote learning environment likely
- 2) Essential staff will report mandated face coverings if social distancing impossible.
- 3) All meetings that occur will be zoom
- 4) Campus will be closed to visitors except essential visitors.

Layered Prevention

- CDC recommends all schools implement and layer prevention strategies. Examples of preventative measures that are to be layered include: face coverings that properly cover nose and mouth, physical distancing, handwashing & respiratory etiquette, cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities and contact tracing (in combination with isolation and quarantine). Administration and the Board of Education will draw from this list of layers to maintain a safe environment for as normal an environment for in-person instruction as possible. Incorporating the examples of preventative measures will become more inclusive of this list as the local threat level becomes more severe.
- [CDC Operational Strategies for K-12 Schools “phased or layered” prevention.](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/operation-strategy.html)
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This plan addresses all components required by the American Rescue Plan, including:

- Universal correct wearing of face coverings if local threat level determines face covering is a necessary measure
- Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing
- Handwashing & Respiratory Etiquette
- Cleaning and maintaining Health Facilities
- Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the state, local, health departments
- Diagnostic and screening testing
- Efforts to educate school community on vaccinations and to distribute information regarding vaccination locations and availability

- Appropriate accommodations for Children with Disabilities with Respect to Health and Safety Policies
- Coordination with State and Local Health Officials, Including the Needs for Support and Technical Assistance to Implement Strategies Consistent to the Greatest Extent Practicable, with Relevant CDC Guidance (Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools through Phased prevention/CDC).
- Ensuring continuity of services
- Consideration of Public and District Personnel
 - Daily Symptom Screening prior to student arriving on campus
 - Symptom screening prior to activity teams loading to leave to out of town contests
 - Symptom screening prior to opposing teams entering our campus.
 - Social Distance in Lecture Hall our largest 2 secondary classes.

Components of Layered Prevention

Cleaning & Maintaining Healthy Facilities

- High touch surfaces will be cleaned frequently and routinely
- Shared supplies and equipment will be sanitized regularly
- Air filters will be changed at least once per semester
- Windows will be open where feasible to allow for more outside air
- Sanitizing stations will be located outside every classroom and students will be asked to use hand sanitizer every time they leave a classroom.

Contact Tracing in combination with Isolation & Quarantine

- PPHD will facilitate contact tracing, isolation and quarantines.
- Hyannis Area Schools will require students and staff that are experiencing symptoms commonly associated with Covid to stay home and be symptom free for at least 72 hours without the aid of medication.

Diagnostic & Screening Testing

- Students and staff who exhibit Covid-19 symptoms will be encourage to stay home and be tested.

Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities

- Hyannis Area Schools will continue to provide information and opportunities for vaccinations for district stakeholders that choose to take advantage of these opportunities.
- Hyannis Area Schools will continue to monitor most recent and valid information regarding vaccinations and keep district stakeholders up to date as well.

Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies

- Student IEPs and 504 Plans will be followed. These may include accommodations that apply to the health and safety of the students, relative to Covid-19 which may include extended campus learning or remote learning.
- Students with underlying health conditions may **request** participation in alternative learning modes as determined by the 504 Team with appropriate medical documentation.

Coordination with state and local health officials, including the needs for support and technical assistance to implement strategies consistent to the greatest extent practicable, with relevant health guidance (operations strategy for K-12 schools through phased prevention)

- We will continue to collaborate with our local, state and national health departments, continually update best practices per CDC. We will regularly monitor new guidance and implement or revise based on current research and evidence based practices.
- This plan will be revised at least once every 6 months, per American Rescue plan requirements. Our next schedule examination of this plan will be by December 15, 2021.

Ensuring Continuity of Education Services

- Our number one priority is to maintain in-person education, in as normal educational setting as possible. In-person instruction allows for meeting the needs of the whole child. We are able to address academic, social,

emotional, and mental health via the many programs in place within our walls. We will continue to operate in a normal school calendar and with normal in-person instruction, curriculum, assessment and professional development.

- Our normal in-person instruction presents a comprehensive plan for all students K – 12, including interventions (both pull-out and in the classroom) and supplemental services, for students based upon their individual needs.
- If remote learning becomes a reality because of local threat of Covid spread, every effort will be made to maintain all comprehensive plans in a virtual setting. All special education services will be provided according to students' IEPs.
- We are a 1:1 student to device school district, therefore if we are forced into a remote learning setting delivery of instruction will be entered to with a fluid transition from in-person instruction.
- We have modified our plan after experience remote learning in March – May of 2019. Parent, student and instructor feedback told us we needed to have more structure in our delivery of instruction. Evidence indicates that instruction that takes place at or near the same time as in-person instruction has the highest propensity for success.

Symptom Screenings

- Families will be asked to fever check their child daily and to monitor for symptoms generally connected to the Covid-19 virus.
- Students and staff that have fevers of 100.4 or higher and/or have multiple symptoms generally associated with the Covid-19 virus are to stay home.
- Students and staff are to be symptom free (including fevers) for 72 hours medication free before returning to school.
- If Covid cases are on the rise staff and bus drivers will do symptoms check prior to students reaching the campus.

Food Service

- Water fountains will remain open and will be disinfected regularly.
- Extra lunch tables will be purchased to allow for great physical distancing during lunch time.

- Classrooms will be used as extensions to the cafeteria to allow for greater physical distancing.
- Students will be required to physical distance while standing in line.

Summary & Resources

Consideration of Public Comments

Summary

Hyannis Area Schools is committed to maintaining a safe educational environment for students and staff. Our number one priority is student and staff safety in conjunction with maintaining normal, in-person instruction with as little disruption to normalcy as possible. Strategies to see that these two fundamental goals are achieved will be continually revisited and this plan will be revised and updated every six months.

Resources

- Panhandle Public Health District
- CDC Guidance: Schools and Child Care Programs
- CDC Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools through Phased Prevention
- Gering Public Schools, Gering, Nebraska

