

# 2021 REOPENING PLAN

Plummer-Worley School District  
June 30, 2021

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# INTRODUCTION

- The reopening of schools for the 2020-21 school year was conducted on 9/8/20 with masks required and social distancing implemented. The district continued, in principle, with few changes being made.
- Whereas we know we can't control COVID-19, PWSD has updated the reopening plan for the 2021-22 school year. PWSD's Reopening Plan includes a Green-Yellow-Red system outlining what students, staff and parents can expect under different conditions.
- We recognize anything less than in-person instruction every day is a hardship for families, and there is no perfect blended learning schedule.
- The plan reflects contributions from [staff, community members, administrators](#), neighboring school districts, personnel employed by the State of Idaho, Panhandle Health & The Center for Disease Control.
- The plan here, is neither exhaustive nor static.
- Updates will be placed on our website [pwsd44.com](https://pwsd44.com) and we welcome your questions and input.

# FOCUS

Our schools play a critical role in the vibrancy, unity and well-being of the community. While responding to the COVID pandemic and an unpredictable future, we must remain focused on our core beliefs and interests. As a district, we will:

- Offer a high-quality, educational experience five days a week, whether in-person, online or via instructional packets.
- Respect the varying health organization guidelines and adopt practices we can control.
- Be creative and flexible in our operation and instruction.
- Ensure every student has a meaningful connection to a responsible and caring adult.
- Provide the social and emotional services necessary for our students and staff to be successful.
- Maintain credibility and trust through sincere and timely communication
- Schools will train students on the correct ways to wear face coverings/masks, use hand sanitizer, proper etiquette with regard to respiration and maintain proper social distancing protocols when required.

# ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

## LOCAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- Provide uniform and thorough instruction to all students which progresses them through the education continuum. Ensure the health and safety of their staff and students. Develop plans and procedures for responding to the pandemic while providing student instruction.
- **Authority Includes**  
Idaho Code, 33-512

## LOCAL HEALTH DISTRICT

- Identify category of transmission level within a community using scientifically-driven metrics. Advise local education agencies on operation and health safety plans and procedures.
- **Authority Includes**  
Idaho Code, 39-414  
Idaho Code, 39-415  
Idaho Code, 33-512(7)

# ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

## STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

- Distribute funding to school districts and charter schools. Provide resources to school districts and charter schools, and implement the education laws and policies of the State Board of Education.
- **Authority Includes**  
Idaho Code, 33-125

## STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

- Provide governance and oversight of Idaho public education K-20. Set minimum standards and expectations for student instruction and student outcomes. Set guidelines for public schools to respond to the pandemic.
- **Authority Includes**  
Idaho Constitution, Article IX, Section 2  
Idaho Code, 33-116

# ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE

- Set statewide health and safety standards to promote and protect the health and safety of Idahoans. Protect the public from the spread of infectious and communicable diseases.
- **Authority Includes**  
Idaho Code, 56-1003(7)  
Idaho Code, 33-512(7)

## GOVERNOR

- Exercise executive authority to uphold the state constitution and meet the state's obligations to students. Protect the health and safety of Idahoans. Facilitate an environment for a strong economic recovery.
- **Authority Includes**  
Idaho Constitution, Article IV, Section 5  
Idaho Code, 46-601(2)  
Idaho Code, 46-1008

# BACK-TO-SCHOOL COMMITTEE

- This plan was compiled in part by a committee of over 17 individuals. To include many voices and perspectives, PWSD Leadership, PWSD staff members, parents/community patrons served on the committee. Members included:
  - Parents/Community: Nicole Higgins & Shaina Nomee
  - Certificated Staff: Jennifer Gates, Brandy Lochrie, Khrist Rojas & Christine Sorenson.
  - Classified Staff: Clara Livingston.
  - Building Administrators: Dani Boyd & Jennifer Hall.
  - Special Education Coordinator: Shaun Haggett.
  - District Nurse: Mariah Morris.
  - Transportation: Bob Curley.
  - Facilities: Stacey Sonder.
  - Food Service: Michelle Renfrew.
  - Technology: Jerel Hight.
  - Human Resources: Karyn Stockdale.
  - Superintendent: Russ Mitchell

# LEVEL OF COMMUNITY SPREAD

## GREEN

### **GREEN:** Normal Operation

**NO COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION** – There is evidence of isolated cases, case investigations underway, no evidence of exposure in large communal setting, e.g., healthcare facility, school, mass gathering. <sup>(1)</sup>

- **DISTRICT STATUS** - Schools will reopen with students attending school full time and schools implementing reasonable procedures in accordance with health guidance.

1. [Idaho Back to School Framework 2020](#) – Idaho Governor Brad Little, Idaho State Board of Education, State of Idaho Department of Education and Idaho Department of Health & Welfare

# LEVEL OF COMMUNITY SPREAD YELLOW

## **YELLOW:** Learning with Caution

**MINIMAL TO MODERATE COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION** – There is widespread and/or sustained transmission with high likelihood or confirmed exposure within communal settings, with potential for rapid increase in suspected cases. <sup>(1)</sup>

- **SCHOOL STATUS** – Schools will shift methods of instruction utilizing live video. Classroom populations will be reduced and utilize temporarily unused classrooms with classified staff supervising the redistributed students. Based on conditions, shifting and/or remote hybrid methods could be implemented in a single school, multiple schools or districtwide.

1. [Idaho Back to School Framework 2020](#) – Idaho Governor Brad Little, Idaho State Board of Education, State of Idaho Department of Education and Idaho Department of Health & Welfare

# LEVEL OF COMMUNITY SPREAD

## RED

### **RED:** Learn At Home & Stay Safe

**SUBSTANTIAL COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION** – Large-scale community transmission, healthcare staffing significantly impacted, multiple cases within communal settings like healthcare facilities, schools, mass gatherings, etc. <sup>(1)</sup>

- **SCHOOL STATUS** - In extreme conditions, which could include a local or state stay-at-home order, PWSD will close schools and shift to remote learning for all students. The closing schools may be for a few days or a more extended period of time depending on the conditions.

1. [Idaho Back to School Framework 2020](#) – Idaho Governor Brad Little, Idaho State Board of Education, State of Idaho Department of Education and Idaho Department of Health & Welfare

# LEVEL GREEN DISTRICT WIDE

- Encourage parents to screen students every morning before attending school and keep symptomatic students home. [Symptom checklist](#)
- Health Precautions
  - Social distancing when reasonable
  - Masks or cloth facial coverings will be encouraged, but not required.
  - Hand sanitizer available strategically throughout buildings.
  - Explicitly teach hand hygiene, mask etiquette, and how social distancing might be implemented.
- Buildings routinely cleaned and disinfected according to CDC guidelines. Special focus on high traffic areas.

# LEVEL GREEN DISTRICT WIDE

- Staff responsible for the safe and efficient operation of facilities will make initial, as well as, regular inspections of water systems and ventilation systems and assure their effective and safe operation.
- Staff responsible for the safe and efficient operation of facilities will complete a thorough deep cleaning of all facilities prior to the start of school.
- Staff responsible for the safe and efficient operation of school owned means of transportation will make initial, as well as, ongoing inspections and deep cleaning of said transportation when applicable.
- Each site will have a plan in place to allow for the immediate separation of students/staff who have tested positively for COVID-19.
- Students will be strongly encouraged to wear masks for the duration of the bus ride.

# LEVEL GREEN CLASSROOM SPACES

- Students issued their own respective technology device.
- Limit use of shared materials and supplies.
- Limit movement of people throughout the building when possible.
- Instruction will include the introduction and consistent usage of technology.

# LEVEL GREEN SCHOOL SPACES

- Some school events, assemblies and gatherings may be limited in size.
- Access to campus will be minimized to outside persons with protocols for volunteers/visitors.
- Schools may offer technology access in areas such as cafeterias, libraries, gymnasiums and parking lots.
- Cafeteria - Seating (families together if reasonable), tables separated to allow for social distancing when necessary.
- Success Center – Will be delayed to provide additional time for establishment of school routines/protocols.

# LEVEL GREEN SCHOOL SPACES

- Hallways/Elementary - Students transition as whole class acceptable, but avoid over crowding in hallways by using staggering strategies.
- Physical Education - Class conducted outside when reasonable.
- Lockers/Secondary - Lockers will be spread out where appropriate. Utilization of lockers will be limited to transitions only.

# LEVEL GREEN EXTRACURRICULAR

- PWSD will follow guidance and directives from the Idaho High School Activities Association and the governing bodies of other extracurricular activities.
- High School athletics start practice on time with sport by sport protocols, where deemed necessary.
- Middle School athletics start practice on time with sport by sport protocols, where deemed necessary.

# LEVEL YELLOW DISTRICT WIDE

- Encourage parents to screen students every morning before attending school and keep symptomatic students home. [Symptom checklist](#)
- Health Precautions
  - Social distancing to the extent possible and reasonable
  - Masks or cloth facial coverings will be strongly recommended.
  - Hand sanitizer available strategically throughout buildings.
  - Explicitly teach hand hygiene, mask etiquette, and social distancing.
- Buildings routinely cleaned and disinfected according to CDC guidelines. Special focus on high traffic areas.

# LEVEL YELLOW DISTRICT WIDE

- Each site will have a plan in place to allow for the immediate separation of students/staff who have tested positive for COVID-19 symptoms.
- Students will be encouraged to wear masks for the duration of the bus ride.
- Online utilization will expand on a class-by-class basis.
- Support and training for parents who need help accessing technology, tools and online curriculum.
- Consider implementing all or parts of social distancing guidelines, practices, protocols and classroom logistics from the 2019-20 school year.

# LEVEL YELLOW DISTRICT WIDE

- Staff responsible for the safe and efficient operation of facilities will make initial, as well as, regular inspections of water systems and ventilation systems and assure their effective and safe operation.
- Staff responsible for the safe and efficient operation of facilities will complete a thorough deep cleaning of all facilities prior to the start of school.
- Staff responsible for the safe and efficient operation of school owned means of transportation will make initial, as well as, ongoing inspections and deep cleaning of said transportation.
- Consider reinstating 2019-20 school year protocols regarding safe entry of facilities regarding thermal scanners as each school.

# LEVEL YELLOW CLASSROOM SPACES

- Classroom populations will be reduced by using “overflow” classrooms. Classified staff may serve as supervisors of relocated students. Secondary students may interact with teachers and cohorts via technology.
- Instructor may utilize live or recorded video for instructional purposes for those in quarantine or in overflow classrooms.
- Teachers may provide direct instruction on days students are at school and support those quarantined via use of technology (secondary) and packets/technology (elementary).
- Elementary Intervention Reading Groups may be suspended.
- In appropriate grades, school(s) may issue technology devices to students where a home device is not present.
- Elementary - Same as green, plus utilizing technology to fullest extent possible and classes.

# LEVEL YELLOW CLASSROOM SPACES

- Secondary – May limit the numbers of students (<10) in a room. Each staff member may be responsible for a group.
- Secondary - All platforms may be utilized; instruction may be virtual within the building. Focusing on training students in becoming proficient in all platforms.
- Recommend masks to be worn by students and staff. Face shields can be provided to staff in order to wear in addition to, or in place of a mask.

# LEVEL YELLOW SCHOOL SPACES

- Sneeze guards and other protective measures may be implemented in offices.
- School events, assemblies and gatherings may be changed or cancelled to limit large gatherings.
- Access to campus may be limited with new protocols for volunteers/visitors to campus.
- Traditional grades and accountability for students, with accommodations as necessary.
- Cafeteria - Same as green. School principal's may elect to stagger lunch periods further.

# LEVEL YELLOW SCHOOL SPACES

- School schedules may be adjusted to reduce the number of students passing in hallways.
- Hallways – Procedures may vary between schools i.e. students transitions in cohort groups.
- Physical Education - Class conducted outside whenever possible.

# LEVEL YELLOW SCHOOL SPACES

- Lockers - Same as green. Many vary between schools depending on environment.
- Study Table – Program continues.
- Success Center - Delayed start, limit numbers.

# LEVEL YELLOW EXTRACURRICULAR

- PWSD will follow guidance and directives from the Idaho High School Activities Association and the governing bodies of other extracurricular activities.
- High School athletics start practice on time with sport by sport protocols.
- Middle School Athletics begin in October for Fall sports.

# LEVEL RED

## LEARN AT HOME & STAY SAFE

In extreme conditions, which could include a local or state stay-at-home order, PWSD may close schools and shift to remote learning for all students. Based on local conditions, the board could close a single school, a cluster of schools or close all schools.

Meals will be provided to students using district transportation and current staff for distribution purposes. Distribution will mimic procedures used in April-June of 2020.

In the event the PWSD School Board determines students will remain offsite for an extended period of time, the Back-to-School Committee will reconvene and assess how the plan might be further refined to accommodate students and parents.

# LEVEL RED

## REMOTE LEARNING POSSIBILITY

- Focused, rigorous instruction on key standards in each grade and content area.
- Traditional grades and accountability, unless otherwise determined by a school IEP, 504, or educational team.
- Clear expectations and communication with students and families.
- Some of the structure of a regular school day with face-to-face online instruction with some flexibility for families.
- Support and training for parents who need help accessing technology, tools and online curriculum.
- Use single technology platforms for ease of support for families.
- Elementary – Students receive all instruction via technology through Zoom/Teams meetings, video lessons via Schoology, etc. and/or through paper packets sent home via bus.
- Staff stay onsite.
- Secondary - All platforms will be used within home, adhering to the school day schedule.

# LEVEL RED SCHOOL SPACES

- Closed to the general public except by special appointment.
- There may be opportunities for in-person small group instruction or intervention.
- Schools may offer Internet access in areas such as cafeterias, libraries, gymnasiums and parking lots.
- Success Center operation suspended.
- Reinstigate 2019-20 school year protocols regarding safe entry of facilities regarding thermal scanners as each school.
- Reinstigate all of social the distancing guidelines, practices, protocols and classroom logistics as outlined in the 2019-20 school year.

# LEVEL RED EXTRACURRICULAR

- Athletics and other extracurricular activities would be suspended.

# CONFIRMED CASE IN SCHOOL

- The most complicated and potentially challenging condition facing PWSD is when a confirmed case is discovered on a campus. A confirmed case within a school may require different procedures based on the individual case dynamics in consultation with local public health officials. PWSD will be ready to respond to cases within the school community regardless of the level of community spread. The PWSD will adhere to the [Panhandle Health District Decision Tree](#) whenever possible and reasonable.
- If an infected person has been in a school building, any school in the community may need to implement short-term mitigation procedures regardless of the level of community spread. The response to an infected individual in a school building will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis and schools will need to consult with their local public health district to identify the best course of action.

# CONFIRMED CASE IN SCHOOL

## *Student, Family & Employee Responsibilities:*

- If you have tested positive or have been confirmed to have COVID-19:
  - Do not attend school.
  - Notify your school of the positive test and your student's need to be absent.
  - Students who have tested positive for COVID-19, or who have not been tested, but were directed to stay home from school by health professionals, may return to school following [CDC guidelines](#).
  - Begin engaging PWSD via online/packet instruction.

# CONFIRMED CASE IN SCHOOL

## *Principal Responsibilities:*

- Notify School Nurse that you have a student who has tested positive for COVID-19. School Nurse will contact Marimn Health and/or Panhandle Health District.
- Contact the Superintendent to notify them that you have a student who has tested positive for COVID-19.
- In collaboration with the School Nurse, assist health professionals with Contact Tracing and investigation and make best efforts to determine if the student contracted COVID-19 at school.
- Assist School Nurse with communication to staff, students, and parents of 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).
- In collaboration with School Nurse and health professionals, assist the District with identifying any students/staff in close proximity to the positive case.

# CONFIRMED CASE IN SCHOOL

## *District Responsibilities:*

- Clean and disinfect thoroughly.
- School Nurse will contact Panhandle Health District and/or Marimn Health to notify them of student testing positive for COVID-19 and to determine an appropriate course of action based on the specific situation.
- School Nurse, in collaboration with building principal, will communicate with staff, students and parents of 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).
- School Nurse, in collaboration with the building principal, will assist health professionals with Contact Tracing and investigation to determine if the student contracted COVID-19 in the school, as needed.

# CONFIRMED CASE IN SCHOOL

## *District Responsibilities (Continued):*

- Begin identifying anyone who may have been in close contact with a confirmed or suspected COVID-19 case. Close contact is less than 3 feet for more than 15 minutes.
- Follow local public health guidance for course of action. Recommendations will be given on a case-by-case basis, and could include: Excluding positive cases from school as they follow isolation or self-quarantine instructions until they can safely return.
- Reinstate strategies to continue education and related supports to students as needed.

# COMMUNICATIONS LEVEL GREEN

- Devise and communicate a plan for the potential closure of the school building. Include clear explanation that a closed building does not mean “no school/ instruction.”
- Communicate expectations for remote learning in the event of a building closure or physical distancing requirements.
- Establish communication plans for each category of transmission, including on site infection. PWSD needs to be able to answer the following questions:
  - What increases the chance of school closures?
  - My child attends a school where a COVID-19 case has been confirmed. What should I do?
  - What is considered a “close contact”?
  - When can a student or staff member discontinue home isolation?
  - What should I include in my message to our school community of a confirmed case that has been in our school?

# COMMUNICATIONS LEVEL YELLOW

- Communicate with school personnel expectations for remote learning and on-site work options.
- Communicate with parents what can be expected for continued instruction and available student services.
- Communicate with parents and students how school sites will transition between onsite instruction and distance instruction.

# COMMUNICATIONS LEVEL RED

- Maintain open lines of communication between staff, students and parents.
- Communicate timelines for assessing and transitioning between pandemic response levels.
- Superintendent is to keep open lines of communication with the School Board throughout the conditions remaining in Level Red.

# INSTRUCTION LEVEL GREEN

- Schools provide in-person instruction as applicable to their programs and develop plans for transitioning learning to different modalities that provide for quality instruction for all students.
- Schools observe county and state restrictions as applicable to the level of virus transmission within their community.
- Accommodate online instruction for those students staying at home due to personal risk to health.
- Digital learning leveraged inside the classroom, where applicable, to make for an easier transition in the event the district Community Spread worsens. Minimum of 1hr per day at all levels.
- Schoology, Teams and Classroom Cloud will be used. Focus on training in all platforms. Limited paper usage.

# INSTRUCTION - ELEMENTARY LEVEL GREEN

- Students and staff may wear face masks, but it is not required.
- Hand washing will be explicitly taught and encouraged frequently.
- Reading groups and Success Center will exist, but perhaps delayed in their opening.
- Instruction will be delivered via technology for at least one hour a day.
- After school programs will be limited and reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

# INSTRUCTION - SECONDARY LEVEL GREEN

- Students will travel between classrooms; schedule will be normal.
- Transitions, lockers, lunches, and passing period will be normal.
- Students and staff will be provided the opportunity to wear facemasks, wash hands regularly, and social distance.
- After school programs will be limited and reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

# INSTRUCTION LEVEL YELLOW

- Provide remote/distance learning opportunities for vulnerable student populations in consultation with parents and public health officials.
- Schools implement their instructional plans as applicable to the level of community transmission. Instruction should be delivered in a way advancing students through the educational process, meets state standards, and prepares them for the next grade level or graduation.
- Regular connection with every student/family.
- Ensure equitable access to resources for students and families.
- Provide instructional support to parents for virtual learning.
- Schools observe county and state restrictions as applicable to the level of virus transmission within their community.

# INSTRUCTION - ELEMENTARY LEVEL YELLOW

- Numbers of students per class may be reduced for contact tracing purposes.
- School schedules will remain at normal.
- Reading groups and Success Center may be suspended and reassessed with regard to safe reopen possibilities.

# INSTRUCTION - SECONDARY LEVEL YELLOW

- Students may be assigned to a specific classroom limiting numbers to each room to no greater than 10.
- Suspension of after school programs, athletics will be evaluated based on conditions.

# INSTRUCTION LEVEL RED

- Schools implement their instructional plans as applicable to the level of community transmission. Instruction should be delivered in a way that progresses students through the educational continuum, meets state standards, and prepares the for the next grade level or graduation.
- Schools should observe county and state restrictions as applicable to the level of virus transmission within their community.
- Secondary - Virtual lessons will be given during the school day within the platforms of Schoology, and Microsoft Teams.
- Elementary - all learning will be virtual to fullest extent possible and supplemented by paper versions of work.
- All staff, will be on campus instructing within the school day. Suspension of **all** activities after school.

# SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING LEVEL GREEN

- Assume that all students are in need.
- Define social emotional goals for the school as a whole, including behavior expectations.
- Prepare staff to teach SEL skills through modeling and integrated instruction.
- Ensure that each student has one caring adult who checks in with him/ her regularly.
- Counselors - Students will be seen by the counselor in a manner agreed to by the counselor and the building principal. This methodology will be communicated to building staff and parents.

# SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING LEVEL YELLOW

- Implement plans developed in Level Green.
- Secondary – Normal protocols remain. Possible tele-health or Teams with classes for social emotional needs.
- Elementary - Small groups continue, access counselor by appointment only.

# SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING LEVEL RED

- Evaluate effectiveness of SEL impacts on students and adjust to meet student needs.
- Authentically discuss and reinforce social emotional goals and behavior expectations during an emergency school closure.
- Parent/student check in to make sure all students are connecting.

# TRANSPORTATION LEVEL GREEN

- Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such including, but not limited to:
  - Provide hand sanitizer for students and bus drivers.
  - Allow bus drivers and students to wear face masks/coverings as an option.
  - Limit field trips (to areas of limited/low transmission).
  - Inspecting buses prior to students returning and as part of a regular rotation.
  - Daily cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces at a minimum.
  - Airing out buses when not in use.

# TRANSPORTATION LEVEL YELLOW

- Provide hand sanitizer for students and bus drivers
- Bus drivers and students encouraged to wear face masks/coverings
- Screen students and bus drivers for symptoms of illness and utilize spaced seating (to the extent practicable)
- Limit field trips (to areas of limited/low transmission).
- Daily clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces on the bus.
- Additional “drop offs” at school leveraged wherever possible. First Drop back to normal.
- Establish protocols for bus stops, loading/unloading students to minimize congregation of children from different households.
- Schools plan for potential altered load procedure.

# TRANSPORTATION LEVEL RED

- School buildings are closed to all persons not an employee of the district.
- Buses used to deliver meals to students and families.
- Utilize buses to deliver work packets to elementary school students and families.

# NEXT STEPS

- PWSD's COVID Reopening Framework will be shared and discussed with the Reopening Team consisting of parents, staff and community to gather additional input.
- The Framework will undergo further scrutiny and development for additional review by the Board of Trustees July 12, 2021.
- Principals/Supervisors will develop plans outlining how they will implement new health protocols in their respective buildings and extended special programs.
- Training and staff development in new health protocols for all staff as they return in August/September.
- Promote Framework and new health protocols to parents and patrons in late August.

# NEXT STEPS

- PWSD will define and refine contact tracing protocols for public consumption. Administrative staff (CORE Team) will review relevant Emergency Operations Plan entries prior to staff returning and review with staff.
- Utilize relevant signage for placement on schools, offices, athletic facilities and modes of transportation in order to reinforce key concepts and desired behaviors relevant to COVID-19.
- All facilities will undergo rigorous review with regard to how ventilations systems might be improved.
- PWSD will continue to work with Marimn Health and Panhandle Health, as we did in the 2019-20 school year, in communicating vaccination opportunities to the community.
- On an ongoing basis, the PWSD will carefully assess how protocols and routines will impact students with physical, health, emotional and academic challenges and work to accommodate said protocols and routines appropriately.