

North Pemiscot R-1 School District

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and
Continuity of Services Plan (SRCSP)



Updated June 15, 2021

****Available in other languages upon request****



North Pemiscot R-1 School District
Home of the Mustangs



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June 15, 2021

Dear Parents, Staff, and Community:

The North Pemiscot R-1 School District continues to take the health and safety of each of our students and employees very seriously. Since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, administrative staff, Board of Education members, and employees have continued to put the best interests our students first and monitor the situation to make plans to best suit the needs of our district. We have stayed in contact with the Pemiscot County Health Center, read all guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

To make the 2021-2022 school year as healthy and successful as possible, we had updated our 2020-2021 re-entry plan to add in continuity of services and updated policies. This plan is a detailed look at how we will continue to handle the safe return of our students and continue offering programs and extracurricular activities for students. This plan will outline policies and procedures to maintaining a safe environment throughout the 2021-2022 school year. This plan will be updated at least once every six months, and we will be available on our website. We will also have hard copies available in the offices.

We will continue work with federal, state, and local agencies to ensure we are making the best decisions for our students, staff, and community while providing quality instruction to all our students. We are aware that families may have circumstances that create issues for alternative learning, and we will work closely with each family to ensure educational success for their child. While this is not the “normal” we are accustomed to, the North Pemiscot staff, administrative team, and Board of Education will continue to work hard to ensure a seamless transition that helps all students succeed. Please continue reading below to get a more detailed look of our plan. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Kim Emmons
Superintendent

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Mitigation Strategy Policies

On November 24, 2020, the North Pemiscot R-1 Board of Education enacted a mask mandate policy for the 2020-2021 school year. With the spread of Covid still being an issue, and so many unvaccinated, the policy will continue into the 2021-2022 school year anywhere social distancing of 3-6 feet cannot be followed. Staff, students, and visitors must adhere to the following guidelines:

- Wearing a mask and wearing it correctly. This means that the mask must always cover the nose and mouth.
- Physical distancing of 3-to-6 feet will be followed. Contact with students outside of one's grade level will be discouraged in order to keep germs from spreading.
- We encourage handwashing and hand sanitizing often. Hand sanitizing stations are placed throughout all buildings and will be utilized at every chance. Students will wash hands frequently throughout the day.
- The school will maintain a cleaning schedule. All buses, classrooms, bathrooms, hallways, common areas, etc. will be cleaned multiple times and will be sprayed with an approved disinfectant to help stop the spread of germs no less than twice a day. With this year consisting of a 4-day week, Mondays will be used for deep cleaning of every commons space, classrooms, and buses.
- The North Pemiscot R-1 School District will work directly with the Pemiscot County Health Department and will follow their direction when/if a student or staff member tests positive for Covid-19. We will provide lists for contract tracing, and will follow their quarantine list.
- Our school district does not provide Covid-19 testing. However, we will help any parent locate a facility to get these services, if needed.
- Our school district will continue to make vaccinations easy for our staff and students. Staff and students will be excused for absences relating to vaccinations.
- We will work closely with each family of a student with a disability to ensure their needs are being met during this difficult time. We will meet (in person, by phone, Zoom, etc.) no less than monthly to ensure students are progressing and are successful.

Level I Plan – Regular School Calendar

In-Person/Regular Calendar with Safety Precautions

The North Pemiscot R-1 School District will begin a regular calendar year of in-person instruction with safety protocols in place on August 24, 2021. The District will implement the following preventative protocols upon starting August 24th for all students:

- Our top priority will be to protect the health and safety of all students, staff, and community members. We are asking that parents screen students for Covid-19 symptoms at home prior to getting on the bus or coming to school. Symptoms include, but are not limited to:
 - Fever or chills
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea
- The North Pemiscot School District will implement a process for daily screening of both students and staff for symptoms of exposure to COVID-19. Temperature checks will be implemented starting the first day of school.
- The North Pemiscot Board of Education passed a mask mandate on November 24, 2020. The mandate will still be in effect in all areas where social distancing is not possible. Masks should be worn covering the nose and mouth.

Classroom Protocols

The North Pemiscot R-1 School District will be continue implementing the following procedures to maximize the safety of all students. Please keep in mind that our intent for all students is to keep them in a stable group as much as possible while at school.

- The middle and high school students will switch classes each hour. The elementary will remain in their homeroom throughout the day except for scheduled events such as activity time, recess, or bathroom breaks.
- All classrooms will be set up to encourage social distancing.

- All student desks will be spaced apart with as much distance as possible. Elementary students will remain with the same group or cohort in all areas.
- Assigned seating will take place in all classrooms to reduce the number of students sharing a space and help us always keep up with student locations.
- In classrooms where tables are used for seating, students will be grouped with their cohort.
- In classrooms where it is necessary that students sit at round tables, protective dividers will be installed to maximize personal space.
- Classroom teachers will educate students on proper hand hygiene along with different viruses and signs of illness (age appropriate). Signs will be posted in all bathrooms about proper hand washing procedures. In addition, students will be required to use hand sanitizer before and after moving from one location to another.
- To the extent possible, students will remain in the classroom and teachers will move throughout the day.
- There will be time built into the daily schedule for routine hand washing by both students and teachers.
- All buildings will have sanitizing stations for students to use.
- Teachers/custodians will wipe desks and surfaces down between classes and at the end of the day.
- Every effort will be made to eliminate the sharing of school supplies unless the supplies have been disinfected after each use.
- Restroom breaks will be scheduled throughout the day to avoid overcrowding, to the extent possible.
- Music and Art classes will be arranged to allow for maximum social distancing. The room will be disinfected with spray prior to the beginning of each class period. Students will be placed so not face-to-face at any time. Physical Education classes will be held outside as much as possible. All equipment will be disinfected between classes.

Hallway Protocols:

- When elementary students arrive at school, they will proceed immediately to the cafeteria for breakfast. Students will remain in their cohorts in the cafeteria.
- When junior high/high school students arrive at school, they will report to Advisory where they will disinfect their hands and eat breakfast in their classroom.
- All movement through hallways will be one-way, to the extent possible. Physical distancing markers and cues will be placed throughout the building, which will remind and prompt students to remain six feet apart in areas where they are not stationary. Appropriate social distancing when lining up or walking down the halls will be taught and monitored by all staff members.
- Passing times will be staggered to the extent possible to reduce the number of students in the hallways at one time.

- Students will not be using lockers for the 2021-2022 school year. If a student needs a backpack, please let administration know.
- Water fountains will be closed. There will be water filling stations available for students to fill up water bottles. The school will provide one reusable, plastic water bottle for each student. Students are responsible for keeping up with their bottle, taking it home to clean each night, and bringing it back to school the next day. Bottles must return to school empty and be filled here at the water filling stations. If a student forgets their bottle, water will be provided at breakfast, and they can use that water bottle throughout the day.

Cafeteria Protocols:

The district is taking extra precautions at this time to keep students safe. When school begins, several changes are being made in all facilities.

- Elementary breakfast will be eaten in the cafeteria. Junior high and high school students will eat breakfast in the classroom.
- Food allergies will be taken into account, and the child's needs will be met.
- Lunch will be served in the cafeteria, but schedules will be staggered to limit the number of students in the cafeteria. All surfaces will be disinfected before and after each use. All cooks will wear face masks and meals will be served using disposable containers and utensils. No student or staff member will serve themselves. All lunches will be prepacked in disposable plates.

Recess Protocols (Elementary):

We understand the importance of recess for elementary students. Classrooms will visit the playground on a schedule that limits interaction between different classrooms. Consequently, recess times will be spread throughout the day. There will be protocols put into place during outside time. These will include cleaning processes and expectations.

- Only two grades at a time will be allowed on the playground.
- Playground equipment will be properly disinfected by our custodial staff.
- Students will sanitize and/or wash their hands before and after recess.

Athletic/Extracurricular Event Protocols

- Because complete social distancing is not possible during athletic practices and extracurricular events, all parents who have a child participating will be required to sign a participation waiver before a child can participate. The waivers will be given to students and extra copies will be available in the office.

- Keep in mind that spectator capacity MAY be reduced to the maximum number allowable to seat spectators 6 feet apart.
- Should it become necessary to reduce seating, spectators will have the opportunity to purchase tickets in advance or at the gate (if available).
- All ticket prices will be \$4.00 per ticket during the time limited seating is available.
- Only gate workers, supervisors, clock, announcers, and concession stand workers will be admitted free.
- Concession stands will be open but only pre-packaged items will be sold.
- All social events and assemblies will be rescheduled to follow social distancing protocols or temporally cancelled until social distancing protocols can be lifted.

Transportation Protocols:

Our goal is to make sure students are transported safely to school. With the current social distancing guidelines, the North Pemiscot R-1 School District will have the following protocols in place for the 2021-2022 school year:

- We are encouraging **ALL** parents to transport their child(ren) to and from school to minimize the number of students on buses.
- All students riding the bus **will be required to wear a mask at all times.**
- Students will have assigned seats on the bus.
- Due to social distancing guidelines, transportation to and from school may be restricted to DESE guidelines, which states if a student lives less than a mile from their school, transportation may not be provided by the school district. This is for the safety of our students and to assist with social distancing.
- Students will not swap buses to be transported from the elementary to the high school building, or from the high school to elementary building. Each bus driver will deliver all their students to their school building. THIS MAY CAUSE EXTENDED BUS RIDING TIMES.
- If your child lives less than a mile from the school of attendance but need bus transportation, you may contact their school's office or the office of the superintendent to discuss transportation.
- All buses will be disinfected before and after each bus run.

Facilities/Custodial/Maintenance Protocols:

- All frequently touched surfaces will be disinfected multiple times during the day. These may include door handles, light switches, and any equipment that may be used by multiple students.
- Water fountains will be closed for students until further notice. Students are encouraged to bring bottled water to school. There will be touchless bottled water filling station located in each building. Staggered times will be set up for students to refill their bottles. These stations will be disinfected before and after each use.
- Restrooms will be disinfected multiple times during the day. Schedules will be posted, and employees will sign off the time when the work was completed.
- Our custodians will ensure there is always adequate soap and paper products available in the restrooms and classrooms. They will also ensure all classrooms have adequate supplies of hand sanitizer.
- Signs will be posted in the classrooms and restrooms with directions on how to effectively wash hands.
- Disinfectant stations will be placed throughout the building.

Health Services/Guidance Protocols:

Student and staff safety will be our number one priority this school year. In our efforts to make this happen, it is crucial that parents read the following guidelines very carefully about our NEW protocols and procedures when a student is sent to the office. The guidelines have been put into place by the CDC and Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS).

- Students and staff should not attend school if they are exhibiting any of the following symptoms:
 - Fever or chills
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea
- In the event your child comes to school exhibiting signs of illness, parents will be called to come pick up that child. It is important that you provide the school with working phone numbers to reach you in the event of an emergency.

- Training will be provided to all staff on the signs and symptoms of any infectious disease.
- Training will be provided to all staff and students on proper personal hygiene (handwashing), illness containment practices (covering mouth and nose when sneezing) and social distancing.
- Teachers will contact the nurse when any student exhibits signs of illness.
- Students with symptoms should not attend school and parents should consult their healthcare provider and follow the CDC guidelines regarding their return to school. For students who are diagnosed with COVID-19, either by a laboratory test or based on their symptoms, return to school is permissible when the student is at least 14 days from symptom onset, has had three days with no fever (with no fever reducing medicine) and have improving symptoms. Return to school for children with an alternate diagnosis is at the discretion of their healthcare provider and/or the school nurse. Children with close contact with COVID-19 (or and adult with symptoms compatible to COVID-19) should stay home for 14 days from their last contact until return to school is approved by the local health department in accordance with the CDC guidance.
- Nurse offices will maintain an adequate supply of personal protective gear (masks, gloves, disinfectant, thermometers, etc.) to evaluate for the disease and reduce the spread of the disease.
- The nurse will work with individuals/families who may be at risk to develop a preventive plan and answer any questions or concerns.
- Should a staff member, student, or visitor to the building test positive for COVID-19, it may be necessary to close the school short term (2-5 days) to deep clean and disinfectant the building.
- All buildings will have an isolation/holding room for sick students until a parent can come pick them up.

Staff Work Protocols:

- Every effort will be made to reduce the number of staff meetings in person, unless social distancing can be maintained. Zoom, Google Meet, and any other tool will be used as much as possible.
- Staff will regularly clean and disinfect workspaces.
- Workstations will be rearranged to ensure employees are following social distancing guidelines.
- Barriers and/or sneeze guards will be installed at reception areas and workspaces where the environment does not accommodate social distancing.
- Staff members will be encouraged to wear a mask when working in proximity with students, another staff member, or visitor.

- Bus drivers will wear a face shield and/or mask.

Public/Visitors:

- Under the current circumstances, visitors to the building will not be permitted unless they have a prearranged appointment or an emergency.
- In the event a visitor has a prearranged meeting or emergency and must come into the building, all visitors will be screened and required to have a temperature check. Each visitor will sign a log documenting date, time, locations visited in the building, and reason for visit.
- Students who are being picked up due to illness will be escorted to the parent's vehicle. Parents will call to inform the office they have arrived. The student will be escorted to the car.
- Parents who must pick up a student early for any reason will call the front office to let them know they have arrived. The student will be escorted to the car.
- Signs will be posted at all entrances reminding those who do enter to maintain social distancing.
- Signs will be posted to remind visitors not to shake hands or have unnecessary physical contact with employees or students.
- Public use of facilities will not be permitted at this time.
- No outside deliveries to students will be allowed.

Level II – Blended Instruction

Students Alternate In-Person and Virtual Instruction

If necessary, the North Pemiscot School District may have to implement a blended instruction calendar instead of a normal calendar. If this must occur, we will work closely with the Pemiscot County Health Department, follow the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines, and the Department of Secondary and Elementary Education guidelines to ensure proper protocols are being followed. Should this occur, the district will pivot to alternating schedules for face-to-face instruction and online learning.

- Teachers will deliver a blended instructional program with students receiving 2 days of in-person instruction at school and 2 days of online learning while at home. The schedule will be based on the student's address. For example, a student who lives in Wardell may attend school all day Tuesday and Wednesday. Thursday and Friday they will complete assignments online or using a packet. Students who live in the Concord area may attend school on Thursday and Friday. They will complete online assignments or packets on Monday and Tuesday.
- Teachers will assign curriculum related lessons and activities via packets, Google Classroom, or through our school website.
- Teachers will track completion of assignments on a weekly basis and provide feedback to students.
- Virtual instruction or packets will contain the same content as in-person instruction/assignments.
- Virtual assignments and/or packets will be required, and grades as assigned.
- Assessments will be administered in person to the extent possible.
- Hotspots will be available throughout the district for students who do not have internet access at home.
- Training will be provided to students on how to access any online materials. Students in K-12 will be assigned a Chromebook. The proper documentation must be signed by parent/guardian for the student to receive their Chromebook.
- The district will work with any student or parent that needs help with online assignments.
- Masks will be encouraged for high-risk students and staff should there be a community outbreak or if those at a high risk are working closely with students or staff.
- Breakfast and lunch will be available for pickup on the days a student is not in school. Locations and information regarding this will be announced later.

Athletics/Extracurricular Activities:

- Events may be closed to the public. If spectators are allowed, capacity will be reduced to the maximum number allowable to seat the public 6 feet apart.
- Should it become necessary to reduce seating, spectators will be asked to purchase tickets in advance.
- NO PASSES WILL BE ACCEPTED IN THE EVENT OUR CAPACITY IS REDUCED DUE TO AN OUTBREAK.
- All ticket prices will be \$4.00 per ticket during the time limited seating available.
- Only employees of the district, gate workers, supervisors, clock, announcers, and essential works will be admitted free.

Transportation Protocols:

Our goal is to make sure students are transported safely to school. With the current social distancing guidelines, the North Pemiscot R-1 School District will have new protocols in place for the 2020-2021 school year. Please read the following information carefully.

- **Students who live west of the train tracks on State Highway A will attend school in person on Tuesday and Wednesday. These students will be eligible to ride the bus to and from school. They will complete packets and virtual learning on Thursday and Friday.**
- **Students who live east of the train tracks on State Highway A will attend school in person on Thursday, and Friday. They will complete packets and virtual learning on Monday and Tuesday.**
- We are encouraging **ALL** parents to transport their child(ren) to and from school to minimize the number of students on buses.
- All students riding the bus **will be required to wear a mask at all times.** One mask will be provided for every student riding the bus.
- Students will have assigned seats on the bus.
- Due to social distancing guidelines, transportation to and from school may be restricted to DESE guidelines, which states if a student lives less than a mile from their school, transportation may not be provided by the school district. This is for the safety of our students and to assist with social distancing.
- Students will not swap buses to be transported from the elementary to the high school building, or from the high school to elementary building. Each bus driver will deliver all their students to their school building. THIS MAY CAUSE EXTENDED BUS RIDING TIMES.
- If your child lives less than a mile from the school of attendance but need bus transportation, you may contact their school's office or the office of the superintendent to discuss transportation.

- All buses will be disinfected before and after each bus run.

Facilities/Custodial/Maintenance Protocols:

- All frequently touched surfaces will be disinfected multiple times during the day. These may include door handles, light switches, and any equipment that may be used by multiple students.
- Water fountains will be closed for students until further notice. Students are encouraged to bring bottled water to school. There will be touchless bottled water filling station located in each building. Staggered times will be set up for students to refill their bottles. These stations will be disinfected before and after each use.
- Restrooms will be disinfected multiple times during the day. Schedules will be posted, and employees will sign off the time when the work was completed.
- Our custodians will ensure there is always adequate soap and paper products available in the restrooms and classrooms. They will also ensure all classrooms have adequate supplies of hand sanitizer.
- Signs will be posted in the classrooms and restrooms with directions on how to effectively wash hands.
- Disinfectant stations will be placed throughout the building.

Health Services/Guidance Protocols:

Student and staff safety will be our number one priority this school year. In our efforts to make this happen, it is crucial that parents read the following guidelines very carefully about our NEW protocols and procedures when a student is sent to the office. The guidelines have been put into place by the CDC and Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS).

- Students and staff should not attend school if they are exhibiting any of the following symptoms:
 - Fever or chills
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea

- In the event your child comes to school exhibiting signs of illness, parents will be called to come pick up that child. It is important that you provide the school with working phone numbers to reach you in the event of an emergency.
- Training will be provided to all staff on the signs and symptoms of any infectious disease.
- Training will be provided to all staff and students on proper personal hygiene (handwashing), illness containment practices (covering mouth and nose when sneezing) and social distancing.
- Teachers will contact the nurse when any student exhibits signs of illness.
- Students with symptoms should not attend school and parents should consult their healthcare provider and follow the CDC guidelines regarding their return to school. For students who are diagnosed with COVID-19, either by a laboratory test or based on their symptoms, return to school is permissible when the student is at least 14 days from symptom onset, has had three days with no fever (with no fever reducing medicine) and have improving symptoms. Return to school for children with an alternate diagnosis is at the discretion of their healthcare provider and/or the school nurse. Children with close contact with COVID-19 (or and adult with symptoms compatible to COVID-19) should stay home for 14 days from their last contact until return to school is approved by the local health department in accordance with the CDC guidance.
- Nurse offices will maintain an adequate supply of personal protective gear (masks, gloves, disinfectant, thermometers, etc.) to evaluate for the disease and reduce the spread of the disease.
- The nurse will work with individuals/families who may be at risk to develop a preventive plan and answer any questions or concerns.
- Should a staff member, student, or visitor to the building test positive for COVID-19, it may be necessary to close the school short term (2-5 days) to deep clean and disinfectant the building.
- All buildings will have an isolation/holding room for sick students until a parent can come pick them up.

Staff Work Protocols:

- Every effort will be made to reduce the number of staff meetings in person, unless social distancing can be maintained. Zoom, Google Meet, and any other tool will be used as much as possible.
- Staff will regularly clean and disinfect workspaces.
- Workstations will be rearranged to ensure employees are following social distancing guidelines.
- Barriers and/or sneeze guards will be installed at reception areas and workspaces where the environment does not accommodate social distancing.

- Staff members will be encouraged to wear a mask when working in proximity with students, another staff member, or visitor.
- Bus drivers will wear a face shield and/or mask.

Public/Visitors:

- Under the current circumstances, visitors to the building will not be permitted unless they have a prearranged appointment or an emergency.
- In the event a visitor has a prearranged meeting or emergency and must come into the building, all visitors will be screened and required to have a temperature check. Each visitor will sign a log documenting date, time, locations visited in the building, and reason for visit.
- Students who are being picked up due to illness will be escorted to the parent's vehicle. Parents will call to inform the office they have arrived. The student will be escorted to the car.
- Parents who must pick up a student early for any reason will call the front office to let them know they have arrived. The student will be escorted to the car.
- Signs will be posted at all entrances reminding those who do enter to main social distancing.
- Signs will be posted to remind visitors not to shake hands or have unnecessary physical contact with employees or students.
- Public use of facilities will not be permitted at this time.
- No outside deliveries to students will be allowed.

**Level 3 – School Closure Due to Substantial
Community Spread**

If the district is notified by local and state health officials of a substantial community outbreak, the district may have to switch to virtual instruction. If this occurs, all schools in our district will be closed.

- Virtual instruction will be delivered to all K-12th grade students.
- Teachers will assign curriculum related lessons and activities via Google Classroom, Zoom, our school website, etc.
- Teachers will host class virtually using Zoom, Google Classroom, Facebook Live, etc. to broadcast instruction.
- Teachers will report to work so they will be available to answer questions via phone, email, Remind, etc.
- Virtual assignments will be required and graded as assigned.
- Assessments will be administered virtually.
- The grading scale for virtual instruction will follow the same guidelines as in-person instruction. If a student needs any help or has any questions, please reach to your teacher via phone, email, Remind, etc.
- Hotspots will be available throughout the district for students who do not have internet access at home.
- Training will be provided to all students on how to access all assignment online or via packets. In addition, instructions will be available on our website.
- The district will work with all parents that need assistance with virtual instruction.