

NOTE: Hayes Center Public Schools welcomes feedback regarding this document. All such feedback will be carefully considered by the school's administration.

Hayes Center Public Schools

Return to Learn Plan 2021-2022

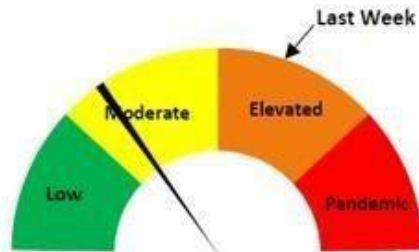
Hayes Center Public Schools Mission Statement:

The Board of Education, administration, and the staff are committed to prepare students to be lifelong learners and productive, responsible citizens.

Hayes Center Public Schools intends to be prepared to meet the health and safety needs of its students and staff during the 2021-2022 school year. This framework is structured to allow the district to be responsive to the current health climate and to articulate expectations for students, staff, and parents, should the school and community health conditions change. The tiered structure of this framework coincides with the “Risk Dial for COVID-19” which the Southwest Nebraska Health

Department implemented during the past school year. This framework may be adjusted, as needed, to meet the needs of students, staff, and parents of Hayes Center Public Schools.

Risk Dial Zones



Description & Rationale for Use of Risk Dial Zones:

Southwest Nebraska Health Department provides a Covid-19 “Risk Dial” for the geographic area it serves, which informs the public about the activity level of COVID-19 virus in its service area and the area medical services’ ability to respond to current demands. This “risk dial” will serve as a barometer for the school’s operational response to the virus. The school will use the “risk dial” in conjunction with the school’s monitoring of the virus activity within the school to determine which “risk dial operational zone” the school will operate in. The current “risk dial operational zone” will be clearly communicated to students, staff, and parents through the school’s website and through the school’s messaging system, along with specific guidance based on the school’s current operational zone. By fostering collaboration between the Southwest Nebraska Health Department and the school’s administration to closely monitor current health conditions relevant to the COVID-19 virus, Hayes Center will be able to assess the safest and most non-restrictive educational environment for students, staff, and parents at the schools.

Risk Zone Indicators			
Green--Low Risk	Yellow--Moderate Risk	Orange--Elevated Risk	Red--Pandemic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimal confirmed cases in the immediate geographic area or within the school No Directed Health Measures that limit the school building capacity Viral and antibody testing is readily available PPE is easily obtainable through standard supply chains Vaccine for Covid-19 is readily available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited confirmed case(s) in the immediate geographic area or within the school Consultation with Health Department Directed Health Measures Governor or Commissioner of Education Guidance Downward trajectory in Covid-19 positive cases or percent increase of positive cases due to disease spread SWNPHD is able to contact trace new cases. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirmed and increasing case(s) and transmission in the immediate geographic area and within the school Consultation with Health Department Directed Health Measures which limit building capacity Governor or Commissioner of Education Guidance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Widespread confirmed case(s) and transmission in the immediate geographic area or within the school Consultation with Health Department Directed Health Measures Governor or Commissioner of Education Guidance In-person school sessions suspended. Shortages of medical supplies & equipment

Return to School Consideration

State health officials in partnership with the Nebraska Department of Education and the governor's office have developed a color-coded risk dial that will assist local school districts in assessing their current COVID 19 risk levels. The dial will also provide recommended actions aligned to each risk category (green, yellow, orange, and red).

Green Zone – Low Risk
School is Open

Regular School - No Restrictions
No Social Distancing
Hand Washings

All students and staff should perform “self-screening” before reporting to school each day. If students or staff display any of the following symptoms, they are advised to stay home:

- Flu-like or COVID-like symptoms
- Temperature of 100.4 or greater
- Difficulty breathing
- Sore throat
- Cough

Attendance

All students in grades PK-12 will attend school in person.

Custodial

- Spray bottles with disinfectant or disinfectant wipes will be provided for all PK-12 classrooms.

Special Education / 504

- Students will be served as per their IEP/504 Plan.

Yellow Zone – Moderate Risk

Attendance

Southwest Nebraska Health Department will evaluate Hayes Center’s attendance examining absent reasons daily. A significant change in attendance may result in switching the increasing/decreasing risk dial level.

All students in grades PK-12 will attend school in person.

- Accommodations will be made for students in K-12 who are unable to attend in person. Students will only have this option with a medical excuse provided by a doctor with a specified period of time notated or in conjunction with their IEP (Individualized Education Plan).

School Academic Plan

- School is open
- 6 ft. Social Distancing when possible

Special Education/504	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Revisit the IEP/504 with the team before or early in the school year to discuss, whether or not there are underlying student medical conditions that make school attendance impractical or undesirable to parents, should there be an increase in active virus transmission. ● At the IEP/504 team meeting, ask “Have the student’s needs changed based on the lack of in-person instruction during the 4th quarter of the 2019-20 school year?” If the answer is “yes,” bring the team together to determine how services can be modified to meet the student’s needs. ● If the answer is “no,” carry out services to support goals. ● At the IEP/504 team meeting, develop contingency plans for support services in the event of a modified instruction schedule or school closure, due to a potential future increase in transmission of the virus. 	
Face Masks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students and staff may voluntarily choose to wear a face mask without repercussions. 	
Custodial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continue Level I cleaning and disinfecting procedures in addition to heightened disinfection of frequent high touch points and high traffic areas. ● Spray bottles with disinfectant or disinfectant wipes will be provided for all PK-12 classrooms. 	
Student Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Skip seats on the bus per family group when possible. Drivers may use assigned seating. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The goal is social distance - six feet when possible
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Band instruments placed in empty seats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Disinfect between routes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SWNPHD recommends that students riding a suburban or the bus wear a mask while in the vehicles. This would reduce the risk for exposure should a fellow rider test positive for COVID-19 	
Temperature Checks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Elementary: Temperature Check Students – will occur between 8:30-9:30 in individual classrooms. ● Junior/Senior High: Temperature Check Students – 1st period class ● Temperature rechecks in the office 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staff Temperature self-check
Staff Attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All staff will report as directed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Any questions or concerns relative to work expectations should be directed to the building principal.
Lunch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Three lunches – PK—K-6—7-12 ● Sit with class and tables distanced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wash hands before lunch.

Classroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desks six feet apart when possible; all facing forward 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage hand washing before activities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use individual water bottle, fill at drinking stations 	
Passing Periods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain 6 ft. Social Distancing between classes if possible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be an empty locker between each 7-12 student locker
Restrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wash your hands when using restrooms 	
Music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elementary sanitize hands before attending music 	
Physical Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elementary sanitize hands before attending P. E. • Sanitize Daily 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage outdoor activity
Playground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sanitize daily 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage social distancing
Dismissal - End of Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elementary bus riders dismiss first, then parent pick-up, followed by walkers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Junior High and High School bus riders dismissed out south doors while walkers and car riders will be dismissed out the east and west doors.
Visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temperature checked • Masks encouraged 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand sanitizer/wash hands
Food Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow NDE Nutrition Guidelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face Shield or Face Mask
Extra-Curricular Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check temperature before leaving/starting practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual water bottles
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team members playing exposed to Covid-19 quarantine for 14 days 	

Orange Zone – Significant Risk

As a school we would move into the orange zone if there are increasing numbers of positive tests for COVID 19. At that time the health department will complete contract tracing and inform us of the actions we need to take as a school district. Students will have to quarantine 14 days if directed to do so by the health department.

Attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southwest Nebraska Health Department will evaluate Hayes Center's attendance examining absence reasons daily. A significant change in attendance may result in switching the increasing/decreasing risk dial level. • Accommodations will be made for students in K-12 who are unable to attend in person. Students will only have this option with a medical excuse provided by a doctor with a specified period of time notated or in conjunction with their IEP (Individualized Education Plan). 	
Face Masks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masks will be worn in hallways, lunch area, passing periods, commons area and going to specials. 	
School Academic Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School is open • 6 ft. Social Distancing when possible 	
Special Education / 504	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss whether or not continued attendance under the selected alternate learning schedule is feasible for the student, given any underlying health concerns. • If school attendance is not possible or desirable, as it may pose a substantial health risk to the student, conduct an IEP, change the student's placement, and coordinate delivery of services through the IEP process. • If school attendance is possible during elevated transmission of the virus, discuss with the IEP/504 team any additional supports or modifications that need to be made to the students plan during the time that the school is engaged in an alternate learning schedule. 	
Custodial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue Level I & Level II cleaning and disinfecting procedures in addition to heightened disinfection of frequent high touch points and high traffic areas. • Head of maintenance and administration will identify and address any additional areas in need of intensive cleaning and disinfecting. • Head of Maintenance and superintendent will determine routine cleaning schedules at each building and will modify cleaning schedules and work assignments of custodial staff to meet any heightened disinfection needs. • Spray bottles with disinfectant or disinfectant wipes will be provided for all PK-12 classrooms. 	
Student Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skip seats on the bus per family group when possible. Drivers will use assigned seating. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The goal is to social distance - six feet
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masks are required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disinfect between routes

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Band instruments placed in empty seats 	
Temperature Checks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elementary: Temperature Check Students – will occur between 8:30-9:30 in individual classrooms. Junior/Senior High: Temperature Check Students – 1st period class Temperature rechecks in the office 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff Temperature self-check
Before School Routines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide drivers with clean masks for use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain social distancing in commons
Lunch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three lunches – PK—K-6—7-12 Sit with class and tables distanced Schedule a rotation where some students eat in their classrooms and others in the lunchroom 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wash hands before lunch.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wear face masks while standing in-line 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take temperature
Classroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desks six feet apart when possible; all facing forward 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage hand washing before activities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilize hand sanitizer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use individual water bottle, fill at drinking stations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The student entering the classroom will clean their desk 	
Passing Periods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain 6 ft. Social Distancing if possible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wear face masks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There will be an empty locker between each student locker 	
Restrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage hand washing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disinfect during the school day

Drinking Fountains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone will use water bottles. 	
Music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elementary sanitize hands before coming 	
Physical Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elementary sanitize hands before coming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage outdoor activity
Playground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sanitize after each use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage social distancing
Dismissal - End of Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elementary bus riders dismiss first, then parent pick-up, followed by walkers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Junior High and High School bus riders dismissed out south doors while walkers and car riders will be dismissed out the east and west doors.
Visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temperature checked 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand sanitizer/wash hands
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear face masks 	
Food Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow NDE Nutrition Guidelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face Shield or Face Mask
Extra-Curricular Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check temperature before leaving/starting practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual water bottles
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coaches & Students Wear masks during transportation. • Cancellations and postponements of activities and athletics are possible. Activities and athletics will be conducted in accordance with NSAA guidelines and DHM guidelines. • Face Masks are required to be worn by NSAA Activity Participants, while they are not competing in the event (sitting the bench, waiting to perform), as per NSAA Guidelines. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine if participation can continue, health department states suspension of athletics and extracurricular activities. • Some school events may require masks and seating may be limited depending upon the current district health measure. • When limiting seating is used, family members of students

		participating in the event will have priority over others.
RED Zone – Severe Risk		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-person school session suspended, remote/digital learning and homework packets developed endorsed amid concerns of increased risk of transmission. 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine whether staff will work at school or home. 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All district transportation suspended 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No campus access available beyond required personnel. • School playgrounds are closed. 		

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

COVID-19 Vaccination:

Hayes Center School District has in the past, and will continue, to allow Southwest Nebraska Health Department to use school facilities for the COVID-19 vaccination. The summary below represents the strategies Hayes Center School District will continue to use to support the overall public health message and strategy to vaccinate individuals against COVID-19.

- Regular coordination with SWNHD to assist with planning, coordinating, and communicating information related to community COVID-19 vaccine clinics.
- Provide flexibility to staff and students who need to miss work/school to gain access to a COVID-19 vaccine or in response to its short-term side effects.
- Make Hayes Center campus facilities available as feasible for LLCHD COVID-19 vaccine clinics.

Face Coverings:

Depending upon the setting, prevalence of the virus, or because of requirements in a directed health measure (DHM), face masks may be optional, recommended, or required at different periods of time during the school

year. Any broad (e.g., school, etc.) or targeted (e.g., classroom, etc.) requirements for masking which may be necessary will only be applied for the limited period of time necessary to mitigate an elevated threat or uncontrolled spread on campus. Any requirement for masking would be evaluated on a two-week interval to ensure the strategy was not in place longer than necessary.

The following face mask wear and care procedures will be promoted to students and staff:

- o Face coverings should be placed over the nose and mouth while being worn and secured with ties, ear loops or elastic bands that fit around the head.
- o Face coverings should fit snugly and comfortably around the side of the face.
- o Wash or sanitize hands before putting a face covering on and after taking it off.
- o Try to avoid touching your face covering as much as possible.
- o Remove face covering by lifting it off of ear loops without touching the front of the mask on your face.
- o Regularly wash face coverings with soap and water or in the washing machine with detergent (or as otherwise directed by the manufacturer of the face covering). We recommend that cloth face coverings are washed daily.
- o Mask Storage: Carefully fold the mask so the contaminated outside is folded inward and against itself. Place in a clean or new bag.

Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette:

Signage will continue to be posted throughout schools promoting good hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette practices. Hand sanitizer will continue to be readily available in classrooms, near school entrances, in or around high traffic school common spaces, and on school buses. Teachers with students in younger grade levels will continue to have routines for hand washing/sanitizing on regular intervals and at key times such as before and after lunch and will teach proper respiratory etiquette practices. Enhanced protocols for more frequent hand washing/sanitizing will be implemented only as needed and will be consistent with practices utilized during the 2021-22 school year.

Ventilation:

The district will utilize similar practices to those outlined in the 2020-21 “Return to School Plan.” Air filters will be changed more frequently than would be typical and the frequency of fresh air exchanges utilizing outdoor air will increase.

In addition, the Hayes Center School District has replaced the boiler system in both the Elementary School and the “Old” High School in order to improve ventilation and air quality.

Cleaning:

Practices which emphasize more frequent cleaning of high touch surfaces will continue to be utilized by school staff. This would also include venue spaces where students or staff may gather indoors (e.g., cafeteria). Cleaning solutions will be aligned with CDC recommendations. In the event of an outbreak or increased prevalence of COVID-19 in the community, the district would revert back to more frequent cleaning.

Food Service:

Protocols will be in place to limit the use of high touch shared utensils in school serving lines. This may include practices such as food service staff distributed fruits and vegetables.

Enhanced COVID-19 Mitigation Practices:

Strategies applied in whole or in part in response to a campus COVID-19 outbreak or elevated levels of risk because of high levels of community spread. These practices may be used broadly across an entire school or targeted within an individual classroom or program to keep schools open and people safe and healthy. Students, staff, and families will be notified of the need to employ any of the strategies below along with the corresponding rationale. Once applied, the continued need for the use of any “enhanced” practices will be reevaluated at minimum every two-weeks to ensure they are in place no longer than necessary.

- Required use of face masks
- Lunch table barriers or de-densification of lunchroom spaces
- Cohorting students in indoor settings
- Postponement of large indoor gatherings (e.g., assemblies)
- Increased spacing and considerations for respiratory output in classroom layout
- Reduced use, or more frequent cleaning, of shared resources and equipment
- Increased frequency of hand washing or sanitizing
- Daily temperature checks

Contact Tracing, Isolation & Quarantine:

Basic procedures for contact tracing as outlined in detail in the 2020-21 “Return to School Plan” will continue to be utilized during the 2021-22 school year unless otherwise advised or directed by SWNHD. Quarantine and isolation decisions are made at the direction of SWNHD and will continue to evolve over time.

Extended School Absence Due to Isolation or Quarantine:

Absences from in-person school as a result of extended isolation or quarantine will be handled using standard procedures. It will be the responsibility of the student and/or parent/guardian to contact their child's teachers to coordinate any missing work because of the absence.

Communication:

Students, staff, and visitors with direct exposure to someone on campus with a positive COVID-19 diagnosis (i.e., close contact) with the need to self-monitor or quarantine will be notified by school staff either by phone or email.

Diagnostic Testing and Screening:

Hayes Center School District will continue to promote the regular use of the self-screening protocol by students and staff. Additional screening measures such as daily temperature checks may be used for specific programs, activities, classrooms, or schools if determined necessary because of local conditions, required self-monitoring due to COVID-19 exposure, or in response to a COVID-19 outbreak. Students and staff with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 will be referred to a local COVID-19 testing location. Voluntary diagnostic testing or screening made available for students and staff on campus will be utilized as recommended by SWNHD and with informed consent by a parent or legal guardian.

Physical Distancing and Facility Modifications:

The district will retain the ability to make facility modifications to promote physical distancing during potential times of higher levels of community spread or in the event of an outbreak of COVID-19. This may include classroom furniture spacing and layout, the use of desk and table dividers in the classroom or at lunch, and signage and other floor markings which denote proper spacing in high traffic indoor spaces such as the school cafeteria. Other proactive considerations related to physical space and setting may be made at the school level. Examples could include lunchroom seating assignments at lower grade levels; location,

setting, or spacing at large gatherings (e.g., using outdoor space when feasible); or the use of alternative office locations for symptomatic individuals.

Children with Disabilities:

Students receiving specialized services through an IEP or a 504 plan will continue to receive accommodations, modifications, and support consistent with their individualized plans. Protocols utilized during the 2020-21 school year for determining appropriate individualized accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies will be used during the 2021-22 school year.