

ELKO COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Health & Safety Measures

Summary

This plan was created in response to [Emergency Directive 052](#), which states each county school district shall adopt a COVID-19 mitigation plan.

Certain mitigation efforts will now only be activated upon designation of outbreak status of the school; OR if an outbreak of COVID-19 is identified by a local health authority. ECSD will also continue to work with its local health authority and monitor transmission rates in the County and increase mitigation efforts if transmission level reaches high.

Please note: Contact Tracing and Face Coverings protocols are only REQUIRED as individual schools meet outbreak status. Isolation and Quarantine protocols continue to be REQUIRED when a school becomes aware of a positive case.

A summary of action to be taken by ECSD is provided here:

	COVID-19 + Cases	School Illness Protocols	Mitigation Measures
Less than 8% of a student/staff population COVID-19 +	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Positive individuals MUST Isolate; ● Report via Redcap; ● Recommend self-reporting of Close Contacts (CDC App); refer to NVHealthresponse.gov; ● Notify parents/students of possible exposure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Follow routine ECSD illness protocols*; ● Track school absentee rates and trends weekly ● As provided by American Academy of Pediatrics Guidelines for Illness in Schools and ECSD Guidelines for Emergencies and Illness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continue with increased ventilation; optional masking; infection control media; continue with enhanced cleaning measures; Isolation of + COVID cases; support vaccination efforts; ● Encourage COVID testing for extracurricular and co-curricular activities; ● Increase communication with families regarding increased transmission and possible exposure
OUTBREAK AT SCHOOL (8% or higher)	If reached "Outbreak Status" resume full contact tracing protocols (provided in this plan) <i>at individual school</i> .	If reached "Outbreak Status" <i>at individual school</i> , resume full contact tracing and symptom surveillance/ Exclusion Guidance (provided in this plan)	Implement Face Covering requirement (provided in this plan) for those at school in Outbreak Status <i>at individual school</i>

Identifying and Mitigating a School-Wide Outbreak of COVID-19

Outbreak Definition

8% of a student/staff population of a school testing positive for COVID-19 within 14 days of each other, who were not identified as close contacts of each other in another setting (i.e. household) outside of the school setting, AND are epidemiologically linked in the school setting or a school sanctioned activity.

Tracking and reporting positive cases and outbreaks

- Any student or staff who tests positive will be provided with information to contact their own close contacts, to access local resources, and to get additional help if needed (see document: *I Tested Positive! Now What?*)
- School Health Staff will document positive cases and report to DHHS through Redcap and will communicate to local contact tracing and monitor cases through established processes
- Site administration will notify parents/students of a possible exposure through a mass communication. Staff will decide who receives a message based on if the positives came from a core group (an athletic team, or other co-curricular or extracurricular activities, an isolated classroom, etc.)
- The Superintendent will be notified by the School Nurse Coordinator each week regarding the number of new and active cases at each school. Notification will also be made regarding any school approaching outbreak status.
- Any school placed on outbreak status will return to full face covering mandate (Pre-K exception) and COVID-19 mitigation strategies will be reviewed by the school site administration.
- Department of Health and Human Services will be notified of any outbreak declarations and closures by ECSD.
- The district will monitor the case counts of the rolling 14-day window to ensure that the positive case count falls below 8% for at least 14 days and will then close the outbreak.

Face Coverings

Face Coverings are no longer required in schools or school transportation. Face coverings are required for adults and children in schools that are declared in outbreak status by ECSD and for students who are returning from a 5-day quarantine as directed by DHHS and the CDC (see the “Correct use for Masks” graphic below). Use of face coverings is highly encouraged for students in Grades K-12 and adults while inside District Schools and Buildings in order to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

Children



Find a mask that is made for children to help ensure proper fit



Check to be sure the mask fits snugly over the nose and mouth and under the chin and that there are no gaps around the sides



Do NOT put a mask on children younger than 2 years old

Graphic from CDC “Your Guides to Masks”

Students always have the option to wear face coverings inside District buildings if they elect to do so. All students exercising their options will be fully supported in their decision by District staff.

Health and Wellness of Students and Staff

The most effective way to reduce the spread of COVID-19 is to avoid being exposed to the virus.

Self-Screening, Staying Home When Sick, Isolation & Getting Tested

ECSD encourages parents to keep their child(ren) home if they show signs or symptoms of any one of the symptoms listed below. Staff are encouraged to do the same.

- Fever greater than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit
- Chills
- Difficulty breathing
- New cough
- New loss of taste or smell
- Fatigue
- Body and/or muscle aches
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea

Isolation (applies ONLY to those tested positive for COVID-19)

Any individual who tests positive for COVID-19, regardless of whether they are symptomatic and regardless of whether they are vaccinated or boosted:

- Must isolate at home for a minimum of 5 days.
- May return to work/school on day 6 if the individual is asymptomatic or symptoms are resolving (an Individual's symptoms are improving and the individual is fever free for 24 hours) followed by 5 days of wearing a well-fitted mask. **CDC states that if students or staff are unable or unwilling to wear a mask when around others after day 5, they should continue to isolate for a full 10 days.**
- If you continue to have fever or your other symptoms have not improved after 5 days of isolation, you should wait to end your isolation until you are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and your other symptoms have improved followed by 5 days of wearing a well-fitted mask.

The Nevada COVID Call Center is now able to support the needs of residents related to testing and therapeutic services, as well as vaccine schedules. This number is 1 (800) 401-0946 and is open between 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM, seven days a week. All services are free to the residents. The newest services the state is offering include free therapy for pre-exposure prophylaxis for those residents who qualify, as well as medication for those individuals who test positive for COVID and may be at risk for severe disease. It is extremely important that residents call to get a telehealth visit as

soon as possible after symptoms start, so options for oral antiviral medications may be another option for them (it must occur within 3 days of symptom onset).

Close Contact* (*To be notified by the positive person or by county contact tracing unless school is in outbreak status.*) Someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person (laboratory-confirmed test) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (for example, three individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes).

*Close Contacts protocols will be activated by ECSD only in the event of an outbreak however, ECSD will provide exposure mass communications to core groups once made aware of a positive case.

People who have come into close contact with someone with COVID-19 and are in one of the following groups need to quarantine:

- People who are ages 18 and older and completed the primary series of recommended vaccine, but have not received a recommended booster shot when eligible.
- People who are 18 years and older who received the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine (completing the primary series) over 2 months ago and have not received a recommended booster.

WHO DOES NOT NEED TO QUARANTINE:

- Age 18 or older and have received all recommended vaccine doses, including boosters and additional primary shots for some immunocompromised people.
- Students 12-17 years old who have completed their primary vaccine series but have not yet received all eligible boosters. This is to allow time for students to catch up with the latest recommendations and to minimize disruption to in-person learning.
- Age 5-11 years and completed the primary series of COVID-19 vaccines.
- Anyone who has had confirmed COVID-19 within the last 90 days (who tested positive using a viral test, meaning a positive PCR or an antigen test. Antibody tests do not count).
- Students or staff who are participating in a school-sponsored Test to Stay Program.

Exclusion Guidance to be utilized during Outbreak Status only (for symptomatic individuals who have not tested)

Symptomatic persons that have NOT tested positive for COVID-19 should be tested for COVID-19. If the test returns positive, **isolation** guidance (provided above) should be followed.

Symptomatic individuals who do not get tested OR receive a negative lab result CAN return to school if:

- At least 24 hours have passed without a fever (measured temperature of 100.4 F or greater) and without the use of fever reducing medications and an improvement of other symptoms. AND
- At least 5 days have passed since the individual first displayed symptoms of COVID-19 AND

- At least 5 days of well-fitted masking should be employed following recovery defined by the above
- scenarios.

Symptomatic individuals who have a different lab-confirmed diagnosis (e.g., RSV, flu, other) with either a negative COVID-19 test or COVID-19 testing was not performed can return to school if:

- They follow protocol for their diagnosed illness (if applicable) AND:
- At least 24 hours have passed without a fever (measured temperature of 100.4 F or greater) and without the
- use of fever reducing medications and an improvement of other symptoms.

Regular Voluntary COVID-19 Testing Program

Site administrators will encourage staff, students, advisors and volunteers, especially those who participate in extra and co-curriculars to complete weekly voluntary COVID-19 testing on-site through weekly announcements at their site locations. In doing so, ECSD will aim to test at least 10 % of the combined population at those locations as a way to proactively identify positive cases and prevent exposure.

ECSD will support teachers, staff, students, and their families interested in getting a COVID-19 vaccine by providing information about vaccination locations in our communities.

School Site Prevention Strategies

ECSD employs the following prevention strategies at its school locations:

- Physical distancing of at least 3-feet between students within classrooms and wherever possible including during transportation, common areas, playgrounds, and during meals. Seating charts are maintained with the most up-to-date information.
- Improving ventilation (individual room air purifiers), and HVAC filtration where applicable to higher MERV filters.
- Following and promoting handwashing and respiratory etiquette as provided in [COVID-19 Guidelines During Outbreaks or Suspected Outbreaks in School Settings](#). Posters with guidance are posted throughout district buildings above sinks and hand washing stations.
- The frequent cleaning of high-touch surfaces and learning spaces will help mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus and other diseases. These cleaning measures are in addition to existing protocols for nightly cleaning. Detailed procedures are available [here](#). Intensive cleaning protocols are followed should there be an incident of COVID in the school building(s).

Addressing Student Needs

Regardless of model, full-time status, or a short-term absence, the ECSD has provided all enrolled students with Chromebooks and has hotspots available for those who need internet connectivity at home. Full-time distance learning will be available through the [Northeastern Nevada Virtual Academy](#).

Regardless of learning model, all learners with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs), students with 504s, and English Language Learners will continue to receive their specially designed instruction and accommodations to support their learning based on their plans and team decisions.

ECSD understands some groups of individuals are at higher risk for severe illness than others. In order to address these risks, ECSD has incorporated modifications for students with IEPs and 504 plans to ensure their education can continue without undue risk to the student. Methods include but are not limited to the proactive communication with parents at the beginning of the school year, modifications to the classroom, learning model (virtual, in-person, hybrid), and accessibility features.

Mental Health Support

ECSD employs counselors at all of our school sites and have hired social workers at several of our schools to assist in supporting students. For a list of all behavioral supports provided to ECSD students, visit ECSD's [Tool-Box for Social and Emotional Support](#).

Employees

The ECSD provides an Assistance Employee Program which includes professional, confidential support services. [These services are provided at no out-of-pocket cost to employees and also include online tools and information](#).

Nutrition

The [USDA](#) has extended meals free of charge through June 2022 in their efforts to plan for a safe reopening in the fall by providing children routine meals. The School Nutrition Program will align with the sites and accommodate the needs depending on which model best fits them. In the event of school closures, food distribution will resume at school sites.

Transportation

Students are no longer required to wear face coverings in District transportation unless the school in which the student(s) are in attendance is designated to be experiencing an outbreak by ECSD.

Review Timeline

Original creation date: August 2021

Review/Approval by Board 8/24/2021

*Revised 11/30/2021 (Universal and correct wearing of masks; Steps to be taken to reduce the likelihood of an outbreak; Details regarding services and resources available to help protect the health and safety of students with disabilities)

*11/30/2021 REVISIONS DO NOT CHANGE EXISTING POLICIES OR GUIDELINES APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES 8/24/2021. ADJUSTMENTS REPRESENT CLARIFICATION AND ILLUSTRATION PURPOSES ONLY.

2/24/2022 Updated to represent changes in accordance with Emergency Directive 052 issued on February 10, 2022.

Elko County School District's Safe Return to In-Person Learning and Continuity Plan will be reviewed by stakeholders and updated if needed by the following dates:

- December 15, 2021
- June 15, 2022
- December 15, 2022
- June 15, 2023

I Tested Positive! Now What?

You got the call and learned that you have tested positive for COVID-19.
We know this is hard! Here are some important things to know.



Quarantine: Keeps someone who was in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 away from others.

Isolation: Keeps someone who is sick or tested positive for COVID-19 without symptoms away from others, even in their own home. For more information please visit [CDC.GOV](https://www.cdc.gov) or [nvhealthresponse.gov](https://www.nvhealthresponse.gov); Or, call Nevada COVID Call Center at 1-800-401-0946.

<p>Important Dates</p> 	<p>What About School?</p> 	<p>What About My Household Members?</p> 	<p>What About My Close Contacts?</p> 	<p>Who Can Help?</p> 
<p>If you have symptoms* isolation period begins at symptom onset:</p> <hr/> <p>If no symptoms present, your isolation period begins on test date:</p> <hr/> <p>Estimated date of return:</p> <hr/> <p>Inform your school or employer of your isolation period.</p> <p>Note: Isolation could be extended if signs and symptoms worsen.</p>	<p>Be sure that you tell the health department contact tracers all about possible close contacts at your school, at home, and in the community.</p> <p>If you are an employee of a school, please be sure that you have notified your direct supervisor and/or school human resources.</p> <p>If you are the parent of a student who tests positive for or develops symptoms of COVID-19, please notify your child's school.</p> <p>For more information, please visit: https://nvhealthresponse.nv.gov/</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Nevada COVID Call Center: 1-800-401-0946</p>	<p>Household members are considered continuous contacts. If you live with someone who has COVID-19, your quarantine begins when the sick person can separate from you (in a separate room with a separate bathroom) OR when the sick person has completed their 5-day isolation period).</p> <p>This date is:</p> <hr/> <p>All household members should test for COVID-19 5-7 days after your last day of isolation. These dates are:</p> <hr/> <p>If possible, you should isolate in your house and avoid contact with others. If this is not possible, wear a mask at all times and limit your time spent together.</p>	<p>Close contact: anyone within 6 feet of positive person (unmasked) for 15+ minutes in 24 hours.</p> <p>Time-frame: close contact begins 2 days before positive person's symptom onset. If positive person is asymptomatic, it starts 2 days before they tested positive for COVID-19.</p> <p>For help calculating dates or finding a test, please visit: https://nvhealthresponse.nv.gov/find-covid-19-testing-in-nevada/</p> <p>How to talk to your close contacts: https://tellyourcontacts.org/ or https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/tell-your-contacts.pdf</p>	<p>For help with food and other social services, call: 2-1-1 or visit nevada211.org.</p> <p>Nevada COVID-19 info, visit nvhealthresponse.nv.gov</p> <p>For mental health support call the NV warmline 775-241-4212 (M-F: 8am-10pm, S-S: 8am-9pm)</p> <p>For additional information, visit: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Nevada COVID Call Center: 1-800-401-0946</p>

*Symptoms: temperature >100.4, chills, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of smell or taste, sore throat, congestion, runny nose, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea. **Need help with dates:** <https://nvhealthresponse.nv.gov/find-covid-19-testing-in-nevada/>