

Stevensville School District

Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

Revision Date: November 14, 2023

Adoption Date December 12, 2023

SAFETY MEASURES

The District is taking the following measures to safely provide in-person instruction, including consideration of guidance by national, state, and local governing agencies and local health officials as follows:

Universal and Correct Wearing of Masks

Stevensville School District removed the mask mandate on April 19, 2021, based on vaccination rates and infection rates for the school. Masks are currently optional for students and staff.

The Superintendent will continue to monitor national, state, and local government and health agency mandates and report to the Board. The Superintendent will also continue to monitor HAN alerts from the county health department and make day-to-day mask determinations regarding requirements for personal protective equipment.

In the event the Board requires masking, students and staff will receive training for proper mask wearing and the District will post signage outlining the proper wearing of personal protective equipment.

Physical Distancing

At this time, physical distancing is not required, but should national, state, and local health providers recommend physical distancing the district will take the necessary steps to support student health.

For the 2023-2024 school year, additional instructional staff has been hired to support academic recovery programming, early kindergarten, an alternative learning center, and the reduction of class sizes.

Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette is taught to students with high emphasis in the primary grade levels. Signage is posted throughout buildings as reminders of handwashing and respiratory etiquette.

In addition, hand sanitization stations/liquids are available in all classrooms.

Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities (including improving ventilation)

Custodial staff routinely clean high traffic and high contact surfaces. The District uses cleaning solutions that are rated to kill the SARS virus.

The District installed ionization air cleaning units that operate and are monitored electronically with HVAC computer software.

Health Services

The Stevensville School District employs one full-time nurse.

Ravalli County Health Department assigns quarantines and isolation orders as they deem appropriate. THE STEVENSVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS DO NOT ASSIGN QUARANTINES OR ISOLATION AND THE DISTRICT DOES NOT GRANT WAIVERS TO QUARANTINE OR ISOLATION BASED ON VACCINATION STATUS OR OTHER FACTORS.

ONLY THE RAVALLI COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT IS AUTHORIZED TO ORDER QUARANTINE, ISOLATION, AND GRANT WAIVERS.

Stevensville School District nurse may provide notice of quarantine as requested by the Ravalli County Health Department.

Diagnostic and Screening Testing

The Stevensville School District does not conduct COVID-19 diagnostic or screening tests. Nurses monitor symptoms and refer students and staff to medical services as appropriate.

Vaccinations

The District will act in accordance with national, state, and local law with respect to vaccinations for its staff and eligible students.

The District will not refuse, withhold from, or deny a person any services, goods, facilities, advantages, privileges, licensing, educational opportunities, health care access, or employment opportunities based on the person's vaccination status.

Accommodating Students with Disabilities

The District will provide accommodations to its policies for students with disabilities as determined appropriate based upon the individual student needs and in accordance with an individual accommodation plan or individualized education plan. Parents/guardians or students requiring student accommodation(s) should contact the building administrator to request information on plans for students with disabilities.

CONTINUITY OF SERVICES

The District will provide for continuity of services as follows:

Student Academic Needs

Stevensville School District will continue a summer school program to assist all K-12 students with academic recovery. The District plans to continue full time, in-person instruction beginning in the fall of the 2023-24 school year. Additional instructional personnel have been added to staffing to implement further academic recovery efforts in core curriculum areas. These specialists will be available during the instructional day and/or during before and after school tutoring programs throughout the year.

Student Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs

Additional counseling staff has been added to the mental health staff to address the social and emotional learning needs of our students. The Bitterroot Valley Education Cooperative will continue Community School Comprehensive Treatment programs.

Staff Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs

The District has provided staff with opportunities for social and emotional support through post school hour meetings with the counseling staff and nursing staff. Social, emotional, and mental health needs of staff may also be addressed through the Employee Assistance Program provided through the District insurance program.

Other Staff Needs

The District will follow national, state, and local laws and directives in relation to staff employment and benefits.

PUBLIC INPUT

This plan will be open for public comment/discussion as noticed for the November 14, 2023, during the Board of Trustees meeting.

The District will review this plan at least once every six months and will provide an opportunity for public input in association with any review of the Plan.

If you have input regarding the **Stevensville School Plan for Safe Return**, please email the superintendent at thennisd@stevensville.k12.mt.us