



BOYD COUNTY SCHOOLS SAFE RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN 2021



This plan was created in July 2021 per requirements of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) – ESSER III grant application process. This is one of the first steps in being eligible to receive the (ARP) grant funds. Part of the application process involves seeking community input on the Safe Return to School Plan. Please take a moment to fill out the survey once you have reviewed the plan and provide Boyd County Schools with feedback about our plan. School is scheduled to begin August 16th. At this time, masks are not required at school and school activities, but are encouraged for those who have not been vaccinated. Masks will be allowed as families, students, and staff can choose how to best meet their needs.

The basis for this plan comes from the Boyd County Schools' 2020 re-opening plan. The 2020 plan allowed our district to successfully return to in-person, face to face learning for the entire 2020-2021 school year. The creation of this plan is based on guidance from the Center For Disease Control (CDC) as well as input guidance from North Central Health Department (NCDHD), and the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE). To meet the requirements of the ARP-ESSER III grant, our return to school plan address the following areas:

- 1) Universal and correct wearing of masks
- 2) Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)
- 3) Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
- 4) Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation
- 5) Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaborations with state, local territorial, or Tribal health departments
- 6) Diagnostic and screening testing
- 7) Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities
- 8) Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies
- 9) Coordination with State and local health officials. Including the needs for support and technical assistance to implement strategies consistent to the greatest extent practicable, with relevant CDC guidance.
- 10) Ensure continuity of services, including by not limited to services to address students' academic needs and students' and staff social emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services.

Universal and correct wearing of masks

Protocols:

1. Face masks are encouraged for staff and students that have not been vaccinated.
2. Masks and bell covers will be available for band. They will be optional unless circumstances dictate a change.
3. Face masks **may be required** at certain times if case numbers and infection rates rise and it is deemed necessary by the administration to mitigate the possibly of virus transmission at school. Local, state, and federal agency assistance and recommendations will be considered in making these decisions.

Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing

Protocols:

1. Social distancing will be practiced to the greatest extent possible and practicable. Efforts will be made to maintain a distance of 3 feet. If case numbers rise, 6 feet be required.
2. If necessary, nonessential furniture will be removed to aid in maintain social distance.
3. Student desks will face the same direction.
4. Physical barriers (plexi-glass dividers) may be used.

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Protocols:

1. Proper handwashing technique will be taught and encouraged.
2. Proper cough and sneeze etiquette will be taught and encouraged.
3. Hand sanitizer will be available.

Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities

Protocols:

1. High touch areas will be cleaned and sanitized frequently and routinely with disinfecting wipes and sprays.
2. Shared supplies and equipment will be sanitized between uses.
3. HVAC filters will be changed regularly.

Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine

Protocols:

1. If COVID-19 symptoms and testing is confirmed, contact tracing, isolation, and quarantine will be followed according local and state health department guidelines. Currently, in our area, we have low transmission levels and infection rates. Boyd County Schools will cooperate with all procedures are protocols.
2. Boyd County Schools will follow its normal health screening procedures:
 - a. Students and staff must stay home to if they are sick.
 - b. Students and staff must be fever free for 24 hours (without medication) before returning to school.

- c. A fever is a temperature of 100.4 or above.
- d. Students will continue to be excused for COVID related absences.

Diagnostic and screening testing

Protocols:

1. Students and staff with a fever (temperature of 100.4 or above) will be sent home.
2. Students and staff that exhibit signs and symptoms of COVID will be encouraged to stay home and get tested.
3. If COVID levels rise, Boyd County Schools will consult with NCDHD on changes to the screening and testing protocols.

Efforts to provide vaccinations at school

Protocols:

1. Boyd County Schools will consult with NCDHD to provide the opportunity for on-site vaccinations for all staff.
2. Boyd County Schools will provide information to parents and students regarding vaccination availability within the community and surrounding area.

Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety

Protocols:

1. All IEPs and 504 plans will be followed. These plans may include specific health and safety procedures related to COVID.

Coordination with State and local health officials

Protocols:

1. Boyd County Schools will continue to communicate and collaborate with local and state health officials on a regular basis to monitor new case numbers of transmission levels.
2. Boyd County Schools will keep current with new guidance and update its return to school plan when deemed necessary.
3. This plan will be reviewed and potentially revised at least once every 6 months.

Ensuring continuity of services

Protocols:

1. The goal is to provide in-person learning for all students for the entire 2021-22 school year.
2. In-person learning will assist Boyd County Schools in addressing students' academic, social emotional, and mental health needs via the many programs offered at school.
3. If the need arises for students to miss and extended periods of time due to COVID related absences, Boyd County Schools will ensure each student stays up to date with learning. This can be done providing a device and/or hotspot to allow for communication with teachers and receive instruction via zoom, or other digital means.