

Board of Education Special Meeting: Work Session

Thursday, September 2, 2021 6:00 PM

Media Center at the Palmyra District OR-1 Public Schools

425 F Street

Palmyra, NE 68418

District Mission:

“Together we prepare our students to successfully meet the challenges of the future.”

Strategic Goal 1: District OR-1 Public Schools will provide the facilities needed to be competitive with other area schools in athletics and fine arts programs.

Strategic Goal 2: District OR-1 Public Schools will foster a unified community.

Strategic Goal 3: District OR-1 Public Schools will continuously implement (academic) programs and the curriculum needed to remain competitive with other area schools.

Attendance Taken at 6:01 PM.

Jaimi Calfee: Present

Doug Church: Absent

Brandon Desh: Present

Clayton Maahs: Present

Josh Penterman: Present

Lisa Wilen: Present

1. Call to Order and the Pledge of Allegiance

- The meeting was called to order by Board President Desh at 6:00 p.m.

2. Announcement of the Open Meetings Act Posting

- Board President Desh identified the Open Meetings Act Poster located in the meeting room.
- Board President Desh led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Discussion Items

3.1. Otoe and Lancaster County District Property Valuations

- Superintendent Hart provided a brief overview of the new district property valuations for Otoe and Lancaster Counties for 2021.

3.2. State Aid Review

- Superintendent Hart provided a brief overview of State Aid for this school year and a comparison to last year.
- Overall, the district lost \$108,759.00 in State Aid this year compared to last year.

3.3. Budget Development / Overview and Discussion

- Superintendent Hart summarized the state budgeting process and current district goals and priorities, highlighted the various types of taxable funds, provided an overview of property valuations and overall levy trends for the past ten years, and

discussed the Tax Request and Budget recommendation for this upcoming school year.

- Superintendent Hart will provide another overview of this presentation at the September 13th Budget and Tax Request Hearings, and the regular board meeting.

4. "Return to School" Update

- Superintendent Hart provided a brief overview of the updated "Return to School" Plan (updated August 26th).
- The only significant change to the updated plan was that all students and staff riding on district buses and vehicles need to wear face coverings while inside district vehicles.
- This includes out-of-town activities as well.

5. ARP/ ESSER III Draft Plan

- Superintendent Hart provided a brief overview of spending priorities and ideas for utilizing Esser II and ESSER III resources.
- The updated ESSER plan will be presented to the board for review on Monday, September 13th, 2021.

6. Next Regular Meeting

- The date and time of the next board meeting was announced.
- The date and times for the upcoming Tax Request and Budget hearings were also announced.

7. Adjournment The meeting was adjourned at: 7:30 p.m.

Chairperson

Superintendent

**CERTIFICATION OF TAXABLE VALUE
FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS
TAX YEAR 2021**

(certification required on or before August 20th of each year)

TO : PALMYRA-BENNETT SCHOOL DISTRICT
425 F ST
PO BOX 130
PALMYRA NE 68418-

TAXABLE VALUE LOCATED IN THE COUNTY OF OTOE

NAME of Base School District	Class of School	Base School Code	Unified/Learning Comm. Code	School District Taxable Value
PALMYRA ORI	3	66-0501		354,997,728

I Christina M. Smallfoot, Otoe County Assessor, hereby certify that the valuation listed herein is, to best of my knowledge and belief, the true and accurate taxable valuation for the current year, pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. 13-509.

Christina M. Smallfoot
(signature of county assessor)

8-19-2021
(date)

CC: County Clerk, Otoe County
CC: County Clerk, where school district is headquartered, if different county, Otoe County

Note to School District: A copy of the Certification of Value must be attached to the budget document.

**CERTIFICATION OF TAXABLE VALUE
FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS
Tax Year 2021**

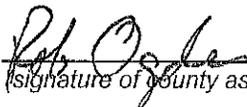
{certification required on or before August 20th, of each year}

TO: SCHOOL DISTRICT OR-1
PO BOX 130
PALMYRA, NE 68418

TAXABLE VALUE LOCATED IN THE COUNTY OF Lancaster

Name of School District	Class of School	Base School Code	Unified/Learning Comm. Code	School District Taxable Value
PALMYRA OR1 GENERAL	3	66-0501		296,259,532

I Robert M. Ogden, Lancaster Assessor/ Register of Deeds hereby certify that the valuation listed herein is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the true and accurate taxable valuation for the current year, pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. 13-509.



(signature of county assessor)

08/17/2021

(date)

CC: County Clerk, Lancaster

CC: County Clerk where school district is headquartered, if different county, Otoe

Note to School District: A copy of the Certification of Value must be attached to the budget document.

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL FINANCE & ORGANIZATION SERVICES
2021/22 STATE AID CERTIFICATION

PALMYRA DISTRICT O R 1 (66-0501-000)

FORMULA STUDENTS CALCULATION

(Fall Membership	x	ADM/FM Ratio)	+	Contracted Out	=	Formula Students
(582	x	0.9875698843)	+	0	=	574.77
KDG Adjustment		(0 students x .5)			times ADM Factor	=	0.00
Early Childhood (003)	(25 students	x 504.0 hours / 1,032 hours	x .6)			=	7.33
Early Childhood (003)	(3 students	x 504.0 hours / 1,032 hours	x .6)			=	0.88
<i>Total Formula Students</i>							<i>582.97</i>

FORMULA NEEDS CALCULATION

Basic Funding	7,452,804.00
Poverty Allowance	51,850.00
Limited English Proficiency Allowance	0.00
Focus School & Program Allowance	0.00
Summer School Allowance	0.00
Special Receipts Allowance	387,331.00
Transportation Allowance	179,552.00
Elementary Site Allowance	0.00
Distance Education & Telecommunications Allowance	15,711.00
Averaging Adjustment	0.00
New School Adjustment	0.00
Student Growth Adjustment	6,392.00
Community Achievement Plan Adjustment	0.00
Limited English Proficiency Allowance Correction	0.00
Student Growth Adjustment Correction	83,444.00
Poverty Allowance Correction	0.00
Non Qualified LEP Adjustment	0.00
Total Calculated Formula Needs	8,177,084.00
Formula Needs Stabilization	0.00
Total Formula Needs	8,177,084.00

FORMULA RESOURCES CALCULATION

Yield From Local Effort Rate	605,214,069 / 100 x 1.0000000000	6,052,141.00
Net Option Funding		0.00
Allocated Income Tax Funds		79,855.00
Other Actual Receipts		916,454.00
Community Achievement Plan Aid		0.00
Total Formula Resources		7,048,450.00

Some numbers may be rounded for presentation. For further information, see the "Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act" document available on the FOS/State Aid website. For questions, contact (402) 450-1418 or (402) 471-4320.

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL FINANCE & ORGANIZATION SERVICES
2021/22 STATE AID CERTIFICATION

PALMYRA DISTRICT O R 1 (66-0501-000)

STATE AID CALCULATION

Equalization Aid	1,128,634.00
Net Option Funding	0.00
Allocated Income Tax Funds	79,855.00
Community Achievement Plan Aid	0.00
Total State Aid Calculated	1,208,489.00
Prior Year (2021/22) State Aid Correction	(13,741.00)
Total State Aid	1,194,748.00
Carryover Adjustment from years prior to 2021/22	0.00

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL FINANCE & ORGANIZATION SERVICES
2020/21 STATE AID CERTIFICATION

PALMYRA DISTRICT O R 1 (66-0501-000)

FORMULA STUDENTS CALCULATION

(Fall Membership	x	ADM/FM Ratio)	+	Contracted Out	=	Formula Students
(560	x	0.9994747351)	+	0	=	559.71
KDG Adjustment		(0 students	x .5)		times ADM Factor	=	0.00
Early Childhood (003)	(41 students	x	490.0 hours / 1,032 hours	x .6)		=	11.68
<i>Total Formula Students</i>							<i>571.39</i>

FORMULA NEEDS CALCULATION

Basic Funding	6,993,303.00
Poverty Allowance	30,706.00
Limited English Proficiency Allowance	0.00
Focus School & Program Allowance	0.00
Summer School Allowance	27,203.00
Special Receipts Allowance	390,558.00
Transportation Allowance	244,354.00
Elementary Site Allowance	0.00
Distance Education & Telecommunications Allowance	17,343.00
Averaging Adjustment	0.00
New School Adjustment	0.00
Student Growth Adjustment	6,120.00
Community Achievement Plan Adjustment	0.00
Limited English Proficiency Allowance Correction	0.00
Student Growth Adjustment Correction	256,890.00
Poverty Allowance Correction	0.00
Non Qualified LEP Adjustment	0.00
Total Calculated Formula Needs	7,966,477.00
Formula Needs Stabilization	0.00
Total Formula Needs	7,966,477.00

FORMULA RESOURCES CALCULATION

Yield From Local Effort Rate	578,718,177 / 100 x 1.0000000000	5,787,182.00
Net Option Funding		169,292.00
Allocated Income Tax Funds		85,940.00
Other Actual Receipts		881,130.00
Community Achievement Plan Aid		0.00
Total Formula Resources		6,923,544.00

Some numbers may be rounded for presentation. For further information, see the "Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act" document available on the FOS/State Aid website. For questions, contact (402) 471-3323 or (402) 471-4320.

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL FINANCE & ORGANIZATION SERVICES
2020/21 STATE AID CERTIFICATION

PALMYRA DISTRICT O R 1 (66-0501-000)

STATE AID CALCULATION

Equalization Aid	1,042,933.00
Net Option Funding	169,292.00
Allocated Income Tax Funds	85,940.00
Community Achievement Plan Aid	0.00
Total State Aid Calculated	1,298,165.00
Prior Year (2019/20) State Aid Correction	5,342.00
Total State Aid	1,303,507.00
Carryover Adjustment from years prior to 2019/20	0.00



Frequently Asked Questions About Face Masks

Do individuals that have been vaccinated have to wear a face mask?

Yes.

Do individuals that have already tested positive for COVID-19 still have to wear a face mask?

Yes.

Do I need to wear a face mask when I'm just going over to someone's house?

No. The DHM does not apply to homes. We strongly recommend wearing one if you're gathering inside and are unable to maintain six feet of distance from people you don't live with. Remember, with any gathering, physical distancing is important.

Do I need to wear a face mask while walking my dog, out for a jog, etc.

No, you do not need to wear a face mask outdoors away from other people. However, it's a good idea to keep one with you in case you need it.

I'm not able to wear a face mask for medical condition, mental health reason, or disability. Do I need documentation about why I can't wear a face mask?

No.

What standard is used to determine application of exemptions?

If an individual is asked to wear a face mask in a business and expresses that they fall within the exemptions, they should be taken at their word and allowed to patronize the business.

Does the face mask requirement apply to worship services?

Yes, if they are open to the public.

Do I have to wear a face mask when I am using public transportation?

Yes.

Can I wear a face mask that has a valve?

It is not recommended because droplets and particles can get through. We recommend a cloth face mask instead or on top of a face mask with a valve.

My glasses fog up when I wear a face mask. What can I do?

[Here are some tips.](#)

What is considered outdoors?

Outdoor spaces are typically open-air spaces with no walls. Opening windows, doors or garage doors to an indoor space does not create an outdoor space.

Are face masks required inside gyms and workout areas?

Yes. However, you may remove your face mask when you are engaged in exercise.

Last Updated August 24, 2021



Am I required to wear a face mask in the common areas of my apartment or condo?

Yes, if it is indoors.

If I am in an enclosed office alone with a door, do I need to wear a face mask?

No.

I share a work area with others, do I need to wear a face mask?

Yes, if you are in the same room or workspace you do need to wear a face mask. However, if you are not in the same room or workspace and are able to maintain at least six (6) feet of separation at all times you do not need to wear a mask.

How do I wear a face mask while I'm eating or at a restaurant?

You can remove your face mask while eating and drinking. You should wear it when waiting for your food or in transit inside a restaurant.

Do I need to wear a face mask when I am picking up food outside using curbside service?

No, a face mask is not required, but it is still a good idea.

Are workers that sleep at their place of employment required to wear face masks while sleeping?

No, but physical distancing should be maintained, and good ventilation should be provided.

What do I do if I see someone not wearing a face mask, even though they should be?

Nothing. Some people cannot wear a mask. Just wear your face mask and stay six feet away.



LINCOLN-LANCASTER COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Directed Health Measures 2021-23

WHEREAS, pursuant to NEB. REV. STAT. § 71-501, NEB. REV. STAT. § 71-1630(4)(d)(iii), and Chapter 8.18 of the Lincoln Municipal Code, and Lancaster County Resolution No. R-07-0035, the Director of the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department (“Director”) may exercise her authority to order Directed Health Measures necessary to prevent or minimize the spread of communicable disease. The objectives of this order are to reduce morbidity and mortality; minimize disease transmission; protect health care personnel, and preserve health care system functioning; and,

WHEREAS, The Novel Coronavirus (“COVID-19”) has impacted and continues to dramatically impact the residents of Lincoln and Lancaster County, Nebraska; and,

WHEREAS, Patricia D. Lopez has been appointed and confirmed as the Health Director of the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department (“LLCHD”); and,

WHEREAS, Pursuant to NEB. REV. STAT. § 71-501, the LLCHD is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations concerning contagious, infectious, and malignant diseases in Lincoln and Lancaster County; and,

WHEREAS, Pursuant to NEB. REV. STAT. § 71-1630(4)(d)(iii), the Health Director is authorized to investigate the existence of any contagious or infectious disease and adopt measures to arrest the progress of the disease; and,

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Lincoln Municipal Code § 8.18.140 and Lancaster County Resolution No. R-07-0035, the Health Director may order the closure of, or restrict access to, any business, office, healthcare facility, school, or government agency or department for the purpose of controlling the spread of disease or for any activity related to controlling the spread of disease, and the Health Director may adopt any other control measures which are consistent with applicable guidelines of a public sector partner, emergency management agency, and any other applicable laws and regulations; and,

WHEREAS, having reviewed information from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”), local public health departments, treating health care providers and health care facilities, and other public health, security, and law enforcement authorities; having consulted with medical and communicable disease control personnel of the LLCHD; and having considered directives and guidelines issued by the CDC and other public health authorities, the Health Director finds as follows:

1. Information from the World Health Organization, the CDC, the LLCHD, local public health departments throughout Nebraska, and members of the Lincoln and Lancaster County medical community indicates residents of Lincoln and Lancaster County have been and will continue to be exposed due to community transmission of COVID-19.
2. Exposure to COVID-19 presents a risk of death or serious long-term disabilities; the exposure is wide-spread and poses a significant risk of harm (including death) to people in the general population; there is a particular subset of the population more vulnerable to the threat and thus at increased risk; and the threat is from a novel infectious disease.
3. Directed Health Measures (“DHM”) exist to effectively prevent, limit, and slow the spread of COVID-19 amongst the residents of Lincoln and Lancaster County and implementation will reduce transmission of COVID-19.
4. The manner in which the spread of COVID-19 cases in Lincoln and Lancaster County has occurred poses unacceptable risks to the health and welfare of the residents of Lincoln and Lancaster County and continued DHM are necessary to continue to prevent or limit the transmission of COVID-19.
5. Not having effective DHM targeted at current circumstances would significantly jeopardize the ability to prevent or limit the transmission of COVID-19 or pose unacceptable risks to members of the Lincoln and Lancaster County community.
6. Maintaining practices to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 including, but not limited to, wearing face coverings which cover the mouth and nose, are necessary to continue slowing the spread of COVID-19.
7. The CDC has identified a SARS-Co-V-2 variant of concern, the B.1.617.2 or Delta variant which has demonstrated: increased transmissibility and ability to cause more severe disease (e.g., increased hospitalizations or deaths); significant reduction in neutralization by antibodies generated during previous infection or vaccination; and reduced effectiveness of treatments or vaccines.
8. The American Academy of Pediatrics has determined universal use of face coverings in schools is necessary because a significant portion of the student population (those < age 12) are not eligible for COVID-19 vaccination.
9. The University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Public Health (“UNMCCPH) has found the Delta variant represents a significant threat for many Nebraska communities heading into the fall of 2021 because the Delta variant is estimated to be significantly more transmissible than previous versions of the virus causing COVID-19, and it appears to cause more severe disease, even in younger persons. Further, the

UNMCCPH determined congregate settings, such as schools, will represent a significant risk for transmission of COVID-19; and recommends universal face coverings in schools when indoors.

10. The CDC recommends face coverings should be worn by all individuals regardless of vaccination status if they live in an area with "substantial or high" transmission of COVID-19. Currently Lancaster County, Nebraska has been declared to be an area with high transmission of COVID-19.
11. Hospital capacity within Lincoln and Lancaster County, as defined by both available inpatient beds and adequate staffing is limited, and the current number of individuals requiring hospitalization for COVID-19 in the community has reached a level warranting action to reduce spread of COVID-19.
12. The following DHM has been identified as effective against public health threats by the CDC and other similar public health authorities to effectively prevent, limit, or slow the spread of COVID-19.

THEREFORE, the following Directed Health Measures ("DHM") supersedes any and all previous Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department Directed Health Measures and are hereby ordered for residents and visitors of the City of Lincoln and Lancaster County, Nebraska, effective on August 26, 2021 at 12:01 a.m. and continuing until September 30, 2021, at 11:59 p.m. unless renewed, extended, or terminated by subsequent order; however, this Order will remain in effect no longer than necessary to ensure that COVID-19 no longer poses an unacceptable public health threat, and all persons are ordered to comply:

- 1) Any individual or entity which owns or operates any building, business, or premises, other than a residence shall require all individuals to wear a face covering over their mouth and nose while indoors.

Face coverings will not be required if the individual:

- Is under two (2) years of age;
- Is able to maintain at least six (6) feet of separation from any other individual at all times, or is not in the same room or workspace, of any other individual;
- Is seated to eat or drink, or while immediately consuming food or beverages;
- Is engaged in exercise and is not at rest;
- Is engaged in an occupation preventing the wearing of a face covering;
- Is obtaining a service, purchasing goods or services, or is engaged in an activity that requires the temporary removal of the face covering during the service, purchase, or activity;
- Is giving a speech, lecture, or broadcast to an audience so long as six (6) feet of distancing from other individuals is maintained and only while said speech, lecture, or broadcast is being delivered; or,

- Cannot otherwise wear a face covering because of a medical condition, a mental health condition, or a disability that prevents the wearing of a face covering.
- 2) Any individual who has been confirmed as having COVID-19 by a laboratory test, or who is determined to be exposed to an individual diagnosed with having COVID-19 by a laboratory test, shall cooperate with the LLCHD Communicable Disease Division contact tracing and abide by all instructions provided, including but not limited to isolation or quarantine as contemplated by Lincoln Municipal Code 8.14 and Lancaster County Resolution No. R-07-0035.
 - 3) This DHM shall not apply to courts of law, meetings or sessions of the Nebraska Legislature; individuals accessing federal, state, county, or city government services; congregate living settings; group homes and residential drug and/or mental health treatment facilities; or shelters.

In the event of noncompliance with the terms of this DHM, staff from the LLCHD will aid the Health Director in inspection and enforcement. If compliance cannot be had in this manner, law enforcement will aid the Health Director in inspection and enforcement.

Failure to comply with this DHM may result in legal action for enforcement by civil and/or criminal remedies.

Pursuant to LMC § 8.18.170, any person who is found to have violated any provision of this DHM within the City of Lincoln shall be guilty of a City Misdemeanor and may be subjected to a fine of no more than five hundred dollars (\$500), or imprisonment in the county jail for a period not to exceed six (6) months, or both such fine and imprisonment. Each day that a violation of this DHM continues is punishable as a separate and distinct offense.

Any person who is found to have violated any provision of NEB. REV. STAT. § 23-174 and/or NEB. REV. STAT. § 71-506 in Lancaster County except within the limits of any incorporated city or village, and except within the unincorporated area where a city or village has been granted zoning jurisdiction and is exercising such jurisdiction, may be guilty of a Class III misdemeanor and may be subjected to up to three (3) months imprisonment, up to a five hundred dollar (\$500) fine, or both, and/or may be guilty of a Class V misdemeanor and subject to up to a one hundred dollar (\$100) fine. Each day such violation continues after notice of violation has been given to the offender may be considered a separate offense.

In addition to any penalty sought or obtained under this DHM or other applicable law, the City or County Attorney may institute injunctive or other appropriate civil proceedings necessary to obtain compliance or to abate any nuisance resulting from violations of this DHM. Anyone subject to this DHM shall consult the Nebraska Revised Statutes, Lancaster County Resolution No. R-07-0035, or the Lincoln Municipal Code Chapter 8.14 to determine their right to seek administrative and/or judicial review.

For the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department:

Patricia D. Lopez
Patricia D. Lopez, RN, MSN
Director

8-24-2021
Date

Lincoln and Lancaster County
Facial Covering (Face Mask) Requirement
General Information for the Public on DHM 2021-23
Effective Thursday August 26, 2021 to September 30, 2021



Key Points

- The Delta variant has caused a large increase in community transmission of COVID-19 in Lancaster County. It is important for everyone to help slow the spread of the virus by wearing masks indoors.
- Everyone 2 years of age and older must wear a mask indoors, other than a residence, whether they have been vaccinated or not.
- If you aren't fully vaccinated, your mask is one of the most powerful tools you have to protect yourself and others.
- If you are fully vaccinated, wearing a mask indoors gives you extra protection from getting infected. Fully vaccinated people are well protected from serious illness and death from COVID-19, including the Delta variant. But we are seeing cases in vaccinated people, and they can infect others. This is why even if you are fully vaccinated, you are now required to wear a mask indoors.
- For masks to work properly, they need to completely cover your nose and mouth and fit snugly against the sides of your face and around your nose. Your mask should be made with two or more layers of tightly woven, breathable material.
**Infants and children under 2 years of age should not wear a mask.*

How wearing a mask can slow the spread of COVID-19

COVID-19 spreads when an infected person breathes out droplets and very small particles that contain the virus. These droplets and particles can then be breathed in by other people or land on their eyes, noses, or mouth.

- *Protect others:* wearing a mask over your mouth and nose lowers the number of droplets and particles that you release into the air when you breathe or talk.
- *Protect yourself:* wearing a mask over your mouth and nose also lowers the number of droplets and particles from others that get into your nose, mouth, and lungs.

Why it's Important to Wear a Face Mask

Face masks help prevent the spread of COVID-19. The use of face masks to slow the spread of COVID-19 is supported by multiple professional medical and public health associations in Nebraska such as the Lancaster County Medical Society, Nebraska Medical Association, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Nebraska Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Nebraska Nurses Association, Nebraska Academy of Family Physicians, Nebraska Academy of Physician Assistants, Children's Hospital and

Medical Center, Nebraska Association of Local Health Directors. You can also find a summary of evidence on the effectiveness of face masks in research by clicking [Science of Masks](#)

Below are a sample of resources that provide factual information about common myths about masks, the use of masks with children, and the overall effectiveness of masking.

- American Lung Association - The Truth About Masks - [Lung Assoc](#)
- Mayo Clinic - [Mayo Face Mask Myths](#)
- American Academy of Pediatrics - Children and Face Masks - [AAP Link](#)
- University of Nebraska Medical Center - The Science of COVID-19 in Children and Schools – [UNMC Link](#)

Mask Wearing Requirements and Recommendations

In Lincoln and Lancaster County, all owners and operators of any building, business, or premises, other than a residence, shall require all individuals to wear a face mask while indoors. Everyone 2 years of age and older must wear a mask in these indoor settings, regardless of their vaccination status.

Everyone*, regardless of vaccination status, must wear a mask:

- In all indoor settings, venues, gatherings, and public and private businesses, unless you are able to maintain at least 6 feet of distance from other individuals at all times
- In all schools, childcare facilities, before and after-school programs, day camps
- In healthcare settings, including long-term care facilities
- In all indoor sport venues, unless you as an individual are engaged in exercise
- On all forms of public transport

*There are some people who should not wear a mask, such as children younger than 2, and people with certain medical conditions or disabilities.

Recommendations:

- It is *strongly recommended* that you wear a mask at private indoor social gatherings with people outside your household, unless everyone at the gathering is fully vaccinated.
- It is *strongly recommended* that you wear a mask at crowded outdoor events, such as sporting events or concerts.

Note: You do not have to wear a face mask while you are:

- Able to maintain at least 6 feet of separation from other individuals at all times, or is not in the same room or workspace of any other individual.
- Actively eating or drinking or seated to eat or drink.
- Engaged in exercise.

- Engaged in an occupation preventing the wearing of a face covering.
- Obtaining a service, purchasing goods or services, or is engaged in an activity that requires the temporary removal of your face mask (i.e. a shave or facial).
- Giving a speech, lecture, or broadcast to an audience as long as 6 feet of distance can be maintained.
- Cannot otherwise wear a face mask because of a medical condition, a mental health condition, or a disability that prevents the wearing of a face mask.

What kind of mask should I wear?

There are many types of masks you can use to protect against getting and spreading COVID-19. Choose a mask:

1. That fits snugly against your nose and chin with no large gaps around the sides of the face, AND
2. That has two or more layers of tightly woven or non-woven material.

Another thing to consider when choosing what mask to wear is how much protection you need. If you will be in a place where COVID-19 spreads more easily, such as a crowded or poorly ventilated room or a bus or plane, you should wear your most protective mask. You get more protection from a mask the tighter it fits (seals around your face) and more it filters the air. Examples of how you can get better protection include if you:

- Improve how well your mask fits and filters by double masking.
- Use an N95 respirator, as long as it fits well and you can tolerate it.

See CDC's Guidance — [Choosing a Mask for Different Situations](#).

Types of masks

Cloth masks

- Are washable and re-usable.
- They should have at least two or three layers of washable tightly woven, breathable fabric or two layers with a pocket for a filter.
- To see if it is tightly woven, see if it blocks light when it is held up to a bright light source. For extra protection, a cloth mask can be worn OVER a surgical mask.

Surgical masks

Also called medical procedure masks, dental masks or disposable masks.

- Look for a mask that has multiple layers of non-woven material and a nose wire.
- Be aware that there are surgical-style masks that may look the same as true medical procedure or surgical masks but may not work as well.
- Throw the mask away if it is wet/or dirty or after a day of use, whichever comes first.
 - For extra protection, a surgical mask can be worn UNDER a cloth mask

N95 and KN95 Respirators

These are designed to filter at least 95% of airborne particles. NIOSH-approved N95 respirators are recommended over KN95s. N95 and KN95 respirators that fit well and provide a tight seal on your face protect you better than a cloth mask on its own or a surgical mask. They may be less comfortable because they filter better. N95/KN95s will only provide full protection if they form a tight seal on your face:

- Find the right size, style, and model. Respirators with straps that go around the back of the head provide a better seal than those with ear loops.
- N95/KN95s are not recommended for people with facial hair or for small children.
- People with breathing difficulties should check with their doctor before wearing a respirator.
- Do not wear an N95/KN95 with another mask (i.e., do not double mask).

Do not use masks that:

- Are made of loosely woven fabrics.
- Are made of a fabric that is hard to breathe through such as leather or plastic.
- Have valves, vents, or holes.

Bandanas and scarves are not recommended (unless you wear a mask underneath).

See CDC [Types of Masks](#) for more information.

How to wear a mask properly

To get the best protection from your mask, make sure that it fits well. It is important that whichever type of mask you use:

- It completely covers your nose and mouth.
- It fits snugly against the nose, sides of your face and chin and doesn't leave a gap.
- Once you have been wearing the mask around others, try to avoid touching the mask. If you touch any part of the mask other than the ear loops/ties, you should clean your hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer.

Tips to check that your mask fits

- Check for gaps by cupping your hands around the outside edges of the mask and feel for any air leakages. Make sure no air is flowing from the area near your eyes or from the sides of the mask.
- If the mask has a good fit, you will feel warm air come through the front of the mask and may be able to see the mask material move in and out with each breath.
- Make sure you can still breathe comfortably and that your vision is not obstructed.
- If you have to continually adjust your mask, it might not fit properly. Consider trying different types or sizes of masks.

Wearing two masks or “double masking”

“Double masking” is when a cloth mask worn on top of a surgical mask. This makes the surgical mask fit better and adds extra layer(s) of protection.

Important note:

- Double masking does not work with two surgical masks because they are too loose.
- Respirators (e.g. N95 or KN95 masks) should not be worn with a second mask.
- If you try double masking or other ways to improve the fit of your mask, make sure you can still breathe comfortably and your vision is not obstructed.

See CDC [Improve the Fit and Filtration of Your Mask to Reduce the Spread of COVID-19 for more information](#).

Caring for your mask

Cloth masks

- Place a wet or visibly dirty cloth mask in a sealed plastic bag until you can wash it. Wash it as soon as possible to prevent mold or mildew.
- Place dry cloth face masks in a bag or bin until they can be washed.
- Wash your mask after each use.
 - Wash according to the fabric label. You can wash your masks in a washer with your regular laundry using regular laundry detergent.
 - If washing by hand, wash with warm tap water and laundry detergent or soap. Rinse with water.
- Dry your face mask completely either in a dryer or by air drying.

Who should not wear a mask

- Children under age 2.
- People who are cannot safely wear a mask, such as someone who is unconscious, incapacitated, or who is unable to remove a mask without help.
- Workers in situations where a mask would create a risk to workplace health, safety, or job duty as determined by a [workplace risk assessment](#).
- People who cannot otherwise wear a mask because of a medical condition, a mental health condition, or a disability that prevents the wearing of a mask.

Special considerations for persons with communication difficulties or certain disabilities

Clear masks or cloth masks with a clear plastic panel are an alternative type of mask for people who interact with:

- People who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- Children or students learning to read.
- People learning a new language.

- People with disabilities.

These masks make communication easier.

Appropriate and consistent use of masks may be challenging for some children and for people of any age with certain disabilities, including cognitive, intellectual, developmental, sensory, and behavioral disorders. If you are caring for children and people with certain disabilities, ask their doctor for advice about wearing a mask.

Face Shields

A face shield does not meet the requirements of the DHM to wear a face covering over their mouth and nose, since they are open at the sides and bottom. A face shield alone cannot be used in place of a mask – you would have to wear both.

Enforcement of this Directed Health Measure (DHM)

An educational approach will be used to gain compliance. The Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department (LLCHD) will evaluate the complaints and determine the best way to provide education to individuals, businesses and organizations that are noncompliant. Education will be first before pursuing enforcement. When necessary, enforcement will generally focus on businesses or individuals that, despite attempts to educate, continue to violate the DHM. Both LLCHD and law enforcement may enforce the DHM.

- Complaints regarding compliance can be uploaded through [UPLNK](#).
- Businesses with questions can call 402-441-6280.
- Do not call 911 to report non-compliance with the mask mandate.

Your Role as an Individual

You should not ask someone why they aren't wearing a face mask. It is not your job to intervene if someone isn't wearing a face mask. Some people have conditions or circumstances that would make wearing a face mask difficult or dangerous.

More information

From the Centers for Disease Control (CDC):

- [Your Guide to Masks](#)
- [Types of Masks](#)
- [Improve the Fit and Filtration of Your Mask to Reduce the Spread of COVID-19](#)
- [Considerations for Wearing Masks](#)



District OR-1: Home of the Panthers!!

“Safe Return to School” Plan:

2021-2022 School Year

Version # 4

Updated: August 26th, 2021



District OR-1’s “Return to School” Planning Committee developed our initial COVID-19 safety protocols during the summer of 2020. This plan allowed us to successfully return to “in-person” learning and remain “in-person” throughout the 2020-2021 school year. Special thanks to this committee for their vision and hard work!

*This current “Return to School” plan was developed in the summer of 2021 for the 2021-2022 school year. The contents of the plan are based upon information from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Nebraska Association of Local Health Departments (NALHD), the Lancaster and Southeast District Health Departments, the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE), and the United States Department of Education. The content and format of the updated plan has also been aligned to meet the requirements set forth by the **American Rescue Act (ARA)**.*

Please note: *This collaborative plan will be reviewed at least every six months and may be adjusted as new information/guidance becomes available in the future.*



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Document Purpose:

The purpose of this “Return to School” document is to continue to provide a comprehensive framework for the safe return of students to District OR-1 for the 2021-2022 school year. We will continue to review and update the plan and communicate any changes to the plan through our website, email, and social media platforms.

During the 2021-2022 school year, protocols may change for a specific school building, program, classroom or other setting based on current case transmission, community conditions, and other risks of disease spread. District OR-1 will continue to work collaboratively with our local health departments and adjust our operating protocols as necessary to effectively meet current safety requirements for our staff, students, and families.

We also will continue to gather information from various sources including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) and the U.S. Department of Education. Adjustments to the plan will also be made as practicable based on local community conditions and feedback received from various stakeholder groups. This work will be ongoing as new research emerges and more guidance is provided to the school district in the future.

This updated “Return to School” plan is designed to be flexible in order to adjust to the myriad of challenges and changes that the COVID-19 pandemic continues to bring forth. The plan is intended to remain dynamic in nature as it can be updated at any time based upon current COVID incidences within our district and additional guidance from local, state, and federal health officials.

School administrators shall determine specific aspects of day-to-day school operations not clearly addressed in this plan. The Superintendent has the final authority to determine how the district will operate any given day and changes in school operations will be communicated to parents in an expeditious and accurate manner.

This plan has been developed based upon the COVID Transmission Levels/Positivity Rates experienced within our schools and our geographical region. Positive cases within District OR-1 have been miniscule since January 2021 and we want to continue to keep those rates as low as possible. **However, there have been increases in Delta Variant cases in the Lancaster County area over the summer and into the fall.** If COVID Transmission Levels/Positivity Rates **continue to** increase, these plans may be immediately revised to include additional COVID mitigation measures, such as mandatory masking **for all,** etc.

In this updated “Return to School” Plan, District OR-1 will also continue to utilize our facilities and resources in a manner that maximizes student safety and learning.



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Objectives, Principles, and Protocols:

Objectives:

- Prioritize student and staff safety.
- Facilitate practical, purposeful, and effective instructional / operational practices.
- Maximize academic and socio-emotional learning opportunities for all students.

Guiding Principles:

- We will center decisions on what is best for all students, families, and educators.
- We will be purposeful and proactive in our planning.
- We will provide equitable access and opportunity to school-based support systems and learning resources to all of our students.
- We will critically analyze and honestly reflect on “lessons learned” and strive to get better each day.
- We understand that flexibility is essential.
- We will work collaboratively to maintain a “solution based” growth mindset.
- We will actively listen to others and seek first to understand opinions that may be different.
- We will work to maximize our resources and problem solve solutions to various challenges.
- We will provide clarity about what we can control and what is outside of our control, we will admit mistakes, and adapt quickly to changing conditions.
- We will demonstrate and expect respect for diversity, and show compassion and empathy for others.

Guiding Safety Protocols:

- Encourage staff and students to stay home when they are sick and support staff and students in their absence.
- Maintain and practice social distancing protocols as applicable.
- Provide adequate amounts of supplies and equipment (masks, cleaning supplies, hand sanitizer, etc.) as needed.
- Facilitate training for cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing.
- Teach and role model good personal hygiene protocols (handwashing, cover coughs, sneezes, etc.).
- Follow current health guidelines.
- Provide appropriate training and maintain high expectations for staff, students, and community members.



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District, Mission, Vision, and Beliefs:

District Vision:

- *Together we prepare our students to successfully meet the challenges of the future.*

District Mission:

- *District OR-1 commits to a course of action providing continued academic growth through a curriculum that recognizes limitless potential and inspires faith in a positive future for every student. With a sense of community ownership and responsibility, we will remain fiscally accountable and attentive to current and future high-tech facility and staffing needs.*

District Beliefs:

- *OR-1 will:*
 - *Model and reinforce self-respect and respect for others.*
 - *Provide equal opportunity for each student to develop his/her potential.*
 - *Seek to develop a sense of individual responsibility and integrity.*
 - *Seek and integrate educationally sound innovations into the curriculum.*
 - *Provide a safe learning environment.*

Stakeholder Communication and Feedback:

In order to create and sustain a plan that meets the needs of all of our students and families, we will continue to ask for feedback, comments, and suggestions from staff, students, families and the community. As we gather feedback, we will integrate this information as practicable into our plans. The most recent version of the plan will be posted on our school website at www.districtor1.com not later than July 15, 2021.

Additional revisions to the plan may be needed moving forward and future plans will continue to be reviewed by our Board of Education. The plan will continue to be updated periodically throughout the year as needed to address changes in federal, state and local health department guidance.

Much of the feedback gathered for this plan was collected through the use of a community input survey. The survey link was sent to community stakeholders the week of June 28th, 2021. The link to the original survey is listed below:

- [District OR-1 Return to School Survey: 2021-2022 School Year.](#)



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“Return to School” Planning Team Members:

Listed below are team members that provided input on the 2021-2022 “Return to School” plan. Team members were also instrumental in the development of the original 2020-2021 “Return to School” plan.

We would like to publicly thank this team again for their efforts and input!

- **Michael Hart:** Superintendent of Schools
- **Heath Johnson:** High School Principal
- **Linde Walter:** Elementary School Principal
- **Aaron Hoeft:** Activities Director/ Special Education Teacher
- **Burke Brown:** Technology Coordinator
- **Michael Chaffee:** School Counselor
- **Laura Dawson:** Bennet Elementary Secretary
- **Clarrisa Dush:** Food Service
- **Rebecca Dvorak -** Kindergarten Teacher
- **Brad Gabriel:** Industrial Technology Teacher
- **Rebecca Gill-Rose:** Spanish Teacher
- **Karen Hatcher:** Superintendent's Office
- **Julie Hippen:** Parent/ Community Member
- **April Dudney:** School Nurse
- **Tyler Maas:** Math Teacher
- **Braston Maibaum:** 6th Grade Teacher
- **Beth McCreight:** K-12 Vocal Music Teacher
- **Dominique Dowding:** 4th Grade Teacher
- **Lisa Phillips:** Superintendent's Office
- **Ryan Pollock:** English/ Psychology Teacher
- **Jane Powell:** 7-12 Secretary
- **Sarah Swartzendruber:** K-12 Art Teacher
- **Dona Balderson:** Food Service
- **Jordan Linke:** 7-12 Physical Education Teacher
- **Lisa Wilen:** Parent / Board Member



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Please note: Current changes to the plan (8/26/2021) are highlighted in yellow

Face Coverings:

- **Revised: 8/26/2021:** The Lincoln Lancaster County Public Health Department issued a DHM for Lancaster County Effective 8/26/2021 - 9/30/21. Our district will continue to follow the DHM for our students, personnel, and facilities in Lancaster County until further notice. *The DHM is attached to this updated document.* **The current Lincoln Lancaster County Health Department Directed Health Measure can be found at:**

- [LLCHD Directed Health Measure](#)

- **Added 8/10/2021:** Face coverings of the mouth and nose are required for students in all indoor setting for all children over the age of 2 and under the age of 12 and all individuals not fully vaccinated against COVID-19
- Face masks are encouraged for staff, students, and visitors who have not been vaccinated.
- Face masks may be required temporarily for additional staff, students, and visitors if COVID-19 cases rise and the administration believes that this safety precaution is necessary to prevent further spread and a possible school closure.

Added 8/10/2021: The following face mask wear and care procedures will be promoted to students and staff:

- 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.
- Face coverings should fit snugly and comfortably around the side of the face.
- Wash or sanitize hands before putting a face covering on and after taking it off.
- Try to avoid touching your face covering as much as possible.
- Remove face covering by lifting it off of ear loops without touching the front of the mask on your face.
- 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.

Added 8/10/2021: Current Face Covering Requirements (Updated 8.10.21):

- The mask requirement for Bennet Elementary will extend until Monday, September 13th or can be adjusted sooner as conditions allow. As mentioned above, masking requirements may be applied to grades 7-12 if it is necessary to control a Covid-19 outbreak to keep schools open.
- Any targeted masking requirements will be evaluated as needed to ensure the strategy is not in place longer than necessary.

Visitors:

- **Updated: 8/26/2021: Revised 8/10/2021:** Parents and visitors inside the building at Bennet Elementary will be required to wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status in accordance with the LLCHD DHM effective 8/26/2021- 9/30/2021. Masks will continue to be available at the office as requested.



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- **The current Lincoln Lancaster County Health Department Directed Health Measure can be found at:**
 - **LLCHD Directed Health Measure**
- **Revised 8/10/2021:** Parents and visitors inside the building at Bennet Elementary will be required to wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status. Masks will be available at the office as requested.
- **Revised 8/10/2021:** Parents will be allowed to walk their students to our school buildings in line with current building protocols. If there are questions on this procedure, please contact the elementary principal for clarification.
- **Revised 8/10/2021:** Visitors will be allowed during the school day in line with current building protocols.
 - **Please note:** *Visitors must check in at the main office at each building upon arrival.*
- Student teachers, practicum students, mentors, college representatives, vendors, guest speakers, etc. are allowed back in the building at the discretion of the building principals.
- Non-essential visitors and volunteers may be limited if case levels increase.

Classroom Instruction/ Modes of Learning:

- District OR-1 will operate with “in-person” learning at each building site and there will **not** be a “remote learning” option this year. Having all students return safely back to the school buildings is another step in the process of getting back to more “normal” school operations. There is really no substitute for “in-person” on site learning with a classroom teacher and we are excited to have all of our students back in our buildings.
- “Remote Learning” will also **not** be an option for quarantined students or students with an extended absence. Extended absences from in-person school will be handled as they were prior to the pandemic.
- It is the responsibility of the student to contact their teachers and make up work which has been missed because of any absence. School staff will support the student’s initiative to make up for any missed work.
- We will continue to use “Canvas” as our student digital learning platform to provide consistency and continuity of learning and to allow the students to manage their assignments responsibly.
- Shared school supplies will be limited to the degree possible. Please refer to class lists for needed school supplies.
- High school / junior high students will follow a normal bell schedule and field trips, guest speakers, assemblies, etc. and other learning events will return in line with pre-covid protocols.
- Elementary students will have “specials” classes, recess, field trips, guest speakers, assemblies, etc. and other learning events will return in line with pre-covid protocols.

Student Attendance:

- All students who are enrolled in the school district are required to attend school on all days when school is open for providing instruction, unless they are excused from attendance by law.
 - *Please note: Student IEP or 504 Plan teams may take into consideration alternate learning accommodations based on risks associated with specific student disabilities.*



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- Students who need to quarantine due to COVID-19 contraction or exposure, or students who stay home because they have COVID-19 related symptoms, are expected to make up missed school work and learning in the same manner as for any illness-related missed school days as outlined in the student handbooks and board policy.
- All COVID-19 related missed school days will be treated as medically-excused absences with a parent/guardian or doctor's note.

Vaccinations:

- COVID-19 vaccines will not be required for students or staff.
- Please note that each individual's vaccination status is based on a self-identified system.
- Proof of vaccination may be required in individual circumstances, but is generally not required for admittance to school.
- District OR-1 will continue to provide information to parents and students regarding when/how they could receive vaccinations within the community.
- District OR-1 will continue to monitor information regarding vaccinations and provide updates to staff, students and parents, when necessary.

Transportation:

- **Updated: 8/26/2021: All students and staff riding in district vehicles will be required to wear a face covering at all times. This includes out of town field trips and activities.**
- **Added 8/10/2021:** Face coverings of the mouth and nose are required on our school vehicles for all children over the age of 2 and under the age of 12 and all individuals not fully vaccinated against COVID-19.
- Bus routes and activity trips will operate at full student capacity.
- Drivers shall stay home if they have a fever or other COVID-19 related symptoms.
- If a shortage of certified drivers occurs, clause 001.02A (iv) in NDE Rule 91 may be utilized, allowing for "...the operation of small vehicles in emergency situations when approved by the school administrator or person designated by the local governing school board."
- All vehicles will be sanitized daily.
- Hand sanitizer will be available when boarding school vehicles.
- Masks can be worn on buses according to individual discretion and will be available to passengers if needed.
- Students and parents will be encouraged to self-screen for cold or flu-like symptoms prior to coming to the vehicle.
- All students should have individual supplies rather than shared when possible.

Activities and Before and After School Programming:

- **Updated: 8/26/2021:** In accordance with the LLCHD DHM effective 8/26/2021 - 9/30/2021 face coverings will be required for all students and staff riding on district vehicles regardless of vaccination status. This includes out of town games and activities.
- For high school NSAA-governed activities, the District will follow current guidance from NSAA.



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- Jr. high activities, that are the same activities as those covered by the NSAA for high school students, will follow the same guidelines for participation and public attendance as applied to NSAA-governed high school activities.
- Activities not governed by NSAA (e.g. FFA, NHS, Quiz Bowl, Student Council, etc.) shall follow the same guidelines for participation and public attendance as applied to NSAA-governed activities.
- School dances, assemblies, and other school sponsored events will return as current health conditions allow.
- Masks can be worn on buses and district vehicles according to individual discretion and will be available to passengers if needed.
- All before and after school activities will return in line with current building protocols.

Social Distancing and Facility Modifications:

- Social distancing will be practiced to the greatest extent possible.
- District staff will plan to remove nonessential furniture and make other changes to classroom layouts and student areas as much as practical.
- Additional social distancing measures may be encouraged for all students if COVID-19 cases rise and the administration believes that this safety precaution is necessary to prevent further spread and a possible school closure.

Cleaning/ Sanitation/ Maintenance of Facilities:

- Proper handwashing, cough and sneeze etiquette will be reinforced and monitored.
- Students and staff are still encouraged to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue and immediately wash their hands after blowing their nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- Water fountains and refilling stations will reopen for use. *Students may bring individual water bottles at their discretion.*
- Hand sanitizer dispensers will be available at the building main entrances, and at the entrances of classrooms and learning areas as practicable.
- Restrooms will be sanitized daily.
- Hand sanitizer shall be encouraged to be used before and after using the restroom.
- Additional cleaning supplies will be made available in all learning settings as needed.
- Staff will continue to support healthy hygiene behaviors.
- High-touch surfaces will be cleaned frequently and routinely.
- Heating, ventilation and air conditioning settings will be adjusted as needed to maximize ventilation and bring in as much outdoor air as possible.
- Air filters will be changed at regular intervals.
- Exhaust fans will be used, where available and windows will be opened as needed if feasible.



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Isolation / Quarantine:

Updated: 8/26/2021: Local health departments have reinstated limited contact tracing, isolations and quarantines due to the current levels of increased transmission rates. Our district will align with local health department recommendations for quarantine, self-monitoring, and isolation guidelines.

Added: 8/10/2021: An infographic depicting COVID-19 School Scenarios and information about Isolation, Classroom Transmission, and Close Contacts is included in Appendix A of this document.

- **Revised: 8/26/2021:** The Lincoln Lancaster County Public Health Department issued a DHM for Lancaster County Effective 8/26/2021 - 9/30/21. Our district will continue to follow the DHM for our students, personnel, and facilities in Lancaster County until further notice. **The current Lincoln Lancaster County Health Department Directed Health Measure can be found at:**
 - [LLCHD Directed Health Measure](#)
- All other Directed Health Measures in the state of Nebraska (including contact tracing, isolation, and quarantines) were removed on May 24, 2021. A confirmed positive individual following the isolation guidelines is now a function of personal responsibility.
- Our local health departments have also discontinued contact tracing, isolation and quarantines due to our low levels of transmission.
- School-related contacts to a positive COVID-19 case who remain asymptomatic are not currently recommended for quarantine. If enhanced practices are reinstated, District OR-1 will cooperate with adjusted guidance in this area.
- Normal health procedures for illnesses will continue to be followed as normal:
 - Students and staff who are sick must stay home.
 - Students and staff must be fever free for 24 hours (without medication) before returning to school.
- Students and staff who exhibit COVID-19 symptoms will still be encouraged to stay home
- Students will continue to be excused for COVID-related absences.
- Parents will
- be asked to follow local health department guidance regarding testing and quarantine. Testing is up to the individual, but should be encouraged when warranted.
- If COVID levels rise, District OR-1 administrative staff will consult with the local health departments to determine if screening or additional testing should be offered to students and/or staff.

Diagnostics and Screening:

- District health staff will offer referrals to diagnostic testing to any student, teacher, or staff member who is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 at school.
- There will not be any temperature screenings at the beginning of the school day.
 - *Please note: If COVID cases rise, on-site symptom checks may be reinstated for everyone entering a district building or site if needed.*
- Students and staff are encouraged to stay home if they are sick.



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- Students who are feeling ill or experiencing flu-like symptoms should be sent to the nurse's office at the elementary school and the main office at the high school for further evaluation.
- Students, staff, or visitors with temperatures of 100.4 or higher are to stay home until they are fever free for 24 hours without the assistance of medication.
- If during the day a student becomes ill or develops a fever, students may be required to wear a mask and be placed in an isolated room as needed.
- Staff members with symptoms should stay home from school if symptoms are not obviously the result of explainable circumstances.
- Families are encouraged to screen students for COVID symptoms before sending students to school or activities.

Food Service:

- *Please note that school meals (breakfast and lunch) will be offered again this year at no cost to all families.*

Bennet Elementary School:

- Breakfast and lunch will be served in line with pre-covid protocols. *Building principals will provide additional information about breakfast and lunch procedures at the beginning of the school year.*
- Students will be encouraged to use hand sanitizer as they enter the cafeteria and eating areas.
- Food options will be served to students. Items will be pre-packaged as possible to help with sanitation measures.
- Students will be assigned to tables if needed.

Palmyra High School

- Breakfast and lunch will be served in line with pre-covid protocols. *Building principals will provide additional information about breakfast and lunch procedures at the beginning of the school year.*
- Students will be encouraged to use hand sanitizer as they enter the cafeteria and eating areas.
- Lunch will be served in line with pre-covid protocols.
- Food options will be served to students whenever possible. Items will be pre-packaged as possible to help with sanitation measures.

Coordination with State and Local Health Officials:

As indicated in the requirements set forth by the **American Rescue Act (ARA)** for the 2021-2022 "Return to School" Plans, we will continue to collaborate with local and state health departments on a regular basis to monitor COVID case levels, implement new guidance protocols and procedures, and revise our current operations when necessary. In accordance with state and federal guidance, this plan will be revised at least once every 6 months.

We will also continue to proactively assess the level of community COVID related transmissions to understand the burden of the disease in our community. We understand that the transmission level can



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quickly change at any time and that our operating protocols and prevention strategies should be regularly reassessed to continuously inform our planning and decision-making.

Appropriate Accommodations:

Student IEPs and 504 Plans will be followed according to the identified needs of each student. These plans may include accommodations that apply to the health and safety of students, relative to COVID-19.

- Students with underlying health conditions may participate in remote learning if the school is provided with medical documentation indicating that this is necessary.
- Students with disabilities may be prioritized for in-person learning if cases rise to the level where hybrid or home-based learning is required.

Continuity of Services:

- Our goal is to continue to provide “in-person” learning to all students, addressing their academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs via the many programs in place within our schools.
- We will return to a regular school year schedule that follows our normal curriculum, assessment, activities, and parent-teacher conference cycles.
- If schools have to be closed, we will implement a comprehensive PK-12 transition plan which includes on-site and virtual interventions and services for students, as well as before and after school tutoring as needed.
- If COVID cases rise significantly and we are required to close a school, every effort will be made to provide these services virtually.
- All special education services will be provided according to students’ IEPs, and families will be provided with access to free meals as needed.
- Additional Chromebooks and Internet hotspots will be utilized as needed in order to ensure equitable digital access for students.

Consideration of Public Comment:

- Public input on the 2021-2022 “Return to School” plan is critical and District OR-1 has afforded the opportunity for public feedback through information shared on our school website and various social media platforms. Information was also shared and requested through our summer district newsletter.
- Additional public input is encouraged and information will continue to be analyzed and integrated into future revisions of the plan as practicable.

Communication:

- District OR-1 will utilize a number of communication methods to ensure parents, students, staff, and the community are all informed of potential changes.



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- Phone, email and text messages to parents will be sent through Powerschool, the district website, and various social media platforms.
- To help us maximize these communication channels, **it is vital that all students and families are registered in PowerSchool for the 2021-2022 school year and that all parent/guardian contact information is updated and current.**
- If you have questions about registration, please contact the elementary or high school school offices.
- District OR-1 will continue to provide community updates as needed in order to effectively and efficiently share information regarding updates or changes to the return to school plan. ***Please note: There will not be a set schedule as to when these updates will occur, but they will be distributed according to changes and extenuating circumstances in relation to daily operations.***
- Contacting administration is the district's preferred method for communication. Please also contact our school offices immediately if there is an address, name, etc. update so that we can be sure information is distributed accurately to everyone.
- In-person on-site meetings should be scheduled in advance in line with pre-covid protocols.
- Meetings between parents and teachers should be communicated through the main offices at each building in line with pre-covid protocols.
- Parent/teacher conferences will resume this year, but there may be adjustments to the format due to the popularity of the digital option last year. More information on the specific format for parent-teacher conferences will be distributed after school reopens in the fall
- Parents should continue to contact their students' teachers as needed.

What Can I Do to Help?

The District strives to maintain a healthy environment for all students with these measures happening at school, but there are also lots of things families can do at home to encourage overall mental and physical wellness for students. Listed below are just a few suggestions that will help build immunity so our kids can fight off illness and stay in school.

- *Provide healthy meals to include the recommended intake of fruits and vegetables each day.*
- *Limit sugar to help boost the immune system.*
- *Set regular sleep schedules to provide for adequate rest and limit "screen time", especially before bed.*
- *Be present for each other and limit distractions if possible.*
- *Strive for balance between academics, activities, social, leisure, and technology.*
- *Consider multivitamins to help bridge the gap toward proper nutrition.*
- *Encourage regular physical exercise which is good for the heart, lungs, and mind.*

Conclusion / Contact Information

While we understand that there are still many decisions yet to be made, we are confident this plan can be adjusted as needed to meet changing conditions and extenuating circumstances.

In summary, we have the best interests of our students, families, and staff at the forefront of our planning and our commitment to educating our children in a safe and secure environment is paramount. Please know that staff and student safety, and a commitment to student learning remain the underlying core principles of this plan.

Thank you for being a part of our district and thank you again for your flexibility and support. Our district remains tremendously appreciative of the support of our families and community members and it is our hope to



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provide our students the best possible learning experience regardless of the context and circumstances of the challenges we face.

If you have any additional questions regarding elements of this plan, please feel free to contact us at either (402) 780-5327 or (402) 782- 3535.

Go Panthers!



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Appendix A:

Exclusion, Classroom Transmission, and Close Contact Information



LINCOLN-LANCASTER COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
3131 "D" Street Lincoln, NE 68510-1514
402-441-8000 fax: 402-441-6229



School Exclusion:

Use normal school exclusion policy to determine criteria for student exclusion.

The following are exceptions to the normal school exclusion policy:

- Presents with recent loss of taste or smell.
- Is a known close contact a positive Covid-19 individual and is not fully vaccinated for Covid-19

Students excluded under normal exclusion policy do not need to be tested for Covid-19, use normal exclusion policy return requirements.

Students excluded under the exceptions noted above should be tested or if not tested they should be treated as a Covid case and isolated for 10 days from onset of symptoms.

Classroom Transmission

If transmission is documented in a classroom (2-3 confirmed cases) within an incubation period (14 days), the following actions would be appropriate to take:

- Isolation of positive individual(s)
- Exclusion of symptomatic individuals
- Quarantine of close contacts, unless masked during all close contact or fully vaccinated for Covid-19.
- All others would self-monitor and mask for 14 days following last contact to positive case.

Definition:

Close Contact:

Someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period and not wearing an appropriate face covering (for example, *three separate 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes*).

Date: July 17, 2021





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Appendix A:



COVID-19 School Scenarios

POSITIVE CASE WEARING A FACE COVERING

COVID-19 POSITIVE



individual must **ISOLATE**

CLOSE CONTACTS



self-monitor, no quarantine

POSITIVE CASE NOT WEARING A FACE COVERING

COVID-19 POSITIVE



individual must **ISOLATE**

CLOSE CONTACTS



QUARANTINE



self-monitor, no quarantine

Definitions

Close Contact:

Occurs when an individual has been within six feet of a person, whom tested positive for COVID-19, for a cumulative 15 minutes or more in a 24-hour period.

Self-Monitor:

Perform a self-check or be monitored twice daily for a fever of 100.4 F or above and symptoms for 10 days. Coordinate with your health care provider and local public health department.

Quarantine:

May be required when an individual has had a close contact. These individuals shall remove themselves from situations where others could be exposed/infected, and self-monitor for symptom development.

Isolation:

Required when individual has tested positive for COVID-19. Individuals should remove themselves or be removed from situations where others could be exposed/infected.



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COVID-19 School Scenarios
with COVID-19 Vaccines

COVID-19 POSITIVE



individual must
ISOLATE

CLOSE CONTACTS



QUARANTINE



self-monitor, no quarantine



COVID-19 Vaccine

Everyone 12 years old and up is eligible to get vaccinated against COVID-19. Under Title 173 of the Nebraska Administrative Code, each school or school district in Nebraska is required to keep the immunization history of the students enrolled on file. If your child has received the COVID-19 vaccine, we ask that you please provide us a copy of the information by emailing a copy of the vaccination card to your school nurse. If your child has not received the COVID-19 vaccine, there is nothing you need to do.

Fully Vaccinated:

According to the CDC, in general people are considered fully vaccinated:

- Two weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or
- Two weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine

If you don't meet these requirements, regardless of your age, you are NOT fully vaccinated. The CDC recommends you keep taking all precautions until you are fully vaccinated.



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