

ARAPAHOE-HOLBROOK PUBLIC SCHOOLS – RETURNING TO SCHOOL 2020-2021

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to challenge schools with many questions and information that changes on a regular basis which makes determining the best way to provide education to our students in a safe environment difficult at best. Over the last several months we have watched Zoom meetings, webinars, received thousands of pages of materials with suggestions, recommendations and guidelines from State and Federal sources.

These sources include the (CDC), Nebraska Public Health Districts, Governor's office, Nebraska Department of Education (NDE), Nebraska Rural Community School Association (NRCSA), Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA), Educational Service Units (ESU), and many individuals and organizations.

It is clear to me, that there are many different opinions on what schools need to do to reopen for the 2020-21 school year and recommendations change from week to week if not daily. I know that parents and others have many questions about what school will look like when school it starts on Monday, August 17th. The brief document will hopefully answer some of your questions in regards to our plan. We do have guidelines for the various levels of response which may evolve as the situation dictates it using the most updated information that we have. These decisions will be made by the pandemic response committee.

The main documents that we will refer to the most in making decisions are the one provided by SW Nebraska Health Department and one created by NRCSA and over 100 superintendents across the state. These documents were chosen as they were prepared by Nebraska Department of Health and NRCSA's many individuals who have been teachers and school administrators in rural Nebraska. The information used in making this document came from all of the previously mentioned groups or organizations and fits into a rural school setting. This document will be available on the school website for you to access and review, in addition to the plans that the school will be following as the year progresses and updated when necessary.

I encourage anyone who has concerns or questions about school or the plan we are using that they contact Mr. Perez or Dr. Griffith at the school to get your information

Starting the year on August 17, 2020

While state decisions may decide the general format that schools take in the fall, the administration and Board of Education of Arapahoe-Holbrook School District defines the format of the District's COVID-19 response plan. The Board President, Mr. Rodney Whipple, formed a COVID-19 Pandemic Response Committee to edit, finalize and approve Arapahoe-Holbrook's return to school plan consisting of two members from each of the following stakeholder groups: board members, parents, teaching staff, and administration. The head custodian was also invited to be on this committee.

Phase IV	LOW/NO SPREAD (Phase III)	MINIMAL/MODERATE SPREAD (Phase II)	SUBSTANTIAL SPREAD (Phase I)
<p>➤ No Restrictions!</p> <p>This column is not included in the following information.</p>	<p>➤ School buildings are open, with minimal restrictions.</p> <p>➤ The district may choose to initiate preventative practices or additional proactive protocols.</p>	<p>➤ School buildings are open, but use may be minimal, altered, or staggered. Such use may be based on social distancing directives.</p>	<p>➤ School buildings are closed. The closure may be short-term or extended and will likely be based on state (NDE) or district health declaration.</p>

The complete return to school plan is located at arapahoewarriors.org

APS will begin the school year operating in Phase III:

The following operations will be in place (remember this is as of July 28, 2020 and is subject to change)

1. **Monitoring:**

- a. Students will have their temperature taken prior to entering the school or getting on the bus.
 - i. BUS Students: A child with a fever of 100.4° F or higher will not be allowed on the bus and parents (or emergency contact) will be notified. Please make sure your emergency contact is correct.
 - ii. WALKERS and DROP-OFFS: A child with a fever of 100.4° F or higher will NOT be permitted in the building and parents (or emergency contact) will be notified.
 - If the parent and emergency contact is not available, the child will be REQUIRED to wear a facemask prior to entry and will be in quarantine until picked up.
- b. A child with a fever of 100.4° F or higher and has symptoms listed on the Southwest Nebraska Department of Public Health/CDC check list for COVID-19 symptoms will be REQUIRED to wear a mask and be placed in quarantine until being picked up.
- c. Only one parent per child is permitted to enter except under extenuating circumstances as determined by district and school officials.
- d. Visitors will not be permitted beyond the office area and those entering the office area will have their temperature taken and asked COVID-19 screening questions. A visitor may not be permitted to enter based on temperature or other factors that place him/her at higher risk.

2. **Transportation:**

- a. Bus drivers will take the temperature of the riders prior to being seated on the bus. Any student with a fever of 100.4° F or higher will not be permitted to get on the bus and parent (emergency contact when parent is not available) will be notified and the bus will wait until the contact has been made.
- b. For social distancing (with the exception of family groups) riders will be limited to one per seat.
- c. Buses will be sanitized after each use.

d. We encourage parents to drop off their children at school.

3. Spacing, Moving and Access:

- a. Classrooms are limited to no more than 28 students per class and students should be spaced six feet apart when feasible. When not feasible, students will be separated to the maximum space available.
- b. Facemasks are strongly recommended for students but not required at Phase III.
- c. Hallways are marked at six foot intervals and traffic will travel in the direction indicated by arrows located on the floor.
- d. Desks should be faced in one direction as feasible and sneeze guards will be added to elementary classrooms.
- e. Staff should maintain six feet of space between themselves and students as much as possible.

4. Classroom materials:

- a. Students will need their personal classroom supplies as feasible and a clear water bottle.
- b. When individual classroom supplies are not feasible and sharing of equipment must take place, materials will be sanitized after use and students be required to wash/sanitize their hands immediately following the activity.
- c. High school laboratory classes that require shared use of equipment like microscopes, hands-on activities or close interaction with the teacher will be provided face shields and gloves to use as directed by the teacher.
- d. All staff are required to use a face shield when interacting with others or in a public space.

5. Dining:

- a. The seating in the cafeteria will be arranged in a manner to allow students to maintain social distancing while keeping classes together and, if needed, the schedule will be adjusted.
- b. Breakfast times will be extended to ensure all student who wish to eat may do so.
- c. Monitors will clean tables prior to being used by the next group.
- d. Tables will be sprayed at the end of the lunch day and be secured so they cannot be used with exception of activities that use the commons area.
- e. Students, teachers and cafeteria staff will wash/sanitize their hands before and after every meal.
- f. In addition to facemasks, kitchen servers are to wear a face shield and gloves when serving meals.
- g. No salad bar will be available and disposable cutlery and trays will be used.
- h. No guest or visitors during lunch through the 8th of September (restriction date may be extended).

6. Response to a Positive COVID-19 test among Staff and Students:

(Guidance provided by the Nebraska Department of Education)

- a. In the event of a positive test among staff or a student, the classroom and other exposed areas will be closed until cleaning and disinfecting can be performed.
 - i. If the person was in the school building without facial covering, or large areas of the school were exposed to the person, a short-term dismissal of 3-4 days may be required to clean and disinfect the larger areas. Any decision related to short-term dismissals will be made in concert with the Southwest Nebraska Department of Public Health.
- b. If possible, smaller areas should be closed for 24 hours before cleaning to minimize the risk of airborne particles.
- c. Cleaning staff should wear a N95 mask when performing cleaning of these areas along with gloves and face shields.

NO CHILD WITH A FEVER OF 100.4° F OR HIGHER AND EXHIBITING SYMPTOMS LISTED ON THE SOUTHWEST NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH CHECK LIST FOR COVID-19 SYMPTOMS WILL BE PERMITTED TO ATTEND SCHOOL UNTIL MEETING THE FOLLOWING:

- Remain fever free for 48 hours without taking Tylenol (acetaminophen) or Advil (ibuprofen) or other fever reducing medication; and
- Tested negative for COVID-19 or has been in self-isolation for 14 calendar days, or if symptoms can be attributed to another cause by a physician, or completely recovered by as indicated by a physician using the Southwest Nebraska Department of Public Health/CDC guidelines.

Elementary students who need to self-isolate will be provided the opportunity to zoom into their regular classroom for instruction during regular class hours. Parents may also choose to pick up their child's classwork which would need to be completed upon returning to school.

High school students who need to self-isolate will be required to zoom in to each of their classes during the scheduled class period (failure to zoom in will result in the student being marked absent). Since the Zoom will be recorded, the child needs to view the zoom and complete the work assigned. Parents may also choose to pick up their child's classwork which would need to be completed upon returning to school.

Parents who choose not to send their child to school due to COVID-19 may choose from one of the above options or choose to enroll their child in an accredited home school.

7. Hygiene:

- a. Adequate supplies will be maintained to support healthy hygiene behaviors (e.g., soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol for safe use by staff and older children, paper towels, and tissues).
- b. Teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and/or the safe use of hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol by staff and older students.
- c. Frequently touched surfaces (light switches, door handles, benches, bathrooms, etc.) will be cleaned with an EPA-approved disinfectant or diluted bleach solution twice a day.
- d. Playground equipment will be cleaned with EPA-approved disinfectant or diluted bleach solution once a day.
- e. Weight room equipment will be disinfected after use by user.
- f. Custodial staff will systematically check and refill hand sanitizer, soap dispensers and paper towel dispensers.
- g. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash and hands washed immediately followed by use of sanitizer.
- h. Sanitize student desks during the day as follows:
 - i. Elementary (PK – 4th) desks will be sanitized by classroom staff/teacher at the end of the day or before the start of school.
 - ii. Grades fifth and sixth students will sanitize desks prior to leaving for a different classroom (teacher will provide 1-3 minutes for cleaning prior to the end of class).
 - iii. High school students will sanitize desks at the end of each class (teacher will provide 1-3 minutes for cleaning prior to the end of class).
- i. Limit sharing of personal items and supplies such as writing utensils.
- j. Rooms will be sanitized with the fogger and electrostatic cleaner once every four days.
- k. Water fountains will not be used but bottle filling stations remain available for 5th -12th grades. K-4th grade students will have small bottles of water available.
- l. Student's personal items will be kept separate and in individually labeled or numbered cubbies, containers or lockers.

- m. Locker rooms will be sprayed daily with the fogger/electrostatic sprayer. Locker room showers/restrooms and benches need to be sanitized between each use.

THE QUARANTINE ROOM SHALL BE SANITIZED USING THE FOGGER/ELECTROSTATIC SPRAYER AND AN EPA-APPROVED DISINFECTANT OR DILUTED BLEACH SOLUTION AFTER EACH USE.

8. Assemblies and Gatherings:

- a. Assemblies will be limited to 50 students with social distancing.
- b. Assemblies of over 50 students are discontinued until we are in Phase IV.
- c. Facemask are urged but not required; however, social distancing is required.

9. Athletics/Activities:

- a. All activities are allowed to continue per NSAA guidelines.
- b. The Activities Director will contact the district in which any away games are held and let students, parents, patrons and staff know what PPE the attendees are required to use. All students attending the away event will follow each district requirements.
- c. Activities in an area of higher risk for COVID-19 may be cancelled by Superintendent.
- d. Locker rooms will be sanitized using the fogger/electrostatic sprayer after use during home events.