Revised: October 17, 2022

**Safe Return to In-School Instruction**

**Philipsburg School District #1**

**COVID-19 PROTOCOLS**

 **General**

⮚ The District will offer one educational choices during the 2022-2023 school year, which will be on-site learning

▪ On-site education with COVID-19 Response protocols & regulations found within the COVID-19 Safe Return to School Plan for Philipsburg Schools

▪ Off-site education with remote instruction and learning will only occur when cases of infection reach percentage determined by the County Health Department to be too high of a rate for in-person instruction at the school facility

⮚ This plan is fluid so as to meet State and County directives

⮚ Students and employees will be excluded from school buildings and activities if they test positive for COVID-19 or if they have a fever of greater than 100.4.

▪ Students who test positive for COVID-19 must quarantine for five (3) days

▪ County health personnel will conduct contact tracing. Any individuals exhibiting symptoms should get tested. Others determined to be in close contact (less than 3ft for more than 15 minutes) will be asked to quarantine for the minimum reequipment proposed by the County Health Department for Granite County

 ▪ Return to normal daily activity will be dependent on county health recommendation to the School District

⮚ Promotion of hand washing and germ transmission prevention

 ▪ Hand sanitizer available in all classrooms

 ▪ Education through signage and visual instruction

⮚ Daily scheduled cleaning/disinfecting by custodial staff and teachers

 ▪ All classrooms will have cleaning supplies available

 ▪ Restrooms and locker rooms will be disinfected throughout day

 ▪ Lunchroom will be disinfected after breakfast and between lunch sessions

⮚ All visitors (incl. parents/caregivers) may wear face coverings if they so choose

⮚ Extra-curricular activities will follow MHSA and school guidelines

⮚ Approved individuals or groups may utilize the school if satisfactory health protocols are in place and approved by administration

⮚ Teachers may adapt protocols for their individual classrooms with approval by the Superintendent/Principal

⮚ Social, emotional needs and academic recovery will be a major focus at each school as we continue to transition our students back to a normal school routines and rituals

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**COVID-19 PROTOCOLS**

**Grades K-6**

⮚ Students’ arrival at school is to be no earlier than7:30 am for Breakfast. If cases of COVID become apparent the lunch room will have assigned seats for students. When not feasible, other layout modifications and physical barriers will be utilized to maintain space between students.

⮚ Good sanitation and eliminating exposure/ contamination will be practiced

▪ No sharing of supplies unless necessary

▪ Manipulatives used for the day should be pre-bagged and sanitized when finished each day

▪ Students are encouraged to have their own personal hand sanitizer on their desk

 ▪Students will be encouraged to wash hands frequently

⮚ Teachers may wear a mask if they so choose (provided by the school) when moving around the classroom monitoring students or when they are working 1 on 1 with a student in proximity that is less than 3ft and for a duration longer than 15 minutes

⮚ When working 1 on 1 with a student, the instruction should be side to side rather than face to face

⮚ Students may wear a school provided mask if desired and are encouraged to wear a mask when within another person’s personal 3ft space

⮚ The school will provide one fabric face covering to each student and staff; all other face coverings can be provided by parent/guardian

⮚ No group work will be utilized as needed during an outbreak in cases

⮚ Students will line up facing forward with distance between them; identifying marks will be on the floors to promote social distancing as needed during outbreaks

⮚ Recess: Students will be encouraged to run and play

▪ There will be limited use of the actual playground equipment

▪ Recess may be adjusted to allow for separation of classes

▪ Each class will have their own recess equipment (i.e., jump ropes, balls etc.)

 ⮚ Grades K-2nd: Teachers will wipe down high frequency touch areas as they leave the room

⮚ Grades 3-6: Students will assist with classroom clean-up after the teachers have disinfected

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**COVID-19 PROTOCOLS**

**Grades 7-12**

⮚ Students’ arrival at school is to be no earlier than 8:00 am (7:30 am for Breakfast)

⮚ Students will be spaced 3ft apart as needed. When not feasible, other layout modifications and physical barriers will be utilized to maintain space between students

⮚ If tables are used, seating arrangements will be made to properly social distance

 ⮚ Teachers may wear a mask (provided by the school) while moving around the classroom, monitoring students, or when they are working 1 on 1 with a student in close proximity (less than 3ft and longer than 15 minutes)

⮚ When working 1 on 1 with a student, the instruction should be side to side rather than face to face

⮚ If desired, students may wear a school provided mask or a mask provided by parent or guardian. Masks are encouraged when physical distancing is difficult to maintain (i.e., passing in halls)

⮚ Protocols during passing times and lunch will be established to keep classes and students social distanced as needed

**COVID-19 PROTOCOLS**

**Transportation**

⮚ Bus occupancy will be no more than 50% of capacity with one rider per seat outside of immediate family members

⮚ Permanent assigned seats for the school year

⮚ The front two seats closest to driver will remain empty

⮚ Hand sanitizer will be used upon entering the buses as needed

⮚ Masks will be mandatory for all riders unless medically excused as needed

⮚ No food or drink allowed or placed in backpacks until students get to destination

⮚ Unload buses from front to back and load from back to front

⮚ No additional riders on buses other than route students (i.e., sleep overs or birthday parties)

⮚ Buses will be sanitized daily

⮚ Temperatures may be taken upon entering the bus as needed

⮚ Designated pick-up and drop off locations may be assigned

⮚ Families are encouraged, if they have the ability, to transport students to and from school

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**COVID-19 PROTOCOLS**

**Extra-Curricular (guidelines from MHSA)**

⮚ All MHSA and or local/District will be followed as needed

**COVID-19 PROTOCOLS**

**Food Service**

⮚ Only students eating school provided breakfast will be allowed in the cafeteria. Students will be spaced 6ft apart outside of immediate family members

⮚ K-6 students will be served and eat their lunch in their respective classrooms or lunch may be served in separate sessions (i.e., K-3, 4-6, 7-9, 10-12) to allow for social distancing and maintaining small “bubbles”

⮚ No open salad bar or shared items will be served

⮚ All condiments, including salt and pepper, will be prepackaged

\*During remote learning instruction, students shall receive off site, online, and proficiency-based instruction, or any combination of the foregoing at the discretion of the school. School District staff shall arrange for any combination of physical instructional packets, virtual or electronic based course meetings and assignments, self-directed or parent/guardian-assisted learning opportunities, and other educational efforts available to staff and students that can be relied upon for grade or credit in order to satisfy the minimum aggregate number of hours or determination of proficiency. Students determined to be proficient in one or more courses of the district shall be incorporated in the School District’s calculation of ANB.

This document represents an overview of guidelines or protocols which may change over time based on data and guidance given to the district. Any changes or pertinent information will be communicated to parents via our Infinite Campus Messenger, School Website, or Facebook.

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**Additional Resource and Guidance Documents**

**Granite County Health Department**

**Granite County Health Nurse Note**

*“If we have a student in school test positive for COVID. First: the MD and State will notify myself and the parent about the same time. We will then work with the school to identify school contacts and gather student’s numbers to call the parent and collect any contacts outside of the school along with their numbers. We then quarantine the student/family that was positive and also the close contacts. We will be calling them every day to check in on their symptoms. If any of them develop symptoms during quarantine, they will be tested immediately. If positive the whole family will then be under quarantine, but there should be no school contacts at this point*.”

**Governor’s Plan for Reopening Safe and Healthy Schools for Montana** https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DiuIk4xOE4q209Mh5Vxfi1nao1LE3Y3T/view

**Montana Office of Public Instruction Reopening Montana Schools Guidance** http://opi.mt.gov/Portals/182/COVID-19/Reopening%20MT%20Schools%20Guidance Final.pdf?ver=2020-07-02-114033-897

**American Academy of Pediatrics**

COVID-19 Planning Considerations: Return to In-person Education in Schools

**Children’s Hospital Colorado Risk-Based Approach to Reopening Schools Amid  COVID-19**

https://www.childrenscolorado.org/49eee6/globalassets/community/reopening-schools during-covid19.pdf

**School Counselors Association and National Association of School Psychologists** School Reentry Considerations Supporting Student Social and Emotional Learning and Mental and Behavioral Health Amidst COVID-19

**National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) and Sports Medicine  Advisory Committee (SMAC), May 2021**

Guidance for Opening up High School Athletics and Activities

**Center for Disease Control**

https://www.cdc.gov/