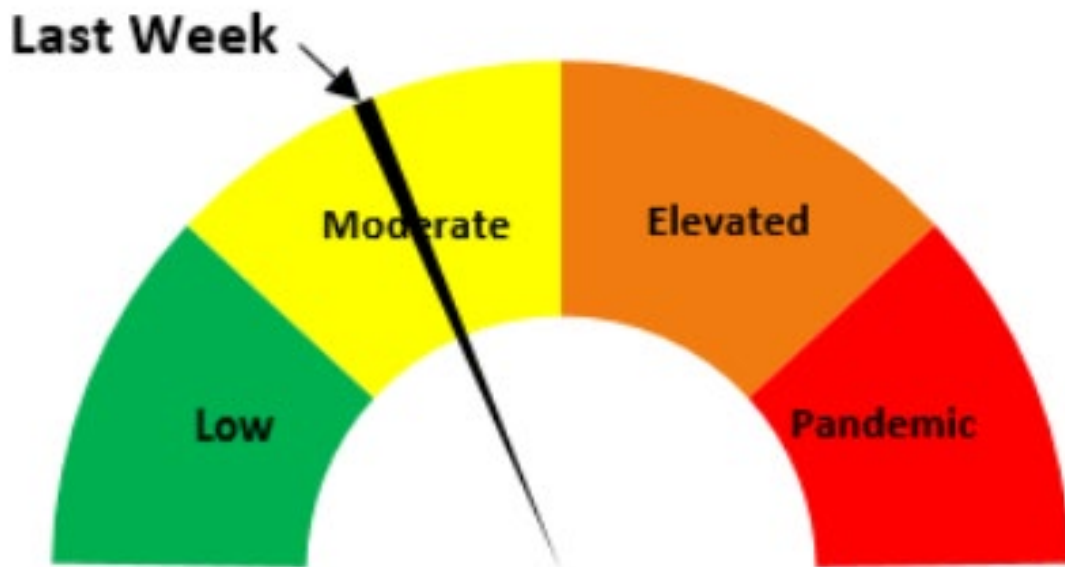


COVID-19 School Guidance According to Risk



COVID Green: No Activity/ Sporadic -Low Risk of COVID-19 Spread

- Minimal cases of COVID-19 within the community.
- COVID-19 has minimal impact on local healthcare system
- Viral and antibody testing is readily available
- There are effective treatment modalities for COVID-19 and an effective vaccine is widely available
- PPE is easily obtainable through standard supply chains

School Based Response	
Mental and Social Emotional Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a crisis response team that includes school principals, school nurses, mental health specialists, social workers, guidance counselors, and parents, to focus on student and staff mental health and wellness using trauma informed models. • Assess natural resources (personnel, existing partners) to determine if there is a need for external support, and reach out to the existing mental health service providers in the community to assess the potential for expanded work. • Evaluate staff mental health readiness utilizing questionnaires, surveys, and direct outreach. If any screening does occur, it should comply with privacy and HIPAA requirements. • Where feasible, institute a universal mental health screening tool that can be used for both teachers and students. If any screening does occur, it should comply with privacy and HIPAA requirements. • Provide resources for staff and student self-care, including resiliency strategies. • Designate a mental health liaison (school-based) who will work with the district, local public health agencies, and community partners. • Consider additional resources required to serve special needs populations.
Spacing, Movement, and Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No distancing, resumption of normal school and community life • Resume normal travel with considerations of COVID activity in destinations
Hygiene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequently wash hands for at least 20 seconds, especially after touching high contact surfaces, sneezing/coughing/touching face, and before eating • Use hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol when handwashing is inaccessible or not feasible • Encourage staff and students to cough and sneeze into their elbows, or to cover with a tissue. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash and hands washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. • No face coverings for healthy people • Face coverings for symptomatic people • Increased awareness of germ transmission through high contact surfaces • Avoid bare hand contact with any high touch surface • Use barrier such as paper towel or clothing when bare hand contact is unavoidable • Use increased disinfection practices, especially for high contact surfaces (door/other handles, light switches, bathroom fixtures, and countertops)

Screening Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If ill with influenza-like or COVID-like symptoms, Stay at Home • Exclude any staff, student, or visitor with symptoms of illness
Gathering and Dining	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage students, and staff to wash hands before and after every meal. • Meal activities continue per normal operating procedures. • When possible, students and staff wash hands before and after every event. • Large scale gatherings are allowed per normal operating status.
Extracurricular Activities and Athletics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All activities are allowed to continue per normal procedures. • Spectator events are allowed per normal procedures. • Extracurricular activities and gatherings conducted normally. • After school programs are open and operating normally.
Busing and Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School busing operations proceed normally. • No changes to schedules or seating patterns on the buses are required.
At-Risk or Vulnerable Populations	<p>For students, staff, and visitors with underlying health conditions and other populations at heightened risk from COVID-19 including individuals over 65.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You do not have to stay home at all times, but should continue physical distancing when possible in public settings. • Cautious expansion of interactions with others, reengage in small social settings, outdoor activities preferred • Avoid large group settings and events with many people

COVID Yellow: Local to Regional Activity- Moderate Risk of COVID-19 Spread

- There is a downward trajectory in numbers of COVID positive cases OR percent positive cases due to community or regional spread
- There is limited community spread within Buffalo, Dawson, Franklin, Gosper, Harlan, Kearney, and Phelps Counties or regionally
- COVID has a small impact on the local healthcare system capacity
- PPE supplies are adequate for critical healthcare workers and community needs
- COVID testing is available for all suspected cases and focused asymptomatic surveillance.
- TRPHD is able to conduct investigation and contact tracing for new cases and associated contacts without assistance
- Critical medical equipment is readily available

School Based Response	
Mental and Social Emotional Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a crisis response team that includes school principals, school nurses, mental health specialists, and parents, to focus on student and staff mental health and wellness using trauma informed models. • Evaluate staff mental health readiness utilizing questionnaires, surveys, and direct outreach. If any screening does occur, it should comply with privacy and HIPAA requirements. • Where feasible, institute a universal mental health screening tool that can be used for both teachers and students. If any screening does occur, it should comply with privacy and HIPAA requirements. • Provide resources for staff and student self-care, including resiliency strategies. • Designate a mental health liaison (school-based) who will work with the district, local public health agencies, and community partners. • Consider additional resources required to serve special needs populations.
Spacing, Movement, and Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spacing is six feet between desks. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In primary grades, where tables are utilized, we recommend configuring tables with all students facing forward. • Arrange all desks facing the same direction toward the front of the classroom. • Class sizes should be kept to 25 or less (as afforded by necessary spacing requirements and personnel). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If all students cannot fit in the classroom space available, it is recommended that a staggered school schedule which incorporates alternative dates of attendance or use of virtual teaching be implemented. • Teachers should maintain six feet of distance between themselves and students as much as possible. • Facial coverings should be worn at all times for grades K-12. Any one that has trouble breathing or is unconscious should not wear a facial covering. Any one that is less than 2 years of age, unable to remove the facial covering without assistance, experiencing breathing difficulties, and unable to use a mask must remain socially distanced from others. • Classroom windows should be open as much as possible as conditions allow. • As able, schools should stagger use of hallway, bathroom, and lockers to minimize exposure to other classrooms or grade levels. • As able, teachers and specialists from art, music, reading, media center, libraries, and other specialized services or locations should be brought to the classrooms instead of having students transit to those locations. • Movement of people should occur in only one direction at a time. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If one-way flow is not possible, hallways can be divided with either side following the same direction.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Floor tape or other markers should be used at six-foot intervals where line formation is anticipated. Provide social distancing floor/seating markings in waiting and reception areas Use signage restroom entryways to indicate proper social distancing Staff will monitor arrival and dismissal to discourage congregating and ensure students go straight from a vehicle to their classrooms and vice-versa
Hygiene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frequently wash hands for at least 20 seconds, especially after touching high contact surfaces, sneezing/coughing/touching face, and before eating Use hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol when handwashing is inaccessible or infeasible Encourage staff and students to cough and sneeze into their elbows, or to cover with a tissue. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash and hands washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Face coverings recommended at all times. Avoid bare hand contact with any high touch surface, whenever possible. Water fountain use is limited to refilling containers. Increased frequency of disinfection procedures, especially for high contact surfaces (door/other handles, light switches, bathroom fixtures)
Screening Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If ill with influenza-like or COVID-like symptoms, Stay at Home Exclude any staff, student, or visitor with symptoms of illness Daily temperature checks of staff upon arrival to work, and students upon arrival to classroom <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create and maintain a daily log of the temperatures taken
Gathering and Dining	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If possible, meals should be served in the classroom <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If meals are served in the cafeteria, meal times must be staggered to create seating arrangements with social distancing between students. Food service and other staff in the cafeteria should use personal protective equipment (PPE) including gloves, face shields, and surgical masks; N95 respirators are not required. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whenever possible staff and students are encouraged to wash their hands with soap and water before and after meals. Hand sanitizer will be provided at cafeteria entrances and classrooms when hand washing is infeasible. Any assemblies of more than 50 students should be discontinued. If assemblies of less than 50 students are necessary, they are allowed as long as facial coverings remain in use. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visitors may not attend assemblies. Offer telecasting of events if able Field trips off school grounds are discontinued. After school programs may be continued with the use of facial coverings and social distancing.

<p>Extracurricular Activities and Athletics</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every participant in any activity should confirm they are healthy and without any symptoms prior to the event. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and maintain temperature logs for staff and students prior to extracurricular activities. • All equipment should be disinfected before and between uses. • Schools will follow guidance from the Nebraska School Activities Association and local public health departments to determine which activities can be safely conducted and any restrictions required. • Spectators are allowed provided that facial coverings and social distancing are used at all times. • Weight room and physical conditioning activities should follow guidance from the NSAA. • Activities that do not allow adequate distancing such as football, wrestling, basketball, chess, etc. should be discontinued. • Large scale spectator or stadium events are not allowed • Handshakes, fist bumps, and other unnecessary physical contact should be minimized. • Any uniforms or other clothing to be laundered at school can be washed in warm water with regular detergent. • There should be no sharing of equipment (i.e. make-up, protective pads, uniforms, towels, etc.). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly marked water bottles may be instated for individual use.
<p>Busing and Transportation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disinfect transportation vehicles regularly. Students must not be present during disinfection. • Ensure safe and correct use and storage of cleaning and disinfection products, including storing products securely away from children and adequate ventilation when staff use such products. • Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces in the vehicle (e.g., surfaces in the driver's cockpit, hard seats, arm rests, door handles, seat belt buckles, light and air controls, doors and windows, and safety bars) prior to morning routes and prior to afternoon routes. • Keep doors and windows open when cleaning the vehicle and between trips to let the vehicles thoroughly air out. • Clean, sanitize, and disinfect equipment including items such as car seats and seat belts, wheelchairs, walkers, and adaptive equipment being transported to schools. • Create a plan for getting students home safely if they are not allowed to board the vehicle. • Create a policy that if a student becomes sick during the day, they must not use group transportation to return home and must follow protocols outlined above. • If a driver becomes sick during the day, they must follow protocols for sick staff above and must not return to drive students. • Whenever possible, use hand sanitizer before entering the bus. • Whenever possible, allow for six feet of social distancing between students, and between students and the driver, while seated on vehicles(e.g., by utilizing larger vehicles with more seats, by increasing frequency of routes to reduce occupancy, one rider per seat in every other row) • Consider keeping windows open while the vehicle is in motion to help reduce spread of the virus by increasing air circulation, if appropriate and safe
<p>At-Risk or Vulnerable Populations</p>	<p>For students, staff, and visitors with underlying health conditions and other populations at heightened risk from COVID-19 including individuals over 65.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use best judgement and consider virtual learning, or working from home

COVID ORANGE: Regional to Widespread Activity- Elevated COVID-19 Significant Community Spread

- There are increasing or high stable numbers of COVID positive cases OR percent positive cases due to community or regional spread
- Clusters or outbreaks exist that are still likely in their early stages, plans to quarantine students and staff are implemented with the consideration for virtual learning
- There is only enough testing available for symptomatic people
- TRPHD must rely on assistance to conduct investigation for new cases and associated and contact tracing OR TRPHD must assist adjacent jurisdictions to conduct investigation and contact tracing
- PPE supplies are only adequate for critical healthcare workers
- Critical medical equipment is in limited supply

School Based Response

Mental and Social Emotional Health

- Activate a crisis response team that includes school principals, school nurses, mental health specialists, and parents, to focus on student and staff mental health and wellness using trauma informed models.
- Evaluate staff mental health readiness utilizing questionnaires, surveys, and direct outreach. If any screening does occur, it should comply with privacy and HIPAA requirements.
- Where feasible, institute a universal mental health screening tool that can be used for both teachers and students. If any screening does occur, it should comply with privacy and HIPAA requirements.
- Provide resources for staff and student self-care, including [resiliency strategies](#).
- Designate a mental health liaison (school-based) who will work with the district, local public health agencies, and community partners.
- Consider additional resources required to serve special needs populations.

Spacing, Movement, and Access

- **Strongly encourage students and staff to limit direct contact with others outside the school setting**
- In primary grades, where tables are utilized, we recommend configuring tables with all students facing forward.
 - Arrange all desks facing the same direction toward the front of the classroom.
- Class sizes should be kept to 25 or less (as afforded by necessary spacing requirements and personnel).
 - If all students cannot fit in the classroom space available, it is necessary that a staggered school schedule which incorporates alternative dates of attendance or use of virtual teaching be implemented.
- Teachers should maintain six feet of distance between themselves and students as much as possible.
- Facial coverings must be worn at all times for grades K-12. Any one that has trouble breathing or is unconscious should not wear a facial covering. Any one that is less than 2 years of age, unable to remove the facial covering without assistance, experiencing breathing difficulties, and unable to use a mask must remain socially distanced from others.
- Classroom windows should be open as much as possible as conditions allow.
- Schools will stagger use of hallway, bathroom, and lockers to minimize exposure to other classrooms or grade levels.
 - Movement of people will occur in only one direction at a time.
- Teachers and specialists from art, music, reading, media center, libraries, and other specialized services or locations should be brought to the classrooms instead of having students transit to those locations.
- Large scale assemblies of more than 25 students are discontinued.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facial coverings will be worn at all times for grades K-12. Any one that has trouble breathing or is unconscious should not wear a facial covering. Any one that is less than 2 years of age, unable to remove the facial covering without assistance, experiencing breathing difficulties, and unable to use a mask must remain socially distanced from others. • Classroom windows should be open as much as possible and conditions allow. • Markers or barriers are installed to maintain social distance in the hallways, restrooms, reception areas, and waiting areas. • Staff will monitor arrival and dismissal to discourage congregating and ensure students go straight from a vehicle to their classrooms and vice-versa.
Hygiene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequently wash hands for at least 20 seconds, especially after touching high contact surfaces, sneezing/coughing/touching face, or before eating • Provide adequate supplies 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). • 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. • Systematically and frequently check and refill hand sanitizers • Encourage staff and students to cough and sneeze into their elbows, or to cover with a tissue. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash and hands washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. • Limit sharing of personal items and supplies such as writing utensils. • Keep students' personal items separate and in individually labeled cubbies, containers or lockers. • Limit use of classroom materials to small groups and disinfect between uses or provide adequate supplies to assign for individual student use.
Screening Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If sick with influenza-like or COVID-like symptoms, Stay at Home • Exclude any staff, student, or visitor with symptoms of illness • Daily temperature checks of staff upon arrival to work, and students upon arrival to classroom <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and maintain a daily log of the temperatures taken
Gathering and Dining	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If school is operating: dining should be in classrooms delivered by the dietary team • If school is closed: continue with meal distribution
Extracurricular Activities and Athletics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All extracurricular activities and athletics are suspended.
Busing and Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disinfect transportation vehicles regularly. Students must not be present during disinfection. • Ensure safe and correct use and storage of cleaning and disinfection products, including storing products securely away from children and adequate ventilation when staff use such products. • Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces in the vehicle (e.g., surfaces in the driver's cockpit, hard seats, arm rests, door handles, seat belt buckles, light and air controls, doors and windows, and grab handles) prior to morning routes and prior to afternoon routes. • Keep doors and windows open when cleaning the vehicle and between trips to let the vehicles thoroughly air out. • Clean and disinfect equipment including items such as car seats and seat belts, wheelchairs, walkers, and adaptive equipment being transported to and from schools. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the policy that if an individual becomes sick during the day, group transportation must not be used for transport to home

**At-Risk or
Vulnerable
Populations**

- Encourage the use of hand sanitizer before entering the bus.
- Six feet of social distancing between students, and between students and the driver, while seated on vehicles will be maintained (e.g., by utilizing larger vehicles with more seats, by increasing frequency of routes to reduce occupancy, one rider per seat in every other row)
- Consider keeping windows open while the vehicle is in motion to help reduce spread of the virus by increasing air circulation, if appropriate and safe

For students, staff, and visitors with underlying health conditions and other populations at heightened risk from COVID-19 including individuals over 65.

- Use best judgement and consider virtual learning, or working from home

COVID Red: Widespread Activity- Severe COVID-19 Pandemic Outbreak

- In-person school sessions suspended, virtual learning endorsed amid concerns of increased risk of transmission and personnel shortages
- There is a significant increase in COVID positive cases OR percentage of positive cases which may potentially overwhelm the local healthcare system
- Hospitals are utilizing Surge Capacity
- There is an inadequate testing capacity for critical workers
- There is inadequate capacity to conduct investigation and contact tracing
- There are shortages of critical medical equipment or testing supplies, and PPE

School Based Response	
Mental and Social Emotional Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activate the crisis response team that includes school principals, school nurses, mental health specialists, and parents, to focus on student and staff mental health and wellness using trauma informed models. • Institute a universal mental health screening tool that can be used for both teachers and students. If any screening does occur, it should comply with privacy and HIPAA requirements. • Provide resources for staff and student self-care, including resiliency strategies. • Designate a mental health liaison (school-based) who will work with the district, local public health agencies, and community partners. • Consider additional resources required to serve special needs populations.
Spacing, Movement, and Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools are closed • Teach from home
Hygiene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage staff and students to practice self-care, good hygiene, and social distancing at home.
Screening Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If ill with influenza-like or COVID-like symptoms, Stay at Home even for essential personnel • Exclude any staff, student, or visitor with symptoms of illness • Daily temperature checks of staff upon arrival to work, and students upon arrival to classroom <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and maintain a daily log of the temperatures taken
Gathering and Dining	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All gathering operations are suspended • Meal pick-up and delivery are operated through the school using DHHS restaurant guidance for Phase I of Directed Health Measures.
Extracurricular Activities and Athletics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All extracurricular activities and athletics are suspended.
Busing and Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All busing and transportation operations are suspended.
At-Risk or Vulnerable Populations	School administration will consult local health department and state officials for guidance in reopening buildings.