

## Zurich School District

### Safe Return to School and Continuity of Services Plan

Date of Original Adoption of 1900 Policy Series: June 10, 2020

Date Plan was Last Revised: December 8, 2021, March 9, 2022, May 9, 2022, August 10, 2022

Dates Reviewed: August 12, 2020, October 12, 2020, January 13, 2021, April 13, 2021, June 8, 2021, August 2021-August 2022, December 14, 2022

The Zurich School District was ordered to close to in person instruction on March 15, 2020.

Although our district was authorized to remain closed, we quickly mobilized and began remote instruction during the time frame when we were authorized to remain closed. Our school district continued remote instruction from March 16, 2020, to March 26, 2020, through hard copy packets of materials exchanged on a weekly basis. Beginning on March 29, 2020, until May 26, 2020, certified and classified staff worked primarily on-site (at school) or occasionally teleworking (off-site) providing instruction to students through the following mechanism:

- On-line subscriptions and websites including: Think Central, Learning A-Z, Discovery Education, World Book on-line, Moby Max, EdReady,
- Video chats/tutoring including ZOOM, SeeSaw, Google Classroom
- Phone conference calls and emails. Students were also talking directly to their teachers to get help with questions
- Hard copy packets of materials continued to be a part of the instruction with a weekly exchange of materials.

In order to ensure that all students had access to on-line coursework, the Zurich School District provided laptops for those students who did not have the necessary devices. All students and families and teachers were set up with email accounts for constant contact throughout the day.

Our district developed a plan for reopening to in person instruction, with contingencies, and we implemented that plan for the 2020-21 school year. The summer months were used to implement sanitation plans/protocols and gather supplies needed for reopening. The reopening plan, details regarding which are provided below, included adoption of various model policies provided by the Montana Small Schools Alliance under its 1900 series aligned with CDC guidance.

#### Full capacity normal schedule

Staff will be vigilant in monitoring student health. Staff and students not feeling well should stay home. Temperatures will be taken upon arrival at school or the bus stop.

- Students who become ill during the day will be isolated in a designated area and monitored until they can be sent home or parents can pick them up.
- No more than 20 in the cafeteria at a time; staggering lunch times so no long lines form.
- Larger school events that draw in-person crowds are discouraged (assemblies, dances etc.)
- Larger groups may be moved to an alternative location (gym or outside as examples) in order to practice proper social distancing.
- Student/Staff will wear masks at all times in and out of the classrooms unless they are seated at their own desk and socially distanced from other students.
- Only teachers will use the fill stations as drinking fountains for students. Staff and students may also bring water bottles.
- Hold outdoor classes when possible.
- Restrict nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving other groups at the same time. In addition, Zurich School will close enrollment to out-of-district families, in order to best enforce the Covid protocols and maintain small classroom size.
- Create physical distance between children on school buses where possible.
- When possible and if necessary, student schedules will be adjusted to accommodate social distancing measures.
- Monitor students for re-emergence of virus.
- Be prepared for a possible return to Phase 1 protocols/policies.
- Provide technology to students in need of laptop/tablets.
- Grab and go lunches will be provided for students receiving online instruction through school pick up.
- During on site learning, students will be asked to assist in cleaning duties regarding desks/tables, educational materials, and technological devices.
- Teachers should prepare alternative instruction for students who are unable to attend school for five or more consecutive school days.

Zurich School District reopened to in classroom teaching on August 19, 2020, and remained opened during the entirety of the 2020-2021 school year. Most all the families returned their students to in classroom teaching. One family chose to continue the remote teaching throughout the first quarter of school and returned to regular classroom at the end of the quarter on October 25, 2020. There were no temporary closures of school but on two occasions a family was required to isolate for ten days due to exposures. Make up work for those

absences was completed per school Absence Policies. Our district finished the 2020-2021 school year strong, having provided high quality learning opportunities to the students in our community in safe and effective learning environments.

Zurich School District embraced a fundamental principle of providing extensive transparency to our community throughout the above time frame. We publicly noticed, held meetings, and provided extensive opportunities for our community to provide us with feedback regarding the School District's plans and we carefully considered such feed back in developing and refining the School District's plans throughout the last 14-15 months.

### **Part 1: Documentation of Meaningful Consultation in Developing and Refining the School District's plan from March 2020 Through June 2021**

We noticed, held, and invited public comment on our evolving plans for a safe return to school on the following dates: July 14, 2021, August 12, 2020, October 12, 2020, January 13, 2021, April 13, 2021,

Our invitation for public input included a general opportunity for the public to provide input and was provided to everyone interested, including: students, families, school and district administrators, teachers, and school staff.

### **Part II: Contents of the School District's plan for Safe return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services:**

A description of how the district will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff for the 2021-2022 school year:

- All students will come back to campus and resume normal instruction. Frequent handwashing, disinfecting of surfaces and commonly touched areas, and social distancing will be maintained. Students and staff may wear masks or personal protective gear if they choose.
- Gatherings of larger than normal class size are restricted. Larger groups may be moved to an alternative location (gym or outside as examples) in order to practice proper social distancing. Larger school events that draw in-person crowds will be considered on a case by case basis (assemblies, dances etc.). Restrict nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving other groups at the same time.
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- Any student/staff with a fever or not feeling well must stay home.
- Teachers should prepare alternative instruction for students who are unable to attend school for five or more consecutive school days.
- Hot meals will be provided in the cafeteria as normal with social distancing