

Zurich School District

Safe Return to School and Continuity of Services Plan

Date of Original Adoption of 1900 Policy Series: August 12, 2020

Dates of Revision: 08/12/2021, 03/09/2022, 04/13/2022, 08/09/2022, 06/14/2023

Dates Reviewed: 08/12/2021, 09/08/2021, 10/13/2021, 11/10/2021, 12/08/2021, 01/12/2022, 02/09/2022, 05/09/2022, 06/08/2022, 07/13/2022, 09/14/2022, 10/12/2022, 11/09/2022, 12/14/2022, 01/11/2023, 02/08/2023, 03/08/2023, 04/12/2023, 05/11/2023, 06/14/2023.

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) 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
- Students who become ill during the day will be isolated in a designated area, temperature checked, and monitored until they can be sent home or parents can pick them up.

- Students will be encouraged to disinfect personal belongings and desks daily.
- Students will use the fill stations for drinking fountains, but staff and students are encouraged to bring individual water bottles.
- Hold outdoor classes when possible.
- Create physical distance between children in school and on buses where possible.
- Zurich School will closed enrollment to our of district families to allow policies to be well implemented.

Zurich School District implemented policies that facilitated collaboration between the Board of Trustees, administrator, teachers, staff, parents, students, local health officials. And community as we established protocols aligned with CDC guidance addressing how instruction was to be delivered to students; how gatherings and events would take place on school property; how the health and safety of staff and students would be protected and preserved while schools were open; and how financial and operational functions of the school district would continue during the period of public health emergency.

Zurich School District reviewed, considered, and addressed numerous areas of operation in our reopening process. On the topic of school district policy and procedures, the district considered emergency policies and procedures, adoption and amendment of policies, suspension of policies, and administrative procedures. To support students' academic, mental, social, and emotional success, the district considered alternative grading, counseling, student instruction proficiency, support of particularly vulnerable students, transportation services, access to internet for students, food preparation and service, and additional student instruction resources. To ensure the health and safety of students, teachers, and staff, the district considered cleaning and disinfection, community use of facilities, county board of health orders, diagnosis and confidentiality, hand washing and related hygiene products, telework, school closure orders, stay at home orders, symptom monitoring and isolation, travel quarantines, visitors, volunteers, vulnerable individuals, masks and personal protective equipment, and physical distancing.

Zurich School District will continue to close enrollment to out-of-district families, to best enforce the Covid protocols and maintain small classroom size.

Zurich School District has remained in compliance with guidance and best practices provided by federal, state, or local health officials. Our school district has continued to adapt and adjust our policies as new and updated guidance and best practices have become available.

Zurich School District will continue to follow the policies while engaging in a monthly reevaluation process to continue to ensure the health, safety, and well being of our students, teachers, staff, and community through 2024.

REVISION: September 13, 2021, Zurich School will return to full time use of masks, both inside and outside for all students and staff due to rising numbers of Covid cases in our county. This will remain the policy until changed in future revision meetings.

REVISION: March 9, 2022, Zurich School will lift the mandate for use of masks OUTSIDE for all students and staff due to falling numbers of COVID cases in Blaine County. Use of masks inside and sanitation protocols will continue for now.

REVISION: April 1, 2022, Zurich School will lift the mandate for use of masks INSIDE for all students and staff due to falling numbers of COVID cases in Blaine County. Use of masks inside for students with active coughs/colds and sanitation protocols will continue.

REVISION: June 8, 2022, Zurich School opened enrollment for out of district students who meet the school requirements for attendance.

REVISION: December 14, 2022, Zurich School will have a Christmas Program with open attendance. Masks will be made available for those people who choose to use them.

REVISION: June 14, 2023, Zurich School will have custodian continue disinfecting surfaces and commonly touched areas.

Part III: 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 **2022-2023** school year:

- All students will come back to campus and resume normal instruction implementing frequent handwashing/sanitizing and distancing (**utilizing allowable space**)
- Disinfecting of surfaces and commonly touched areas will be maintained by custodian.
- Students and staff may wear masks or personal protective gear if they choose.
- Students and staff will be encouraged to use the larger multi-purpose room and tables outside for group activities.
- Larger school events that draw in-person crowd (assemblies, parties etc.), nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving other groups will be considered on an individual basis, utilizing local data and recommendations of the Blaine County Health Department.
- Any student/staff with a fever or not feeling well must stay home.
- Any student with an active cough will be asked to wear a mask at school.
- 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.
- Students who become ill during the day will be isolated in a designated area, temperature checked, and monitored until they can be sent home or parents can pick them up.
- Students will use the fill stations for drinking fountains, but staff and students are encouraged to bring individual water bottles.

- Create physical distance between student on buses as needed.
- Zurich School will open enrollment to out of district families who will comply to District 17 policies and procedures.

Zurich School District implemented policies that facilitated collaboration between the Board of Trustees, administrator, teachers, staff, parents, students, local health officials, and community. We established protocols aligned with CDC guidance addressing how instruction was to be delivered to students; how gatherings and events would take place on school property; how the health and safety of staff and students would be protected and preserved while schools were open; and how financial and operational functions of the school district would continue during the period of public health emergency.

Zurich School District reviewed, considered, and addressed numerous areas of operation in our second year of school opening. On the topic of school district policy and procedures, the district considered emergency policies and procedures, adoption and amendment of policies, suspension of policies, and administrative procedures. To support students' academic, mental, social, and emotional success, the district considered counseling, student instruction proficiency, support of particularly vulnerable students, transportation services, access to internet for students, food preparation and service, and additional student instruction resources. To ensure the health and safety of students, teachers, and staff, the district considered cleaning and disinfection, community use of facilities, county board of health orders, diagnosis and confidentiality, hand washing and related hygiene products, telework, school closure orders, stay at home orders, symptom monitoring and isolation, travel quarantines, visitors, volunteers, vulnerable individuals, masks and personal protective equipment, and physical distancing.

Zurich School District has remained in compliance with guidance and best practices provided by federal, state, or local health officials. Our school district has continued to adapt and adjust our policies as new and updated guidance and best practices have become available.

Zurich School District will continue to follow the policies while engaging in a monthly reevaluation process to continue to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of our students, teachers, staff, and community through 2024.