

# Mead Public Schools



Safe Return to School Plan  
Adopted 2021-2022  
for ESSER III Compliance  
Reviewed for 2023-24

### **General Information (Pursuant to the Federal American Rescue Plan)**

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021, Public Law. The ARP Act includes nearly \$122 billion for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER III) Fund that allows state and local education agencies (LEAs) to take additional steps for continued safe in-person instruction and to address unfinished teaching and learning to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic. The ARP Act requires each school district that receives ARP ESSER funds to develop and make publicly available on the school district's website, no later than 30 days after receiving ARP ESSER funds, a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction, and continuity of services for all schools (Safe Return Plan). The ARP Act further requires that the district seek public comment on the Safe Return Plan and take those comments into account in finalization of the Safe Return Plan. A school district must periodically, but no less frequently than every six months through September 30, 2023, review and, as appropriate, revise its Safe Return Plan.

Mead Public Schools will be open in the fall of 2023-24 for in-person teaching and learning and plans to operate in a traditional learning environment. We will continue to work closely with state and local health professionals and officials. The following are the elements included in the Safe Return Plan pursuant to the American Rescue Plan. Such measures will be both preventative and responsive in nature.

### **Modifying Facilities to Allow for Physical Distancing (e.g., Cohorts or Podding)**

The district will establish appropriate social distancing guidelines based on local circumstances and best practice. The district may adjust scheduling (lunch schedules, for example) to support social distancing.

### **Cleaning & Maintaining Healthy Facilities (Including Improving Ventilation)**

The following essential actions will be taken to ensure that the facilities are safe for students and staff to inhabit. The district will:

- Promote respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene through instruction, communication, and product availability.
- Utilize targeted, enhanced cleaning practices as needed.
- Change air filters as scheduled.

### **Contact Tracing, Isolation, and Quarantine**

The district will follow **consider** the contact tracing, isolation, and quarantine guidelines from state and local health agencies during the 2023-24 school year.

### **Diagnostic and Screening**

Students that are ill are asked to remain at home until they are well. Any student or staff with identified symptoms should follow the appropriate and current guidance. Students and staff are requested to self-screen for COVID-19 and other illnesses. Parents should assume an active role in screening students at home.

**Efforts to Provide Vaccinations to School Communities**

The district will provide information regarding COVID-19 vaccination opportunities and will provide flexibility to staff and students who may need to miss work/school to gain access to the COVID-19 vaccine or in response to its short-term side effects.

**Accommodations for Children with Disabilities**

Students with special needs will have access to all safety protocols discussed above as well as safety measures agreed to in their IEP or 504 Plan.

**Continuity of Services**

Continuity of services will be provided to the extent possible for academic, mental health, health, and food services should the district find itself in the high-risk category for COVID-19 spread.

**Wearing of Masks**

Wearing of masks is permitted, but not required. Mask use may be recommended or required under some circumstances and if physical distancing and other mitigation measures are not possible or sufficient.

**Coordination with State and Local Officials**

Mead Public Schools will coordinate with state and local health officials in regard to support and technical assistance as necessary to implement strategies consistent to the greatest extent possible and appropriate with relevant national, state, and local guidance.