

October 25 2020

Dr. Shelley Redinger
Superintendent, Richland School District
615 Snow Avenue
Richland, WA 99352

Subject: Third Party Review of Richland School District Readiness for In-Person Learning

Dear Dr. Redinger:

The Richland School District asked NV5/Dade Moeller to provide a 3rd Party review of the district's readiness to receive Kindergarten students for in person learning. Our review covered two phases. In Phase 1 we reviewed the district's protocols and plans for providing personal protective clothing, cleaning and sanitizing, guidance for staff, attestation of health, and steps to take if staff or students start showing symptoms while in school. In phase 2 we physically walked through each school and reviewed to plans for the buildings.

Our phase 1 review included a review of the documents and protocols developed. These were compared to the guidance promulgated by the US Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Washington State Department of Health, and the Benton-Franklin Health District. We found the district's protocols to be consistent with the guidance. We reviewed the cleaning protocols in detail and determined they meet the guidance. The cleaning product being used is a disinfectant and will provide additional assurance of cleanliness. All custodial staff have been trained on the cleaning protocols and criteria for cleaning touch points. It was noted during the phase 2 walkthroughs that hand sanitizer stations are present in all class rooms as well as disinfecting wipes for spot cleaning.

Our phase 2 walkthroughs consisted of meeting with each school principal, yourself, Joan Gribskov, Assistant Director of Human Resources, Richard Krasner, Executive Director of Operations, Jeff Lettau, Director of Facilities & Operations, and Mark Humann, Custodial Supervisor. We asked each principal to walk us through the preparations they have in place for the return of students (and staff). This included:

- The location of health and sick rooms as well as the preparations for assessing and controlling sick students. We also verified that appropriate PPE was available for the nurses and health aides. In all cases, appropriate facilities and PPE were available.
- Protocols and controls for faculty work rooms and lounges. This included controlling the occupancy of each space and controls such as one person per table in the lounge and appropriate social distancing between tables. We made recommendations for changes as appropriate. In all cases, controls were in place.
- We reviewed classroom setups to verify the ability to maintain social distance. We suggested changes where more than one student was at a table. In all cases, solutions were discussed and will be implemented such that each student will have an individual work surface and all will face towards the teacher. We also looked at classroom resources. Individual containers, marked with the students' names, are available to limit the needs for sharing. Cleaning and quarantine of shared items is in place. Library book requests will be done online and the books delivered and picked up by Library staff. There will be no student access to libraries.

- We reviewed protocols and locations for student arrival and release. All schools have designated areas and have placed marks on the ground to visibly remind students to maintain social distance. Students will line up by classroom and will enter the school one classroom at a time to minimize mingling of students. Release will be done in a similar manner.
- Each school is implementing strategies and controls for parent drop off and pick up of the students. We reviewed allowing parents to stand in line with their student, at least for the first couple of days. This should not be an issue as long as the parents are wearing masks and are observing the social distancing controls. While we do not believe parents should be confronted regarding mask use if they are not on school property, we do believe they must use a mask if they are standing in line with their child.
- Protocols were reviewed for use of restrooms. Staff are being assigned to monitor this. Controls are in place to limit restroom use to one or two students at a time and to limit the number waiting.
- Most of the students at the Richland Elementary Schools either walk to school or are dropped off by parents. A limited number of students do ride buses to the schools. Protocols for getting students on and off the buses were reviewed. Each bus will have a designated area where students will disembark and board. There will be lines such that social distance can be maintained. The plan is to load the buses from back to front. Encourage siblings to share seats, and limit occupancy of other seats to one student. Bus drivers have been trained on cleaning protocols such that all buses will be cleaned between runs.
- There are classrooms where it is important for the student to be able to see the mouth of the teacher in order to practice enunciation. The district is purchasing face shields with drapes in order to protect the teachers. The district has Plexiglas shields available that provide additional safety.
- The district will have KN95 respirators and face shields available for staff that are working in high risk exposure situations. The KN95 respirators and face shields are an acceptable substitute until N95 respirators are available. A Respiratory Protection Program is in place to administer the use of these respirators.

We do recommend that each principal have a pre-start walk through with affected staff prior to student arrival on October 28th. We recommend a 5-minute tail gate meeting early on the 28th just as a touch point to assure the principal there are no last minute questions or concerns.

In summary, our review indicates the Richland School District has implemented the health agency guidance and has adequate controls and protocols in place to allow in-person learning in a safe and healthy environment. We were impressed by the ownership of the principals and their staff. There were a number of innovative and creative approaches to the implementation of the protocols.

Please contact me with any questions at steve.bump@nv5.com, or 509.308.6364.

Sincerely,
NV5/Dade Moeller

Stephen L. Bump, CHP, CIH, PMP
Manager, Safety & Health Consulting

