

# Potlatch School District #285

## Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction – 2021-2022

\*This plan is based on those developed by the Reentry Committee during the 2020-2021 SY and input from patrons Aug 2021

### Introduction:

Schools are an important part of the infrastructure of communities. Potlatch Jt. School District is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for students and staff that supports social and emotional development and well-being, provides equal access to services, and improves life outcomes. Although COVID-19 outbreaks have occurred in school settings, multiple studies have shown that transmission rates within the school setting, when multiple prevention strategies are in place, are typically lower than community transmission levels.

The Potlatch School District is committed to working with the *local* public health department to determine necessary protocols and prevention strategies. School Administrators consider multiple factors when they make decisions about implementing prevention strategies against COVID-19.

### Part I – Staff and Student Safety – Mitigation Strategies

*Students and Staff who have a fever or are exhibiting symptoms of illness should stay home and seek medical attention.*

**(New Sept 8, 2021) Daily Temperature Checks:** Students and staff will have their temperature checked upon arriving at buildings each morning (within the first 30 minutes of the day). Students and/or staff who have a fever (100.4 or higher) will be sent home.

**Promoting Vaccination:** Potlatch School District encourages staff and students who are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccination do so. Vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to prevent COVID-19. People who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are at a lower risk of symptomatic or severe infection. Evidence suggests that people who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are less likely to have an asymptomatic infection or transmit COVID-19 to others than people who are not fully vaccinated.

For additional information regarding vaccination clinics or additional information, contact North Central Health District at (208) 882-7506 or access the website at: <https://www.idahopublichealth.com/>

**Modifying Facilities and Physical Distancing:** Staff and families of students will be made aware of any situations where students and/or staff have been exposed. If there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the school district, parents and students will be notified and given safety/health recommendations or guidelines to follow. If necessary, classrooms may be rearranged or moved to a different area to allow for different physical distancing.

Potlatch Schools may implement the use of “cohorting” when working in small groups. This can limit the spread of COVID-19 between cohorts but should not replace other prevention measures. Cohorting means keeping people together in a small group and having each group stay together throughout the entire day. This can be used to limit the number of students, teachers and staff who come in contact with each other, especially when it may be challenging to maintain physical distancing.

Based on studies from the 2020-2021 school year, the CDC recommends schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance, when possible, between students in the classroom to reduce transmission risk.

## Potlatch School District #285

### Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction – 2021-2022

Other mitigation measures, such as desk shields and/or more permanent plexiglass, may also be used when 3 feet of physical distance is not possible.

**Universal and Correct Wearing of Masks\***: Universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors is recommended as per CDC, and the Region 2 Health Department, guidelines.\*\*. Potlatch School District highly recommends wearing face coverings when in school buildings.

Consistent and correct mask use is especially important in crowded settings, when physical distancing cannot be maintained. Staff and students will follow the CDC guidelines for wearing masks correctly (over the mouth and nose) as posted in signage in all buildings. It is good practice to wear a mask if you have symptoms of any kind (even for the common cold or flu) to prevent unintentional spread of viruses.

When outdoors, most people do not need to wear masks.

\*If the board gets indication from the Region 2 Health department that cases, hospitalizations, and community spread reach dangerous levels, **face coverings may have to be required**.

\*\*Update – November 1, 2021. The Potlatch School District face covering requirement expired on October 29, 2021 as per the Oct 13 board meeting. **Face coverings are now highly recommended in all school buildings.**

**Potlatch School District will be supportive of people who may choose to not to follow the CDC recommendation of universal mask wearing as a personal choice due to a medical condition or religious beliefs.**

**Hygiene and Health Etiquette**: Staff and students will be encouraged to practice good hygiene prevention practices. Frequent hand-washing and coughing into the elbow (respiratory etiquette) will help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and other illnesses. Signage for hand-washing best practice will be posted in buildings. Hand Sanitizer will be available in every classroom for students to utilize. Students will be encouraged to wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 sec. Teachers will teach healthy habits of covering nose and mouth properly.

**Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities**: Staff will be provided cleaning and sanitizing products for classrooms. Plans will be developed by each classroom to ensure surfaces are being cleaned a minimum of once a day as recommended by the CDC. Custodial staff will disinfect/sanitize a minimum of once a week using electrostatic sprayers for thoroughness.

Some of the cleaning practices are as follows:

- Daily Standard Cleaning Procedures
- Bathrooms cleaned daily
- Desk and chairs wiped down daily
- Handrails, door knobs, light switches, telephones, sinks, drinking fountains, countertops wiped down daily.
- Lunchroom tables will be cleaned prior to and after each meal service
- Classrooms will be vacuumed daily
- Computer labs/keyboards will be disinfected after use.

## Potlatch School District #285

### Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction – 2021-2022

- Trash will be removed daily from the classroom/building.
- Cafeteria will be cleaned as required on a daily basis.
- Food service staff will wear gloves and masks and other PPE if necessary.
- Hand sanitizer, soap, paper towels and tissues will be made available to all employees/students.
- Gymnasiums and locker rooms will be cleaned daily.

**Transportation:** The following procedures will be in place throughout the school year regarding the cleaning and sanitizing of buses used for student transportation.

- Cleaning of seats will be done following every route or event.
- Students will be asked to sit with family members when possible. Assigned seats may be given.
- Hand sanitizer will be made available on buses.

**Contact Tracing:** Potlatch School District will continue to collaborate with state and local health departments to confidentially provide information about people diagnosed with, or exposed to, COVID-19. This allows the district to identify which students, teachers and staff with positive test results should isolate and/or quarantine. School officials will notify, **to the extent allowable by law**, teacher, staff and families of students who were close contacts as soon as possible after the district is notified that someone within the school has tested positive. Students who begin to **show symptoms** at school will be sent home for quarantine/isolation.

**What constitutes a “close contact?”** Staff or students who are closer than 3 feet without a face covering or shield, such as a desk shield or plexiglass, for longer than 15 minutes.

**Diagnostic and Screening Testing:** Screening testing identifies infected people, including those with or without symptoms. In K-12 schools, screening can help promptly identify and isolate cases, quarantine those who may have been exposed to COVID-19 and reduce the risk to in-person education.

Potlatch School District will **not** be screening students or staff. COVID-19 testing can be done at the local pharmacy, or your health provider.

**Isolation, Quarantine, Attendance, and Absenteeism:** Potlatch School District will monitor student and staff attendance. **(New as of 2/9/2022)**

The following chart applies to all staff and students regardless of vaccination status

Positive Test Results	Showing Symptoms	Exposed but Non-Symptomatic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stay home for a minimum of 5 days from when symptoms started.</li> <li>● AFTER 5 days, if you are symptom free, you may return to school/work while <b>wearing a mask*</b> for an additional 5 days.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Test for COVID as soon as symptoms begin.</li> <li>● If negative and symptom free, you may return to work/school. If positive, follow the requirements for a positive test.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● May attend school/work.</li> <li>● <b>Wearing a mask is recommended for at least 5 days but not required.</b></li> <li>● Watch for symptoms and test for COVID if symptoms begin.</li> </ul>

**\*Families may opt to have a student stay home for the full 10 days for positive test if wearing a mask is an issue.**

## Potlatch School District #285

### Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction – 2021-2022

Students, teachers, and staff who are sick with any illness will be expected to stay home and are encouraged to speak to their healthcare provider for possible testing and care. ***Students will also be sent home if they are running a fever (100.4) or display any signs of cold or flu like symptoms.*** Students and staff may return to school after 24 hours with no fever, no cough and no signs of illness are evident.

***If the district has confirmed cases***, schools will only operate under the guidance of the local health department. If school is in session, staff may take personal, sick or vacation leave unless there are other state or federal protocols in place.

***\*Students or staff who are consistently wearing a mask and are exposed to someone who has COVID-19 and do not have symptoms do not need to quarantine.***

**Accommodations for Children with Disabilities:** Parents of at-risk students will be encouraged to speak to a health care provider about safety protocols that are being recommended for them in a school environment. The Potlatch School District will comply with any accommodations written in IEPs or 504 plans regarding COVID preventative measures or procedures

If parents are uncomfortable sending students back to school, they are encouraged to speak to building administration about possible options for online instruction. Please contact Jill Diamond or Doug Richards for additional information.

**Visitors:** Potlatch School District will be limiting non-essential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations with people when there is moderate to high COVID-19 community transmission. All visitors are required to be checked in and registered with administration before entering the building.

### **Part II – Instructional Model and Unfinished Learning – Strategies to support ALL students**

It is the desire of Potlatch School District to create a learning environment that is as normal as possible for students and families. As long as vaccination numbers rise and COVID-19 cases remain at a safe level, Potlatch students will be in school 5 days a week learning from and with each other in a face-to-face setting.

#### **How is the LEA (Potlatch School District) addressing and plans to address students' academic needs?**

Potlatch School District will offer in-person instruction as well as online instruction for students during the 2021-2022 school year. If parents are uncomfortable sending student to school, parents may contact District Administration to determine what option are available for their child(ren). Online services will be provided by Idaho Digital Learning Alliance (IDLA) for the 2021-2022 school year.

Online students must be signed up for a minimum of a semester at a time. Attendance will be counted based on the student's academic progress in the online program. District assessments will be offered to students on days when school is not in full session (Professional development and work days).

## Potlatch School District #285

### Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction – 2021-2022

Universal Screeners will be used to assess all in-person students. The purpose is to assess where student current learning levels are in order for teachers to plan instruction that addresses any unfinished learning and/or extend and deepen learning.

Beginning in October, Potlatch School District will offer an after-school program for grades K-12. Students who are most at-risk, based upon universal screeners, will have priority for this program, but it will be open to all students. This after school program will be offered at no cost families.

Teachers will utilize Google Classroom to post learning resources and assignments as a central location for students. This allows students to access those resources both in and out of the classroom. If in the event that schools have to **temporarily** close, teachers will utilize Google Classroom, and other Google Workspace for Education tools, to deliver instruction.

#### **How is the LEA addressing and plans to address student social, emotional, mental health, and other needs?**

Potlatch School District is working to refine their Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) that addresses both academic and behavioral needs of students. Schools in the district utilize School Wide Positive Behavior Supports (SWPBIS) which focuses on the social well-being and healthy connections between peers and adults. In addition, Potlatch School District employees 2 full-time counselors and a part-time school nurse.

Potlatch School District administration has gone through a change and this is an area of priority as new systems are developed.

#### **How is the LEA address and plans to address staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs?**

Potlatch School District administration has gone through a change and this is another area of priority as new systems are developed. One set of tools that will be utilized are activities found in Elena Aguilar's book Onward: Cultivating Emotional Resilience in Educators.

#### **Process and Timeline for review and revision of this plan no less than every 6 months through September 30, 2023**

Potlatch School District has used, and will continue to form a committee made up of multiple stakeholders to review the safe return to school plan.

Aug 2, 2021 – Revised Plan posted for input from patrons

Aug 11, 2021 - Revised Plan to receive board approval

Jan 10, 2022 – Plan to be reviewed by committee – any revisions to be posted for input from patrons

Feb 9, 2022 – Plan changes to go before Board of Trustees for approval.

July 12, 2022 – Plan to be reviewed by committee – any revisions to be posted for input from patrons

Aug 10, 2022 – Plan changes to go before Board of Trustees for approval.

Jan 10, 2023 – Plan to be reviewed by committee – any revisions to be posted for input from patrons

Feb 8, 2023 – Plan changes to go before Board of Trustees for approval.

July 11, 2023 – Plan to be reviewed by committee – any revisions to be posted for input from patrons

Aug 9, 2023 – Plan changes to go before Board of Trustees for approval.

## **Potlatch School District #285**

### **Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction – 2021-2022**

**The LEA's need for support and/or technical assistance related to implementing strategies identified in Part I Mitigation Strategies and/or Part II Narrative Information Concerning meeting needs of staff and students:**

Potlatch School District could use support from the State Department of Education in the following areas:

- Identifying evidence-based practices around SEL for Staff and Students.
- Evidence-based practices for unfinished learning in math and literacy.
- Professional development around best practices for blended learning