

# Getting Back to School

## St. Maries Joint School District #41 2022-2023 Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Plan

Board approved: August 8, 2022

### Introduction:

While keeping schools open is the goal of St. Maries Joint School District, we know we must have various scenarios in place as we can't control COVID-19. The District has crafted a plan that allows us to respond quickly to changing local, regional, state and national conditions. As conditions change, we may be forced to change how we provide instruction during the school year. The District's Reopening Plan includes a **Green-Red** system that outlines what students, staff, and parents can expect under different conditions.

**GREEN: Normal Operations - Category 1 - St. Maries Joint School District's schools will open with all students** attending school full time (5 days/week normal schedule) implementing reasonable procedures in accordance with health guidance. Staff will work regularly scheduled hours. Cleaning and sanitization protocols will be implemented. Students and staff will be welcomed to wear masks.

**RED: Learn At Home & Stay Safe - Substantial School Transmission** - In extreme conditions, which could include a local or state stay-at-home order, St. Maries School District **will "soft close" schools and shift to blended learning or learning packets for all students.** Based on conditions, the Superintendent with Board approval, could soft close a single school, a cluster of schools, or soft close all schools. When students are not present, staff will develop, record, and upload Blended Learning lessons or Learning Packets, and make parent and student contacts.

St. Maries Joint School District's Reopening includes procedures to try and mitigate risks and minimize the spread of COVID-19. To accomplish our goal of reopening schools, it is imperative all students, staff, and parents do their part by following health guidance whether they're at school or out in the community. Everyone will also need to monitor their health and stay home if they are feeling sick or showing symptoms of COVID-19.

St. Maries Joint School District 41's Reopening Plan was drafted with input from stakeholders including parents, teachers, staff, and officials with Panhandle Health. The committee reviewed the plan in August of 2022. St. Maries Joint School District's School Reopening Task Force was comprised of:

**Alica Holthaus, Superintendent; Chris Asbury, SMHS Principal; Brett Murdock, SMMS Principal; Bridgit Arkoosh, Heyburn Principal; TJ Blackwell, UpRiver Principal and Federal Programs Director; Todd Gilkey, SMHS Athletic Director; Angela Schultz, SMHS Counselor; Joe Gilmore, SMSD Maintenance Supervisor; Cheri Chaffey, SMSD Food Service Supervisor; Jenifer Miller, SMSD Special Education Coordinator; Tanna Wicks, SMSD Board Clerk; Becky Holder, SMHS Paraprofessional; Holly Jo Shea, SMMS Teacher, Pam Wittrock, SMMS Paraprofessional, Dawn Ahonen, UpRiver Paraprofessional; Tonya Vonk, Heyburn Paraprofessional; Sherri McFadden, Grandparent; Amy Reid, Patron; Chris Sands, Parent; Kristin Burns, SMEA Representative; and Diana Badgett, Heyburn Teacher**

**This plan is a living document and will be updated upon direction of the St.**

**Maries Joint School District Trustees.** The plan is posted on the Districts web site. Feedback from committee members will be sought twice yearly. All recommendations will be forwarded to the St. Maries Joint School District Board of Trustees for consideration.

**St. Maries Joint School District's Focus Everyday:**

- Provide a rigorous, **comprehensive education** for all students no matter the mode of instruction.
- **By adopting reasonable practices**, we can mitigate risks and minimize spread.
- **Be flexible, empathetic and ready to respond quickly** to support families as conditions change.
- **Clearly communicate shared expectations** for students, staff and parents.
- **Update policies** to ensure students and staff who are sick or showing symptoms stay home.
- Because the pandemic may have had an impact on the **social/emotional health of our students** and staff, the District has added the **Time to Teach** curriculum to all grades K/12 to further support our Second Step curriculum offered in grades K/6.

**When school is operating under any category, please do the following to help stop the spread of COVID-19:**

- **Stay home if you are sick and/or showing symptoms!**
- Wash your hands often for a minimum of 20 seconds;
- Do not touch your eyes, nose, and mouth;
- Cover your coughs and sneezes;
- Consider your immunization options; and
- Clean frequently touched surfaces often.

## Protocol If We Have a Confirmed COVID-19 Case

- If a student and/or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, please notify the district as soon as possible. We thank you in advance for communicating with us. Contact information for all buildings can be found at the end of this document.
- If a student is at school and develops symptoms of an illness he/she will be placed in a well ventilated isolation area until he/she can be picked up by a parent or guardian.
- In the event that more than 30% of the student population is ill, the building(s) may close for 1-3 days for additional cleaning. Remote learning for all students in isolation is the expectation.

## Levels of Authority

**LOCAL BOARDS OF TRUSTEES Idaho Code, 33-512** - Provide uniform and thorough instruction to all students which progresses them through the education continuum. Ensure the health and safety of their staff and students. Develop plans and procedures for responding to the pandemic while providing student instruction.

**LOCAL HEALTH DISTRICT Idaho Code, 39-414 Idaho Code, 39-415 Idaho Code, 33-512(7)** - Identify category of transmission level within a community using scientifically-driven metrics. Advise local education agencies on operation and health safety plans and procedures.

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE Idaho Code, 56-1003(7) Idaho Code, 33-512(7)** - Set statewide health and safety standards to promote and protect the health and safety of Idahoans. Protect the public from the spread of infectious and communicable diseases.

# Keeping Schools Open Will Take Community Effort:

**Health Checks:** To accomplish our goal of reopening St. Maries School District's schools and keeping them open, it will be important for students, staff, parents, and patrons to do their part by following health guidance and monitoring their health.

We ask that as students and staff prepare for school each day, they ask themselves these questions:

- **Since your last day in school have you had any of these symptoms that are NOT attributable to another condition?**
  - Fever or chills (A fever is considered having a temperature of 100.4 F)
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - Fatigue
  - Congestion or runny nose
  - Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea
  - Muscle or body aches
  - Headache
  - Sore throat
  - New loss of taste or smell
  
- **If the answer is YES to any of these symptoms:**
  - **DO NOT send your child to school.**
  - Contact your healthcare provider for guidance to determine if testing for COVID-19 is recommended.
  
- **If your child has tested positive for COVID-19 OR was directed by a healthcare provider or Panhandle Public Health to stay home:**
  - **DO NOT send your child to school UNTIL:**
    - Your child has isolated for at least 10 days from symptom onset and at least 3 days have passed since symptoms have improved.  
.....OR.....
    - Your medical provider has determined a different illness than COVID-19 and cleared your child to return to school.

**Responding To A Confirmed Case of COVID-19:** An important part of limiting the spread of COVID-19 in our community is identifying those who may be sick, infected, or who have been exposed, and requires all of us working together to keep the virus in check.

## ***Students/Families:***

- If your child has tested positive for COVID-19 we ask that:
  - **DO NOT send your child to school.**
  - Notify your school of the positive test.
  - Follow guidance from your health provider regarding isolation.

## Contact Information

- **St. Maries School District**
  - Superintendent, Alica Holthaus, 208-245-2579
- **St. Maries High School**
  - Principal, Chris Asbury, 208-245-2142
  - Athletic Director, Todd Gilkey, 208-245-2142
  - Secretary, Kriss Gibson, 208-245-2142
  - Secretary, Kaisie Brede, 208-245-2142
- **St. Maries Middle School**
  - Principal, Brett Murdock, 208-245-3495
  - Secretary, Donata Rogers, 208-245-3495
- **Heyburn Elementary**
  - Principal, Bridgit Arkoosh, 208-245-2025
  - Secretary, Tammie Woster, 208-245-2025
- **UpRiver**
  - Principal, Thomas Blackwell, 208-245-3650
  - Secretary, Sarah McQueen, 208-245-3650
- **Transportation**
  - Supervisor, Janie Allen, 208-245-3366
- **Maintenance**
  - Supervisor, Joe Gilmore, 208-582-0175
- **Food Service**
  - Supervisor, Cheri Chaffey, 208-245-1309

## Additional Contacts

### Emergency

911

### Panhandle Health

208-415-5100

### St. Maries Family Medicine

208-245-2591

### Benewah Community Hospital

208-245-5551

### Marimn Health

208-686-1931