



DARBY SCHOOL DISTRICT

209 School Drive
Darby, MT 59829

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The Darby School District Safe Return Plan

The Darby School District has developed this Safe Return plan through collaboration with Darby stakeholders.. This document is to be reviewed and approved every six months. It is understood that this document is a dynamic document and can be altered and updated with board approval. The Darby School District is taking the following measures to safely provide in-person instruction, including consideration of guidance by the CDC and state and local health officials as follows: Reviewed and Approved Jul 10, 2023 .

Universal and correct wearing of masks: Current district practice is to make sure personal choice of whether to wear a mask or not is respected. Any hurtful comments towards an individual who is either wearing or not wearing a mask will be treated similarly to other disciplinary situations using progressive discipline.

Physical Distancing: Physical distancing will follow the CDC recommendations to the best of our ability. This is a recommendation and not a requirement.

Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette: Proper hygiene, including hand washing, use of hand sanitizer, and etiquette when coughing or sneezing, will be taught from TK to 12th grade.

Frequent and scheduled cleaning of the restrooms will be conducted. We encourage teachers to keep classroom doors and windows open in order to increase ventilation and decrease the number of surface touch points.

Students will be encouraged to handwash and/or use sanitizer gel. Key times are upon arrival, before eating, and after restroom breaks. Self serve items will follow county and state health codes.

Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities (including improving ventilation): The Darby School District has invested nearly one million dollars in a new HVAC system in the elementary school to improve not only heating and cooling but also clean air exchange. The District also acquired new air purifiers for all school buildings where staff and students learn and work.

Contact Tracing and Visitors: Contact tracing of individuals who have been close contacts with a positive COVID-19 case when needed will be conducted by the Ravalli County Health Department. Their procedures are closely aligned to the CDC guidance.

Diagnostic and Screening Testing: Students should tell their parents or teacher if they feel sick or have symptoms of COVID-19. Stay home from school and other activities if they feel sick or have symptoms of COVID-19. Stay home from school and other activities if they test positive



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for COVID-19. Follow the quarantine guidance if they are exposed to someone with COVID-19. Practice physical distancing as much as possible. Wash their hands with soap and water often.

Before the school year starts, tell the school if their child has a health condition that puts him or her at a higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19. Review and update their child's plans (Individual Healthcare Plan, Individualized Education Plan, 504 plan) with the school.

School employees should stay home from school or work if they feel sick or have symptoms of COVID-19. Follow the isolation guidance from the health department if they test positive for COVID-19. Follow the quarantine guidance if they are exposed to someone with COVID-19. Understand privacy laws and how these laws relate to any information the school is given by the health department. Tell their employer if they have a health condition that puts them at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19. Provide a safe learning environment for students by following their school plan for reopening. Prepare curriculum plans in case they are absent or have students absent. Encourage students to wash their hands with soap and water often. Practice physical distancing as much as possible. There will be no COVID-19 sick leave. All COVID-19 sick leave will be handled in the same fashion as current sick leave.

We recommend that staff and students who have symptoms pursue testing with a medical professional. Until fever free for 24 hours, staff and students should not return to school but continue with remote learning instruction.

Staff and students will be encouraged to follow doctor recommendations on when to return to school. A request for COVID-19 testing will be referred to local medical facilities in Hamilton, Montana, or in some cases, local pharmacies who are conducting testing. Our district will not be testing individuals on campus

Vaccinations: The District will act in accordance with state and federal law with respect to vaccinations for its staff and eligible students. The District will not refuse, withhold from, or deny a person any services, goods, facilities, advantages, privileges, licensing, educational opportunities, health care access, or employment opportunities based on the person's vaccination status.

Accommodating Students with Disabilities: The District will provide accommodations to its policies for students with disabilities as determined appropriately based upon the individual student needs and in accordance with an individual accommodation plan or individualized education plan. Students requiring accommodations should contact Tony Biesiot (406-821-1314) to request information on plans for students with disabilities.

Student Academic Needs: Student academic accommodations and interventions will be used



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through our Multi-Tiered Systems of Support Team process, as well as special services programming (Title I, Special Education). Achievement data, attendance data, and behavioral data will be used to determine interventions based on a multi-tiered support system. Curriculum, instruction, and assessment (CIA) will be continually monitored, analyzed, and adjusted according to need. Through the use of an accreditation company, Cognia, we will continue to monitor the CIA through the use of goal setting, informal and formal walkthroughs (ELEOTS), as well as, using the Danielson Framework for observations and two way feedback between administration and instructional staff.

Student Needs: A focus on the needs of our students and staff is our highest priority for the Darby School District. Building a common vocabulary around a safe return to school, all COVID-19 safety protocols, and creating a foundation for emotional well being for all students and staff will help meet the needs of the students as they return to the traditional, in person learning environment. A multi-tiered level of support will be utilized in all schools. Tier 1 programs will be evaluated and analyzed to determine what is best for students in all three schools. Mental health interventions and accommodations will be developed to support Tier 2 and 3 students with collaboration from our school counselors and our CSCT teams.