

CUSTER SCHOOLS' Re-Opening Plan Updated at Board Meeting 11-10-2021

For the 2021-2022 school year, the Custer School District will open as close to normal as is possible. This includes returning to our regular lunch schedules and combined recess times. The Monday Assemblies will resume. The water fountains are back on. Currently, there are no restrictions on sporting events or gatherings. Masks are not required, but are an option for staff, students, and visitors. Cleaning procedures will continue. There are no contact tracers in the District this year. Therefore, we appeal to common sense when students or staff develop any symptoms. **Laws will be followed as passed.** We will continue serving students who are quarantined or isolated by medical personnel through the Blended Services described in the 2020-2021 Re-Opening Plan.

At the same time that we are returning to normal, the schedule from last year and the protocols from last year will be kept as backups just in case the need should arise. The Re-Opening Plan from last year is still attached and sections would be selectively added to the 2021-2022 Re-Opening Plan as needed and appropriate. Even the 2020-2021 Reopening Plan was altered by law and Governor Executive Order.

The current Plan is subject to Board of Trustee periodic review.

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**(Plans will be kept just in case we have to go back to the original plan.
Some current notes were made in bold below.)**

Our current re-opening plan is for In-School Instruction. There are several options for re-opening according to the situation as it develops. These plans are preliminary, and subject to change. We are also waiting for more information. But, this should give parents the direction we are heading.

THREE MAIN THEMES

1. Decompress
2. Reduce mixing of Groups
3. Sanitation

CLOSE CONTACT

1. Close contact is the main concern.
2. Close contact is proximity closer than 6 feet for 15 continuous minutes or more.
3. Desks should be spaced as much as possible. The numbers they have put out is 6 feet, but no closer than 3 feet. Greater distance is preferred.
4. The first line of defense is distance. Masks and shields help but always start with trying to maintain distance.
5. Passing someone in the hall is not sustained contact; thus, it is not considered close contact.

VIRUS DIAGNOSIS

1. Temperature scans are not what they are all cracked up to be. Scanning a whole school of kids will likely create compression during waiting according to RiverStone. Therefore, the District will not scan upon entry to the schools. We will scan if symptoms are observed.
2. One in three people infected never develop a fever.
3. The other symptoms are more effective in identifying individuals with the virus than temperature checks.
4. The school will have a room set aside should a student develop symptoms while at school. The parent will be called.
5. Public Health will be consulted as needed.

PROCEDURES with SYMPTOMS or a POSITIVE TEST

1. People who are symptomatic will isolate until a test result is obtained. **(Yellowstone County and State guidance will be followed as amended. We have no power to enforce contract tracing. We can deal with symptoms though.)**
2. Symptomatic people who test negative can return to school when symptoms are resolved (just like any other sick student or staff member).
3. People with positive tests will isolate until certain conditions are met (e.g., 24 hours without fever in the absence of any fever-reducing meds, improvement in respiratory symptoms, AND at least 10 days from the onset of symptoms.) People in isolation (i.e.,

those who have a positive test result) cannot return to school or work until released by public health. **(Yellowstone County and State guidance will be followed as amended.)**

4. Public Health handles the contact tracing. **(We no longer contact trace in conjunction with the County.)**
 - They are looking for the close contact and events attended.
 - Close contacts with no symptoms are put into quarantine for at least 14 days and told to monitor for symptom development.
 - Close contact with symptoms are tested. If test is negative, the contact is still quarantined for at least 14 days (i.e., a negative test does NOT get that person out of quarantine sooner.) If test is positive, the contact is now a case and placed in isolation until released by public health.
 - The school must enact an enhanced sanitation protocol in a classroom and schools. Public health is happy to consult on each school's/district's planned protocols.
 - If structured properly, entire classes are not automatically quarantined simply because a student or staff member tests positive. If more than a couple students are symptomatic or test positive, more extensive quarantine or other containment efforts could be required. This is decided by Public Health in consultation with the school/district.
 - No one at school has to do contact tracing, or determine who needs to be quarantined/isolated, or determine who needs to be tested. Public Health handles that.

MASKS vs. SHIELDS

1. Masks protect the other person more than the wearer. It prevents the droplets from leaving the face area of the person wearing the masks.
2. A shield protects the person wearing the shield by stopping droplets from hitting their face, especially the eyes.
3. Masks are not a great option for a teacher because of the absence of facial expression.
4. Shields are more conducive for teaching because of the openness of the facial expressions. In healthcare settings masks and shields are used together (they serve different purposes) but in teaching there will be times when a mask cannot be worn and then a shield is the next option.
5. Masks shall be used for times of close contact such as one-on-one face to face tutoring, close proximity monitoring and tutoring by the teacher moving around the room. **(Masks are optional now.)**
6. Masks are required in accordance with Governor Bullock's Order unless the students are seated and social distanced. **(We follow the Transportation guidance. Governor Bullock's Order was rescinded.)**
7. Bus drivers **are** required to wear a mask or a shield unless fog causes a problem while driving, or the students are seated. **(We follow the Transportation guidance.)**
8. The District purchased masks and shields for students and staff.

In Case of Closure

1. We will set up regular schedules for class on Zoom. Teachers will take attendance; students will need to attend just like they do when they are in school. School work will be

required and graded. However, the times for actual Zoom will be somewhat condensed when compared with regular class.

2. Teachers will have office hours when they will be available during the day outside the regular class time. They will use Zoom, or other forms of communication to work with students and communicate with parents. Teachers will make students and parents aware of the office hours.
3. Extra tutoring services will be available on a scheduled or call-in basis according to need.
4. Electronic means will be used to the extent possible for assigning work and collecting work. This may include use of a possible Infinite Campus system and applications like Google Classroom.
5. Packets will be used when an electronic means is not available or not as efficient. But, electronic transmission of work is easier and preferred.
6. Laptops will be assigned as needed. Students and parents will be responsible for loss or damage.

Blended Services

1. If we are partially shut down in a class, or a family is quarantined or isolated, we will use Zoom to bring the students into our classes.
2. Electronic means will be used to the extent possible for assigning work and collecting work. This will include use of a possible Infinite Campus system and applications like Google Classroom. To assist with instruction delivery, the school will look into wireless microphones that can connect with the laptops. Problems with hearing were reported when teachers were teaching at a board.
3. Packets will be used when an electronic means is not available or is not as efficient.
4. The reason to have blended services could happen if we must reduce the time at school, or stagger student attendance at school. We do not anticipate this because our enrollment allows us to social distance easier than a large school. The other reason is for a student who has immunity and health problems that require the student to isolate. This is usually for Special Needs children that are either in 504 or Special Education.

In-School Delivery

Classrooms

(Classrooms are functioning like normal for now.)

1. Classrooms will have desks facing the same direction.
2. Walls will be used for desk placement as much as possible to allow maximum spreading of desks. Household members can sit together if they are in the same room.
3. Some centers or areas within a classroom may need to be eliminated to increase usable space in the classroom.
4. Any items that cannot be readily sanitized (e.g., soft/fabric dolls) should be removed and stored outside the classroom.
5. Elementary classrooms will remain in their classrooms as much as possible.
6. Lining up procedures will include spacing of at least 3 feet or more, preferably 6 feet.
7. Procedures that have the students touching their faces will not be allowed. This includes hall procedures.

8. Cubby/locker procedures will be developed to avoid clustering at their cubbies/lockers. This may involve dividing into two or three groups. Each group is spaced out.
9. Keyboarding classes in the elementary will either be eliminated or moved to the homeroom with laptops. All laptops must be wiped down after each use, unless the laptop is assigned to a specific child only. Elementary keyboarding in the computer room is a possibility if all surfaces are cleaned before the next class enters.
10. P.E. Classes will meet outside as much as possible. Activities should be designed in a distanced format to the extent possible.
11. The weight room will be avoided with classes larger than 10. Thorough wipe down of the equipment used must be completed after each student uses a piece of equipment. The only time they should be close is when spotting – and then only for the time necessary. This is one of the hardest areas in the school to maintain. School use is by groups other than students present a sanitation problem for a limited custodial staff. Evening uses by outside groups should possibly be eliminated. This is one of the hardest areas in the school to maintain. Proper sanitation is the key. Community use of the weight room will continue to be denied.
12. Small group work should be minimized, or designed to allow distancing. Close face to face interaction should be avoided unless masks (first choice) or shields (when masking is not feasible) are used. If grouping is used, it must also be a set group without rotation.
13. Shared spaces will be minimized or eliminated.
14. Drinking fountains will be turned off. The bottle refill is on. We encourage students to bring water bottles to school. Athletes will need extra for practice. **(Fountains are back on.)**
15. Teachers will assign seats in all classrooms with desks or tables.
16. In secondary classrooms, an ending routine will include each student wiping down their desk and seat where their hands can touch. Once that has been done, they will not sit back down.
17. Electronic means will be used to some extent for assigning work and collecting work. This will include use of a possible Infinite Campus system and applications like Google Classroom. This will be done to allow a smoother transition for home-based services should a school closure or individual quarantine happen.
18. Handwashing must take place after every bathroom visit. Elementary teachers should incorporate handwashing or hand sanitizer use upon student re-entry to the class, even if the student claims they washed their hands in the bathroom.
19. Community pencil containers will not be used. Community use of supplies should be eliminated. This means that students must have their supplies at school. Extra supplies in lockers or desks will be encouraged.
20. Band/Choir/Music was moved to the old gym to allow for greater spacing and ventilation. **(Music classes are in the band hall for now.)**

Lunchroom

(Lunches are combined and functioning like normal for now.)

1. Only two elementary classes will be allowed in the cafeteria at the same time.
2. Classes will spread out using the table space. Staggered seating will be used to the extent possible.

3. Elementary students will have assigned seating. Household members may sit together without spacing. This may help with spacing for others. For sake of room, teachers may crossover classrooms in the lunchroom. Line up procedures may help with the assigned seating.
4. The students will be handed all food and utensils. This includes milk.
5. No help yourself salad bar access will be allowed.
6. No one will be allowed in the kitchen except kitchen staff.
7. Wash hands before and after lunch.
8. Kitchen use by outside groups will be eliminated until the issues with COVID-19 are over.

Recess

(Classes can be combined at recess for now. Recess is unrestricted.)

1. Only one classroom will be allowed at recess at a time, unless the classrooms are totally separated and not sharing equipment.
2. Equipment may be used since we have a small group at a time.
3. Contact sports will not be allowed at recess.
4. Wash hands before and after recess.
5. Have play equipment such as balls and hoops assigned to each classroom. These items should be sanitized after each use.

Hallways & Lockers

1. Consider assigning lockers by household instead of grade. Our lockers are in short supply due to the construction. We are only assigning lockers to those who want them. Then, we will group them by family first.
2. Encourage the carrying of supplies for two or more periods to avoid congregating at lockers.
3. Teachers must encourage students to walk through the halls and go to class. Distancing should be maintained to the extent possible.
4. The morning gathering at the entrance will not be allowed without distancing.

ADULT ED

1. When school is in session, Adult Education will be allowed as long as sanitation can be completed prior to student use. This includes open gym. This will be monitored. We must maintain a good environment for our students.

BUS TRANSPORTATION

1. Drivers shall wear masks or face shields. It will be up to the driver. If fogging is a problem, they may remove it while driving. **(We follow the Transportation guidance.)**
2. Drivers will NOT scan the temperature of each student as they board.
3. Students will have assigned seats. Households may be assigned together. **(We are not assigning seats for now.)**
4. Spacing will be used for distancing purposes.
5. Buses will be cleaned regularly as needed according to usage and capacity use.

SANITATION

1. Water fountains will be off throughout the building. Water fill stations will be on.
(Fountains are on for now.)
2. Regular sanitation will be done on things like bathroom handles, door handles, light switches, common surfaces, entries, and rails.
3. We purchased two disinfectant sprayers that we will use in some areas, or in the case of an outbreak. The handheld ones can even be used in the buses.

SPORTS

(Sports are proceeding without restrictions at this time.)

1. This is still TBD. MHSA came out with some guidelines, but not about fans. Individual counties are taking steps independent of the other counties. This is still TBD.
2. MHSA has confirmed that practice and games will proceed as scheduled, with some possible procedural changes.
3. This is one of the biggest areas of concern where students and coaches would be more vulnerable.
4. Crowd size limitations and distancing is another concern, especially for the inside sports.
5. We may split practices according to teams into two locations in the fall to reduce the number of students on a bus. In the fall, we normally have practiced in one location so we did not have a late practice. That may have to change this year. I think we are staying in one place and masking up on the bus.
6. We may have to run two buses to games that include Junior High and High School due to an inability to allow spacing on a single bus.