

**This plan is based upon current data, guidance, and local decisions. It has been designed to provide us the ability to adjust if/when conditions change. It is quite likely that portions of this plan could be revised prior to the start of school on August 24<sup>th</sup>.**

## **Arickaree School District R-2 Reopening Plan 2020-2021**

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we attempt to navigate these unprecedented times. I know that many of you are needing to make plans and arrangements for the coming months, and Arickaree School District's intentions impact those plans. We continue to monitor our situation and attempt to synthesize the data while avoiding political spin and unvetted reporting. We realize that this plan may have flaws or undoubtedly include actions with which some may disagree. Please assist us by reading and following the plan with two ideas in mind:

- 1) Please assume positive intent – there is no ulterior motive at play here
- 2) Please know that our primary goal is to provide a safe environment that allows our students and staff to experience **IN-PERSON learning and instruction** for the maximum amount of time possible

Arickaree School District R-2 will follow an amended calendar that was approved by the school board.

**Our first day of school will be August 24, 2020.** This will include students in preschool-12<sup>th</sup> grades.

We have been working diligently to construct a comprehensive plan and are confident that our protocols and procedures will allow our students a safe return to school so they may receive the education they deserve.

In this plan you will not only see the safety measures we have in place for our campus as well as events, but also the supports we have in place should a student become ill or live in a household with an infected family member and need to have an extended absence.

**We welcome any feedback or questions!**

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## Arickaree School District meets the Colorado Department of Education's Checklist for Reopening Schools.

- *Local Conditions to Guide Reopening Decisions*
- *Plan to Address Positive COVID-19 Cases or Community Surges*
- *Injury and Illness Prevention Plan*
- *Campus access*
- *Hygiene*
- *Protective Equipment*
- *Physical Distancing*
- *Cleaning/Disinfecting*
- *Employee Issues*
- *Communication with Students, Parents, Employees, Public Health Officials and the Community*

## Reopening

**This plan is based upon the best data currently available. It has been designed to provide us the ability to adjust if/when conditions change**

### **Present Day**

Co-Curricular and extracurricular activities have begun with safety protocols already in place. Our weight room and gym have also been in use by our student athletes during that same time period. We have suspended activities when necessary to meet minimum guidelines or to provide the safest possible conditions for students and staff.

### **Arickaree R-2 will begin classroom-based "Traditional" school with safety protocols in place.**

- **Screenings**
  - Family Health Screening Flow Charts will be sent to parents prior to the start of school.
  - Daily Health Screenings will be conducted on employees and students **each morning before breakfast.**
    - Thermal Checks- Students' temperature will be checked each day. The process will vary by grade level and be completed as efficiently and discreetly as possible (If a student has a temp over 100.4 parents will be called for pick up).
- **Face Coverings** (Arickaree School District will follow the Governors Orders on Face Coverings. We will continue to work with our local health department and hospitals for guidance in this area.)
  - Per Executive Order, **all staff and students in 4<sup>th</sup> grade and above** are required to wear face coverings (including cloth masks, N95 masks, or face shields that wrap around the face and extend below the chin) while entering and moving about public spaces.

- Face coverings have been purchased by the school district and will be distributed on the first day.
- If the executive order is lifted, students will be encouraged to properly wear face coverings during the check-in process, while in common areas, and during transitions.
- Wearing of face masks will be an ongoing data driven decision.
- The district has enough face coverings to provide them for all staff and students; however, individuals are welcome and encouraged to wear their own. We recommend that cloth face coverings be washed daily.
- If students have medical conditions where a face covering cannot be worn please set up a meeting with the building principal.
- **Transportation**
  - We plan to continue to provide transportation to all qualifying students/families. Current restrictions include face coverings recommended while on the bus, one (1) student per seat (siblings/households may sit in the same seat), and frequent disinfecting and cleaning of the buses- at least two (2) times daily.
- **Extracurricular**
  - Extracurricular activities are scheduled to begin as previously planned. We continue to await further communication from CHSAA regarding any restrictions of activities, spectators, travel, etc.
  - Field trips, assemblies, and all other student and staff events will be evaluated on a case-by-case situation.
- **Visitors**
  - Visitors will not be allowed past the office while the COVID-19 virus is still considered a threat unless approved by the building principal or his/her designee.

## Custodial Practices and Procedures

In this plan we highlight some key areas on which we are focusing, and additional procedures, equipment, and practices being added to ensure a safe return to school.

- Hand sanitizing stations in hallways, cafeteria, labs, offices, etc.
- Disinfecting spray bottles and paper towels in all classrooms, gyms, shops, offices, etc. for staff interim disinfecting. Towels will be washed daily.
- Soap and paper towel dispensers checked and stocked regularly.
- All buildings will post signage regarding handwashing practices, proper use of face coverings, appropriate social distancing, etc.
- Classroom furniture arrangements to improve distancing capabilities (when practical and possible).
- Removal of unnecessary furnishings and clutter from classrooms and office areas.

## **Arickaree School District R-1 encourages students and staff to:**

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**Cover your mouth and nose with a face cover when around others in accordance with public health guidance!**

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- It is possible to spread COVID-19 to others even if you do not feel very sick.
- If you do not feel well (even if you do not have a fever) please do not come to school.
- The cloth face cover is meant to protect other people in case you are infected.
- Cloth face coverings should not be placed on anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.
- Cloth face coverings should NOT be worn during strenuous exercise such as during PE or athletic practices.

### **Daily Check-In Process for Students**

- ALL students will be screened at the beginning of each day at the designated area per individual grade level (shared by the building principals/directors prior to August 17<sup>th</sup>).
- Students will not be screened prior to entering the bus in the morning. If you are not comfortable with this decision, please plan to make other arrangement for your child(ren)'s transportation to school
- Temperature checks – must be below 100.4° to attend school.
- Each student will be given the daily symptoms check survey:
  - Do you have a cough?
  - Are you having shortness of breath or difficulty breathing?
  - Are you experiencing chills?
  - Are you experiencing muscle aches?
  - Do you have a sore throat?
  - Are you experiencing a new loss of taste or smell?
  - Do you feel nauseated or have vomited?
  - Do you have diarrhea?
  - Have you been exposed to someone with COVID or COVID related symptoms?
- Students that are tardy will need to check in at the front office to complete the check-in process prior to entering their classroom.

## Daily Check-In Process for Staff

Temperature checks for staff may be conducted prior to arrival at school. If needed the check-in process can be completed upon arrival to campus (conducted by office staff/Admin); temperature must be below 100.4° to stay at school. All staff will complete the symptom check survey daily.

## Classroom Logistics and Practices

Arickaree School District R-2 believes that classroom-based instruction and the structure of attending school on a daily basis is critical to our students' educational and social-emotional well-being. To ensure they can continue to have that opportunity, we have implemented some of the following practices for our classroom spaces. The following serves as guidance, but each space has nuances that staff members will take into consideration as they prepare their rooms. Although classroom spaces are being cleaned and disinfected daily by custodial staff, these additional practices are designed to increase safety throughout the day.

**Arickaree School District R-2 is in the process of installing cameras and microphones into every classroom for students who are not at school for any reason. Students will be expected to join live classroom instruction through The Big Blue Button and be an active participant in live classroom instruction.**

### Classroom Arrangements

- To the degree practicable, all student desks and tables should be arranged to allow for maximum student to student distancing.
- All students should face the same direction rather than sitting in groups or facing each other.
- When possible, consider utilizing the outdoors rather than the classroom.
- Large band, choir, etc. classes may want to make arrangements for larger spaces or outdoor practice when possible.
- Disinfecting supplies, hand sanitizer, and classroom plans for cleaning will be in place.
- Ensure equipment cleaning and disinfecting practices by students and staff in gyms, labs, and shops are followed.
- Classrooms need to be free of any additional or unnecessary furniture or clutter that may get in the way of distancing or disinfecting practices.

### Remote Classroom Arrangements - Secondary

In situations in which a student may not feel comfortable coming to school, become ill and need to stay home for an extended period of time, if a family member is ill and the student is asked to stay home until they are cleared to return, it will be critical that simple access to classwork be available. Also, in a worst-case scenario in which the school would be forced to close for a period of time, instruction needs to remain as seamless as possible.

Using Google Classroom/Big Blue Button platforms extensively can aid in this case. To that end, students and teachers SHALL:

- Ensure Google Classroom/Big Blue Button is being utilized as part of or in tandem with daily in-class instruction.
- Students and parents must ensure that student devices are readily accessible and able to connect to Wi-Fi and check both Gmail and Google Classroom daily.
- Reinforce student use of Google Suite Apps, particularly Google Docs to align with Google Classroom usage.
- Reinforce the use of student Gmail as the common means of student communication.

### **Remote Classroom Arrangements - Elementary**

In situations in which a student may not feel comfortable coming to school, become ill and need to stay home for an extended period of time, if a family member is ill and the student is asked to stay home until they are cleared to return, it will be critical that simple access to classwork be available. Also, in a worst-case scenario in which the school would be forced to close for a period of time, instruction needs to remain as seamless as possible.

#### Preschool

- Parent pick up of materials will be available upon request
- Big Blue Button will be utilized as part of, or in tandem with, daily in-person instruction if preschool is forced to close down for a period of time

#### K-5<sup>th</sup>

- Ensure Big Blue Button/Google Classroom is being utilized as part of or in tandem with daily in-class instruction.
- Students and parents must ensure that student devices are readily accessible and able to connect to Wi-Fi and check both Gmail and Big Blue Button/Google Classroom daily.
- Reinforce student use of Google Suite Apps, particularly Google Docs to align with Google Classroom usage.
- **Reinforce the use of student Gmail and text messages from instructors to parents as the common means of communication.**

# Campus Logistics and Practices

## Common Areas

- Areas will be marked with reminders to distance along with general safety
- Water fill stations will still be available although water fountains may be blocked.
- Some tables and spaces may be closed or have some seats closed.

## Athletic Facilities, Playgrounds, Gym, Weight Room, Shop etc.

- All gyms and workout areas will have disinfecting supplies.
- Students and staff will be provided training and guidelines to wipe down and disinfect equipment between use.
- Playground/Recess students will wash their hands using proper hand washing techniques immediately when returning from recess.

## Cafeteria / Food Service

- Students will be served breakfast and lunch in the cafeteria and other designated areas of the building to help reach social distancing goals.
- Dining will have a limited number of seating options in the cafeteria due to distancing which will be clearly marked. Additional outside seating may be provided.
- Food service workers will wear appropriate personal protective equipment.

## School Offices

- Arickaree R-2 will be limiting outside guests to individuals or agencies providing direct services to our students.
- Parents and guardians will be limited to waiting areas in offices unless they have an appointment on campus with an individual.
- Current protocols and procedures will be adhered to in regard to wearing face coverings. Guests will go through the Check-In Process if they are interacting with students and staff.

## What Happens When Someone Becomes Sick?

The COVID-19 virus is likely to be active in our community and will continue to do so until either a vaccine or herd immunity ends the spread altogether. As we learn more and more about the virus, we now know that our youth are least affected and generally recover quickly. We also know much more about how the disease spreads and for how long a person may be contagious. With that knowledge, we are well prepared for what to do when a student or staff member exhibits symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19. **Students, staff, and parents need to remember to self-screen daily. If they are exhibiting symptoms, they need to stay home and schedule an appointment with their health care provider to determine if they need to be tested.** The CDC offers this **Self-Checker** to aid in this decision.

***If a student, staff member, or family member within the household tests positive for COVID-19:***

1. Seek medical care from your healthcare provider in accordance with CDC and County Guidelines.
  - a. If a student tests positive, they must complete the mandatory 14 day quarantine, respiratory symptoms have improved, and fever free (without medication) for 24 hours.
  - b. If a student tests positive, the students in this individual's classroom will turn to remote learning for 3 calendar days.
  - c. If a family member tests positive, the student must complete the 14 day quarantine and not be exhibiting any COVID related symptoms prior to returning.

Alert the school administration as quickly as possible to ensure the student can be provided with resources to get started with the Remote Learning Program. Students should not come to school until they have been cleared to do so by your healthcare provider. If a family member is the one who is sick, you must follow the guidance from Public Health prior to returning to school.

***If a student/staff member becomes sick while at school and exhibits any COVID-19 symptoms (fever, upper respiratory concerns):***

Teacher will call the Front office and send the student directly to the Office where they will be:

1. Asked whom they have been in close physical contact (3 feet or less) with for time periods greater than 15 minutes and (i.e. shared food or beverage, held hands, hugged, etc.).
2. Held in an isolation area until a parent/guardian comes to pick them up within the hour.
3. Asked to remain home until medically cleared to return to school
4. Parents will need to pick their child up within 1 hour of being contacted by the school.

***If a student/staff member is sent home from school with a fever but is NOT exhibiting COVID-19 related symptoms:***

1. Must be fever free for 72 hours without medication before returning to school.  
*This has been extended from the 24-hour guideline used in the past due to extraordinary circumstances.*

**\*\*Students sent home for exhibiting symptoms or awaiting test results will be provided Remote Learning opportunities while they are out.**

**\*\*Only students who were in close physical contact with any student who tests positive or exhibits symptoms will be monitored by health staff. Being in the room with someone who was ill does not constitute close physical contact.**

## Office Practices and Procedures

Our school and district offices are here to support students and parents. However, during this time, it is critical that we reduce the number of outside visitors to our sites as much as possible. To assist in this, we ask that parents and guardians:

- Use phone calls and emails as often as possible to handle office communication and attendance.
- When coming on campus understand that you will not be going past the office.
- Ensure all contacts are up to date in case we need to contact you or an approved contact for student pick-up.
- Limit school visits to just one family member. Visitors will not go past the front office.
- Visitors are required to follow current protocols and procedures for wearing facial covering when in the office area, but are always encouraged to wear them.
- Remain in designated areas only.

### **General Office Protocols**

- Distancing signage and markers
- Hand sanitizer stations
- Wipe down and disinfect desks and chairs after office visitors
- Facial coverings available for guests who need one

## Remote Learning Options for Students

Although we believe that classroom-based instruction is still the best option for students from an educational and social-emotional standpoint and that our campuses will do our best to provide a safe learning environment for our students, we are aware and prepared for students and parents who may not feel ready to physically return to school daily. We also want to ensure that we have options for students who may be medically fragile or have compromised immune systems. Arickaree School will have multiple options to meet the needs of these families. Students with disabilities will require an IEP decision to be placed in the appropriate educational setting if the setting is different from the current IEP.

### **Short-Term Remote Learning**

- Must have a qualifying reason (COVID-19 related concerns, etc)
- Students who choose remote learning to begin the year will have 2 weeks to make a decision about whether or not to stay in remote learning for the remainder of the semester or come back to in-person learning. At the 2-week mark, the setting that is chosen will be their placement for the 1st semester unless other mitigating circumstances arise.

- **All** students that begin the year with in-person learning have the option to switch to remote learning at any time. Should they choose to switch, they will have a 2-week period to determine if they'd like to stay with remote learning or return to the classroom.

### **Long-Term Remote Learning**

- Any student that wants to enroll in a full time homeschooling program can register with the Arickaree School District to take courses from **Colorado Digital Learning Solutions (CDLS)**. This can be done at Registration. Each course signed up for will last a semester. Students are not allowed to drop CDLS courses once started.

## Phases

**Phases of Reopening - All phases are subject to individual district statistics and local school board discretion.**

**GREEN Phase:** During this Phase, the level of illness is low within our community. Area healthcare facilities are capable of meeting the needs of the population with less than 25% of beds being occupied by COVID-19 patients.

- All areas of the school systems will abide by the general rules set forth within this document. No additional restrictions are needed at this time.
- Extracurricular activities are limited to no more than 75% capacity while allowing for minimal social distancing of the room/gym. If an outside event is scheduled, capacity will be limited to the space available using 28 sq. feet per person as a limit. Fans will be encouraged to distance between families and additional stands/seating may be used to spread fans out over a larger space.

**YELLOW Phase:** During this phase, the community has either been moved to Safer at Home Guidelines or the threshold of COVID positive students within the district has been met:

- Threshold for YELLOW Phase:
  - Schools with < 250 students: 5 or more positive students or staff within one week
  - School with >250 and < 1000 students: 10 or more positive students or staff within one week.
- All areas of the school systems will abide by the general rules set forth within this document. Additional restrictions will be added.
- Consider modified lunch schedules that could be implemented to increase social distancing. Open campus will remain available per district policy to prevent crowding and encourage distancing.
- Classes will be separated on the playgrounds to remain within their cohort to minimize exposure between classrooms.
- All students and employees will be screened within the first hour of the day to identify and isolate students and staff who are displaying symptoms of COVID. Anyone who tests positive will be sent home per policy.
- Students will have assigned seating in the classrooms whenever possible to help with

- contract tracing and exposure investigations.
- All classrooms that have students who have been exposed to a positive case will be disinfected at the end of each day.
- The YELLOW phase will be in effect for a minimum of two weeks and until the number of new cases within the school has started to decline.
- Extracurricular activities may continue. Students will be fully screened prior to leaving for activities in another town. Activities at home events will be limited to no more than 50% room/gym capacity with a prioritizing immediate family members of participants.
- **RED Phase:** During this phase, the community has either moved to Stay at Home orders or the threshold of COVID positive students within the district has been met:
  - Thresholds for RED Phase:
    - Schools with < 250 students: 15 or more positive students or staff within one week
    - Schools with >250 and < 1000 students: 30 or more positive students or staff within one week.
  - Campus will be closed for a period lasting a minimum of two weeks.
  - Campus district will be fully decontaminated.
  - Kitchen services may remain open and supply students/families with sack lunches during the time it is closed.
  - Off-site learning will be provided during this time.
  - On-site learning will be made available once the number of infected students/staff members reported are at or below the threshold detailed in YELLOW phase. Resumption of on-site learning will begin at the YELLOW Phase for a period of one week and may proceed to the GREEN Phase as the illness numbers allow.
  - Administrative offices will be the only onsite office open during this time but may be closed temporarily for decontamination. All areas that may be open during this phase will be decontaminated first.
  - Extracurricular activities may be limited or discontinued during this time. All students who wish to participate in an extracurricular activity during this time will be required to have a negative test within the past 7 days and will be fully screened prior to activity. Students and other participants with known exposure to a COVID positive person within the past 5 days or those who are experiencing symptoms are not eligible to participate. Home activity events will be held to those involved in the activity (student, coaches, band director...) and parents only during this phase. All participants will be required to be fully screened prior to entry. Activities that require overnight stays are allowed as long as daily screenings are performed, and a plan is developed to isolate and assist a participant who becomes ill getting home safely.