Introduction

Our goal is to reopen our schools for fall, 2020, and stay open. We know, however, that we cannot predict the effects of COVID-19. So the District has developed a plan that allows us to respond quickly to changing local, regional, state and national conditions. As those conditions change, we may be forced to change how we provide instruction during the school year. This Reopening Plan includes a Green-Yellow-Red system that outlines what students, staff and parents can expect under different conditions.

- **GREEN: New Normal Operations** -- Whitepine Schools will reopen with all students attending school fulltime and practicing reasonable procedures in accordance with health guidance. Class offerings, schedule, and instructional methods may be modified in order to be prepared for a potential smooth shift to Yellow or Red conditions.

- **YELLOW: Learning with Caution** -- Whitepine Schools will shift to a hybrid schedule with students attending school on alternate days or alternate schedules so that fewer students are in the buildings at any time, and students are learning part-time in school and part-time at home. Based on conditions, hybrid schedules could be implemented in a single school, or both schools.

- **RED: Learn at Home & Stay Safe** -- In extreme conditions, according to guidance from state and regional health officials, Whitepine Schools will close and shift to remote learning for all students. Based on the situation, the Board could close a single school or both schools.

This Reopening Plan is based on recommendations from health officials, input from parents and staff, and comments from District residents, to produce reasonable procedures to mitigate risks and minimize the spread of COVID-19. To accomplish our goal of reopening schools, **it is imperative that all students, staff and parents do their part by following health guidance whether they are at school or out in the community.**

Students, staff, and their families will also need to monitor their health and stay home if they are feeling sick or showing symptoms of COVID-19. (See Section 4 for more information.)

This plan will be updated as needed in accordance with new guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Governor’s office, the State Board of Education, the State Department of Education, the Idaho High School Athletics Association and other extracurricular governing bodies, North Central Public Health District, and other state and local officials.

---

**Note:** The category of transmission within the community will be determined by the North Central Idaho Public Health District.
Goals

- Continue to provide a rigorous, comprehensive education for all students no matter the mode of instruction.
- Respect health guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and local and state health officials, and adopt reasonable practices we can control to 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.
- Provide parents and teachers with training and support in the use of technology and resources.
- Ensure that students and staff who are sick or showing symptoms stay home.
- Online options for parents uncomfortable about sending children back to school in person.

Use of Facilities by Non-School Organizations:

Unless the District condition is Red, or other factors have suspended student activities, Deary School teams may use indoor and outdoor facilities supervised by designated coaches, who are to be trained by the AD in social distancing, proper cleaning procedures, and exclusion of sick participants.

Indoor facilities (Gym, Weight Room, etc.) are closed to all other users.

Unless the District condition is Red, outdoor facilities may be reserved by non-school groups, who must submit the plan for their activities to incorporate the current state and regional health requirements for social distancing and other criteria. Activities are subject to immediate cancellation if state or local conditions deteriorate.

If any recurring participant in either indoor or outdoor activities tests positive for COVID-19, all indoor and outdoor activities will be suspended until advised otherwise by the North Central Idaho Public Health District.

All activities are subject to immediate cancellation if the current state and regional health authorities, or the Idaho High School Activities Association, prohibit them.
No Community Transmission

Definition: Evidence of isolated cases, case investigations underway, no evidence of exposure in large communal setting, e.g., healthcare facility, school, mass gathering.

Whitepine schools will reopen, incorporating health guidance and protocols to mitigate risks and limit the spread of COVID-19.

Here’s what to expect:

- Social distancing whenever possible and reasonable with face-coverings required when social distancing is not feasible. This applies during the regular school day and the associated busing, but recess, Physical Education classes, and mealtimes are exempt.
- Secondary students may be on a Block Schedule to reduce passing periods and prepare for possible blended learning.
- Students/staff displaying sickness symptoms (fever, etc.) will be isolated in a sick room and sent home.
- Buildings routinely cleaned and disinfected according to CDC guidelines. Surfaces in use will be cleaned nightly, with special focus on high traffic areas.
- Handwashing integrated throughout the day.
- Hand sanitizer available throughout buildings.
- Support and training for parents who need help accessing technology, tools and online curriculum.
- Non-essential visitors discouraged from entering buildings. Parents encouraged to phone from parking lot when possible. Parent-teacher meetings held online or over the phone when possible.
- Staff meetings held online when possible or in smaller groups with social distancing.
- Teachers will prepare videos, to be available on the District website, explaining to parents and students how each of their classes will operate.

Classroom Spaces:

- Assigned seating in every classroom.
- Limited use of shared materials and supplies.
- Students issued their individual Chromebook.
- Desks arranged to allow for cohort groups and social distancing where possible and reasonable.
- Protective measures will be implemented in all offices.
- Some school events, assemblies and gatherings may be changed or cancelled to limit large gatherings.

Common School Spaces:

- Access to campus may be limited with new protocols for volunteers/visitors to campus.
- Students move in cohort groups where possible and reasonable to try and limit possible exposure.
- Cafeteria – Stagger lunch times when possible and increase serve times when necessary, self-service of items that are pre-packaged only & prepayments encouraged.

Transportation:

- Students sit one (1) person per seat on bus, when possible, except siblings and other similar cohorts sit together. Buses sanitized daily.
- Face coverings strongly recommended.

Extracurricular Activities:

- Follow current District, League, and IHSAA guidelines.
Minimal to Moderate Community Transmission

**Definition:** Widespread and/or sustained transmission with high likelihood or confirmed exposure within communal settings, with potential for rapid increase in suspected cases.

Based on guidance from health officials to minimize the number of students, the Board of Trustees may decide to shift to a hybrid schedule where students would attend on alternating days, and learn part-time in school and part-time at home. Depending on conditions, hybrid schedules could be implemented in a single school or in both schools. For example, half of the students at Deary Middle School or High School might attend in the building on Monday and Tuesday or Monday and Wednesday, while all Bovill School students might attend four days a week.

Here’s what to expect in addition to the standards used during Green:

- Social distancing whenever possible and reasonable with face-coverings required when social distancing is not feasible. This applies during the regular school day and the associated busing, but recess, Physical Education classes, and mealtimes are exempt.
- Possible temperature checks for all students
- All parent-teacher meetings held online or over the phone
- Possible calendar changes
- District will provide daily nutrition support for families needing it, throughout the week.

Instructional Standards:

- Focused, rigorous instruction on key standards in each grade and content area
- Traditional grades and accountability
- Clear expectations and communication with students and families
- Some of the structure of a regular school day with face-to-face online instruction and some flexibility for families

Classroom Spaces:

- Students may attend school on a hybrid Block schedule and school times may be adjusted
- Deary Middle School and High School students may attend school on either Mondays/Wednesdays or Tuesdays/Thursdays or equivalent, while Deary Elementary School and Bovill Elementary School students may attend four days a week
- The non-student day each week will allow for teacher prep, planning, staff development, interventions for students who need additional support, and serving special needs. Teachers will provide direct instruction on the days students are at school. Students will work independently to practice concepts and grow mastery when they are working independently at home. In general, students would not be learning new material at home

School Spaces:

- Staff who are working closely with small groups of students will be required to wear face coverings or face shields
- Sneeze guards and other protective measures will be implemented in all offices and as requested by teachers, so far as is possible.
- School schedules may be adjusted to reduce the number of students passing in hallways.

Common Spaces:

- Lunch times may be staggered to reduce the number of students in the cafeteria and allow for some social distancing. Some students may eat in other areas of the school or outside, weather permitting

Extracurricular Activities:

- Athletics postponed or cancelled, based on league and IHSAA rules
**Substantial Community Transmission**

*Definition*: Large-scale community transmission, healthcare staffing significantly impacted, multiple cases within communal settings like healthcare facilities, schools, mass gatherings, etc.

*In extreme conditions, based on guidance from the North Central Idaho Public Health District and other state and regional declarations, which might include a local or state stay-at-home order, schools will close and shift to remote learning for all students. Based on local conditions, the School Board could close a single school or both schools. Here’s what to expect in addition to the standards used in Green and Yellow:*

**Remote Instruction:**
- Focused, rigorous instruction on key standards in each grade and content area
- Traditional grades and accountability
- Clear expectations and communication with students and families
- Some of the structure of a regular school day with face-to-face online instruction and some flexibility for families

**School Spaces:**
- Closed to the general public except by special appointment
- There may be opportunities for in-person small group instruction or intervention
- Schools may offer Internet access in areas such as cafeterias, libraries, gymnasiums and parking lots

**Extracurricular Activities:**
- Athletics and other extracurricular activities are suspended
Procedure for High Risk Individuals or Possible Infections

*Students*

Enrolled students who are medically documented as *high-risk* (or share a household with a documented *high-risk* individual) and whose parents or legal guardians are reluctant to send them to school will receive their educational services at home, as arranged individually. During this period, the student will not be allowed on campus or at school activities without an appointment. If the student’s (or the household’s) status improves to no longer be considered as *high-risk*, the parent or guardian must contact the school office to make arrangements for the documentation that will be required before the student returns.

Enrolled students who are not medically documented as *high-risk* (nor share a household with a documented *high-risk* individual), and whose parents or legal guardians are reluctant to send them to school, may request at-home services as described above. If available, the District will attempt to serve the student’s needs; but there is no assurance that such services will be available, in which case the student will be marked as absent.

If a student boards a bus and the driver or monitor observes potential illness, the driver or monitor will isolate the student from others, and will alert the school. Upon arrival, the student will be escorted to the sickroom.

Any student reporting to the sickroom with potential COVID-19 symptoms (respiratory ailments or temperature of at least 100.4 f.) will be masked and isolated there, in accordance with prevailing Health Department guidelines. Parents will be notified to come to the school and take the student home, and will be advised to consult with a physician. The sickroom will be properly sanitized immediately following each use.

Students showing a temperature of at least 100.4 f., either at school or elsewhere, must abstain from school or activity attendance for at least 24 hours (or prevailing North Central Idaho Public Health District guidelines) *after* the temperature drops below 100.4 f.

All students returning to school following an absence due to illness will have temperature checked upon entry and at other times, using a non-invasive device. If the absence was because of symptoms that might be related to COVID-19, the parent must accompany the student on the return to school.

In the situations where face-coverings are required, students and staff must comply unless they have a documented medical explanation exempting them. Otherwise, home-learning may be arranged to the degree possible.

*IF A STUDENT OR STAFF MEMBER TESTS POSITIVE*

If a student or staff member tests positive, the North Central Idaho Public Health District will recommend appropriate actions, which will vary on a case-to-case basis. If the individual, and those around the individual, had been wearing a face covering at school, the school is likely to be able to remain open. If not, some level of closure is likely.
Personnel and Other District Policy Impacts

Employees

Employees (Certificated and Classified) – Employees who are medically documented as high-risk (or share a household with a documented high-risk individual) and who are reluctant to be present at their assigned workplace may use their sick leave and other earned leaves, and may apply for benefits under the Family Medical Leave Act (Whitepine District Policy 5410), as well as other state or federal benefits that may be available.

Alternatively, as soon as the District learns of the high-risk employee’s status, the District will attempt to find useful alternative duty that does not require the employees’ presence at the workplace and will allow the employment to continue. If such an assignment is not available, not accepted, or not satisfactorily completed, however, the employee will be terminated following the exhaustion of all leaves and available benefits.

Employees who are not verified as high-risk, or in such a household, and are reluctant to be present at their assigned workplace, may use their sick leave and other earned leaves, plus other state or federal benefits that may be available. When such benefits are exhausted, the employee must return to the assignment or be terminated.

The Board of Trustees intends to approve the request of any certificated employee for a one-year unpaid Leave of Absence based on health and safety concerns according to Policy 5400, if possible; reemployment is assured (although not necessarily in the same position) unless there is a Reduction in Force.

Students

The State Board of Education and State Department of Education have indicated that maximum flexibility regarding student requirements will be available. District Policies related to these will reflect the same level of flexibility.
Keeping Schools Open Will Take Community Effort

Health Checks: To accomplish our goal of reopening Deary and Bovill 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.

In cooperation with North Central Public 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
  - New loss of taste or smell
  - Sore throat

If the answer is YES to any of these symptoms we ask that you DO NOT send your child to school, and that you 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 Public Health to stay home, we ask that you DO NOT send your child to school UNTIL your child has isolated for at least 10 days from symptom onset and at least 24 hours have passed since last fever and symptoms have improved.

.....OR..... Your medical provider has determined a different illness than COVID-19 and cleared your child to return to school.

- If your child has had close contact (within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes) with someone testing positive for COVID-19, we ask that you DO NOT send your child to school UNTIL your child has isolated for 14 days and experiences no COVID-19 symptoms. (If symptoms DO present during the isolation period, follow instructions above for seeking medical guidance and possible testing for COVID-19.)

Responding To A Confirmed Case of COVID-19: If your child has tested positive for COVID-19 we ask that you DO NOT send your child to school. Notify your school of the positive test, and follow guidance from your health provider and North Central Public Health District regarding isolation and contact tracing.

The School District will contact the North Central Idaho Public Health district, and will assist with contact tracing and investigation. The District will coordinate efforts to communicate to staff, students, and parents the possible exposure to COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality as required by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), and the Americans with Disability Act (ADA).

If a student tests positive, the North Central Idaho Public Health District will recommend appropriate actions, which will vary on a case-to-case basis. If the student, and those around the student, had been wearing a face covering at school, the school is likely to be able to remain open. If not, some level of closure is likely.