



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF ASHLAND  
— EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION —

District Return + Learn Plan 2021-22

# Purpose & Overview



## Purpose

- Provide School Board with a draft Return + Learn Plan
- Administration will be provided with feedback to strengthen next steps

## Overview of Plan Development

- Plan Overview
- Human Resources
- Operations
- Instruction and Achievement
- Ensuring Success

# Presentation Team



## Member

John Berglund

Travis Larson

Katie Matthias

Dani Mikula

Bonnie Stegmann

Amanda Tutor

## Role

Director of Facilities & Grounds

Director of Co-Curricular & Activities

Director of Student Learning

Director of Student Services

Business Manager

Director of School Nutrition



## 2021-22 PLAN OVERVIEW

# Instructional Settings for 2021-22



- We are preparing for in-person instruction, five days a week, for the 2021-2022 school year.
- It is important to note that our district **may** need to move between on-site and distance learning at any moment depending on factors in our community. We will do our best to communicate in a timely manner to be sensitive to planning for families.
- Virtual learning platforms may be implemented as part of whole class instruction during periods of quarantine, if and when needed.

# Overview of Instructional Settings



	<b>Fully In-Person Across Buildings</b>	<b>Distance/Virtual Learning</b>	<b>Rural Virtual Academy</b>
ES			
MS	All students attend 5 days in-person (following precautions, monitoring safety).	This scenario will take place when a whole class, grade, or school is placed on quarantine.	For families interested in a full-time virtual learning option please enroll online with RVA.
HS		There will NOT be a hybrid experience available.	



# Plan Agility

- The District cannot stop the spread of COVID-19 or variants.
- The Return + Learn Plan is designed to mitigate the risk of exposure in the school setting while prioritizing having our kids in school.
- Because of the unpredictability of the virus, our plan is designed to be flexible and malleable to respond based on levels of spread.



# HUMAN RESOURCES



# Human Resources



## STAFF TRAINING & EXPECTATIONS

All staff will be required to review the approved plan when they return to work. Protocols and expectations may change throughout the year as new information and/or restrictions are communicated by state and local officials.

Any plan changes will be communicated to all staff members.

## GENERAL SAFETY EXPECTATIONS

- Physical distance of no less than 3 feet whenever possible based on job responsibilities.
- Staff are required to follow face covering procedures as determined by the District.
- Wash your hands and/or use hand sanitizer frequently.
- Follow all cleaning and disinfecting protocols related to your job.
- Staff are expected to self screen for COVID-19 symptoms.
- Staff who have COVID-19 symptoms should contact their supervisor and Human Resources.

# Human Resources



**What resources are available to support School District of Ashland staff members?**

- The Employee Handbook Addendum provides details addressing employee concerns received during their feedback surveys.
- Families First Coronavirus Response Act information has been posted on the “Staff” tab of the district website.
- The District is working with local health officials and community partners to provide support resources to staff as requested.

# Human Resources



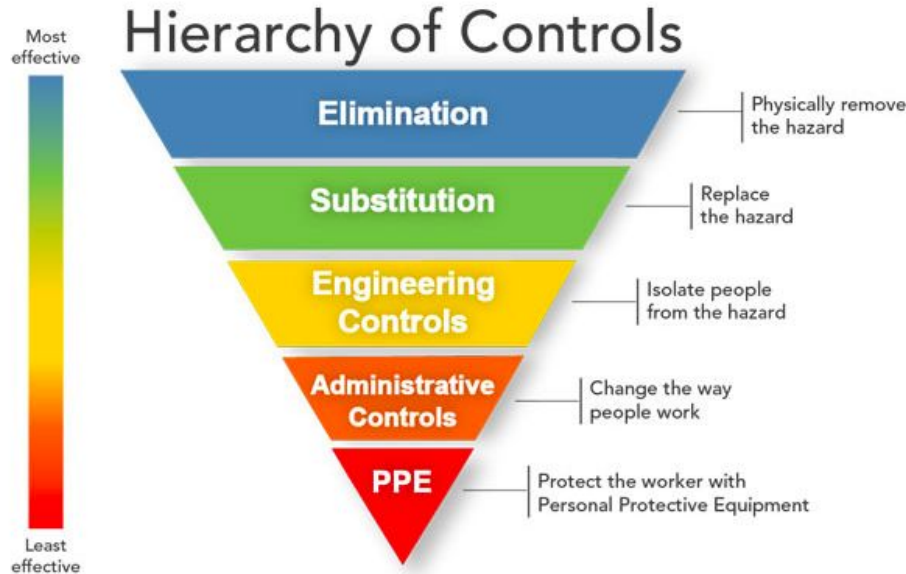
## **What do I do if I have been exposed to COVID-19?**

- If you have been exposed to someone with a confirmed case of COVID-19, call your supervisor or Human Resources.
- Depending on your level of exposure, you may be directed by Public Health or your healthcare provider to quarantine.
- Do not come to work if you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. Call your supervisor.
- If you become ill at work, inform your supervisor immediately. If you are unable to reach your supervisor, call the District Office and speak to an administrator.



# OPERATIONS

# Operations: Safety Hierarchy



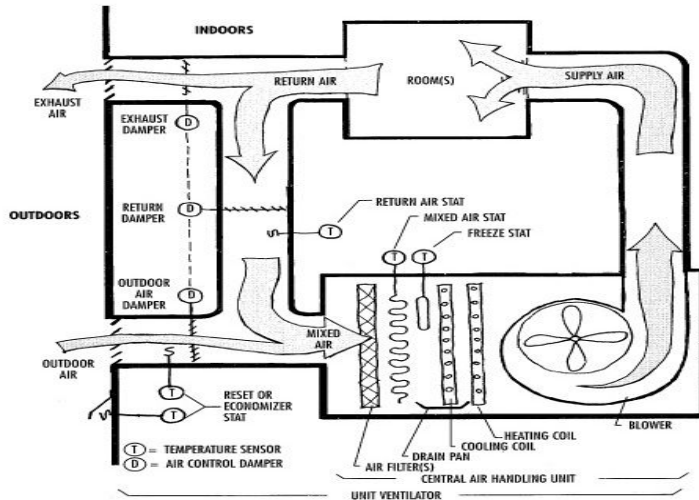
The idea behind this hierarchy is that the control methods at the top of graphic are potentially more effective and protective than those at the bottom. Following this hierarchy normally leads to the implementation of inherently safer systems, where the risk of illness or injury has been substantially reduced.

# Operations: School Operations



**What adjustments will be made to building air exchange and circulation systems?**

- We will be maintaining the increased outside air intake along with the increased amount of air exchange in the schools from 8 exchanges an hour to 16 an hour.
- After the schools become unoccupied, we will continue to purge the buildings with fresh air up to 2 hours after occupancy.
- The HVAC systems will continue to use the high quality MERV-13 air filters. (MERV-8 pre filter and MERV-13 primary filter.)



# Operations: School Operations



**What will be the cleaning and disinfecting process for the upcoming school year?**



ENHANCED SANITATION

- Each classrooms will be provided disinfectant kits. Electrostatic sprayers will be used as needed in larger areas. UV light disinfection will be utilized in certain areas.
- The disinfectant that will be used is listed as a CDC registered disinfectant against the Covid virus.
- The floor cleaning machines will also be using a CDC registered disinfectant/cleaner.
- Facilities and Grounds will be continually evaluating cleaning and disinfecting procedures and adjust as best practices change.

# Operations: School Operations



**What improvements will be made to school operations to promote student and staff safety in common areas?**



- We have developed modified schedules to decrease the number of people using common areas and student traffic within the building
- Adequate supplies (ie. hand sanitizer) will be provided to support healthy hygiene behavior.
- Barriers in offices and other appropriate public spaces will remain.



# Operations: School Operations



**How will classrooms look different for the 2021-22 school year?**



PHYSICAL DISTANCING

- Classroom furniture will be arranged to maximize physical distancing.
- Visual reminders for physical distancing (i.e. floor stickers/signage identifying 3' separation).
- Emphasis on decreased clutter to facilitate cleaning of all hard surfaces daily.
- Increased hand sanitizer dispensers.

# Operations: School Operations



**What other operational changes will take place to promote student and staff safety in the buildings?**



PERSONAL PROTECTIVE  
EQUIPMENT

- Non-essential visitors, vendors, parents, and volunteers will be limited. Visitors will be required to self-screen and wear face coverings in compliance with District Guidelines. Visitor protocols may be adjusted based on community transmission rate.
- Limited access to facilities, (M-F 7am - 9pm) to ensure time to clean and sanitize facilities.
- Only pre-packed snacks will be allowed in the facilities for students. The Food Service department will be developing a menu for families to order full classroom snacks in accordance with NSLP guidelines if prepackaged options are not desired.

# Summary of Multi Level Mitigation Strategies



- Strongly Encourage Masks at All Times
- Increased Air Exchange in Buildings
- 3 Feet Social Distancing When Possible
- Classroom Barriers
- Increased Disinfectant in High Touch Area
- Encourage Increased Hand Washing
- Promote Vaccine Availability

# Operations: Transportation



**How will transportation look different for the 2021-22 school year?**



- To assist with district transportation planning, families will be required to sign up for transportation.
- Students will be required to wear masks in accordance with CDC order. Masks must be in place to board the bus.
- Students will be encouraged to sit next to family members if applicable.



# Operations: Transportation

**Continued:**

**How will transportation look different for the 2021-22 school year?**



- One primary drop off and pick-up point to allow for an accurate student count to assist in COVID-19 tracing.
- Buses will be disinfected on regular basis with special attention to high touch areas.
- Families are encouraged to drive or carpool to reduce the number of students.

# Operations: Food Service



The Food Service Department is working with Building Administrators to identify best methods of delivery based on student distancing models and consistent cohorts.



ENHANCED SANITATION

Cleaning and sanitizing procedures will be monitored daily.



PHYSICAL DISTANCING

Social distance seating will be followed.



SERVICE MODIFICATIONS

Touchless dining will be continued in all school serving areas.



PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Food Service Staff will follow district rules in regards to wearing masks.

# Operations: Food Service



Employee health will be monitored daily. Proper hand washing procedures will be in place at all times.



Continue to ensure we are following safe food practice each and everyday.

**A'viands will continually be evaluating food distribution procedures and adjust as best practices change.**

*“We Believe Every Child Deserves a Great Meal”*

**A'viands**  
an elior company



CO-CURRICULARS



# Co-Curriculars: Health & Safety



**How will the District ensure the health & safety of our students?**



Decisions about level of restriction of each activity will be made by the district based on state and local guidelines at the time of the activity. The restrictions may be changed anytime throughout the year.

Guidelines per WIAA: **note we will coordinate with local and School Health experts to determine our activities.**

# Co-Curriculars: Health & Safety



**How will we ensure the health & safety of students, staff, and spectators?**



- Students participating in athletics or activities must follow the same protocol as on site/competition site regarding signs, symptoms, face coverings and exposure to Covid-19.
- Coaches will screen players daily and keep record of all participants.
- Spectators will be allowed at events per Ashland County Public Health guidelines and will be determined by School District of Ashland administration.
- In the event of short-term or long term school closure, co-curriculars will remain dependent on Ashland County Public Health guidelines and School District of Ashland administration to determine processing.

# Co-Curriculars: Health & Safety



## School District of Ashland Guidelines for Co-Curricular.



- Indoor spectator masking requirements will follow district guidelines **based on community transmission rate.**
  - Participants and coaches not actively engaged in competition play will wear face coverings as determined by guidelines.
- Spectators will be encouraged to sit with family & social distance while viewing events.
- Participants actively participating in indoor competition play will be strongly recommended but not required to wear face coverings.
- **Guidelines are fluid and will be adjusted as needed.**



Face Coverings/Quarantine/Contact Tracing

# Face Coverings



CDC Community Transmission	Low Transmission Blue	Moderate Transmission Yellow	Substantial Transmission Orange	High Transmission Red
DHS Case Activity Rate	Low	Medium		High or Very High
<b><i>SDA Face Covering Policy for Students &amp; Staff</i></b>	<i>Face coverings optional</i>	<i>Face coverings strongly recommended</i>	<i>Face coverings strongly recommended</i>	<i>Face coverings <u>required</u> PK-12</i>  <i>*Exemptions for religious, medical, social/emotional reasons</i>



# Metrics and Communication

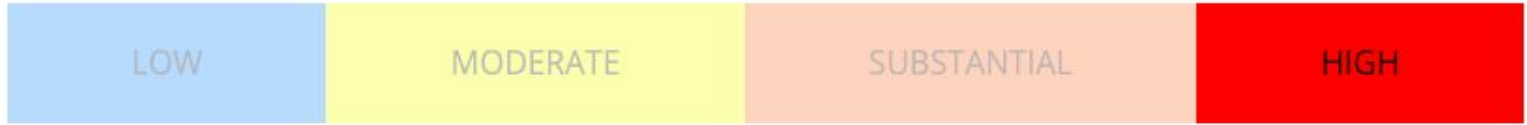
The district will use both the CDC community transmission and DHS case activity levels as metrics to guide our face covering policy.

**DHS**

COVID-19 Disease Activity				
	Case Activity	Percent Positive	CLI Activity	ILI Activity
Wisconsin	High	Medium	High	Low
Ashland	High	Low	High	Low

Level of Community Transmission in Ashland County, Wisconsin

**CDC**



These levels will be checked every Friday morning. The status of our face covering policy will be posted by noon every Friday on our website so families can plan ahead for the following week.

# Contact Tracing



- The District will continue to collaborate with the Ashland County Public Health, to the extent allowable by privacy laws and other applicable laws, to confidentially provide information about people diagnosed with or exposed to COVID-19.
- The District will report, to the extent allowable by applicable privacy laws, new diagnoses of COVID-19 to Ashland County Public Health as soon as we are informed.
- Students, teachers, and staff who are fully vaccinated and have no COVID-like symptoms following exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 do not have to quarantine, be restricted from school or work, or be tested.
- The District will not perform contact tracing beyond family units to start the 2021-22 school year. However, this is an additional layer of prevention that could be implemented at a future date.



# Staying Home When Sick

- Anyone experiencing symptoms of illness should stay home from school
- Anyone who is not fully vaccinated and is a close contact will be quarantined
- Students, parents and staff should monitor symptoms every day before attending school



# Physical Distancing and Cohorting



- Studies from the 2020-2021 school year showed low COVID-19 transmission levels among students who maintained less than 6 feet of physical distance in schools w/other layered prevention measures.
- Key Recommendations (DHS/DPI)
  - Students should strive to maintain 3 feet of distance to the greatest extent possible
  - Schools should NOT exclude students from in-person learning to keep a minimum distance requirement
  - When it is not possible or feasible to keep a physical distance of at least 3 feet, schools should layer other prevention strategies



# INSTRUCTION AND ACHIEVEMENT

# Overview of Instructional Settings



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MS			
HS			

## In-Person Model

All students districtwide attend 5 days per week

### Supporting Social and Emotional Learning

- Beginning of school year dedicated to learning routines, building a sense of belonging, and transitioning our learners and staff within a 5-day schedule
- Daily, meaningful connections to support social and emotional wellness
- Access to counseling services and wellness activities
- Targeted interventions and supports to foster community, inclusivity and emotional resilience

## In-Person Model Cont.

All students districtwide attend 5 days per week

### Curriculum and Instruction

- Learning targets posted and communicated for all lessons
- Use of succinct direct instruction and ample practice to give students time to engage in their learning and support opportunity gaps created by COVID.
- Virtual facilitators to support students that need to be in quarantine

### Special Education Services

- Flexibility in service delivery for students made on case-by-case basis



# Next Steps

- **August 18** - Welcome Back Staff Picnic
- **August 23** - All-Staff Q&A
- **August 24** - First day of all-staff in-service
- **August 26**
  - Open House (6-12)
  - Hopes and Dreams Conferences (4K-5)
- **September 1**
  - 6-12 Students return to learning
  - 4K-5 Students Hopes and Dreams Conferences
- **September 2**
  - 4K-5 Students return to learning

