



# Hitchcock County Schools

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## Back to School COVID 19 Plan 2021-2022

Hello Falcon Nation,

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer and doing their best to keep safe. I want to update you on the status of starting school in the fall on August 12th and the ideas and items the planning committee has been discussing and doing to get ready to bring back the students safely again. We have been given guidance from several different entities; Nebraska Department of Education, Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department, Nebraska School Activities Association, Nebraska Rural Schools Association, Center for Disease Control and others that we have been using to plan and prepare for a safe start to the 2021-2022 school year. I ask that you read the following information and please call the schools to speak to Mr. Sattler, Ms. McCarter, or Mr. Tines if you have any questions. Any comments, questions, or ideas you have in regards to this return to school plan please email to the superintendent of schools, Mr. Robert Sattler, at [rsattler@hcfalcons.org](mailto:rsattler@hcfalcons.org).

We are in the Green Zone according to the May 24, 2021 Directed Health Measure ordered by the governor and are open with no restrictions on gathering. We will proceed with the beginning of school in the same manner we finished the last month of school last year. The following is the plan we will follow this year. Again if you have any questions, thoughts, or ideas regarding this please contact me at [rsattler@hcfalcons.org](mailto:rsattler@hcfalcons.org).

### **Pre Screening at Home:**

Parents screen children at home for temperature, runny nose, cough, and other symptoms. Random screening if necessary. Teachers self-screen at home for temperature, runny nose, cough, and other symptoms. **Do not report to school if symptomatic and call a medical professional.**

### **Students ill at school.**

Children who become ill at school will be placed in a designated area of quarantine. Parents or guardians will be contacted. Students sent home from school should be kept home until they have completely recovered and are free from fever for at least 24 hours.

All non-school persons entering and exiting the building must sign in documenting date and time.

Parents are encouraged to check student's temperature at home every morning. **Students with a temperature of 100 or greater should stay home and be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school.**

### **Busing/Transportation:**

Bus drivers will inquire about the health/wellness of children when getting on the bus. If a child indicates they are not feeling well or have symptoms they will be given a temperature check. If they have a temperature of 100 or above parents will be contacted.

**MASKS/FACE COVERING: Face Coverings are not required but may be required if we have an outbreak and are designated as a red zone by the Governors Directed Health Measure, DHM.**

### **Hand Washing and Hand Sanitizing:**

Students and staff should sanitize their hands consistently, i.e. upon entering the building, entering a classroom, exiting a classroom, entering cafeteria, exiting cafeteria, exiting building. Hand sanitizer will be available at each area mentioned previously.

### **Testing Protocols for Students and Responding to Positive Cases**

Students sent home from school should be kept home until they have tested negative or have completely recovered according to CDC guidelines.

**In the event that a student tests positive the Southwest Nebraska Health Department will help with immediate efforts to contact any close contacts (those who spent more than 10 minutes in close proximity to the student) so that they can be quarantined at home.**

Parents are encouraged to ask their children or monitor for any cough, congestion, shortness of breath, or gastrointestinal symptoms every morning. Any positives should prompt the parent to keep the student home from school and seek out testing.

### **Medically Vulnerable Students and Teachers**

The school administration, School Nurse, and Special Education Teachers and staff will systematically review all current plans (e.g., Individual Healthcare Plans, Individualized Education Plans or 504 plans) for accommodating students with special healthcare needs and up-date their care plans as needed to decrease their risk for exposure to COVID 19.

## **Hygiene:**

The schools will provide adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors (e.g., soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol for safe use by staff and older children, paper towels, and tissues). We will teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and/or the safe use of hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol by staff and older students. We will systematically and frequently check and refill hand sanitizers we will encourage staff and students to cough and sneeze into their elbows, or to cover with a tissue. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash and hands washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. We will limit sharing of personal items and supplies such as writing utensils. We will keep students' personal items separate and in individually labeled cubbies, containers or lockers. We will limit use of classroom materials to small groups and disinfect between uses or provide adequate supplies to assign for individual student use. We will clean and disinfect each classroom at the end of each day. Teachers and students will wipe down the desks with disinfectant wipes frequently.

**Ventilation:** Maintenance and custodial staff will routinely check and change filters in the HVAC system.

## **LUNCH ROOM:**

Students will wash their hands and use hand sanitizer before being served.

## **Extra-Curricular Activities/Sports:**

All activities all cleared for full participation at this point and time. We will follow closely all recommendations and guidelines from the NSAA and the local health department.

**Vaccinations:** All staff and students above the age of 12 are encouraged to get a vaccination.

**If you suspect your student is ill, please keep them home from school** and please be sure to call the school to let us know. Please check the school website for updates on this plan. Thank you for your support.

We encourage you to check out the following resources regarding Coronavirus from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

Coronavirus Summary: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Frequently Asked Questions: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html>

Thank you for your support!



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Hitchcock County Schools