

Jerome School District # 261
2021-22 ARP/ESSER Safe Return to In-Person Instruction
(Revision of 2020-21 Learning Plan and Reentry Plan)

Introduction:

The Jerome School District has an overarching goal of keeping our students safe in school while also keeping schools open. Our “Safe Return-to-In-Person Instruction” plan during the covid-19 pandemic allows us to respond to individual circumstances while making reasonable efforts to mitigate risks and minimize the spread of covid-19. Jerome School District’s Return to In-Person Instruction plan is a living document and will be updated in accordance with guidance provided by local, regional, state and federal agencies and the levels of Covid-19 in our district.

Universal/Correct Wearing of Mask:

It is highly recommended that while indoors or on a bus, students, staff, and visitors that have not been vaccinated wear a face covering that covers their nose and mouth. Masks are optional at this time.

Physical Distancing:

- Maintain social distancing (3 feet no longer than 15 minutes) as much as possible.
- Reduce mixing of student groups and attempt to cohort students when possible.

Handwashing Respiratory Etiquette:

- Staff and students are encouraged to cough/sneeze into their elbow.
- Hand sanitizer stations are readily available throughout all JSD buildings.
- Staff and students are encouraged to wash their hands often.
- Signs posted in highly visible locations (school entrances, bathrooms, etc.) that promote everyday protective measures.

Healthy Facilities/Ventilation:

- All JSD HVAC systems have been fitted with upgraded filters and are replaced per manufacturer recommendations.
- The amount of fresh air has been increased to the maximum possible and still allows units to be functional.
- Disinfectant cleaners are readily available for use throughout the school day.
- Hard communal surfaces are cleaned and disinfected daily by JSD custodial staff.

Contact Tracing/Isolation/Exclusion

- JSD nursing staff and administration will track covid data in each building daily and report out on a monthly basis to the Superintendent and JSD School Board.
- Grades PreK-5: In the event of positive covid case, parents of those students that were exposed by being within 3 feet for greater than 15 minutes will be contacted by staff to inform them of exposure. Electronic notification or a letter for the remainder of the class/grade level will be sent to parents notifying them of a positive covid case.

- Grades 6-8: In the event of a positive covid case, electronic notification or a letter for the grade level will be sent to parents notifying them of the positive covid case within the grade level.
- Grades 9-12: In the event of a positive covid case, electronic notification or a letter for the school will be sent to parents notifying them of the positive covid case within the school.
- Staff and students that have tested positive for covid, that are presumed positive for covid, or have been exposed to covid will be dealt with on an individual basis depending on whether or not the person has been vaccinated and other circumstances.
- Symptoms of covid include but are not limited to: Fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea.
 - Students or Staff that exhibit one of the covid symptoms will be excluded from school until they have no fever and symptoms have improved for 24 hours without fever reducing medication.
 - Students or Staff that exhibit two or more of the covid symptoms will be excluded from school until they have no fever and symptoms have improved for 72 hours without fever reducing medication.

Diagnostic and screening testing:

Staff and students will be responsible for setting up their own diagnostic and screening testing for covid. The JSD nursing department currently has some tests and will make those available on a first-come first-served basis. In cooperation with South Central Health Department, JSD nursing will have a list of resources for those wishing to have a covid test if they have been exposed or are exhibiting symptoms of covid.

Vaccination Clinics:

A covid-19 vaccination clinic was made available to the Jerome School District staff in the spring of 2021. There may be another clinic in the Fall of 2021 if there is a need. Parents are encouraged to get children vaccinated who are age 12 or older.

Accommodations for Children with Disabilities:

The SPED department will work with IEP teams to ensure that the IEP goals are met in the event students with disabilities have an extended absence due to covid.

Academic Needs/Learning Loss:

Addressing the learning loss will be a priority for JSD for the 2021-22 school year. A learning loss committee will be formed that will identify learning loss, develop a plan/strategy to address learning loss and make recommendations on how to utilize ARP/ESSER learning loss funds. In selected schools, after school tutoring and homework help will be available.

Student Social Emotional Needs and Food Service:

JSD has hired two new social workers who will help provide a behavior support program, positive behavior intervention, suicide prevention program, Second Steps, CORE Project, and access to a licensed mental health clinician. JSD will use DESSA as a universal screener. Identified students will have access to counseling services in a mobile counseling

van. Additionally, JSD child nutrition is providing free breakfast and lunch to all students again this year.

Staff Mental Health:

Staff members have access to the Employee Assistance Program (EAP). Also, JSD will receive a monthly Wellness Newsletter that will provide information for healthy physical, mental, and nutritional lifestyles. The newsletter includes healthy habit challenges for mental health and wellbeing.

Timeline for Revision of Return to In-Person Plan:

In the Summer of 2021, a committee of stakeholders reviewed the JSD learning plan for 2021-22, accounting for the recent surge in covid cases. This plan will be approved and revised throughout the school year by the Jerome School District Board of Trustees. The learning plan and transition plan will serve as the impetus for the 2021-22 ARP/ESSER Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Plan. Going forward, stakeholders will be surveyed regarding the plan prior to the Jerome School Board reviewing or revising the plan on a six-month basis. The plan will be reviewed by the Jerome Board of Trustees on the following dates.

- January 2022
- June 2022
- January 2023
- June 2023

LEA Support and/or technical assistance:

Since the onset of the pandemic in March of 2020, Jerome School District has consulted and collaborated with other regional school districts, Idaho State Department of Education, Idaho State Board of Education, and the South-Central Health Department to develop policies, procedures, and responses to the Covid Pandemic.