



**Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Plan
Initially Adopted by the NPS Board of Education
6/24/2021**

**Amended 09-13-2021, 12-13-2021,
01-10-2022, 06-15-2022, 9-07-2022, 1-16-2023,
7-10-2023, 1-10-2024**

**Please note that this plan will be reviewed at least every six months and may
be adjusted as new information/guidance becomes available.**

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Plan–Revised

The Norfolk Public Schools COVID-19 Return to School Committee developed our initial COVID-19 safety protocols during the summer of 2020. This plan allowed us to successfully return to in-person learning and remain in-person throughout the 2020-2021, 2021-2022, and 2022-2023 school years. That plan and subsequent revisions were based upon guidance from the Center of Disease Control (CDC) and Elkhorn Logan Valley Public Health Department (ELVPHD).

At this point, COVID Wastewater Surveillance Reports provided by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services indicate that COVID rates in Norfolk are “very low” and “decreasing”. COVID Safety Precautions and Protocols are not necessary at this time, but may be reinstated if transmission rates increase.

Safety Precautions and Protocols Recommended by the NPS COVID Return to School Committee Include:

Ensuring Continuity of Services	We have returned to a regular school year schedule that follows our normal curriculum, assessment and instruction cycles.
Food Service	Our food service program has returned to pre-pandemic routines.
Face Masks	Face masks are strongly recommended for those who may be contagious.
Physical Distancing	Physical distancing is no longer recommended by the CDC and is not required by NPS.
Cleaning	High-touch surfaces are cleaned routinely as part of our normal cleaning protocols.
Hand Washing and Sanitizing	Everyone will be encouraged to sanitize or wash their hands frequently. Hand sanitizer will be available throughout NPS buildings.
Ventilation	Ventilation will continue to focus on filtration and fresh air practices consistent with ASHRAE (American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers) standards for current equipment.
Screening	Parents are asked to screen their children at home for COVID symptoms*. If children are ill and/or exhibit symptoms: keep them home, consider giving them a COVID test, and follow the advice of your medical doctor.

	* COVID symptoms include any respiratory or gastrointestinal symptom, such as cough, fever, sore throat, vomiting, or diarrhea.
Isolation and Quarantine	Parents should consult the CDC website and utilize the COVID-19 Isolation and Exposure Calculator to determine if and how long isolation is required. (At the present time, a five day isolation period is required if an individual tests positive for COVID.) In addition, students must be fever/symptom free for 24 hours before returning to school. (See our normal health procedures outlined in your student's handbook.)
Accommodations for Children with Disabilities	Students' IEPs and 504 Plans will be followed.
Contract Tracing	Contract tracing is no longer recommended by the CDC and is not required by NPS. However, NPS will monitor COVID case levels and implement a dashboard if cases surge.
Coordination with Local Health Officials	We will continue to collaborate with our local health department, as necessary.
Vaccinations	Parents are encouraged to consult their family physician regarding vaccinations.
IMPORTANT NOTE:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future changes may be made to these procedures if cases surge. This may include the implementation of a temporary mask requirement for individual classes or schools with high rates of COVID or total illness. 	

How to determine if (and how long) to stay home:

If you are ill and/or exhibit COVID symptoms:

- Stay home until your symptoms have improved and you have been fever free for 24 hours. Consider taking a COVID test and follow the advice of your medical doctor.

If you test positive for COVID:

- Follow the advice of your medical doctor and utilize the COVID-19 Isolation and Exposure Calculator to determine if and how long isolation is required.

Additional Information:

- Quarantines are no longer recommended by the CDC for people who were exposed to COVID. Therefore, attendance will not be excused unless a child tests positive for COVID. Attendance for students who exhibit COVID symptoms, but have not tested positive, will follow our normal attendance rules outlined in our student handbooks.