

School Reopening Task Force

Recommendation for remainder of fall semester and all of spring semester 2020-2021

Task Force Recommendations:

- The Task Force recognizes that face-to-face instruction is the priority for the majority of our students, therefore the task force believes that St. Maries Joint School District #41 Board of Trustees should modify the Red section of the existing school reopening plan to allow for face-to-face instruction for the remainder of the fall semester.
- The Task Force recognizes that parents/guardians need time to make plans for their children. The School Reopening Task Force recommends that the St. Maries Joint School District #41 Board of Trustees direct that the District shall remain in yellow or red for all of spring semester 2020-2021, except in the event that the Governor or Health Department recommend a stay at home order or “Soft Closure”.
- The School Reopening Task Force recognizes that there are strong opinions in regard to requiring students to wear a mask. However, whenever there is a mask mandate in place under the authority of Benewah County, Panhandle Health, the City of St. Maries, the City of Fernwood, or the State of Idaho, or when the COVID-19 transmission rate puts Benewah County in the Red category, all students in grades K-12 and staff will be required to wear a mask while riding a bus, on school grounds, or attending school activities. Grade level appropriate “mask breaks” will be scheduled. Blended Learning or online learning will be the option for those who do not wish to comply with the mask requirement.
- In the event of a staff shortage due to COVID-19, school closures will be made on a school by school basis as determined by the superintendent and building administrator. District wide closures will be made using the same criteria. Every effort will be made to provide parents with advanced notice.
- The School Reopening Task Force recommends that St. Maries School District continue to offer face-to-face learning, blended learning, and online learning to all students. It is important to note that online learning should be a semester long commitment as transfer credits may not be available after the semester begins. Further, traditional grading practices will be used for Blended Learning courses.
- The School Reopening Task Force recognizes that this is a difficult time for parents, guardians, school staff, school administrators, Trustees, and most especially our children! The School Reopening Task Force further recognizes that families must make decisions that they feel are in the best interest of their children. The School Reopening Task Force recommends that all patrons approach school reopening with respect for the choices of others and an understanding that things are changing quickly and it may be a long time until things are “normal” again.

Daily Health Checks

Health Checks – As was expected for the fall semester, daily health checks should be completed at home. Students should remain at home if they are not well. If parents are unable to complete daily health checks with their child/children, school personnel will complete the health check at school.

Category Protocols and Expectations

Category 1 (No Community Transmission) - Protocols and Expectations

The school buildings will remain open, students are in school with practical social distancing and increased cleaning protocols, and there is little to no community spread throughout the community (maybe isolated cases, but no evidence of exposure in large gatherings).

Prevention Practices	Instruction	Food Service	Transportation	Extra/Co-Curricular Activities
Masks/Face shields highly encouraged, not required	Face-to-face instruction in the school buildings	Modified lunch schedule and seating	Practical Social Distancing Assigned Seating Families sitting together	IHSAA Guidelines
Daily Health Checks at home before coming to school.	Online option available Blended Learning available	Protocols for picking up and returning items Cohort Seating	Masks/Face shields highly encouraged, not required	
Minimal entry into buildings	Minimal shared materials			
Increased cleaning per CDC guidelines	Assigned seats Cohort grouping as practical			
Practical Social Distancing				
Increased signage in all buildings in regard to symptoms and protocols				

Category 2 (Minimal to Moderate Community Transmission – Protocols and Expectations)

The school buildings are open on a shortened day and week schedule. School will be in session on Monday through Thursday with a one hour early release.

Prevention Practices	Instruction	Food Service	Transportation	Extra/Co-Curricular Activities
Masks/Face shields expected where practical.	Focus on Reading, Math, Language, Science, and Social Studies	Students will eat in the cafeteria when social distancing is possible. If social distancing is not possible, meals will be delivered to the classrooms	Practical Social Distancing Assigned Seating Families sitting together Masks/Face shields expected where practical.	IHSAA Guidelines
Daily Health Checks at home before coming to school	Cohort group students as much as possible			
Minimal entry into buildings – meetings must be scheduled	Assigned seating at all levels Eliminate shared materials wherever possible			
Virtual meetings encouraged				
Increased cleaning per CDC guidelines	Traditional Grading for Blended Learning and Face-to-face options			
Practical Social Distancing	SMHS electives will be offered online with possible small group scheduling			
Increased signage in all buildings in regard to symptoms and protocols				

Category 3 (Substantial Community Transmission) Protocols and Expectations

The school buildings are open on a shortened day and week schedule. School will be in session on Monday through Thursday with a one hour early release.

Prevention Practices	Instruction	Food Service	Transportation	Extra/Co-Curricular Activities
Masks/Face shields required for staff and students	Focus on Reading, Math, Language, Science, and Social Studies	Students will eat in the cafeteria when social distancing is possible. If social distancing is not possible, meals will be delivered to the classrooms	Practical Social Distancing	IHSAA Guidelines or current guidance
Daily Health Checks at home before coming to school	Cohort group students as much as possible		Assigned Seating Families sitting together	
No visitor entry to buildings – meetings must be scheduled	Assigned seating at all levels		Masks/Face shields required for staff and students	
Virtual meetings encouraged	Eliminate shared materials wherever possible			
Increased cleaning per CDC guidelines	Traditional Grading for Blended Learning and Face-to-face options			
Practical Social Distancing	SMHS electives will be offered online with possible small group scheduling			
Increased signage in all buildings in regard to symptoms and protocols				

St. Maries Joint School District 41's Reopening Plan was drafted with input from stakeholders including parents, teachers, staff, and officials with Panhandle Health. Further input, including surveys and Task Force meetings, was considered for the recommended modifications. St. Maries Joint School District's School Reopening Task Force was comprised of: (The same individuals were invited to attend the November Task Force meetings) **Alica Holthaus, Superintendent; John Cordell, SMHS Principal; Jeff Andersen, SMMS Principal; Tammi Masters, Heyburn Principal; Liesa Anderson, UpRiver Principal; Todd Gilkey, SMHS Athletic Director; Angela Schultz, SMHS Counselor; Joe Gilmore, SMSD Maintenance Supervisor; Diana Howarth, SMSD Transportation Supervisor; Cheri Chaffey, SMSD Food Service Supervisor; Jenifer Miller, SMSD Special Education Coordinator; Staci Truscott, SMSD Federal Programs Supervisor; Stacia Dorman, SMSD Board Clerk; Chris Asbury, SMHS Teacher, Becky Holder, SMHS Paraprofessional; Holly Jo Shea, SMMS Teacher, Pam Whitrock, SMMS Paraprofessional, Dawn Ahonen, UpRiver Paraprofessional; Tonya Vonk, Heyburn Paraprofessional; Terri Benda, SMSD SLP; Sherri McFadden, Grandparent; Donna Spier, Parent; Amy Reid, Parent; Chris Sands, Parent; Kristin Burns, SMEA Representative; Amie Scheinost, Parent; and Lloyd Huff, Gazette Reporter**

This plan is a living document and will be updated 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, Panhandle Public Health District, and other state, national, and local officials.