

# Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan



**District Name:** School District of North Fond du Lac

**District Contact:** Adam Broten - Director of Teaching and Learning

**Website:** [www.nfdlschools.org](http://www.nfdlschools.org)

**Phone:** 920-929-3750

**Address:** 1115 Thurke Ave., North Fond du Lac, Wisconsin 54937

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# Introduction

On March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plans (ARP) Act was signed into law. In it, the U.S. Department of Education is providing an additional \$121.9 billion for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER III Fund). This legislation will award grants to state educational agencies (SEAs) for providing local educational agencies (LEAs) with emergency relief funds to address the impact that COVID-19 has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools across the nation.

Wisconsin will receive \$1,540,784,854 in ESSER III funds from the Act, with 90 percent being awarded to school districts with amounts determined in proportion to the amount of Title I, Part A funds they received in summer 2020 from funds under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The remaining funds will be used for state-level activities to address issues caused by COVID-19.

This plan describes how the LEA or district will provide a safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services for all schools, including those that have already returned to in-person instruction.

# Maintaining Health and Safety

## Overview

A district's plan must include how it will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other school and LEA staff, and the extent to which it has adopted policies or practices and a description of any such policies or practices on each of the CDC's safety recommendations including the universal and correct wearing of masks; modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding); hand washing and respiratory etiquette; cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation; contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the state, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments; diagnostic and screening testing; efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible; appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies or practices; and coordination with state and local health officials.

### Description on maintaining the safety of staff and students

The School District of North Fond du Lac will begin the 2021-22 school year with a five-day per week, face-to-face instructional model and adhere to the following health protocols. Accordingly, the District will:

- publish the COVID-19 pre-screening checklist and strongly encourage students and staff members to utilize the checklist before entering a school facility,
- encourage staff members and students to stay home or go home if they are showing COVID-19 symptoms or if they have tested positive for COVID-19,
- limit visitors and activities for non-essential purposes,
- provide sanitizing stations throughout the building.

### Description to continue to provide services regardless of the mode of instruction (for example, health and food services if the LEA must pivot to virtual or hybrid instruction)

The School District of North Fond du Lac will offer in-person learning five days a week according to the Board adopted 2021-2022 Academic Year Calendar. Regardless of the mode of instruction, the district will continue to provide meals under the community provision as long as USDA continues the allowance. Meals will be provided for summer school attendees as well as all eligible youth during the school year. If school is closed due to a pandemic, the district will assess its ability to distribute meals utilizing the same process it used during the spring of 2020.

The district employs two full-time school nurses and one part time who will continue to offer health services in-person or virtually. The district's social emotional learning teams will provide mental health support for families during in-person or virtually learning instruction.

## Mitigation Measures

### Universal and correct wearing of masks

#### *Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable*

The School District of NFDL adopted thresholds to determine when students, staff, and visitors will be required to wear masks and when mask-wearing will be optional. These thresholds are based on COVID activity in individual classrooms or schools, the level of COVID transmission within the district's geographic boundaries, and in Fond du Lac County. Details about these thresholds can be found on the district website.

### Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (for example, the use of cohorts and podding)

#### *Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable*

Mitigation measures such as proper signage in multiple languages, the installation of floor decals and water bottle filling stations, and the promotion of social distancing have been implemented at each facility. Individual schools will determine the cafeteria service that best suits the needs of their students. Cafeterias and/or classrooms may be used as settings for student meals.

### Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

#### *Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable*

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette is taught to students with high emphasis in the primary grade levels. Signage is posted throughout buildings as reminders of handwashing and respiratory etiquette.

In addition, hand sanitization stations/liquids are available in all classrooms.

### Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

#### *Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable*

Enhanced sanitation procedures have been implemented and continue at all of our schools focusing on high touch surfaces. The District uses cleaning solutions that are approved and rated by the CDC to kill the SARS virus. In addition to daily cleaning, all rooms are treated (sprayed) with Vital-Oxide on all touch points and desks tops/countertops nightly. We provide all rooms with a one time use microfiber wipe treated with Envirox H2Orange2 to be used after each class period.

The District has installed ultraviolet light ionization units on all air handling units and room unit ventilators in all of our buildings. These units are functions at all times that the ventilation units are in operation. The units are monitored electronically and checked daily through our HVAC computer systems.

The district has also provided masks for all that enter our buildings. As well as masks for our bus routes in our district.

### **Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments**

#### *Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable*

The School District of North Fond du Lac will contact trace (when possible) and report to the public COVID-19 cases within the District. To provide transparent reporting for our stakeholders, the District maintained a COVID-19 case dashboard throughout the 2020-21 school year and will continue to do so for the 2021-22 school year.

The District will guide parents/students, employees, and contractors on screening protocols for the daily pre-screening process, which all parties should complete before entering the campus/building. Each school will continue to provide current health information to staff, students, and families about the signs and symptoms of COVID-19, when they should stay home, and when they can return to school. Procedures for contact tracing can be found on the district website.

### **Diagnostic and screening testing**

#### *Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable*

The School District of North Fond du Lac recommends students and staff get tested for COVID by onsite district testing, their medical provider or a local pharmacy. The turnaround time for results has been reduced to within 24-48 hours. The District is also working with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services to coordinate COVID testing at our schools. Onsite COVID testing is offered for students, staff, and families of the district.

### **Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible**

#### *Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable*

All eligible staff employed in 2020-2021 were provided the opportunity to be vaccinated. Students ages 5 and older have the opportunity to be vaccinated through their medical provider or county health department. New staff will be given access to vaccinations by working with local healthcare partners and County Public Health.

### **Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies and practices**

#### *Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable*

When circumstances require specific policies or procedures designed to protect the health and safety of students, 504 and IEP teams will determine if modifications and/or reasonable accommodations are needed for individual students with disability-related issues, including consideration of the least

restrictive environment (LRE).

### **Coordination with state and local health officials**

#### *Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable*

The CDC recommends that all decisions about implementing school-based strategies should be made locally, collaborating with local health officials who can help determine the level of transmission in the community. The School District of North Fond du Lac continues to work with County Public Health to implement mitigating strategies for the safety of students and staff.

# Continuity of Services

## Overview

Districts must describe how the LEA will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs and students' and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services.

### District response on continuity of services

**The District will provide for continuity of services as follows:**

#### **Student Academic Needs**

The District plans to continue full-time, in-person instruction beginning the fall of 2021, with limited exception. Additional instructional personnel has been added to staffing to implement further academic recovery efforts in core curriculum areas. These specialists will be available during the instructional day and/or during before and after-school throughout the year.

Summer School will offer opportunities for reteaching to address lost learning.

#### **Student Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs**

Counseling staff will continue to address our students' social and emotional learning needs.

#### **Other Student Needs (which may include student health and food services)**

Food services will continue to provide meals under the community provision as long as USDA continues the allowance. Meals will be provided for summer school attendees as well as all eligible youth during the school year. Summer meals will be provided for summer school and all children age 18 and under.

Summer school meals will resume in the summer. It is assumed that the USDA will continue community eligibility provision under the new school meal application.

Wifi hotspots will be given to families that need them if we transition to virtual learning.

#### **Staff Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs**

Counseling and Nursing staff are available to district staff as needed for questions and support.

#### **Other Staff Needs**

The District will follow national, state, and local governing agencies' laws and directives concerning staff employment and benefits.

# Periodic Review

## Overview

Districts are required to review and, as appropriate, revise their Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan at least every six months through September 30, 2023, including seeking public input and taking such input into account in determining whether to revise the plan and, if revisions are determined necessary, on the revisions it makes to its plan.

### District response on ensuring periodic updates to its plan

The School District of North Fond du Lac will periodically review and, as needed, revise the plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services. The plan will be reviewed at least every six months, and the school system will seek and take into account public input during the review process. Plan revisions will address updated CDC and County Public Health guidance on safely reopening schools if any are issued.

Plan Reviewed: January 2022, February 2022,

# Public Input

## Overview

The ARP Act requires that school districts make their Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan available to the public online and that the plans be in an understandable and uniform format; to the extent practicable, are written in a language that parents can understand or, if not practicable, orally translated; and upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability, provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent. Before making its plan publicly available, school districts must seek public comment on the plan and develop the plan after taking into account public comment.

### District response on public input in the development of its plan

The School District of North Fond du Lac has taken the following steps to make its plan available to the public:

- The plan is posted at [www.nfdlschools.org](http://www.nfdlschools.org)
- The plan is available in Spanish on our website, and can be made available in other languages, as requested.
- The plan was sent to parents, students, and employees via our messaging systems.
- The plan was shared at a District Board of Education meeting on February 28, 2022. An opportunity for public comment was available during a January 24, 2022 special meeting.
- Upon request, a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA may be provided with the plan in an alternative format accessible by contacting our district office.