

Niobrara Public Schools

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
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July 14, 2020

Niobrara Public Schools families,

We have carefully reviewed national, state and local executive and directed health measure orders, responses from our family survey, and continue in close consultation with the Nebraska Commissioner of Education and the North Central District Health Department (NCDHD). At the present time, based on all the above and to align with the Governor and the Commissioner of Education that schools will return with in-person learning in the fall, **we are planning to have 100 percent of students return to classes in our buildings starting August 20.**

NPS will conduct classes and operate within the framework of the three risk statuses of the COVID-19 Risk Dial. Our objective is to have students in school as much as possible. It is widely acknowledged that is the best option for student learning and for our community. There will be health directives and requirements from national, state or local health officials or the Nebraska Department of Education that we must follow in order to keep students in our schools and help reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our community. NPS continues to develop possibilities for providing quality education next school year during this pandemic.

Accommodations will be considered for students with health or family health concerns. For students who are not able to attend in person, one accommodation that will be available is an option for families to utilize synchronous online learning through Zoom. Synchronous means remote students log-on to receive instruction with their class at certain set times during the school day. When that need arises, we will provide more information regarding the specifics.

There are many details that still need to be considered and we will announce more detailed information as we get closer to August. Below is the framework and Niobrara Public Schools 2020-2021 Pandemic Procedures information we have available currently to help answer some of your questions.

PLEASE NOTE: *These procedures and school safety measures are subject to change based on recommendations and health directives put into place by the Governor's Office, North Central District Health Department (NCDHD) and the Nebraska Department of Education. These procedures do not relate to any extracurricular activities or sports which are still under review. More detailed information for Special Education families will be communicated later.*

As with Standard Response Protocols, Niobrara Public Schools will try to regularly communicate with families in anticipation of the district, any school facility or program movement between risk categories.

COVID Green: Low Risk of COVID-19 Spread

- All students in grades Pre-K through 12 will attend school in person.

COVID Yellow: Moderate Risk of COVID-19 Spread

- All students in grades Pre-K through 12 will attend school in person.
- Accommodations will be made for K-12 students who are unable to attend in person to utilize synchronous online learning through Zoom and other remote learning tools. Synchronous means remote students log-on to receive instruction with their class at certain set times during the school day.
- Students and staff are encouraged to bring and wear their own appropriate multilayered cloth face coverings.
- Accommodations will be made for PK-12 students who are unable to attend in person to utilize synchronous online learning through Zoom and other remote learning tools. Synchronous means remote students log-on to receive instruction with their class at certain set times during the school day.

COVID Red: High Risk of COVID-19 Spread

- All NPS buildings will be closed and all students will participate in remote learning from home.

NPS students and staff will play a major role in helping to keep the curve flat and allow schools to remain open to 100% of students.

We know nothing about this is easy. There are things we will have to do as a community to work together and help reduce the spread of COVID-19 and allow students to attend school. We know there are still many questions to be answered and we have a monumental task ahead of us as we navigate the pandemic as a community. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we consider how to continue the delivery of quality education to all students that attend Niobrara Public Schools.

Sincerely,

Margaret Sandoz, Superintendent