

Covid Re-Entry Plan

Safe Return to Schools Plan

Richey School District's 78J and 2

Plan updated 11/21/23

Health and safety plan, COVID-19 background, and plan for in person on site instruction

Acknowledging the impact and challenges that COVID-19 has presented to the health and well-being of the students and staff of Richey Public Schools, the trustees of Richey Schools have reacted and developed strategies to assist in maintaining the education and safety of our school.

On March 15, 2020, Montana Governor Steve Bullock closed all schools, due to the advancement of COVID-19 in the state. The entire staff of Richey Schools met on March 16, to develop a plan to best serve our students. It was determined at that time that certified staff would prepare lessons for remote learning and that classified staff would do everything they could to assist.

Beginning on March 17, certified staff prepared lessons and classified staff delivered assignments to students. They also delivered school lunch for the day and breakfast for the following day. On March 18, classified staff delivered assignments, lunch, and breakfast, and also collected completed assignments to return to certified staff. Students were given laptops. The school board adopted and implemented the 1900 series policies and support was provided to families. This continued until the school year ended in May, 2020.

When school started in August 2020, the board of trustees determined to follow all directives set forth by the governor's office and:

In person instruction to be provided. Distance learning optional parents to be responsible for picking up and returning assignments.

Masks were optional, per Governor Bullock's directive.

Daily cleaning and sanitation of all facilities.

Hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes in all classrooms and in public areas. Air purifiers were purchased and used throughout the classrooms, offices, and hallways.

Social distancing and seating in family groups on buses.

Parents urged to keep children home if family members have COVID-19 symptoms.

Classes to be quarantined if the teacher or one student in the class is confirmed positive health information is to be kept confidential.

Water fountains were taped off and not utilized by students.

When classes resumed in August 2021, the board of trustees determined to follow all directives from Montana governor Greg Gianforte. Also:

In person instruction was provided. In exceptional cases, distance-learning will be offered. In such cases, the parents will be responsible for picking up and returning assignments.

Masks are optional in classrooms and common areas.

~~Students on buses will wear masks.~~ (Updated 11/15/22)

~~Social distancing and seating in family groups on buses.~~ (Updated 11/15/22)

~~Social distancing in classrooms in common areas.~~ (Updated 11/15/22)

Deep cleaning and sanitation of all facilities when appropriate.

Hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes in all classrooms in public areas.

Students ~~and staff~~ may list Covid leave for Covid related absences. (Updated 11/15/22)

Parents urge to keep children home if family members have COVID-19 symptoms.

With students residing in McCone, Richland, and Dawson Counties, Richey Schools will consult with a Dawson County health department for information and advice.

A recommendation will be made for students with a positive Covid test to quarantine for **at least 5 days** from the onset of symptoms **until they are fever free for 24 hours.** (Updated 12/28/21)
(Updated 11/21/23)

Handwashing etiquette signage will be displayed.

~~Parents will be notified if their child is a close contact to an individual with a positive COVID-19 test. It will then be recommended students quarantine for 5 days.~~ (Updated 12/28/21) (Updated 11/15/22)

The school has COVID-19 testing available for staff, students, and families of students. These will be provided at no charge. Contact Mrs. Murrell for information. (Updated 07/19/22)

COVID Testing at the School (Update 12/9/21)

Richey Schools has been awarded a Covid grant for \$32,000. The grant provides free rapid testing to students, staff, and their families. It also pays for cleaning supplies directly related to killing germs associated with COVID. PPE is part of the grant. The school has masks available for students and staff. There is an incentive given to testers. The grant requires that we test both symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals and have individuals willing to test weekly.

Staff Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs

Our school counselor is available to provide support as needed.

Staff is encouraged to attend Board Meetings and provide their input and ideas for handling Covid.

Moving forward, the administration and trustees of Richey Schools will monitor COVID-19 cases in the community and make determinations and adjustments to ensure the best possible education for our students. Students and staff health and safety will be of the utmost importance. Parents, staff, and community will be consulted for input and perspective.

Updated 6/7/2022

Plan updated 07/19/2022

Plan updated 11/15/22

Plan updated 05/15/23

Plan updated 11/21/23