

2020-2021

LIVINGSTON SCHOOL DISTRICT REOPENING

COMMUNICATION PART I



LIVINGSTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

REOPENING

Communication Part I

The communication regarding the reopening plan for the Livingston School District will consist of two connected parts. Part I, this current document, provides an overview, educational scenarios, health and safety protocols as well as the detail and comprehensive considerations that will follow in the Part II communication. Part II will be more specific and will be released within the first two weeks of August, following the school board meeting.

The Livingston School District continues to be in routine communications with the Park County Health Department, the local (COVID related) Health Advisory Council, as well as key state agencies. Additionally, we continue to monitor both the manifestation and response to everything COVID, nationally and in Park County, Montana. Please view Communications Part I and II as living documents that will be updated as phases of reopening change and we continue to learn more, experience more, and continue to find ways to better serve and safeguard our students, staff, and community.

Throughout the opening this fall the district staff will be partnering with local healthcare professionals so that we receive the most up-to-date medical guidance assuring that the most precautionary thinking and strategies keep our community safe. Many caring people have worked extremely hard throughout the spring and summer months and we are confident in our reopening plans in meeting the educational, social and medical needs of students and staff alike.

LIVINGSTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

REOPENING

Communication Part I

ON-SITE AND OFF-SITE EDUCATION

Families have differing needs at this time and the schools are intending to do their best at accommodating those requests. Therefore, if families are wanting for their children to be present in school with face-to-face instruction by our teachers, that option will be available.

Conversely, if families are wanting education for their children in their home, as we finished the 2020 school year, that option will be available.

On-site Instruction

Our goal is to create as normal an educational setting as possible, yet it will not be normal. Specific considerations on physical distancing, masks and student schedules are outlined in this communication within the PK-5, Sleeping Giant Middle School and Park High School instructional frameworks for 2020-2021.

Off-site Instruction

Our goal is to continue student learning via technology, in the student's home, where either medical issues or family choice for safety reasons are the criteria for the off-site option. Specific considerations for the off-site, technology supported educational option are outlined in the PK-5, Sleeping Giant Middle School and Park High School instructional frameworks for 2020-2021.

In the event of a mandated closure as a result of a surge in COVID cases it is highly likely we will all have to demonstrate flexibility as we move in and out of on-site/off-site modes of instruction.

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GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Prioritize Student and Staff Health and Safety
- As always, we consider equity in individual student and family situations during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- We value student and family engagement and communication.
- We are committed to educating students, families and staff for digital learning.
- We work to ensure continuity of instruction for teachers and students through seamless transitions between COVID-19 phases of safety and physical distancing.
- We are committed to all students having digital access to instruction.
- We believe that structure, routines and schedules are necessary for student, families and teachers.
- We are committed to offering education through a hybrid model to accommodate students who may have prolonged or increased absences even when school is onsite.
- We are committed to a structure that keeps learning on track without overloading teachers.
- We are committed to a structure and platform that is easy for families to use.



EDUCATIONAL FORMAT

Washington, Winans and East Side plan to offer on-site instruction.

In planning for the 2020-2021 PreK-5 schools reopening this fall, it is our intention that students are able to return to Washington, Winans, and East Side Schools for in person instruction. That being said, the daily uncertainties of living in a pandemic require flexibility and options for schools and families to work in partnership in providing our children with a basic education in a safe and meaningful way. As we move toward student registration on August 5th, we are planning for;

- Having PreK-5 students on-site for in-person instruction.
- Giving families the option of continuing off-site learning.
- An instructional day that would begin at 8:00 am and conclude at 2:00pm. This allows for necessary collaboration and planning time for staff to allow for both on-site instruction and off-site learning as well as the increased time necessary to clean and sanitize our learning environments.
- Utilizing risk mitigation strategies to include but are not limited to: Cohorting model to group students, strategic masking and physical distancing.

We appreciate your understanding of the challenges and complexities in planning for the upcoming school year. As circumstances change with our local public health risk, we anticipate we will need to make changes and recalibrations to our plan, services, and staffing throughout the school year.





EDUCATIONAL FORMAT

6 -12 Educational Scenarios		
<p>Instructional Senario 1 Offsite schooling The school buildings will be closed, students & staff work remotely from home.</p>	<p>Instructional Scenario 2 Onsite & offsite school-50% of students in building at one time</p>	<p>Instructional Scenario 3 All students onsite, increased hygiene, preparing for offsite if needed, increased absences</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Schedule</p> <p>Students will follow a full and robust virtual plan that includes synchronous and asynchronous instruction.</p> <p>Top Risk Mitigation Strategies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical distancing 	<p style="text-align: center;">Schedule</p> <p>½ of students are present in the school building at one time, with structured, independent remote learning occurring for all students not onsite. A blended learning model (traditional & remote) is in full swing in Scenario 2.</p> <p>Top Risk Mitigation Strategies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical distancing Mask use Personal hygiene measures Sick or symptomatic adults and students stay at home 	<p style="text-align: center;">Schedule</p> <p>Block schedule with reduced number of classes each day</p> <p>Top Risk Mitigation Strategies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cohorting Physical distancing - to the greatest extent possible *not in classrooms Mask use Personal hygiene measures Sick or symptomatic adults and students stay at home
	<p>Enhanced cleaning and disinfection of school</p>	



EDUCATIONAL FORMAT

SLEEPING GIANT MIDDLE SCHOOL

The staff of Sleeping Giant Middle School is committed to providing quality and engaging instruction to students. It is the intention of Sleeping Giant Middle School to reopen our school in one form or another in the fall. The changing nature of the COVID-19 virus will mean that our plan will change and adapt to new guidance. As we put together our plan for reopening, the **health and safety of our students and staff** is foremost in our planning and will guide our decision making. The SGMS Return-to-School Task Force has worked collaboratively with the District, our school nurses and local health officials to brainstorm and design reopening plans that are middle school focused. We have based our planning on three scenarios.

The major considerations and planning for the *SGMS Instructional Model during Covid-19* include the following:

- Enhanced health and hygiene protocols
- Planning workspaces and classrooms that consider physical distancing recommendations
- Alternative scheduling options
- Student movement and passing between classes throughout the school day
- The use of Google Classroom for onsite and online/remote instruction
- Student engagement and support services
- Communication tools
- Student supplies, materials and technology access
- Activities, sports, and club opportunities





EDUCATIONAL FORMAT

Park High School

Park high School has been planning around three flexible options, depending on the current status of COVID-19. The following describes the various options. A blended learning model is in place all year to ensure instructional continuity. Families may request **offsite learning** for their child. Detailed instructional framework plans, parent and student “help desks” and health and hygiene measures for each educational scenario are outlined in Part 2. A learning management system called CANVAS will simplify expectations while also preparing students for college and technical school.

Activities and Athletics

We have been closely monitoring information issued by MSHA and remain in communication with other activities directors across Montana. MSHA has presented several scenarios as possible avenues to being able to offer sanctioned activities this fall. As of 07-23-2020, MSHA activities are permitted to begin on August 14th for practice and August 28th for team competition (Golf scheduled to begin on August 13). The scenarios MSHA have presented suggest the possibility of delaying the August 14th start, scheduling only conference opponents to limit travel and interaction, or canceling the regular season and only scheduling post season events in October or November if possible. We are also considering creative ways to offer activities and clubs that will require patience and flexibility for the time being. Activity registration paperwork is available to complete and submit online at Parkhigh.org. The fall sports parent meeting is scheduled for August 10th at 6pm.





HEALTH AND SAFETY

Our priority as a school district is the health and safety of our students, staff, and community. Throughout this pandemic, our District team has partnered with and been guided by local, state, and federal agencies including the Park County Public Health Department, [Governor Steve Bullock](#) , [The Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#) , and [The American Academy of Pediatrics](#) . We have met regularly with a team of 4 local healthcare providers (representatives from the Health Department, CHP, LHC and a MD/parent) to evaluate current evidence surrounding COVID-19 and how to feasibly enact the guidelines within the confines of a school environment.

Our **partnership with all of you**, parents, guardians, families and students, is **vital** to the health and safety of our school community and our larger, Park County, community. The Livingston School District has set up extensive protocols and processes within our buildings to **reduce** the risk of transmission of the novel coronavirus. However, we cannot do this without your help. We are relying on all students and families to do their part by following recommended current [guidelines](#). We have a [Checklist for Parents](#) for your guidance as well. We look forward to working together this year to create a safe and healthy school environment.

Changes to the public health situation over the course of the school year may necessitate changes to this guidance.

Health and Safety Protocols



Mask and Facial Coverings

- Cloth face coverings/face masks provide a simple barrier to help prevent respiratory droplets from traveling into the air and onto other people when the person wearing the cloth face covering talks, coughs, or sneezes.



HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mask and Facial Coverings Continued

- Masks will be used as an important strategy across the District to reduce the risk of viral transmission. Mask use will depend on age of child, ability to physical distance and community level of virus to name a few. **Specific details on mask use will be provided in Part 2 of our Reopening document.**
- Recommendation from the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) : *“All adults should wear [cloth face coverings](#). Preschool and elementary students can benefit from wearing masks if they do not touch their mouths or noses a lot. Secondary school students should wear cloth face masks, especially when they can't stay a safe distance apart. level of virus to name a few. Specific details will be provided in the next reopening document.”*
- All students and staff will be given one cloth mask at the start of the school year.
- All students and staff are strongly encouraged to have a supply of several cloth masks.
- Cloth masks should be washed daily.
- Masks must always be worn on Livingston School District buses.
- The face covering must be multi-layered, fully cover the mouth and nose, and should fit snugly against the sides of the face with no gaps
- Staff and students will be educated on the wearing, use, and cleaning of masks/face coverings
- The parent/guardian of a student for whom wearing a mask is medically inadvisable must provide a physician’s note identifying the specific medical reason the student is unable to wear a face covering/mask. The district will then consider alternative methods of keeping the student and staff around the student safe, including allowing the student to wear a face shield which should wrap around the sides of the wearer’s face and extend to below the chin.



HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mask and Facial Coverings Continued

The parents of students for whom wearing a mask is medically inadvisable are advised that the CDC does not recommend face shields as a substitute for cloth face coverings.



Physical Distancing

Physical distancing is an important strategy for risk reduction in the transmission of the novel coronavirus. However, *“there is a conflict between optimal academic and social/emotional learning in schools and strict adherence to current physical distancing guidelines... Evidence suggests that spacing as close as 3 feet may approach the benefits of 6 feet of space, particularly if students are wearing face coverings and are asymptomatic. Schools should weigh the benefits of strict adherence to a 6-foot spacing rule between students with the potential downside if remote learning is the only alternative. Strict adherence to a specific size of student groups (e.g, 10 per classroom, 15 per classroom, etc.) should be discouraged in favor of other risk mitigation strategies”*. (American Academy of Pediatrics)

CDC and AAP guidelines encourage that in the school environment there is a 3 to 6-foot physical distance from other persons as much as possible. The expectation pertains to students and staff members in all areas and settings.

- Seating and desks will be spaced at least 3 to 6 feet apart with students facing the same direction *when feasible*.
- If used, communal-use spaces, such as the cafeteria, will have staggered use by cohorts of students and be cleaned and disinfected between use.



HEALTH AND SAFETY

Physical Distancing Continued

- We will provide employees with instruction on physical distancing in spaces like copy or supply rooms, teachers' lounges, and communal workspaces.
- Students will not be allowed to congregate during transition times. Pathways will be pre-determined and scheduled to allow for maximum distancing.
- Outside spaces will be utilized when feasible.
- Floor decals, colored tape, and signs will be placed to provide guidance to students and staff on physical distancing.



Personal Hygiene

- We will teach and reinforce handwashing for at least 20 seconds with soap and water. Handwashing times will be frequent and scheduled throughout the school day.
- When handwashing with soap and water is not feasible, alcohol-based hand sanitizer of at least 60% alcohol will be made readily available for all grade levels in each classroom and in common areas. Hand sanitizer will also be available at the entrance to each school building and anyone entering the building will be required to use it.
- We will educate and encourage staff and students to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue and avoid touching their face.
- Signage with hygiene education will be placed throughout school buildings.



HEALTH AND SAFETY



Cleaning and Disinfection

- Frequently touched surfaces (I.e. desks) will be cleaned and disinfected at least daily. If a classroom is shared by different groups of students, the frequently touched surfaces will be disinfected between each group.
- Shared objects (e.g, classroom supplies, PE equipment, computers, toys, games) will be limited when feasible. If it is not feasible to avoid sharing objects, disinfection will occur between use by different students/staff.
- Hard-to-clean items, ie, plush toys, will be removed from the classrooms.
- Buses will be fully disinfected after each transport of students.
- All cleaning and disinfecting products will be used as directed and stored safely away from all children.



Student Health Screening and Exclusion from School

- We are requiring parents to certify **daily** that their student is monitored for symptoms of COVID-19, prior to taking transportation to school, or arriving at school. Please see: [Can My Child Go To School Today?](#) Possible COVID-19 symptoms that parents must screen for in a student intending to attend school are the following:
 - * Fever or chills, Temp over 100.0 F
 - * Cough
 - * Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - * Fatigue
 - * Muscle or body aches



HEALTH AND SAFETY

Student Health Screening and Exclusion from School Cont'd

- * Headache
- * New loss of taste or smell
- * Sore throat
- * Congestion or runny nose
- * Nausea, or vomiting
- * Diarrhea

***children can exhibit very mild symptoms which may be like the common cold or gastrointestinal symptoms such as vomiting and diarrhea.

- **Students must be kept at home if they have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 (listed above), if they have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19 within the previous 14-day period or are awaiting results from a COVID-19 test.** Individuals who exhibit symptoms should consult with their medical provider for evaluation and treatment as necessary.
- Close contact includes being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on) or being within 6 ft for a duration of 15 minutes or more.
- We understand this is significantly different from past years' protocols. In the past, we have often even encouraged mildly ill students to attend school but that is no longer the case. **Sick (even mildly sick) students must not attend school.**



HEALTH AND SAFETY



Visitor Health Screening

- Visitors to the schools will be limited or possibly not allowed based on current levels of COVID-19 within our community. Visitors must complete a health screening immediately upon entering the school building. Visitors showing symptoms of COVID-19 will not be allowed to enter or remain on campus and should consult with their healthcare providers for further guidance. Visitor information will be maintained in visitor logs, including contact information, reason for visit, and locations within the school visited in case contact tracing is required.



Staff/Adult Health Screening and Exclusion from Work

- Adult staff will be required to check in and record the following questions before work each day. Any question resulting in “yes” will preclude the staff member from entering a school for work.
- Do you have any of the following symptoms? (see above symptoms under *Student Health Screening and exclusion from School*)
- Is your body temperature above 100.0 F?
- Have you been exposed to anyone testing positive for COVID-19 within the last 14 days?
- Are you waiting results of a COVID-19 test for yourself?

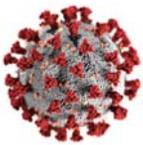


HEALTH AND SAFETY



Student/Staff Illness at School

- If a student or staff member is symptomatic with possible COVID-19 symptoms while entering campus or during the school day, the ill person will be separated from others, cared for in an isolated area and required to wear a face mask until the parent or emergency contact of the student can be reached and the student can be transported home or to a healthcare provider.
- Please ensure we have updated contact information for you and your emergency contacts.
- The isolation area used by an ill person will be cleaned per CDC guidelines and will not be used until cleaning has been completed.
- Individuals who exhibit symptoms will be referred to their healthcare provider for evaluation, treatment, and guidance about when they can return to school.



Positive Cases for COVID-19 in Student or Staff Member

- All positive COVID-19 cases are reported to the Park County Health Department (PCHD).
- Immediate contact tracing by the PCHD will be conducted and the school will be notified if necessary.
- PCHD will issue continued guidance to the school on necessary protocols and procedures for positive cases.



HEALTH AND SAFETY

FAQs

Will you be doing temperature checks at the door?

No. The practicality of this process for large numbers of students does not make sense for us. We will be utilizing other measures, including self-screening of children at home by their parents and self-screening and reporting by staff, to work on keeping sick people out of our buildings

I don't have a thermometer and I haven't been able to buy one to check my child's temperature at home. What should I do?

The school nurses are working with a company called KINSA. We should have an opportunity to present to you a way in which you can get a free thermometer around the start of the school year. More information to come! In the meantime, keep checking various sources for thermometers!

You can always ask a school nurse or front office staff to check your child's temperature prior to coming into a school building.

I think my child just has a "cold" with a runny nose and a mild sore throat. In the past, I have always sent her to school if she didn't have a fever. Can I send her to school this year with those symptoms?

No. Especially in children, COVID-19 may present with very mild symptoms that look just like a cold. COVID-19 may also simply present with diarrhea or vomiting in children. Although these symptoms are mild and not dangerous to your child, she could pass the virus on to a higher risk person who could suffer significant medical problems from the virus. Please call your health care provider for further guidance. We will require a medical note for your child to return to school.



CONCLUSION AND PART II OVERVIEW

Clearly, these are challenging times for every stakeholder. On a daily basis we witness the concerns, promising practices, and diverse opinions of everything COVID. To accomplish our reopening will require on-going learning, adjusting, partnering and is the duty of our generation. We thank you in advance for the continued cooperation and suggestions you have. As stated earlier our Part II communication will provide even more detail and will address the essential elements of reopening:

EDUCATIONAL FORMAT

- PreK—12 Reopening Plan
- LINKS for Learning
- Activities & Athletics
- Special Education/Student Support Services

HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Specific Details on Mask Use by Building
- Cleaning and Disinfecting Plan
- Risk Mitigation Strategies

HUMAN RESOURCES

OPERATIONS

- Transportation Plans
- Food Service Scenarios
- Facilities COVID Prevention

