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Return to School Plan 2020-2021

This document will be updated by administration as new information is received and changes occur.

Wauneta-Palisade Mission Statement:

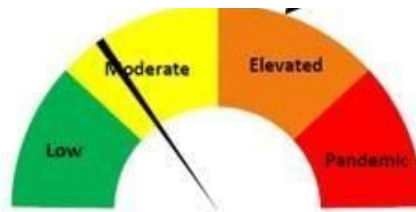
Inspiring our youth and expecting results every day

Wauneta-Palisade Public Schools intends to be prepared to meet the health and safety needs of its students and staff during the 2020-21 school year, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. This framework is structured to allow the district to be responsive to the current health climate and to articulate expectations for students, staff, and parents, amid changing school and community health conditions. The tiered structure of this framework coincides with the “Risk Dial for COVID-19” from the Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department. This framework may be adjusted, as needed, to meet the needs of students, staff, and parents of Wauneta-Palisade Public Schools.

Current Risk Dial Zone: Moderate (Yellow)

If there is a positive case of Covid-19 at Wauneta-Palisade School, SWNPHD will conduct the tracing and assign any quarantine requirements. The school district will not put out any notification, unless required by law and permitted under confidentiality laws.

Risk Dial Zones



D8on & Rationale for Use of Risk Dial Zones:

Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department provides a Covid-19 “Risk Dial” for the geographic area it serves, which informs the public about the activity level of COVID-19 virus in its service area and the area medical services’ ability to respond to current demands. This “risk dial” will serve as a barometer for the school’s operational response to the virus. The school will use the “risk dial” in conjunction with the school’s monitoring of the virus activity within the school to determine which “risk dial operational zone” the school will operate in. The current “risk dial operational zone” will be clearly communicated to students, staff, and parents through the school’s website, social media, and through the school’s “all call” system, along with specific guidance based on the school’s current operational zone. By fostering collaboration between the Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department, the school’s nurse, and the school’s administration to closely monitor current health conditions relevant to the COVID-19 virus, the administration will be able to assess the safest and most non-restrictive educational environment for students, staff, and parents at Wauneta-Palisade Public School.

Risk Zone Indicators			
Green--Low Risk	Yellow--Moderate Risk	Orange--Elevated Risk	Red--Pandemic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimal confirmed cases in the immediate geographic area or within in the school No Directed Health Measures that limit the school building capacity Viral and antibody testing is readily available PPE is easily obtainable through standard supply chains Vaccine for Covid-19 is readily available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited confirmed case(s) in the immediate geographic area or within the school Consultation with Health Department Directed Health Measures Governor or Commissioner of Education Guidance Downward trajectory in Covid-19 positive cases or percent increase of positive cases due to disease spread SWNPHD is able to contact trace new cases. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirmed and increasing case(s) and transmission in the immediate geographic area and within the school Consultation with Health Department Directed Health Measures which limit building capacity Governor or Commissioner of Education Guidance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Widespread confirmed case(s) and transmission in the immediate geographic area or within the school Consultation with Health Department Directed Health Measures Governor or Commissioner of Education Guidance In-person school sessions suspended. Shortages of medical supplies & equipment

Return to School Consideration 2020-2021

State health officials in partnership with the Nebraska Department of Education and the governor’s office have developed a color-coded risk dial that will assist local school districts in assessing their current COVID 19 risk levels. The dial will also provide recommended actions aligned to each risk category (green, yellow, orange, and red).

Green Zone – Low Risk

School is Open
Regular School - No Restrictions
No Social Distancing
Hand Washings

All students and staff should perform “self-screening” before reporting to school each day. If students or staff display any of the following symptoms, they are advised to stay home:

- Flu-like or COVID-like symptoms
- Temperature of 100.4 or greater
- Difficulty breathing
- Sore throat
- Cough

Attendance	Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department will evaluate Wauneta-Palisade’s attendance examining absent reasons daily. A significant change in attendance may result in switching the increasing/decreasing risk disk level. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All students in grades PK-12 will attend school in person.
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Custodial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Spray bottles with disinfectant or disinfectant wipes will be provided for all PK-12 classrooms.
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Special Education / 504	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students will be served as per their IEP/504 Plan.
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Yellow Zone – Moderate Risk

All students and staff should perform “self-screening” before reporting to school each day. If students or staff display any of the following symptoms, they are advised to stay home and we encourage contacting your medical provider to determine if testing is needed:

- Flu-like or COVID-like symptoms including but not limited to:
 - Temperature of 100.4 or greater
 - Difficulty breathing
 - Sore throat
 - Cough

Attendance	<p>Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department will evaluate Wauneta-Palisade’s attendance examining absent reasons daily. A significant change in attendance may result in switching the increasing/decreasing risk disk level.</p> <p>All students in grades PK-12 will attend school in person.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students will have a contactless temperature check prior to loading their bus or coming into the school building each day. If their temperature is 100.4 or greater they will be asked to stay/go home, or be picked up by parents.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If a student or staff member has a fever or exhibits covid 19 symptoms at school: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ They will be isolated near the main office until a parent/guardian can pick them up or give permission to be released from school ○ A medical provider’s note will be required to return to school ● Accommodations will be made for students in K-12 who are unable to attend in person. Students will only have this option with a medical excuse provided by a medical provider or authorized health official with a specified period of time notated or in conjunction with their IEP or 504 plan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In these circumstances, alternative arrangements will be made on an individual case-by-case basis. ○ With proper documentation the student would not be counted absent. 	
School Academic Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● School is open ● Social Distancing when possible 	
Special Education/ 504	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Revisit the IEP/504 with the team before or early in the school year to discuss, whether or not there are underlying student medical conditions that make school attendance impractical or undesirable to parents, should there be an increase in active virus transmission. ● At the IEP/504 team meeting, ask “Have the student’s needs changed based on the lack of in-person instruction during the 4th quarter of the 2019-20 school year?” If the answer is “yes,” bring the team together to determine how services can be modified to meet the student’s needs. ● If the answer is “no,” carry out services to support goals. ● At the IEP/504 team meeting, develop contingency plans for support services in the event of a modified instruction schedule or school closure, due to a potential future increase in transmission of the virus. 	
Face Masks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students and staff may voluntarily choose to wear a face mask without repercussions. ● School is not responsible for face masks in yellow. 	
Custodial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continue Level I cleaning and disinfecting procedures in addition to heightened disinfection of frequent high touch points and high traffic areas. ● Spray bottles with disinfectant or disinfectant wipes will be provided for all PK-12 classrooms. ● Disinfect surfaces and high touch areas in between classes. 	
Student Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assigned seating based on family and grade/cohort. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Social distancing/skip seats if/when possible.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Disinfect between routes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● When possible, students entering the bus first will sit in the back and be last to exit.
Temperature Checks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Student Temperature Checks will occur daily prior to loading bus or entering the school in both locations and a 2nd time during lunch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staff temperature self-check twice daily
Before School Routines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Doors open for bus riders at 6:50 MT/7:50 CT in both buildings. ● Doors open for non-bus riders at 7:30 MT/8:30 CT in both buildings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Maintain social distancing in commons ● Assigned seating in breakfast area

Staff Attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All staff will report as directed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any questions or concerns relative to work expectations or pre-existing conditions should be directed to the administration.
Lunch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students will be separated by and eat with their class Practice social distancing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wash hands before lunch. Social distancing in line NO buffet style salad bar
Classroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desks spaced as much as possible, all facing same direction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage hand washing before activities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use individual water bottle, fill at drinking stations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desks/chairs will be disinfected in between classes.
Passing Periods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practice Social Distancing between classes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If lockers are used, social distancing will be practiced
Restrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wash hands after using restrooms 	
Drinking Fountains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Everyone will use personal water bottles. 	
Music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elementary wash hands before attending music Sanitize equipment in between classes 	
Physical Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elementary wash hands before attending P. E. Sanitize equipment in between classes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage outdoor activity
Playground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sanitize daily 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage social distancing
Dismissal - End of Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elementary dismissed by grade - bus riders dismiss first, then parent pick-up, followed by walkers Parents will need to wait outside for student pickup 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Junior High and High School bus riders dismissed out the main entrance while walkers and car riders will be dismissed out the east lobby doors.
Visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sign in as normal Temperature checked Masks encouraged 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hand sanitizer/wash hands Not allowed to eat lunch with students
Food Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow NDE Nutrition Guidelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Face Shield or Face Mask for servers
Extra-Curricular Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check temperature before starting practice (non school days) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual water bottles All visiting athletes and ALL spectators will have a contactless temperature check upon entering school premises. If their temperature is 100.4 or greater they will not be permitted to enter the school or participate in competition.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Team members exposed to Covid-19 will quarantine based on SWNPHD recommendation. 	

Orange Zone – Significant Risk

As a school we would move into the orange zone at the direction of the health department if there are increasing numbers of positive tests for COVID 19. At that time the health department will complete contract tracing and inform us of the actions we need to take as a school district. Students will have to quarantine if directed to do so by the health department.

Attendance

- Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department will evaluate Wauneta-Palisade’s attendance examining absence reasons daily. A significant change in attendance may result in switching the increasing/decreasing risk dial level.
- All students in grades PK-12 will attend school in person.
- Students will have a contactless temperature check prior to loading their bus or coming into the school building each day. If their temperature is 100.4 or greater they will be asked to stay/go home, or be picked up by parents.
 - **If a student or staff member has a fever or exhibits covid 19 symptoms at school:**
 - **They will be isolated until a parent/guardian can pick them up**
 - **A medical provider’s note will be required to return to school**
 - Accommodations will be made for students in K-12 who are unable to attend in person. Students will only have this option with a medical excuse provided by a medical provider or authorized health official with a specified period of time notated or in conjunction with their IEP or 504 plan.
 - In these circumstances, alternative arrangements will be made on an individual case-by-case basis.
 - With proper documentation the student would not be counted absent.

Face Masks

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Masks <i>may</i> be required in hallways, lunch area, and commons. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● School will provide masks if required ● Mask “Option Out” form will be available |
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School Academic Plan

- School is open
- Social distancing when possible

Special Education / 504

- Discuss whether or not continued attendance under the selected alternate learning schedule is feasible for the student, given any underlying health concerns.
- If school attendance is not possible or desirable, as it may pose a substantial health risk to the student, conduct an IEP, change the student’s placement, and coordinate delivery of services through the IEP process.
- If school attendance is possible during elevated transmission of the virus, discuss with the IEP/504 team any additional supports or modifications that need to be made to the students plan during the time that the school is engaged in an alternate learning schedule.

Custodial

- Continue Level I & Level II cleaning and disinfecting procedures in addition to heightened disinfection of frequent high touch points and high traffic areas.
- Head of maintenance and administration will identify and address any additional areas in need of intensive cleaning and disinfecting.
- Head of Maintenance and superintendent will determine routine cleaning schedules at each building and will modify cleaning schedules and work assignments of custodial staff to meet any heightened disinfection needs.
- Spray bottles with disinfectant or disinfectant wipes will be provided for all PK-12 classrooms.

Student Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assigned seating based on family and grade/cohort. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social distancing/skip seats if/when possible.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disinfect between routes and keep windows open if possible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Masks may be required - Mask "opt out" form will be available
Temperature Checks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student Temperature Checks will occur daily prior to loading bus or entering the school in both locations and a 2nd time during lunch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff temperature self-check twice daily
Before School Routines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doors open for bus riders at 6:50 MT/7:50 CT Doors open for non-bus riders at 7:30 MT/8:30 CT. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain social distancing in commons Assigned seating in breakfast area
Staff Attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All staff will report as directed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any questions or concerns relative to work expectations or pre-existing conditions should be directed to the administration.
Lunch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students will be separated by and eat with their class Practice social distancing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wash hands before lunch. Social distancing in line No buffet style salad bar
Classroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desks spaced as much as possible, all facing same direction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage hand washing before activities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use individual water bottle, fill at drinking stations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desks/chairs will be disinfected in between classes
Passing Period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practice Social Distancing If lockers are used, social distancing will be practiced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May be required to wear face masks - option out form will be available School will provide masks if required
Restrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wash hands after using restroom 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disinfect during the school day
Drinking Fountains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Everyone will use personal water bottles filled at filling stations 	
Music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elementary wash hands before attending music Sanitize equipment in between classes 	
Physical Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elementary wash hands before attending P. E. Sanitize equipment in between classes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage outdoor activity
Playground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sanitize after each use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage social distancing
Dismissal - End of Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elementary dismissed by grade - bus riders dismiss first, then parent pick-up, followed by walkers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> JH and HS bus riders dismissed out the main entrance while walkers and car riders will be dismissed out the east lobby doors.

Visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sign in as normal ● Temperature checked 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Not allowed to eat lunch with students ● Face masks may be required
Food Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Follow NDE Nutrition Guidelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Face Shield or Face Mask for servers
Extra-Curricular Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Check temperature before starting practice (non school days) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Individual water bottles
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Coaches & Students may be required to wear masks during transportation. ● Cancellations and postponements of activities and athletics are possible. Activities and athletics will be conducted in accordance with NSAA guidelines and DHM guidelines. ● Face masks may be required to be worn by NSAA Activity Participants, while they are not competing in the event (sitting the bench, waiting to perform), as per NSAA Guidelines. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Determine if participation can continue in conjunction with NSAA & SWNPHD ● Some school events may require masks and seating may be limited depending upon the current district health measure. ● When limited seating is used, family members of students participating in the event will have priority over others. ● All visiting athletes and ALL spectators will have a contactless temperature check upon entering school premises. If their temperature is 100.4 or greater they will not be permitted to enter the school or participate in competition.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Team members exposed to Covid-19 will quarantine based on SWNPHD recommendation 	

RED Zone – Severe Risk

- In-person school sessions suspended, remote/digital learning and homework packets developed endorsed amid concerns of increased risk of transmission.
- Determine whether staff will work at school or home.
- All district transportation suspended
- No campus access available beyond required personnel.
- School playgrounds are closed.
- Food service may be provided to students