



FernWaters Public Charter School

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FERNWATERS COVID-19 SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION PLAN

Fernwaters Public Charter School is committed to ensuring every child has access to safe, in-person instruction. Fernwaters will implement the following mitigation strategies.

- Category 1**—Minimal Risk
- Category 2**—Moderate Risk
- Category 3**—High Risk
- Category 4**—Critical Risk

These rankings will be identified for Lemhi County by Eastern Idaho Public Health. More information is available at <https://eiph.idaho.gov>. During each category school officials will coordinate with local and state health officials and respond to new information and mandates.

This plan will be evaluated every six months by Fernwaters stakeholders, staff, and board.

CATEGORY 1 – MINIMAL RISK

Coordinate with local health officials.

- Recommend that students and staff stay home if sick.
 - Sick students will be granted due date flexibility.
- Staff and student self-monitoring recommended. (Please use EIPH Decision Tree.)
- Students and staff trained in areas of social distancing, hand washing, respiratory etiquette, and mask-use to mitigate exposure.
- Routine hand washing before lunch.
- Hand sanitizers placed in each classroom.
- All commonly touched surfaces sanitized daily.
- Increased ventilation by opening doors and windows and using upgraded furnaces with filters/air conditioners/fans
- Face masks optional for students and staff and recommended for those who have not been vaccinated. Masks should completely cover the nose and mouth and fit snugly against the sides of face without gaps.
- Teachers may identify students showing symptoms of COVID-19 and isolate them from the general population until the child can be sent home
- Work with local and state agencies to provide contact tracing where it is deemed advisable
- Efficiently utilize facilities to maximize social distancing
- Assignments posted on Google Classroom

CATEGORY 2— MODERATE RISK

Coordinate with local health officials.

- All category 1 protocols AND...

- Face coverings recommended for unvaccinated populations. Masks should completely cover the nose and mouth and fit snugly against the sides of face without gaps.
- Staff required to self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms. See EIPH Decision Tree
- Desks/surfaces sanitization twice per day.
 - Once before lunch and once after school.
 - Student custodians will sanitize after school, and student volunteers will be assigned lunchtime cleaning duties.
 - Sanitizing wipes will be placed at each classroom's main entrance, and students can choose to sanitize at transitions.
- Accommodations for vulnerable students and staff
 - For students who are vulnerable or showing symptoms or those who have tested positive and students who have an immediate family member with symptoms or positive diagnosis:
 - Lessons recorded where possible, posted online
 - A. Assignments posted on Google Classroom
 - B. Assignments accepted either online or in school dropbox
 - C. Students provided 1 hr/day of online teacher or teacher aide tutoring
 - For Staff:
 - A. Teaching staff (certified and non certified) with a medical condition recognized by the CDC as increasing one's risk for severe illness due to COVID-19 may request the opportunity to work from home, providing asynchronous lessons to be delivered over Google Classroom, tutoring quarantined students, writing lessons for substitute teachers, and other tasks TBD.

CATEGORY 3— HIGH RISK

Continue to coordinate with local health officials.

Continue all Category 2 Protocols with these extra provisions:

- Any staff member may request permission from the board to teach from home.
- The board will reserve the option to hold a special meeting for the purpose of implementing a hybrid model that allows for greater social distancing or pods of learners given changing circumstance in the school or community.

✳ All students would have the option to participate in the full virtual program.

(Stay at Home Order in Place) CATEGORY 4—CRITICAL RISK (Stay at Home Order in Place)

Continue to coordinate with local health officials.

Consider extended school dismissals, using Fernwaters Virtual Learning Platform for ALL.

Procedures and Protocols For A Confirmed COVID-19 Case Among Staff/Students:

Staff/Student/Guardian Responsibilities:

If you have tested positive or have been confirmed to have COVID-19:

- Do not report to school/work or enter any school or district facilities.
- Notify your school or immediate supervisor of the positive test and your need to be absent or take leave.

Staff/students who have tested positive for COVID-19 or who have not been tested but were directed to stay home from school/work may return to work under the following conditions ([per CDC guidance](#)):

- At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and**
- Improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); **and** ,
- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

Watch for these symptoms. Children with these symptoms should not attend school.

According to the CDC, People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus.

People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever or chills (100.4° or higher)
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

If your child has these symptoms, please keep them home for 72 hours after the fever has subsided. School staff will assist in helping your child make up missed work.

Vaccinations

All Fernwaters staff have been offered the vaccine. Fernwaters may inform the school community of where and how to get vaccinated. However, Fernwaters recognizes the importance of personal choice, and neither staff nor students will be required to be vaccinated.

Narrative

Academic Needs: Fernwaters has an effective instructional program that meets the needs of all students. Students will be provided highly qualified certified teachers and trained paraprofessionals in a student: staff ratio not to exceed 16:1. Students will be regularly assessed to determine the need for interventions, and students will be provided tiered interventions as required to meet academic benchmarks. Students in quarantine will have access to web-based learning through the use of modern technology.

Social/Emotional Students: Fernwaters has a social worker on staff. This person is available to all students to provide basic social emotional awareness and tools for developing healthy personal and interpersonal relationships. Students identified as needing professional counseling will be referred out to qualified professionals in the community.

Social/Emotional Staff: Fernwaters will provide staff with a list of qualified counselors in our community and implement personal and sick leave policies that respect the physical, social, and emotional needs of all staff.

Plan Feedback Timeline: Parents and staff were provided an opportunity to offer feedback in a Survey Monkey survey posted June 2021. Fernwaters will solicit ongoing feedback according to the following schedule: December 2021, June 2022, December 2022, June 2023.