

# Bancroft-Rosalie Community Schools

## **Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity Plan**

The Bancroft-Rosalie Community Schools Return to School Committee developed our initial COVID-19 safety protocols during the summer of 2020. This plan allowed us to successfully return to in-person learning and remain in-person throughout the 2020-2021 school year.

This current plan was updated in August of 2021 for the 2021-2022 school year, based upon new guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), Elkhorn Logan Valley Public Health Department (ELVPHD) and Nebraska Department of Education (NDE). The format, components and name have all been adjusted to meet the requirements set forth by the American Rescue Act (ARA).

The purpose of this Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity Plan is to provide a framework for the return of students to the Bancroft-Rosalie Schools' facilities in a manner that maximizes student safety and learning.

This plan is dynamic in nature, meaning that it can be adapted and updated throughout the pandemic based upon COVID incidences within our community and guidance from local, state and federal government and health officials.

**The school district will use ESSERS III funds to 1) provide interventions and support for struggling students, 2) fund the 3-year-old preschool program and 3) add an Agriculture Education and FFA program.**

### **COVID Transmission Levels**

This plan has been developed based upon the COVID Transmission Levels/Positivity Rates experienced currently within our schools and our geographical region. Positive cases within the Cuming, Burt and Thurston County areas have been down in the last few months and the school district will continue to follow the guidance and recommendations from health officials at the Elkhorn Logan Valley Public Health Department.

If COVID Transmission Levels/Positivity Rates increase, these plans may be revised to include additional COVID mitigation measures.

### **Layered Prevention**

The CDC recommends that all schools implement and layer prevention strategies, including: the universal correct use of masks, physical distancing, handwashing and respiratory etiquette, cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, and contact tracing (in combination with isolation and quarantine). To quote the CDC, "All prevention strategies provide some level of protection, and layered strategies implemented at the same time provide the greatest level of protection. Schools should adopt prevention strategies to the largest extent practical--a layered approach is essential."

## **Components**

This plan addresses all of the components required by the American Rescue Plan, including:

- Universal and Correct Wearing of Masks
- Modifying Facilities to Allow for Physical Distancing
- Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette
- Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities, Including Improving Ventilation
- Contact Tracing in Combination with Isolation and Quarantine, in Collaboration with the State, Local, Territorial or Tribal Health Departments
- Diagnostic and Screening Testing
- Efforts to Provide Vaccinations to School Communities
- Appropriate Accommodations for Children with Disabilities with Respect to Health and Safety Policies
- Coordination with State and Local Health Officials, Including the Needs for Support And Technical Assistance to Implement Strategies Consistent to the Greatest Extent Practicable, with Relevant CDC Guidance (Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools through Phased Prevention/CDC)
- Ensuring Continuity of Services
- Consideration of Public Comments

Additional Components

- Symptom Screenings
- Food Service

### **Universal and Correct Wearing of Masks**

Mitigating Measures/Safety Protocols:

1. **Face masks are not required but encouraged for staff and students who have not been vaccinated.**
2. Face masks may be required temporarily for staff and students within a specific building if COVID-19 cases rise.
3. Changes to safety protocols will be made following recommendations from CDC, DHHS, Nebraska Department of Education and Elkhorn Logan Valley Public Health Department.

### **Modifying Facilities to Allow for Physical Distancing**

Mitigating Measures/Safety Protocols:

1. Social Distancing (maintaining 3 feet) will be practiced to the greatest extent possible.
2. Nonessential furniture will be removed to maximize distance between students.
3. Non-essential visitors and volunteers may be limited if case levels increase.
4. Six feet of social distancing may be encouraged for all students if COVID-19 cases rise.
5. Changes to safety protocols will be made following recommendations from CDC, Nebraska Department of Education and Elkhorn Logan Valley Public Health Department.

### **Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette**

Mitigating Measures/Safety Protocols:

1. Proper handwashing, cough and sneeze etiquette will be taught, reinforced and monitored.

2. If handwashing is not feasible, hand sanitizer will be provided and used.

### **Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities, Including Improving Ventilation**

Mitigating Measures/Safety Protocols:

1. High-touch surfaces will be cleaned frequently and routinely (at least daily and between uses when possible).
2. Shared supplies and equipment will be sanitized regularly.
3. Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning settings will maximize ventilation and bring in as much outdoor air as possible.
4. Air filters will be changed more frequently.

### **Contact Tracing in Combination with Isolation and Quarantine, in Collaboration with the State, Local, Territorial or Tribal Health Departments**

Mitigating Measures/Safety Protocols:

1. The ELVPHD has discontinued contract tracing, isolation and quarantines due to our low levels of transmission. If these are reinstated, Bancroft-Rosalie Community Schools will cooperate with all efforts.
2. Bancroft-Rosalie Community Schools normal health procedures will be followed:
  - a. Students and staff who are sick must stay home.
  - b. Students and staff must be fever-free for 24 hours (without medication) before returning to school.
3. Students and staff will be encouraged to test for COVID if they have been exposed or they exhibit symptoms.
4. Students will continue to be excused for COVID-related absences.

### **Diagnostic and Screening Testing**

Mitigating Measures/Safety Protocols:

1. Students and staff who exhibit COVID-19 symptoms will be encouraged to stay home and to be tested.
2. If COVID levels rise, Bancroft-Rosalie Community Schools will consult with the ELVPHD to determine if screening testing should be offered to students and/or staff.

### **Efforts to Provide Vaccinations to School Communities**

Mitigating Measures/Safety Protocols:

1. Bancroft-Rosalie Community Schools provided the opportunity for on-site vaccinations for all staff.
2. Bancroft-Rosalie Community Schools provided information to parents and students regarding when/how they could receive vaccinations within the community.
3. Bancroft-Rosalie Community Schools will continue to monitor information regarding vaccinations and provide updates to staff, students and parents, when necessary.

### **Appropriate Accommodations for Children with Disabilities with Respect to Health and Safety Policies**

Mitigating Measures/Safety Protocols:

1. Students' IEPs and 504 Plans will be followed. These may include accommodations that apply to the health and safety of students, relative to COVID-19. (Which may include remote learning)
2. Students with underlying health conditions may participate in remote learning or other alternative learning modes as determined by the 504 team with appropriate medical

documentation.

3. Students with disabilities may be prioritized for in-person learning if cases rise to the level where remote learning is required.

### **Coordination with State and Local Health Officials, Including the Needs for Support and Technical Assistance to Implement Strategies Consistent to the Greatest Extent Practicable, with Relevant CDC Guidance**

(Operations Strategy for K-12 Schools through Phased Prevention/CDC)

Mitigating Measures/Safety Protocols:

1. We will continue to collaborate with our local and state health department on a regular basis, monitoring case levels and new guidance, and implementing or revising strategies when necessary.
2. This plan will be revised at least once every 6 months, per ARA requirements.

### **Ensuring Continuity of Services**

Mitigating Measures/Safety Protocols:

1. Our goal is to continue to provide in-person learning to all students, addressing academic, social, emotional and mental health via the many programs in place within our schools. We will return to a regular school year schedule that follows our normal curriculum, instruction, assessment and professional learning.
2. We have developed a comprehensive PK-12 plan, including interventions and supplemental services, for students based upon their needs.
3. If COVID cases rise significantly and we are required to close school and go to remote learning, every effort will be made to provide these services virtually, all special education services will be provided according to students' IEPs, and families will be provided with access to free meals.
4. Bancroft-Rosalie School continues to work with the Northeast Nebraska Tribal Education Broadband System to ensure equitable broadband access for students.

### **Symptom Screenings**

Mitigating Measures/Safety Protocols:

1. Families will be encouraged to screen students for COVID symptoms and follow the ELVPHD's guidance regarding testing and quarantine.
2. Bancroft-Rosalie Community Schools' normal health procedures will be followed:
  - a. Students and staff who are sick must stay home. Bancroft-Rosalie School policy defines a fever as 100.0°F
  - b. Students and staff must be fever-free for 24 hours (without medication) before returning to school.
3. If COVID cases rise, on-site symptom checks may be reinstated for everyone entering Bancroft-Rosalie School facilities.

### **Food Service Information**

K-4:

Breakfast and lunch meals will be served in the cafeteria with some exceptions (based on individual school needs). Three feet of spacing will be maintained between students. Self-service food options will not be offered at the PK-4 Level to begin the school year. Condiment packets or bottles (to be served by a staff member) will be available.

5-12:

Breakfast and lunch meals will continue to be served in the cafeteria with additional entree

choices available. Three feet of spacing will be maintained between students. Self-service food options will be available. Condiment packets or bottles will be available.

Mitigating Measures/Safety Protocols:

1. Water fountains will be reopened. However, students and staff may bring water bottles to school. Refilling stations will be available throughout the day.
2. If cases rise to the level where remote learning is required, arrangements will be made for families to continue receiving free student meals.

### **Consideration of Public Comments**

July 20, 2021: Draft sent to administrators and department heads for review

July 21, 2021: Discussion of the plan by administration, including suggestions for improvement, concerns, etc.

July 21, 2021: Draft published on school website for review

July 27, 2021: The Return to School Committee met via zoom to discuss the plan, including suggestions for improvement, concerns, etc.

July 28, 2021: The revised plan was posted on our website with a link for public feedback

August 9, 2021: The plan was presented to the Bancroft-Rosalie School Board of Education at a public meeting where public comments were accepted

August 10, 2021: The final board-approved plan was posted on the Bancroft-Rosalie School website: <https://www.bancroft-rosalie.org/>

### **Summary**

Bancroft-Rosalie Community Schools is committed to providing students and staff with a safe, in-person learning environment. The strategies outlined within this plan will be implemented to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 spread within our schools. These strategies will be revised periodically (at least every 6 months) based upon COVID cases within our schools and community and any new research/evidence that becomes available.