

# Lewis County Schools

## Preliminary Re-opening Plan 2020

The Lewis County School District serves more than 2000 students and employs approximately 330 employees. Safety for students, staff, and our community must be our priority as we move forward. Re-opening our schools during a pandemic requires that we do our very best to create an environment that is safe and also encourages student growth.

### Attendance Options

**Traditional Model:** All students will attend school all day, every day, and will practice all Health & Safety precautions listed below. Students and staff will be required to wear masks unless social distancing can be achieved. Based on preliminary data, we believe social distancing guidelines may be met due to the reduced number of students in our buildings. Social Distancing will likely not be achievable on most bus routes so masks will be required on those routes.

**Virtual Model:** Parents who do not feel safe sending their children to school or parents who refuse to comply with the safety guidelines will have the option to select virtual instruction. By utilizing this option, students will receive instruction in a virtual setting as an alternate location to the physical school building. The district is researching multiple online platforms in an attempt to select and purchase the best product. Many of these products offer PS-12 programming including career and technical education options. This is not a local teacher developed instruction as NTI was last spring. The district will once again provide a Chromebook to students at a very minimal fee who choose this option. This option will require a 9 week commitment if chosen. The district will offer after hour call in assistance at all grade levels.

### Health & Safety Precautions

- Everyone will be asked to wear masks while in our buildings and on our school buses this fall if social distancing cannot be achieved. Students, staff, and visitors will be expected to wear masks when they are moving around the building when they are within 6 feet of others. Masks will not be required for children under the age of 6 or those with written medical exemptions.
- To the greatest extent possible, classrooms will be set up for social distancing with the goal that students will be able to remove their masks while they are seated in their desks. Keep in mind that in certain situations under the traditional model, adequate social distancing may not be possible, so students would have to remain masked during certain events.
- Common areas will not be used by large groups of students but will be repurposed to provide additional classroom spaces for maximum distancing. This includes, but is not limited to cafeterias, gymnasiums, auditoriums, and media centers.
- Students will be eating breakfast and possibly lunch in their classrooms, at designated outdoor spaces, or spread out in multiple locations including gymnasiums.
- Temperature checks will be required before riding school buses or before entering district facilities each morning. Temperature checks may also take place periodically during the day.
- Commonly touched surfaces will be disinfected frequently throughout the day and during non-school hours.
- Students will be assigned specific seats on buses, at lunch, and in classrooms to assist in contact tracing if it becomes necessary.
- Throughout the school day, there will be frequent and scheduled handwashing/hand hygiene breaks given. There will also be required hand washing/hand hygiene before students board the bus to go home
- Buses will be disinfected after students unload from the morning, evening and after school routes.

### NEXT STEPS

- Make direct contact with every parent/guardian in the district.
- In person meetings with school staff to continue to finalize plans.

Thank you for your continued patience and support as we work to design the reopening of school for the 2020-2021 school year. District administration and the Local Health Department are continuing to develop plans for our return to school. More information and details will be provided as they become available.