

Legacy Charter School District #478

Back-to-School Plan, August 2021 Clarifications to April 2021 Update:

August 2021 clarifications: To ensure that the school's Back-to-School Plan clearly addresses the State Department of Education's Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan Checklist, the highlighted sections below provide expanded explanations of the practices and procedures already in place as of the approved April 2021 update. No changes to the April 2021 plan's practices and procedures were made in this August 2021 document. Therefore, no public comment or Governing Board action is required for the August 2021 clarifications.

We value the school-parent-community partnership, realizing that having such creates the most effective educational environment in which children learn. Thank you for reviewing this plan. Legacy resides in Canyon County and in the Southwest Health District. At the time of this update, Canyon County has resided in the Yellow Health Alert Level for several weeks and Southwest Health District's count for Covid-19 cases was 1.20 per 10,000 people. Therefore, this updated Back-to-School Plan reflects expectations under these conditions. Should conditions worsen, these updates will be reviewed and modified, if necessary. Please take time to review this updated Back-to-School Plan (as of April 2021, with clarifications included August 2021) that will be followed at Legacy Charter School District #478 going forward. There is a 30-day public comment period from April 23-May 24, 2021. If you would like to comment, please do so by sending your comments to schoolclerk32@gmail.com, or by postal mail to the school address, or directly to the school office in care of the Clerk of the Board. Comments received will be shared with the Governing Board at an upcoming Governing Board meeting. Upcoming board meeting notices and agendas are posted at www.legacycharterschool.net.

First and foremost, the governing board and administrator have created this plan by doing what we've always done when change is thrust upon us -- looking at what's best for kids. Therefore, through discussions and feedback among governing board members, the administrator, teachers, staff, and parents in the spring and summer of 2020, as well as reviewing research related to in-person vs online learning* the governing board and administrator determined that the school and its employees were an essential service and, as such, it was absolutely necessary that it provide in-person instruction for the 2020-2021 school year to ensure student success academically and student health physically, emotionally, and mentally. It was determined school lunches would also continue (see procedures for doing so below) to ensure every student that needed a lunch prepared by the school café was provided one. The governing board, administrator and teachers also agreed that in-person learning provided daily contact with students in which to monitor their social and mental health well-being and address any concerns with parents immediately, as well as the contracted school psychologist if necessary. (An at-home learning option remained available if parents chose to take this route.) This plan has followed the guidelines at each juncture of the Covid-19 pandemic per interaction with the local health district and State officials, and by following CDC guidelines. Among the ways in which student academic needs are being addressed: Additional one-on-one and group learning time incorporated into each class' day to

work on individual and group academics needing strengthening and also teachers incorporating additional evaluation points in which to pin point students' academic needs.

Additionally, teacher and staff social, emotional, mental health and other needs have been and will continue to be addressed through one-on-one discussions with administrator and contracted school psychologist if needed, teacher/staff meetings, teacher/staff professional development, and staff awareness of outside agencies that offer assistance in specific areas of support. In-person learning will continue for the 2021-2022 school year.

*Examples of articles/research reviewed prior to and throughout 2020-2021 school year and into 2021-2022:

<https://pcgkids.com/online-vs-in-person-learning/>
<https://www.cnn.com/2021/07/09/health/cdc-covid-schools-guidance-update/index.html>
[https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/science-briefs/transmission k 12 schools.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/science-briefs/transmission-k-12-schools.html)
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/operation-strategy.html>
<https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/>
<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-usa-education/cdc-researchers-see-little-evidence-in-person-school-drives-covid-19-infection-idUSKBN29V2CD>
<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/COVID-19/Pages/Return-to-School-During-COVID-19.aspx>
<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/brown-center-chalkboard/2020/12/03/how-is-covid-19-affecting-student-learning/>

I. Family School Engagement & Health Precaution Activities:

a. Family School-Engagement Activities:

- Encourage positive attitudes about school.
- Help your child get to school on time each day.
- Encourage & help your child establish a good rest and healthy meals routine.
- Establish with your child an at-home place and time to study and a daily reading time.
- Access learning resources provided by your child's teacher and on the school's website to provide additional learning opportunities at home.
- Rather than asking if your child's school day was "good," or if they "had fun," ask them specifics about their school day, such as: What's one important thing you learned today? What did you read about in your class novel today? Who were you able to help today?

b. Family Health Precaution Activities:

- If your child has a fever of 100F or greater, please keep them home and call the school. Keep your child home until he/she is fever free (100F or below without fever reducer medications) for 48 hours.
- Monitor other, possible COVID-19 symptoms daily: Fever or chills, 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. Promptly notify the school office if your student develops COVID-19-like symptoms.
- Be aware of those around you and your students who may be COVID-19 positive or who may have been exposed to COVID-19. Consider having your child tested as soon as you suspect they might have been exposed. Promptly notify the school office if your student has a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis, or has been exposed to someone confirmed with COVID-19.

II. Pre-Opening School Facility Activities

- a. The following precautions have taken place to provide as safe and healthy a school environment as possible prior to the first day of school:
 - In August 2020, installation of a bi-polar ionization unit for the entire school building. This unit creates negative ions in the air that starves viruses, mold and bacteria and, in the case of COVID-19 can kill 99% of its spores, meaning the air in the building is being constantly cleansed. This is the same unit used in hospitals, the White House, and other Idaho schools.
 - All classrooms have been cleaned and disinfected, following the latest sanitization guidelines and recommendations from the CDC and Southwest District Health, as have the building's frequently trafficked areas.
 - All carpets have been cleaned and sanitized.
 - All classrooms, bathrooms, lunchroom and offices have been provided with either soap & water and/or hand sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol, paper towels, and no-touch trash cans.
 - An area has been designated for ill or sick students and employees to limit the spread of illness.
 - Teachers and EAs will begin meeting the week of July 27 to review and receive training, as needed, on good hygiene measures such as handwashing, covering coughs, social distancing, face coverings/PPEs, etc.

III. School-Day Health & Safety Precautions

- a. Essential Workers and Visitors
 - Only essential adults and students will be allowed in the building during the school day.
 - Unscheduled visitors will not be allowed in the building during school hours.
 - Visitors will be required to comply with necessary social distancing, and *may* be required to sign a waiver, submit to screening, and wear some form of face covering.
- b. Students, Teachers, Staff & Volunteers
 - Each classroom teacher will establish a routine for hand washing/hand sanitizing for students and adults. This will include prior to entering the classroom each morning, as they enter the café for lunch, reminders during bathroom breaks, and prior to or following other daily activities as necessary.
 - Students will enter their classroom each morning using their classroom's exterior door as necessary.
 - Face masks are recommended but not required. Disposable face masks will be available at the school for those needing or wanting one. Students who bring their own face masks will need to take them home to wash daily. Teachers and other employees will wear Personal Protective Equipment at their discretion during the school day.
 - Those wearing masks will do so correctly by using the following steps: Wash hands or use hand sanitizer before putting on your mask; Put the mask over nose and mouth and secure it under the chin; Fit the mask snugly against the sides of face, slipping the loops over ears or tying the strings behind head; ensure breathing is easy while wearing it.
 - All students, teachers, staff, and volunteers should bring their own water bottle filled with sufficient water to last the school day. (Water fountains will be used at a minimum, and ONLY to fill water bottles.)
 - Easy, age-appropriate social distancing practices will be established to encourage three-foot distancing between others, especially when close contact extends beyond 15 minutes. Classroom movement in the hallways will be limited with classroom exterior doors used as appropriate to move from one area of the school to another.
 - Classroom desks, chairs, equipment, high-touch areas will be cleaned and sanitized daily, as will bathrooms and high-traffic areas. As the school has only one class per grade, students at each grade level operate nearly 90% of their day in a pod-like

environment and will use distancing of desks as much as possible to facilitate the recommended physical distancing by local health officials and the CDC.

- c. Lunchroom Procedures – It is imperative that the school lunch program continues in order to provide daily, healthy lunch for all students. For 2020-2021 and 2021-2022, school lunches will be *free for all students*.

- 1st-8th Grade:

Two grades eat lunch in the café concurrently, which totals 50 students or less at any one time. Social distancing is maintained as much as possible. Typically, students are in the café less than 15 minutes so as to take advantage of the lunch recess, meaning the close contact is under the acceptable threshold. Adult supervision in the café is in place to help ensure social distancing, close contact limits, and on-going, proper hygiene practices.

- Disposable utensils will be used.

IV. In the Event a Student or Staff Member Becomes Ill During School Day with Covid-19 Symptoms:

- a. School administrator(s) will work to isolate the individual to limit contact with others in the school. If a student, a parent/guardian will be immediately notified to pick up student.
- b. Teachers/Administrator/Staff will monitor students or staff symptoms while wearing appropriate preventive protection equipment.
- c. All areas in which the ill student or staff member was present will be disinfected and sanitized.
- d. Symptomatic staff or students will be encouraged to seek COVID-19 testing from their regular physician or through the local public health authority.
- e. If a student or staff receives a positive COVID-19 viral (PCR) test result the person should remain home for at least 10 days after illness onset and 72 hours after fever is gone, without use of fever reducing medicine, and other symptoms are improving.
- f. Close contacts:
 - For close contacts who have been fully vaccinated, or if they have had Covid-19 in the past three months:
 1. No quarantine necessary.
 - For close contacts who have *not* been fully vaccinated, or have *not* had Covid-19 in the past three months:
 1. Students and staff who were in close contact with the student or staff testing positive will be notified and encouraged to seek COVID-19 testing from their regular physician or through the local public health authority.
 2. Close contacts will quarantine for 10 days from their last contact with Covid-19+ person, returning to school on the 11th day. Close contacts may return sooner if they test on day 5 of quarantine (not before), using a PCR test, and it's negative.
 3. Exception to quarantining: If a close contact wore a mask the entire time they were with the Covid-19+ person, the close contact may attend in-person classes, but must monitor themselves for symptoms for two weeks.
 4. If a close contact tests positive for Covid-19 during quarantine, he/she will quarantine an additional 10 days from when symptoms first appeared or positive test result is received, whichever is sooner.
 5. For close contacts living in same household with someone who has tested positive: If the Covid-19+ person in the home can isolate from others in the household, close contacts can return to school after 10-day quarantine. If Covid-19+ person in the household *cannot* isolate from others in the home, the quarantine for the close contacts will be Covid-19+ person's 10 days + an additional 10 days. If a close contact receives a negative PCR test on the

positive person's 10th day of quarantine, then they may return to school 24 hours later as long as they are experiencing no symptoms.

- g. If someone tests negative for COVID-19, but they are exhibiting Covid-19 symptoms, he or she should remain home until 72 hours after fever is gone, without use of fever reducing medicine, and other symptoms are improving.
- h. In the event that a student with special needs tests positive for Covid-19, or is a close contact, the special education teacher, administrator, parents, and other appropriate personnel will determine on a case-by-case basis the appropriate accommodations to ensure the student's health and safety.
- i. Southwest District Health will be notified of confirmed cases from this school.

V. Reminders:

- a. Those who exhibit symptoms or suspect they have Covid-19 and have been tested are to self-isolate until the results of the test are provided.
- b. Those who are fully vaccinated, or who have had Covid-19 in past 3 months, do not have to quarantine when exposed.
- c. Close contacts can end quarantine sooner if a PCR test is taken no earlier than day 5 of quarantine and it comes back negative.
- d. If a person has *not* been in close contact with a confirmed or suspected case, but has Covid-19 symptoms, they are to stay home until fever-free w/out medication for 24 hours & symptoms have improved.
- e. Families should stay apprised of any community changes in Covid-19 safety measures by visiting the local health district website or social media outlets. The local health district can also provide information on local diagnostic and screening, as well as immunization locations. The school will provide updates to its safety practices through its weekly attendance newsletter, parent email system, website and social media outlets. Discussions between school and local district health officials in spring '21 determined at-school clinics would be difficult to coordinate and manage, therefore, it was decided the school would provide information to its families of vaccination clinic opportunities.
- f. There is a 30-day public comment period for this updated Back-to-School Plan (April 23-May 24, 2021). To do so, send your comments to schoolclerk32@gmail.com . Comments received will be shared with the Governing Board at an upcoming Governing Board meeting. Board meeting notices and agendas can be found at www.Legacycharterschool.net.
- g. This plan will be adjusted accordingly, depending on severity of community transmission.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/community/School-Admin-K12-readiness-and-planning-tool.pdf>

<https://boardofed.idaho.gov/resources/idaho-back-to-school-framework-2020/>

<https://phd3.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/COVID-19-Guidance-Schoolsv2-06-19-20-0000002.pdf>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html>