



Theford Public Schools

2020-2021 Return to
School and Pandemic
Response Plan

Introduction: This plan has been developed with discussion, input, and guidance from the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE), the Nebraska Schools Activity Association (NSAA), KSB School Law, the West Central District Health Department, ESU 16, and other Nebraska Educators.

While this plan is meant to be as comprehensive as possible, it is impossible to predict every scenario that we may encounter as we return to the school building. The plan can and will be updated throughout the school year as more information is available. The administration reserves the right to make adjustments to the plan as needed and will make every attempt to communicate those changes in a timely manner to all stakeholders of the district.

Risk Dial: The majority of the decisions going forward will be based off of the current risk assessment for our area. This Risk Dial can be found on the West Central District Health Department's website (<https://wcdhd.org>).



The risk dial is based on the following data: Weekly positivity rate, overall positivity rate, new cases, ICU availability, ventilator availability, community spread, testing availability, contact tracing, availability of reliable and valid antibody testing, availability of effective treatments for COVID-19, an effective vaccine that is widely available, and being able to easily obtain personal protective equipment through standard supply chains.

The risk dial will be updated regularly and includes guidance/recommendations for each level.

How to Reduce Your Risk: There is quite a bit of information (and misinformation) out there about this virus/disease. At the same time, it seems like the following steps are widely accepted as ways to reduce your risk of getting infected or infecting others.

1. Practice social distancing by maintaining at least 6 feet of distance between you and other people. Avoid large crowds whenever possible.
2. Using a face covering (mask, scarf, bandana, etc.) that covers your nose and mouth in public places, especially indoors and in large crowds.
3. Practice good hygiene. This includes regularly washing your hands for at least 20 seconds with warm soapy water or using hand sanitizer if you are unable to wash your hands.
4. If you need to sneeze or cough, you should cover it. The best way is to cough or sneeze into your elbow if you cannot cover it with a tissue.
5. Avoid touching your face as much as possible, especially your nose and eyes.
6. Stay home when you are feeling sick, especially if you have a fever of over 100.4 degrees.

Reopening Guidelines: Any Directed Health Measure from any state, district, county, or local authority that has the authority to do so will take precedence over any of these guidelines.

Guidelines should be looked at as a continuum. Some guidelines may be tightened or loosened as we approach the next level. For example, some of the “High Risk” guidelines may be put into place even if we are still in the “Moderate Risk” level as per the West Central District Health Department.

	Green – Low Risk	Yellow – Moderate Risk	Orange – High Risk	Red- Severe Risk
Face Coverings	No face coverings will be required or recommended.	Face coverings will be strongly recommended for all individuals in the school building. Parents may “opt-in” to having their child wear face covering. They may fill out a form to request that the staff and administration help make sure their student wears a face covering.	Face coverings will be required to be worn by anyone in the building. This includes staff, students, parents, or visitors. Parents may “opt-out” of having their child wear face coverings if they choose to do so.	School buildings will be closed and all students will participate in remote learning from home.
Temperature and Symptom Checks	No temperature or symptom checks will be conducted.	Parents are strongly recommended to check student temperatures at home. If a student has a fever of 100 degrees or higher, they should NOT come to school and you should contact the West Central District Health Department. Random checks of students may be conducted during the school day. Checks may be required for activity participation.	Parents are strongly recommended to check student temperatures at home. If a student has a fever of 100 degrees or higher, they should NOT come to school and you should contact the West Central District Health Department. Checks of students may be conducted during the school day or at the bus pick-up. Checks may be required for activity participation.	School buildings will be closed and all students will participate in remote learning from home.

Student Attendance	All students in grades PreK-12 will attend school in person.	All students in grades PreK-12 will attend school in person. Online options will be available for students that are unable to attend in person. Online attendance will be required for the same time period as in person attendance as practical for the age of the student.	All students in grades PreK-12 will attend school in person. Online options will be available for students that are unable to attend in person. Online attendance will be required during the same time periods as in person attendance as practical for the age of the student. Alternative scheduling for grades and classes will be utilized as necessary.	School buildings will be closed and all students will participate in remote learning from home.
Student Transportation	Normal operations of student transportation will be followed.	Normal operations of student transportation will be followed. Students will be encouraged to maintain appropriate spacing when practical. Face coverings are highly recommended. Temperature and symptom checks will be conducted randomly.	Student Transportation to and from school will be suspended and parents will be reimbursed for mileage.	No student transportation will be necessary due to all students participating in remote learning from home.
Arriving at school	Normal operations will be followed.	<i>At the elementary:</i> Both entrances (south by the playground and west by the office) will be open from 7:45-8:00 a.m. Parents are asked to drop off students as close to 8:00 as possible.	The same provisions set out in yellow will be followed. Additional provisions include: Temperature and symptom checks may be implemented during this time.	School buildings will be closed and all students will participate in remote learning from home.

<p>Arriving at school (continued)</p>		<p>Students are to drop off their items at their cubbies and go directly to their classrooms.</p> <p><i>At the High School:</i> All entrance doors will be available for students to enter from 7:30 – 8:00 a.m.</p> <p>Students are asked to come as close to 8:00 a.m. as possible except if they are having breakfast.</p> <p>Students should maintain social distancing at all times.</p>		
<p>Breakfast and Lunch</p>	<p>Breakfast and Lunch will follow normal operations.</p>	<p>Breakfast and Lunch will be served as normal, with the exception of the salad bar.</p> <p>The salad bar may not be available at times. When available, items will be individually packaged so students do not have to share utensils.</p> <p>Students will eat in the lunch room at the high school.</p>	<p>Breakfast and Lunch will be served as normal, with the exception of the salad bar.</p> <p>The salad bar will not be available.</p> <p>Staggered lunch periods may be used to reduce the number of students in the lunch room.</p> <p>Students will normally eat in the lunch room at the high school, or they may be required to eat in their classrooms as practical.</p>	<p>School buildings will be closed and all students will participate in remote learning from home.</p> <p>Breakfast and lunch will still be provided for those that choose to receive it. Pick up will be at the school and additional drop-off spots may be utilized (ie: Brownlee or Seneca).</p>
<p>Visitors/Parents</p>	<p>Normal operations will be followed. All visitors shall check into the office.</p>	<p>Parents are asked to remain outside of the building when dropping off students.</p> <p>If parents have business to conduct in the office, we ask</p>	<p>Parents and visitors will not be allowed into the building without appointments.</p> <p>Face coverings will be required for parents/visitors to enter the building.</p>	<p>School buildings will be closed and all students will participate in remote learning from home.</p>

Visitors/Parents (continued)		<p>that they refrain from doing so until at least 8:15 a.m.</p> <p>Visitors need to call the office first to set up appointments and gain permission to be on campus.</p> <p>All visitors shall check into the office.</p>	All visitors shall check into the office.	
Elementary Recess	Normal operations will be followed.	<p>Elementary classes shall stagger their recess so that no more than two classes are out at recess at the same time.</p> <p>Students will be encouraged to maintain social distancing.</p>	<p>Elementary classes shall stagger their recess so that no more than two classes are out at recess at the same time.</p> <p>Students will be encouraged to maintain social distancing.</p>	School buildings will be closed and all students will participate in remote learning from home.
Transitions	All normal school operations will be followed.	<p>Elementary classes will be encouraged to stagger their hallway transitions (bathroom/drink breaks) so no more than one class is in the hallway at one time.</p> <p>High school students will be encouraged to move from one class to their next as quickly as possible. No gathering between classes will be allowed.</p> <p>All classes will be encouraged to limit the amount of time they are in the hallways.</p> <p>All students will be encouraged to maintain social distancing.</p>	<p>Elementary classes will be encouraged to stagger their hallway transitions (bathroom/drink breaks) so no more than one class is in the hallway at one time.</p> <p>High school students will be encouraged to move from one class to their next as quickly as possible. No gathering between classes will be allowed.</p> <p>All classes will be encouraged to limit the amount of time they are in the hallways.</p> <p>All students will be encouraged to maintain social distancing.</p>	School buildings will be closed and all students will participate in remote learning from home.

Water Fountains	Water fountains (including nozzles) will be cleaned and disinfected daily.	<p>Students will be strongly encouraged to use personal or school provided water bottles.</p> <p>Some water fountains will be open for those that do not have water bottles available.</p> <p>Water fountains (including nozzles) will be disinfected multiple time a day.</p>	<p>Only the bottle filler portion of the water fountains will be open.</p> <p>Water fountain nozzles will be shut off.</p> <p>Water fountains will be disinfected multiple times a day.</p>	School buildings will be closed and all students will participate in remote learning from home.
Classrooms	All normal school operations will be followed.	<p>Seating in the room should help students maintain social distancing.</p> <p>Small group work that requires students to be in close proximity to each other should be limited.</p> <p>Students at the high school may be asked to help disinfect their desks and chairs from time to time.</p>	<p>Seating in the room should help students maintain social distancing.</p> <p>Grouping/Clusters of desks will be discouraged.</p> <p>Small group work that requires students to be in close proximity to each other will be discouraged.</p> <p>Students at the high school will be asked to help disinfect their desks after each period.</p>	School buildings will be closed and all students will participate in remote learning from home.
School Calendar	School calendar will remain the same.	School calendar will remain the same.	The school calendar may be adjusted to provide for alternative learning or attendance situations.	The school calendar may be adjusted to provide for alternative learning or attendance situations.
Exiting the building	Students are encouraged to exit the building in a timely manner at the end of the school day.	<p>Students are encouraged to exit the building in a timely manner at the end of the school day.</p> <p>Parents that are picking up their child shall remain outside or in their vehicles</p>	<p>Students are encouraged to exit the building in a timely manner at the end of the school day.</p> <p>Parents that are picking up their child shall remain outside or in their vehicles</p>	School buildings will be closed and all students will participate in remote learning from home.

<p>Exiting the building (continued)</p>		<p>until their child comes out of the school.</p> <p>Students will be encouraged to maintain appropriate social distancing.</p> <p>Students will not be allowed to gather or linger in the hallways after school.</p>	<p>until their child comes out of the school.</p> <p>Students will be encouraged to maintain appropriate social distancing.</p> <p>Students will not be allowed to gather or linger in the hallways after school.</p>	
<p>Elementary Academics</p>	<p>All students in grades PreK-6 will attend school in person and will be expected to complete the classwork and homework as assigned by their teachers.</p> <p>All other operations will be followed as normal.</p>	<p>All students in grades PreK-6 will attend school in person and will be expected to complete the classwork and homework as assigned by their teachers.</p> <p>Students that are unable to attend in person will be required to attend online (depending on age) or through the use of recorded lessons and work. Students in this situation will be required to complete all classwork and homework as assigned by their teachers and will not have adjusted due dates.</p> <p>If students are unable to attend online due to illness, then the make-up work policy will be in effect. They will receive extra time, but all classwork and homework will need to be completed as assigned by their teacher.</p>	<p>All students in grades PreK-6 will attend school in person and will be expected to complete the classwork and homework as assigned by their teachers.</p> <p>Students that are unable to attend in person will be required to attend online (depending on age) or through the use of recorded lessons and work. Students in this situation will be required to complete all classwork and homework as assigned by their teachers and will not have adjusted due dates.</p> <p>If students are unable to attend online due to illness, then the make-up work policy will be in effect. They will receive extra time, but all classwork and homework will need to be completed as assigned by their teacher.</p>	<p>School buildings will be closed and all students will participate in remote learning from home.</p>

<p>Elementary Academics (continued)</p>		<p><i>PE:</i> PE will be outside as much as possible. Classes will be asked to enter the gym through one of the gym doors. Water bottles should be filled and brought to PE each day.</p> <p><i>Music:</i> Music will be in the music room and classes will be encouraged to use the outside door of the music room to enter.</p> <p><i>Art:</i> Art will be conducted in the grade’s classroom or at the high school art room depending on what works for the teachers’ schedules.</p> <p><i>Library:</i> Trips to the Thomas County Library will be in accordance with their policies.</p> <p><i>Resource/Intervention:</i> Students will still travel to the Resource or Intervention rooms as scheduled.</p>	<p>PE, Music, and Art teachers will come to the classrooms to conduct their classes. Schedules will be adjusted so only one grade has their specials at a time.</p> <p><i>Library:</i> Trips to the Thomas County Library will be suspended.</p> <p><i>Resource/Intervention:</i> Resource and Intervention teachers will conduct their interventions in the classrooms.</p>	
<p>High School Academics</p>	<p>All students in grades 7-12 will attend school in person and will be expected to complete the classwork and homework as assigned by their teachers.</p> <p>All other operations will be followed as normal.</p>	<p>All students in grades 7-12 will attend school in person and will be expected to complete the classwork and homework as assigned by their teachers.</p> <p>Students that are unable to attend in person will be required to attend online (depending on age) or</p>	<p>All students in grades 7-12 will attend school in person and will be expected to complete the classwork and homework as assigned by their teachers.</p> <p>Students that are unable to attend in person will be required to attend online (depending on age) or</p>	<p>School buildings will be closed and all students will participate in remote learning from home.</p>

<p>High School Academics (continued)</p>		<p>through the use of recorded lessons and work. Students in this situation will be required to complete all classwork and homework as assigned by their teachers and will not have adjusted due dates.</p> <p>If students are unable to attend online due to illness, then the make-up work policy will be in effect. They will receive extra time, but all classwork and homework will need to be completed as assigned by their teacher.</p> <p>Students will attend classes and follow their schedules as normal.</p>	<p>through the use of recorded lessons and work. Students in this situation will be required to complete all classwork and homework as assigned by their teachers and will not have adjusted due dates.</p> <p>If students are unable to attend online due to illness, then the make-up work policy will be in effect. They will receive extra time, but all classwork and homework will need to be completed as assigned by their teacher.</p> <p>Block or Alternative Scheduling will be used to limit the amount of contact as much as possible.</p>	
<p>Technology Considerations</p>	<p>All students in grades PreK-12 will attend school in person.</p> <p>At home access should be available for students to the extent possible.</p>	<p>All students in grades PreK-12 will attend school in person.</p> <p>At home access should be available for students that are unable to attend school in person.</p> <p>The school will work with families and local internet providers to help this process as necessary.</p>	<p>All students in grades PreK-12 will attend school in person.</p> <p>At home access should be available for students that are unable to attend school in person.</p> <p>The school will work with families and local internet providers to help this process as necessary.</p>	<p>School buildings will be closed and all students will participate in remote learning from home.</p> <p>The school will work with families and local internet providers to help make sure all students have access to appropriate internet at home.</p>
<p>Extra-Curricular Activities</p>	<p>All normal operations will be followed.</p>	<p>All guidelines of the governing body of the activity (NSAA, FFA, etc) will be followed.</p>	<p>All guidelines of the governing body of the activity (NSAA, FFA, etc) will be followed.</p>	<p>All guidelines of the governing body of the activity (NSAA, FFA, etc) will be followed.</p>

Extra-Curricular Activities (continued)		<p>Temperature checks may be required before students can participate in activities.</p> <p>Students will be encouraged to maintain social distancing.</p> <p>Students and staff will be encouraged to wear a face covering when attending an out of town activity.</p> <p>Students are NOT eligible for participation while they are attending school through online options.</p>	<p>Temperature checks shall be required before students can participate in activities.</p> <p>Students will be encouraged to maintain social distancing.</p> <p>Students and staff will be required to wear a face covering when attending an out of town activity.</p> <p>Students are NOT eligible for participation while they are attending school through online options.</p>	<p>Most likely, there will be no activities being conducted at this level.</p>
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Cleaning Considerations: The following is a list of considerations that we are making for additional cleaning of the building and grounds.

Buses and Vans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disinfectant misters are available to be used to quickly disinfect transportation vehicles. • Students and staff shall make sure that buses and vans are clean and well maintained.
Gym and Locker Rooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locker rooms will be cleaned and disinfected on a daily basis. • Extra cleaning of the gym and locker rooms will be done on the day of games/events. • Students need to keep ALL belongings in their lockers. Any items outside of the lockers or in the bleachers will be picked up and they will need to collect them from Mr. Dahlberg.
High Touch Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Custodians, secretaries, paraprofessionals, and teachers will be asked to help keep high touch areas (light switches, desks, door handles, etc.) cleaned and disinfected throughout the day. • Disinfectant foggers will be used throughout the year (on weekends).
Lunchroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lunch tables will be disinfected after each use and will be put up each day to discourage their use for anything other than breakfast or lunch. • Students need to keep track of all of their personal items. Any items outside in the bleachers will be picked up and they will need to collect them from Mr. Dahlberg.
Playground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A disinfectant mister will be used multiple times a week to do a general cleaning of all items. • Wiping down of high touch areas will be done on a daily basis.

Weight Room	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students and patrons using the weight room as asked to disinfect and wipe down all equipment after using it. • General cleaning and disinfecting will be done on a regular basis. • Deep cleaning will be conducted once a week.
Classrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers (and some students) will be asked to help disinfect high touch areas in their rooms. • Desks and chairs will be disinfected each day.
Hallways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elementary students should make sure their cubbies are cleaned out each day when they leave for home. • High school students should make sure they bring personal items home each day and not let their lockers get too full of unnecessary items. • Shelves at the high school are to be used for TEMPORARY storage. Items that are left on the shelves will be picked up and the students will have to collect them from Mr. Dahlberg.
Personal Cleanliness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students, staff, and visitors need to maintain good hygiene (washing hands, coughing or sneezing into a tissue or their elbow, etc.) • Students, staff, and visitors need to keep track of all of their items and not allow unnecessary items to accumulate at the school. • Students, staff, and visitors should contact the office if they see something that is concerning to them or if something needs attention. • Students, staff, and visitors can help tremendously by picking up after themselves (after sporting events, after lunch, etc.).