

Newton Falls Exempted Village Schools

Covid 19 Continuity Plan



Fall 2021 - Traditional school year starts with the following safety procedures in place in order to maximize the safety of our students, staff and community.

Board of Education

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PLAN FOR SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION AND CONTINUITY OF SERVICES PLAN

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1. **Policies for Mitigation Strategies:** Plan for incorporating eight different mitigation strategies included in current CDC guidance.
 2. **Continuity of Services:** Plan to address academic and non-academic services for students and staff.
 3. **Periodic Review:** Review at least every 6 months through September 30, 2023 and revise plan as appropriate.
 4. **Public Input:** Seek public input and incorporate revisions as necessary.

School District: Newton Falls Exempted Village Schools


District Contact: (Name) Rocco Adduci

(Title) Superintendent

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POLICIES FOR INCORPORATING MITIGATION STRATEGIES

Describe to what extent the following policies have been adopted to incorporate the following [CDC Mitigation Strategies](#) and provide a description of any policies being implemented:

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- Universal and correct wearing of masks
 - Physical distancing
 - Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
 - Cleaning and maintaining health facilities, including improving ventilation
 - Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the state and local health departments
 - Diagnostic and screening testing
 - Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff and eligible students
 - Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies

NEWTON FALLS EXPECTATIONS FOR FACIAL COVERINGS

- Masks for staff and students will be optional

NEWTON FALLS EXPECTATIONS FOR SOCIAL DISTANCING IN CLASSROOMS

- Classrooms will operate at normal capacity by utilizing the maximum amount of space available to ensure safety precautions are followed

NEWTON FALLS EXPECTATIONS FOR ACCESS TO HAND SANITIZER AND HAND WASHING

- Teach, remind and encourage frequent hand washing
- Hand sanitizer available at entrances, classrooms and high traffic areas

POLICIES FOR INCORPORATING MITIGATION STRATEGIES



NEWTON FALLS EXPECTATIONS FOR DAILY CLEANING OF CLASSROOMS AND COMMON AREAS IN SCHOOLS

- In addition to daily responsibilities, all custodians will continue with the following sanitizing procedures of classrooms and common spaces:
 - The district utilizes fogging machines throughout the facilities and on buses. Common areas are also disinfected between groups and throughout the day. Staff and student training is provided to ensure adherence to the safety protocols. Signage and public announcements are used to inform the community of the expectations. When practical, buses will open vents or open windows to increase outside air flow.

NEWTON FALLS EXPECTATIONS FOR CONTACT TRACING, ISOLATION, AND QUARANTINE

- Visitor access is limited. Anyone experiencing COVID-19 symptoms is not permitted on school grounds. All visitors must enter through a buzzer door system at the main office of the building where they will verify that they are not experiencing illness symptoms.

NEWTON FALLS EXPECTATIONS FOR VACCINATION EFFORTS

- The district collaborated with the Trumbull County Health Department and Rite Aid Pharmacy during the 2020-2021 school year to provide vaccinations to staff and eligible students. The district will continue to partner with local officials to provide vaccination opportunities for staff, students and the community.

NEWTON FALLS EXPECTATIONS FOR ACCOMODATIONS

- The district will provide health and safety accommodations in accordance with students' Individual Education Plans. The district will make every effort to collaborate with families regarding individual special needs. Various forms of communication are available to facilitate this process, including, but not limited to: email, U.S mail, text messaging, Remind App, Google Classroom, phone calls, Zoom meetings, and physically distanced face-to-face meetings.

ADDITIONAL MITIGATION STRATEGIES



TRANSPORTATION

- Drivers and students will be required to wear masks while on the bus
- Students will have documented assigned seating to assist with contact tracing
- No more than two students will be assigned to a seat

SCHOOL ENTRY

- All school entrances, classrooms, and high traffic areas will have hand sanitizer available

STUDENTS AND STAFF WITH COVID-19 PROCEDURES

- Staff and students will follow Ohio Department of Health guidelines for contact tracing and quarantine/isolation protocol

RETURN TO SCHOOL POLICY

- [When should a child return to school](#)

PLAN TO ADDRESS CONTINUITY OF ACADEMIC AND NON-ACADEMIC SERVICES

Describe how you will address continuity of services for students and staff, where needed, in the following areas:

1. Academic Services
2. Social-Emotional
3. Mental Health
4. Health
5. Food

CONTINUITY OF SERVICES

- The district plans to continue full in-person learning moving forward. In the event of school closure due to the pandemic, the district will pivot to remote instruction.

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS

- The district utilizes Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) K-12, Leader in Me K-5, and Character Strong. School counselors have provided age appropriate and grade appropriate teaching resources for social, emotional and mental health related classroom based instruction and will continue this in the 2021-2022 school year. The district partners with Homes for Kids for on-site social, emotional and mental health services. The district has hired an additional counselors for each of its three school buildings to provide additional support to students. The district employs six full time counselors.

PLAN TO ADDRESS CONTINUITY OF ACADEMIC AND NON-ACADEMIC SERVICES



STUDENT HEALTH:

- Two full time RN's are assigned to the district along with a school health aide. All students have full-access to a virtual health clinic during school hours. The district partners with University Hospitals for an athletic trainer to support student health during extra-curricular sporting events. The trainer assists in the assessment, identification, and assessment of illness.

FOOD:

- If school is closed due to a pandemic, the district will provide meals in the form of food box distribution at various locations around town for students while at home learning.

PERIODIC REVIEW


1. Describe how you will conduct a review of your plan at least every 6 months.
2. Describe how you will revise the plan as appropriate.



PLAN REVIEW:

- This plan was developed in June 2021. The district will continue to assess and adjust procedures in accordance with state and local guidelines. The plan will be reviewed at least semi-annually. This document will be posted on the district COVID19 page of the website.

PUBLIC INPUT

1. Describe how you will seek public input.
 2. Describe how you will take public input into account when making revisions.
 3. Review Period: What revisions were made and why?
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PUBLIC INPUT

- If you have questions or comments regarding the plan, please email adducir@nfschools.org. These questions and comments will be reviewed at each revision meeting to consider updates for the Continuity Plan.

Accommodations for Children with Disabilities with Respect to the Health & Safety Policies Determining Competency, Granting Credit, & Promoting Students to a Higher Grade Level



DETERMINING COMPETENCY:

- Teachers will monitor student progress toward IEP goals. The IEP indicates frequency and the method used to report progress: including, but not limited to, work samples, observation, checklist, anecdotal records, curriculum-based assessments, portfolios, short-cycle assessments, performance assessments, running records, inventories and rubrics.

GRANTING CREDIT:

- Standards-Based Grading Prek-12
 - The Report Card is based on essential learning standards for each grade. Teachers will continue to provide standards-based learning opportunities for students.
 - Students will be assessed on satisfactory achievement toward meeting grade-level expectations.
 - Students will be given multiple opportunities to work toward improving their progress.
 - Student grading occurs quarterly, along with interim reports on progress as specified on the student's IEP.
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PROMOTING STUDENTS:

- Teachers will play the primary role in making grading decisions regarding student performance. Teachers will consider the totality of the student's performance on the course or grade-level curriculum as it was delivered during the entire school year.
- Teachers and program supervisors should make decisions to promote or retain students while keeping the child's best interest in mind. If in the judgment of the teacher and program supervisor, a student is prepared, given the student's demonstration of knowledge and skills, to participate successfully in the next higher grade, then the child should be promoted. The general standards for promotion decisions will be discussed jointly between a student's teachers, program supervisor, and parents.

Accommodations for Children with Disabilities with Respect to the Health & Safety Policies

Attendance and Participation

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS:

- Daily interaction between teacher/student/parent via Google Classroom log-in as appropriate.
- Newton Falls Student Attendance Log-in (student account in SIMS) will be used for monitoring attendance as required by State Law.
- Teachers will regularly communicate any updates on student participation to the student's case manager, guidance counselor and/or building administrator.
- After three failed attempts to contact the student/family, the Teacher will contact the building administrator and/or guidance counselor to conduct a wellness check with the School Resource Office and/or notify appropriate agencies.
- Students who meet the habitual truancy and/or excessive absences thresholds will participate in the district's truancy policy and procedures.

PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS:

- Students and parents will remain in regular contact with the instructional staff.
- Students will regularly participate in learning activities as assigned by the teacher in Google Classroom and student participation will be monitored through Google Classroom and GoGuardian, in addition to the attendance check-in on the district's Student Information Management system (SIMS).
- Instructional staff report directly to their building administrators the names of students that cannot be reached consistently. The administrator will involve school district representatives when needed. This information is communicated in the district's Community Communications log.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS:

- NFEVSD will continue to distribute ongoing information to local agency outreach support. (Cadence Care, Community outreach programs)
 - Behavior Health Supports
 - The district recognizes the importance of consistent and continued care for our students who access our school-based mental health services; therefore, we have contacted each of our mental health partners, continuing to provide access to mental health services.
 - Administrators, teachers, guidance counselors, school based social workers, and school psychologists reach out to families to ensure they have open communication lines and make alternative plans if necessary. In addition, our staff will be monitoring emails and reaching out to our school families in need.
 - Two crisis hotlines are listed below:
 - CRISIS HOTLINE: 513-281-2273
 - CRISIS TEXT LINE: 839863 and text 4HOPE

Accommodations for Children with Disabilities with Respect to the Health & Safety Policies

Progress Monitoring & Equitable Access



PROGRESS MONITORING:

- NFEVSD ensures that students with disabilities receive educational services closest to the manners prescribed within their Individualized Education Programs (IEPs). Therefore, our NFEVSD personnel is collaboratively working together during this time to find ways to continue to serve and educate students with disabilities.
- All contacts with parents/guardians are documented in the district's Community Communications Log.
- Special education guidance is provided to all special education staff through regular department meetings regarding ETR and IEP meetings.
- Special Education staff make available assistive technology for students with disabilities.
- Text to speech and/or speech to text software for students with learning needs.
- Audiobooks, digital books

EQUITABLE ACCESS:

- All learners will have access to technology in a one-to-one computing environment. All students will be provided a district-issued Chromebook for use both in-school and outside of school.
- Those students in need of internet access will be provided resources for access (i.e., discounted rates, mobile hotspots, etc.).
- A technology plan has been developed in the district to ensure each student has access to technology and a device.

Accommodations for Children with Disabilities with Respect to the Health & Safety Policies

Professional Learning



PROFESSIONAL LEARNING:

- The NFEVSD supports professional development in areas of remote learning and remote teaching strategies, including but not limited to training on Zoom and all Google platforms. In addition, opportunities to participate in continued professional development relevant to specific programs are shared among department staff.

Attachment 1

