



# Colo-NESCO Community School District

## Introduction

When Governor Reynolds announced that schools would close for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year, the Iowa Department of Education also announced that school districts would be required to complete a *Return to Learn (RTL)* plan. Those plans must include contingencies for the following delivery models:

**On-Site Delivery** - a full return to school

**Required Continuous Learning** - if school is closed again

**Hybrid Learning** - a combination of the two if only a certain percentage of students can attend on a given day

*\*This plan is a guiding document that will continue to evolve and change as the situation around COVID-19 does. The Colo-NESCO Community School District will continue to provide additional information about our return to learn plan in August and beyond as updates are available.*

The design of the delivery models planned for by the Colo-NESCO District Leadership Team is to provide flexibility to our system so as to be able to deliver high-quality, engaging instruction in a safe environment regardless of the health context in our community. The design is also built to provide flexibility to students and parents so as to have **some choice in delivery that meets their needs**. Given this, the district's *Return to Learn* Plan is based on a simple principle:

## **FLEXIBILITY**

- We believe student and staff safety is our highest priority.
- We believe students should have access to the most essential learning for academics and social-emotional learning with support for mental health needs.
- We believe in transparent, clear, and consistent communication at all levels and with all stakeholders.
- We believe while we are meeting the needs of each individual student, learning must be flexible, inclusive, equitable, and responsive to student needs. Regardless of the delivery model, our plans must meet the needs of all learners, including Special Education, and ELP

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learners, as well as the needs of our families.

### **Delivery Models**

#### **On-Site Delivery (District determined)**

A full return of students and staff to school buildings. This delivery model will be done in buildings with face-to-face instruction for all students given the application of mitigation steps described in this plan. **This is the default plan for the Colo-NESCO CSD.**

#### **Required Continuous Learning (State determined)**

This delivery model will be done via remote learning, either online or packet-based, in the event the district must close due to the pandemic. Opportunities to interact with staff and students will occur virtually.

**Link:** [Colo-NESCO CSD Required Continuous Learning Plan](#)

#### **Hybrid Learning (State or District determined)**

This delivery model will closely mirror the on-site model for most students. However, some families may choose to have children remain in a required continuous learning model for personal safety reasons.

### **SCHOOL START DATE:**

**September 7th** - The official start date for K-12 is Tuesday, September 7, 2021.

**September 14<sup>th</sup>** - The official start date for Preschool is Tuesday, September 14th.

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### **Equity and Meeting the Needs of All Learners**

In all delivery models, the district remains committed to meeting the needs of each and every student we serve. Even in an online learning setting, we will continue to provide services that meet the unique needs of our learners. We will work to remove barriers, to foster success, and to provide the support needed for all learners regardless of the delivery model. The services will include, but are not limited to:

#### **Special Education/504:**

Special education teachers and teams will continue to provide specialized instruction and support in accordance with a student's individualized education plan (IEP). As needed, a comprehensive "Remote Learning Plan" will be created for each IEP, developed before students engage in required continuous learning, in order to determine how educational services will be adapted, accommodated, or modified to fit individual student needs. 504 Teams will continue to meet and carry out plans accordingly.

#### **Extended Learning Program:**

ELP staff will continue to identify students needing enrichment and extension and ensure opportunities for these services for students. Through collaboration with other teachers to provide differentiation, targeted instruction will be delivered by ELP staff with instruction, assessment, and feedback being tailored to meet student needs.

### **Health and Safety Practices for On-Site Delivery:**

Because the health and safety of our students and staff remains our highest priority, the following mitigation steps will be taken in **each on-site delivery model**.

It is highly encouraged that students have temperature checks taken before coming to school.

Students and staff, who have a temperature of 100 or more, are ill, or exhibiting any symptoms of illness should not come to school or work.

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Staff and students who have been exposed to a person with confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 should follow current CDC/Iowa Public Health recommendations.

Parents will be given information on symptoms to look for to screen their child(ren) daily before sending them to school.

The District will create a separate space for the care of students who are ill, while having another space to serve the general health and medication needs of students.

Social distancing will be considered if possible in the arrangement of classrooms and common spaces. (3 to 6 feet)

Hand sanitizers will be put in every classroom and throughout the school.

Staff and students will be taught proper prevention routines that include: 1) Home screening processes; 2) Hand washing and sanitizing; 3) Processes to maintain social distancing (classroom routines, flow of student movement); 4) Importance of staying home when ill.

Students and staff will be encouraged to avoid sharing electronic devices, toys, books, and other games or learning aids.

We will ensure adequate supplies to minimize sharing of high-touch materials to the extent possible (e.g., assigning each student their own art supplies, equipment), or we will limit the use of supplies and equipment by one group of children at a time and clean and disinfect between uses.

### **Face Coverings**

Face coverings will be optional on school grounds and on school buses for all students, parents, staff, visitors, and community members.

### **Cleaning and Sanitizing**

Custodians will conduct a deep cleaning of each school nightly using disinfectants.

Students are encouraged to bring their own water bottle to refill.

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Hand sanitizer will be put in every classroom and throughout the school.

Regular hand washing for students and staff will be encouraged.

Custodians will clean and sanitize each night frequently touched surfaces and items by staff and students (desks, tables, door knobs, light switches etc..) as per facility guidelines.

### **Transportation**

The Transportation Department will be implementing the following safety mitigation steps for transportation of students:

Bus drivers are encouraged to take their temperature before coming to work.

Cleaning/Disinfecting vehicles will occur as needed.

Sanitizer will be available upon entry to the bus.

### **Food Service**

Food service staff will be gloved at all times when handling food.

Food service has developed guidelines for enhanced cleaning and sanitizing procedures for a COVID-19 event as well as high-touch surfaces.

Students will be reminded to wash their hands, avoid touching their face, and to maintain six feet of distance from others when at all possible by the use of social distancing at tables.

### **Technology Access**

#### **Internet Access:**

Access to the internet is critical to students and yet many in our community are without adequate access needed for this delivery model. The District has taken steps to reduce this barrier for students and families and will continue to find ways to partner with families and other community groups to assist our families in ensuring equity of access. If families are in need of

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internet access, please contact the District Office at Colo (641-377-2282).

### **Device Access:**

Colo-NESCO recognizes that access to a device is not only essential for participation in online learning but is also a district expectation. The district has engaged in a 1:1 device initiative for its students in grades K-12.

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