

ANIMAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2021-2022

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

The Animas Schools goal is to educate all students in-person for the 2021-2022 school year. In person learning is vital to meet the educational, emotional, and social needs of our students. Our students' health and safety are a main priority while participating in in-person instruction and learning. The NMPED has issued guidelines that must be adhered to by all school districts. Based on these guidelines the Animas Schools have developed the following reentry plan for the 2021-2022 school year.

Mask Guidance for PreK-12 Staff and Students

All students and staff are required to wear masks while:

- In school facilities
- On school transportation
- Or at an indoor school-sponsored event

Masks are not required for any individual during outside activities

Visitors

All visitors to our school are required to wear a mask while indoors or at any indoor school sponsored event.

Surveillance Testing

Surveillance testing is required for all staff who have not met and documented vaccination recommendations by the NMDOH and/or NMPED. Staff and contractors who provide evidence of COVID vaccination, and those who have tested positive for COVID in the past 90 days are not included in surveillance testing.

All staff are expected to provide evidence of vaccination status and/or participate in approved weekly testing to work onsite.

Schools are required to offer and provide surveillance testing programs to all unvaccinated students who choose to participate on a voluntary basis. Schools have a weekly goal of testing 25% of unvaccinated students.

Staff members who choose to remain unvaccinated must provide evidence to the district administration of weekly approved testing.

Screening

All adults who have not provided evidence of being fully vaccinated and who enter school buildings during normal school hours are subject to COVID-19 screening, which includes a temperature check and questions relevant to COVID-19 exposure, travel and COVID-19 testing. This does not apply to spectators in school building outside of normal school hours.

Cafeteria Procedures

Student will be required to “social distance” according to seating charts by grade level. Elementary students will be required to wash their hands with soap and water prior to lunch break. Students will follow the designated procedures to obtain their lunch and go to their assigned seating. Meals will be served on disposable trays with disposable utensils. Students will dispose of the trays and utensils in the trash at the direction of the duty personnel. Custodians will pick up trash after breakfast and lunch. Grades 7-12 will participate in outside morning “nutrition break,” and for lunch will be served in the cafeteria with same guidelines mentioned above.

Hall Procedures

Student gatherings and/or mixing between grade level groups will be limited to the greatest extent practicable. Students in the high school will follow a clockwise rotation from during class rotations. All students will be provided hand sanitizer upon entry into their next class. Elementary students will wash hands with soap and water after each break before re-entering their classroom.

Bus Procedures

School bus transportation to and from school will be provided. Per New Mexico Public Education Department guidelines, bus seats will be limited to one student where practicable. However, bus drivers can assign two students to a seat when necessary, preferably seating siblings or students who live in the same household in the same seat. Students will enter the bus as follows:

1. Each student will enter the bus one at a time.
2. The student will then move to his or her assigned seat. Seats will be assigned from back to front of the bus (note: younger students and/or students with unique circumstances may be assigned seats at the front of the bus).
3. After the student is seated, the bus driver will direct the next student to board the bus.
4. All students will be required to wear a mask while on the bus and strive to adhere to social distancing guidelines.

Procedures for Entering and Exiting Buildings

In the morning, high school students will enter and exit through the high school entrance at the front of the building. Between classes students will use the doors on the north end of the building. Elementary students will enter and exit through the elementary entrance as designated by each teacher.

Procedures for Students or Staff Members Who Become Sick, have Symptoms, or have a Positive COVID Test

The district will follow the current New Mexico Department of Health (DOH) guidelines for those individual students or staff members who show symptoms, gets sick at school, or arrive at school sick. Students will be sent home as soon as possible. They will be kept separate from the general student body and staff until they can be sent home safely.

If a student or staff member contracts COVID-19 or they have symptoms and believe they have COVID-19, we will follow all NMDOH guidelines.

If a student or staff member has close contact with a person with COVID-19, we will require that they follow the current NMPED guidelines as outlined in the latest NMPED COVID-19 Toolkit.

Please note: This is all subject to change if and when we receive guidance in writing from the NM Department of Health.

Protocols for Visitors

All visitors to our school are required to wear a mask while inside or at any indoor school sponsored event. Masks are not required outside or for any outdoor school-sponsored event.

Restroom Procedures

Elementary teachers will provide students with restroom breaks as needed. Elementary students will wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds before leaving the restroom.

High school students may use the restroom between classes. Restrooms will be monitored to ensure no more than two students are in the restrooms at a time. High school students will wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds before leaving the restroom.

Water Fountains

Students are encouraged to bring a personal water bottle. Water fountains will be available only for filling water bottles.

Lockers

Lockers will be assigned for our High School and Middle School students. Students are not to congregate at the lockers.

Recess Procedures

The elementary school recess schedule will be staggered, and each class will have its own designated area to prevent mixing of groups.

Special Education

All accommodations and services outlined in Individual Education Plans (IEP) will be met. Some of these services may be provided through video conferencing. All deadlines will be met when updating IEPs utilizing video conferencing tools, and all evaluations will be done within the framework of the guidance from the New Mexico Public Education Department.

Cleaning and Disinfecting Buses

Cleaning and disinfecting will be done in accordance with the guidance in Poms and Assoc Toolbox Talks a <https://vimeo.com/417473237>.

-We will utilize EPA approved disinfectants with EPA registration numbers which state the cleaner is effective against human coronavirus.

- Surfaces will be cleaned with liquid cleaners to avoid wide area spraying.
- Liquid product will “dwell” on the surface for 3-5 minutes before wiping off unless the Safety Data Sheets (SDS) or directions on the label state otherwise. Disinfecting wipes will be readily available for bus drivers if needed for quick cleaning. Trash will be removed daily. Floors will be dusted and wet mopped, weekly. Windows will be cleaned on a weekly basis. will clean windows weekly.
- Buses will be well ventilated when cleaning (doors and some windows open). Contractors will be trained on the donning and doffing of PPE; Provided gloves and face shields for appropriate use when while cleaning the buses; Drivers have access to the SDS sheets for the cleaning supplies; Contractors are trained to read the labels of the cleansers and follow the directions on the labels; Cleaning/Disinfecting Buses-Process, Schedules, and Other Information; Spot cleaning/disinfecting high touch surfaces in buses once per day, person responsible, etc.
- While using detergents and disinfectants we will ensure the area is well ventilated.
- Any heavily soiled areas will be cleaned using an EPA approved detergent before disinfecting following the directions on the label for mixing and application.
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that will be provided to and utilized by the staff.

How Staff Will Be Trained

Staff will be trained: Before the school year begins, the maintenance director and the bus drivers will be trained according to the directions on the Safety Data Sheets for the EPA approved detergents and disinfectants to be used in the process. This training will be documented, and kept by the superintendent or designee. The log kept by the contractor and/or supervisor will include how often the work needs to be done, who is responsible, the detergents and disinfectants to be used, PPE requirements, and the process to be used, as well as a place for the people responsible for the work to initial and date when the work is complete.

Cleaning and disinfecting the School Buildings

The school will be cleaned and disinfected in accordance with the guidance in Poms and Assoc Toolbox Talks at <https://vimeo.com/417474112>.

- We will utilize EPA approved disinfectants with EPA registration numbers and state the cleaner is effective against human coronavirus.
- We will clean surfaces with liquid cleaners and avoid wide area spraying. We will allow the liquid product to "dwell" on the surface for 3-5 minutes before wiping off unless the Safety Data Sheets (SDS) or directions on the label state otherwise.
- We will have disinfecting wipes or a spray bottle and disposable towels readily available for teachers if needed for quick cleaning
- We will remove trash daily.
- We will dust and wet mop floors daily.
- We will vacuum carpets daily
- We will wipe heat and air conditioner vents daily with disinfecting wipes.
- We will ensure the area being cleaned is well-ventilated (doors and some windows open when needed) Bathrooms will be cleaned daily. Frequently touched surfaces in bathrooms will be disinfected four times per day: Before school starts, after morning recess, after lunch, and after afternoon recess. This will be documented on a bathroom cleaning log.

Staff will be:

- Trained on the donning and doffing of PPE.
- Provided the gloves and face shields and they will use them appropriately when cleaning.
- Have access to the SDS sheets for the cleaning supplies.
- Trained to read the labels of the cleansers and follow the directions on the labels.
- Wear disposable coveralls, shoe coverings, gloves, mask, and face shield when cleaning and disinfecting areas with suspected or confirmed COVID.

Spot cleaning/disinfecting high touch surfaces in classrooms and commons areas will be cleaned once per day (remove trash twice-once after breakfast and once after lunch)

- We will have disinfecting wipes or a spray bottle and disposable towels readily available for teachers if needed for quick cleaning.

Custodians will:

- Ensure the area is well-ventilated
- Don required PPE Any heavily soiled areas will be cleaned using an EPA approved detergent before disinfecting following the directions on the label for mixing and application.
- Use the process outlined in the SDS for the detergents and disinfectants used in the process.
 - This process will include cleaning and disinfecting door knobs, tables, desks, chairs, and heat and A/C vents.
 - Wet mop the floor using the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

The staff will be trained: Before the school year begins according to the directions on the Safety Data Sheets for the EPA approved detergents and disinfectants to be used in the process. This training will be documented, and the superintendent or designee will ensure this process is being done properly by observing the custodial staff complete the process once in the first week of school and periodically thereafter. How will this be documented: The custodial secretary will create a log that will include how often the work needs to be done, who is responsible, the detergents and disinfectants to be used, PPE requirements, and the process to be used, as well as a place for the people responsible for the work to initial and date when the work is complete. This will be in both English and Spanish. The log will be kept in each building during the week and then collected by the custodial supervisor. We will monitor the logs and will collect the logs weekly for our records.