

# Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan



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Template Developed by CESA 5



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**Introduction**

On March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plans (ARP) Act was signed into law. In it, the U.S. Department of Education is providing an additional \$121.9 billion for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER III Fund). This legislation will award grants to state educational agencies (SEAs) for providing local educational agencies (LEAs) with emergency relief funds to address the impact that COVID-19 has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools across the nation.

Wisconsin will receive \$1,540,784,854 in ESSER III funds from the Act, with 90 percent being awarded to school districts with amounts determined in proportion to the amount of Title I, Part A funds they received in summer 2020 from funds under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The remaining funds will be used for state-level activities to address issues caused by COVID-19.

This plan describes how the LEA or district will provide a safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services for all schools, including those that have already returned to in-person instruction.

## Maintaining Health and Safety

### Description on maintaining the safety of staff and students

The Hustisford School District will begin the 2021-22 school year with a five-day per week, face-to-face instructional model and adhere to the following health protocols. Accordingly, the District will:

- encourage staff members and students to stay home or go home if they are showing COVID-19 symptoms or if they have tested positive for COVID-19,
- provide sanitizing stations throughout the building
- encourage vaccinations for all who are qualified

### Description to continue to provide services regardless of the mode of instruction (for example, health and food services if the LEA must pivot to virtual or hybrid instruction)

The Hustisford School District will offer in-person learning five days a week according to the Board adopted 2021-2022 Academic Year Calendar. The school district has also provided families the option to enroll their students in virtual learning through a partnership with the Kiel School District. In the event of school closure due to the pandemic, the district purchased the technology necessary for all students to continue virtual learning.

Regardless of the mode of instruction, the Hustisford School District will continue to provide meals under the community provision as long as USDA continues the allowance. If school is closed due to a pandemic, the district will assess its ability to distribute meals utilizing the same process it used during the spring of 2020.

The Hustisford School District employs one part-time school nurse who will continue to offer health services in-person or virtually. The school district also partners with Dodge County Health and Human Services to provide mental health support for families through the Open-Door Counseling Program.

## Mitigation Measures

### Universal and correct wearing of masks

The Hustisford School District strongly encourages the wearing of face coverings when on District property and at all District events.

The only place that face coverings are mandated is on District transportation. We are still under a federal mandate that requires face coverings on transportation.

Please be advised that the District may require face coverings if there is an increase in COVID-positive cases within our buildings.

### **Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing**

The Hustisford School District will implement physical distancing to any extent possible throughout the buildings.

Please be advised that if COVID-positive cases are discovered as spreading within the student body, the District may change to a required distancing policy in buildings and on district transportation.

### **Handwashing and respiratory etiquette**

Frequent handwashing will be encouraged for all students within the buildings. Hand sanitizer will continue to be available for students and staff throughout the buildings.

### **Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation**

Enhanced sanitation procedures have been implemented and continue at all schools focusing on high-touch surfaces. The District uses cleaning solutions that are rated to kill the SARS virus. In addition to daily cleaning, all rooms and areas are treated as needed with a disinfecting spray to help reduce the retention on surfaces and within shared spaces. The District has been working diligently on upgrades to the aging HVAC system to help with air flow issues and exchange. The system updates will help with air quality within both buildings.

### **Contact tracing will continue to be conducted by the District. Isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments will be implemented.**

The Hustisford School District will continue contact tracing and transparent reporting of

COVID-19 cases and quarantines within the District. The District will continue to use the Blackboard mass communication system to communicate with families.

The Hustisford School District will continue to report all positive COVID-19 cases to Dodge County Health Department. The District will also be notified by Dodge County of any positive cases or quarantines of students or staff due to outside contacts.

If an individual tests positive for COVID, Public Health will require them to isolate and complete contact tracing which may result in the issuance of school district initiated quarantine of close contacts.

Students identified as needing to be quarantined due to close contact at school will be out for 10 days from the last day of contact, students can return after day 10. However, families can choose to test their child on day 5 or after and the child can return following day 7 with a negative test which must be provided to the district. This protocol follows the amended guidelines from the CDC. A close contact from home will follow Dodge County protocols for quarantine.

### **Diagnostic and screening testing**

The Hustisford School District recommends students and staff get tested for COVID by their medical provider or a local pharmacy.

At this time, the Hustisford School District will not participate in the testing program from the State of Wisconsin. The Hustisford School District believes that the parents and guardians can choose to take their child in for testing if needed. The District does not believe that it is their duty to test or provide testing for students on site.

### **Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible**

All eligible staff employed in 2020-2021 were provided the opportunity to be vaccinated. Students ages 16 and older were provided access to an on-site vaccination clinic in the spring of 2021. New staff will be given access to vaccinations by working with local healthcare partners and County Public Health. Booster vaccines for all staff will be provided by Dodge County Public Health at an on-site clinic.

Vaccinations against COVID-19 are encouraged, but NOT required. While the District does not require a vaccination, it may become necessary for the District to inquire about vaccine status if a close contact would occur. Individuals who are fully vaccinated may receive varied quarantine guidance vs. those who are not vaccinated.

### **Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies and practices**

When circumstances require specific policies or procedures designed to protect the health and safety of students, 504 and IEP teams will determine if modifications and/or reasonable accommodations are needed for individual students with disability-related issues.

### **Coordination with state and local health officials**

The CDC recommends that all decisions about implementing school-based strategies should be made locally, collaborating with local health officials who can help determine the level of transmission in the community. The Hustisford School District continues to work with County Public Health to implement mitigating strategies for the safety of students and staff.

## Continuity of Services

### District response on continuity of services

#### **The District will provide for continuity of services as follows:**

##### **Student Academic Needs**

The Hustisford School District has implemented a summer school program to assist all K-12 students with academic recovery. The District plans to continue full-time, in-person instruction beginning the fall of 2021, with limited exception. After-school study halls are being implemented in both buildings for students to get additional support if needed. Intervention blocks have also been implemented to help ensure that all students identified will receive the additional support needed from highly qualified staff.

##### **Student Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs**

Additional counseling staff has been added to the mental health staff to address our students' social and emotional learning needs. The District has also partnered with Dodge County Health and Human Services and the Greater Watertown Community Foundation to bring a certified counselor into the buildings one day per week to offer services for students. The District purchased new curriculum for the MS/HS that will help build social-emotional competency in students.

##### **Other Student Needs (which may include student health and food services)**

Food services will continue to provide meals under the community provision as long as USDA continues the allowance. Two meals a day will be provided free of charge to all families throughout the school year.

##### **Staff Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs**

The staff's social, emotional, and mental health needs may be addressed through the Employee Assistance Program provided through the District insurance program. Employees enrolled in the District insurance plan also have opportunities to utilize on-line mental health services through TeleDoc.

##### **Other Staff Needs**

The District will follow national, state, and local governing agencies' laws and directives concerning staff employment and benefits.



## Periodic Review

### District response on ensuring periodic updates to its plan

The Hustisford School District will periodically review and, as needed, revise the plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services. The plan will be reviewed at least every six months, and the school system will seek and take into account public input during the review process. Plan revisions will address updated CDC and County Public Health guidance on safely reopening schools if any are issued. The Hustisford School Board will discuss the plan monthly during board development and individuals are encouraged to address the board at the monthly meeting if they have a concern or idea for revision to the plan.

## Public Input

### District response on public input in the development of its plan

The Hustisford School District has taken the following steps to make its plan available to the public:

- The plan is posted at [Hustisford.k12.wi.us](http://Hustisford.k12.wi.us)
- The plan was sent to parents, students, and employees via our messaging systems.
- The plan was shared at the Hustisford School District Board of Education meetings on a monthly basis
- Additional copies have been emailed to families upon request
- Upon request, a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA may be provided with the plan in an alternative format accessible by contacting our district office.

Board Review:

Adopted plan for re-opening and safe return on August 16, 2021

Reviewed:

September 20, 2021

October 25, 2021

November 15, 2021

December 20, 2021

January 17, 2022

**January 17, 2022 Update:**

If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID, a 10-day quarantine is required. There is not an option to come back early from this quarantine.

If a student or staff member has a household contact that has tested positive, they are required to quarantine for 10 days. This is a change from our prior protocol, where students with home contacts were in quarantine for a longer period of time. Along with the time reduction, students are also allowed to test at day 5 or after if they are not showing symptoms and return to school with proof of a negative, lab reported test, not a home test. If parents choose not to have the student tested, the full 10-day quarantine is required.

The district will continue to contact trace student and staff contacts at school. Contacts will still be required to quarantine for the 10-day period. Students will have the option is they are free of symptoms to test at day 5 and return with a negative, lab reported test, not a home test. If parents choose not to have the student tested, the full 10-day quarantine is required. The change in this protocol is that students can return with the negative test as soon as results are received rather than day 7.

The district protocol for vaccinated students and staff remains the same. No quarantine will be required for a student or staff member who is a close contact at home or school if they have been vaccinated and meet the requirement outlined in the district plan. Parents will continue to receive a courtesy call from the district indicating that they were a close contact. If a student or staff member who is vaccinated becomes symptomatic, they need to stay home and monitor for symptoms.

The district will continue to monitor students for symptoms and send students home if they are displaying symptoms. The district is asking parents to keep their student home when they are ill.

The protocols for the district are discussed every month at the board meeting.

**March 4, 2022 Update:**

There is no update in the status of a positive case for a student or staff member. The 10-day quarantine is still in effect with no early return.

If a student or staff member has a household contact that has tested positive, they are required to quarantine for 10 days. This is a change from our prior protocol, where students with home contacts were in quarantine for a longer period of time. Along with the time reduction, students are also allowed to test at day 5 or after if they are not showing symptoms and return to school with proof of a negative, lab reported test, not a home test. If parents choose not to have the student tested, the full 10-day quarantine is required.

The district has discontinued contact tracing at school. Contacts at school are no longer identified by staff or personally notified. A school-wide letter identifying a case within the particular school will still be sent out via Blackboard, our district messaging system.

Any individual who is fully vaccinated will not need to quarantine if they are a household contact.

The district will continue to monitor students for symptoms and send students home if they are displaying symptoms. The district is asking parents to keep their student home if ill.

Masks will no longer be required on district transportation.

The protocols for the district are discussed monthly at the board meeting.

**June 20, 2022 Update:**

No updates made at this time, the board discussed and will wait to review data in August and prepare for the start of the school year. The board received information on updated CDC information for schools.