

DORCHESTER PUBLIC SCHOOL

"EVERY STUDENT, EVERY DAY, A SUCCESS"

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· LONGHORNS ·

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Parents and Guardians:

We are excited to have students returning in person to school on Wednesday, August 19th for the start of the 2020-2021 school year. I want to get some information out regarding Dorchester's return-to-school plans and address some concerns you may have with COVID-19. Please know that our first priority will always be the safety of your child. While we know that there are risks associated with returning to school, we are confident the procedures we have in place will help reduce the chance of COVID-19 appearing in our school.

The plan we have developed for our school district aligns with the Public Health Solutions, Four Color Risk Dial for the spread of COVID-19. Public Health Solutions is our local health department and serves Fillmore, Gage, Saline, Thayer and Jefferson counties. The four colors are Green (Low Risk), Yellow (Moderate Risk), Orange (Elevated Risk), and Red (Significant Risk). Our plan to reopen is included in this mailing. We hope that our plan is easy to read and one that you can use for an easy reference.

We need your help now more than ever in making sure your child is feeling well and is fever free each morning. Please check your child's temperature before they get on the bus or before you drop them off at school. If they are sick or have a temperature over 100 degrees, they must stay home. Depending on the Risk Dial, we may be taking temperatures of our students and staff at their point of entry into our district. Students who ride the bus may have their temperature checked as they get on the bus. We are asking parents who pick-up and drop-off their children at school to please stay outside of the school building. We want to limit outside exposure to the school as much as possible each day.

Students and Staff will be washing hands throughout the day, classrooms will be set up to maximize social distancing as much as possible, and masks will be provided by the school for all students and staff. At this time, we are strongly encouraging - but not requiring that masks be worn in the building.

If we have a confirmed case of COVID-19 in our school, parents will be notified immediately. We will work closely with Public Health Solutions to determine what the risks are for other students and staff in our district. Public Health Solutions will help us determine if any students or staff will need to be quarantined. Again, your child's safety is our top priority.

I invite any parent who has concerns to please contact me at school (402) 946-2781. I want you to feel confident in sending your child back to school. It is so important that we move forward with the education of every child and hopefully return to some type of normal this year. I know the Longhorn Family will work together to make sure we provide the best and safest education for all of our children.

Thank you so much for your support and help!



Daryl Schruck, Superintendent