



## SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 393

P.O. Box 267  
Silverton, Idaho 83867

Office of Superintendent  
Phone: (208) 753-4515  
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August 5, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

First, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Todd Howard and I have been given the fantastic opportunity of becoming the next Superintendent of Schools for the Wallace School District. As the first day of school quickly approaches one of my primary tasks is to inform parents/guardians of the school district's plan for reopening of schools for the 20-21 school year. A copy of the Silver Hills Elementary and Wallace Jr./Sr. High School plan for reopening should be part of this correspondence. If you don't see either of the plans they can be found at the district website @ [www.wsd393.org](http://www.wsd393.org). In sharing this information, there may be several questions that you have related to our plan. The intent of this letter is to provide you an opportunity to review the plans and find some answers to specific questions that have been raised regarding the first day of school and the reopening plan.

FAQ:

Q: Where can we view the plan for reopening of schools for the 20-21 school year?"

A: The plan has been posted on district and school websites which can be accessed from the following address: [www.wsd393.org](http://www.wsd393.org) . The plan has also been emailed to parents/guardians with current contact information.

Q: Will my child be required to wear a mask?

A: Level 1 and 2 planning allows for the primary use of social distancing precautions, cohort grouping, and reduction in the number of students present to allow for greater social distancing. When social distancing isn't possible students will be strongly encouraged to wear a mask only during the duration of time where distancing isn't possible. This time could include small group interventions, special services, or small group classroom activities.

Q: What happens if someone in the school tests positive for COVID-19?

A: Upon a confirmed case of COVID-19 exposure the school/district will contact the Panhandle Health Department, immediately begin identifying potential students being in "close" contact with positive individual and determine the scope of potential closure and disinfecting of impacted school facilities. Anyone found to be in close contact would be expected to complete a 14-day quarantine.

Q: What are the expectations if I keep my child home because he/she has to self-quarantine because they had an exposure?

A: Students remaining at home or being quarantining at home will be required to participate in virtual lessons or classroom work provided/organized by the classroom/intervention teacher. Those not participating will be considered absent/disengaged for that period. Those absences will be counted against the state's 90% attendance requirement and could result in loss of credit or retention.

Q: What can I do to help ensure schools remain open under Level 1/2 conditions?

A: Each morning parents/guardians should check their child/children for the symptoms of COVID-19 including taking their temperature. A temp of 100.4 or higher is a symptom of infection. Anyone with any identified symptom should be kept home until the symptoms cease without the use of medication. Communicate illness with your child's school. Limit school visitations to emergency situations only. At level 2 district representatives will begin screening for symptoms. Parents should arrange to accompany their children to the bus stop or to the school, so that if they fail the symptom screener, they can take their children home.

Q: When will I know what level (1,2,3) the schools will be re-opened under?

A: Because the community conditions change so quickly, a determination for school re-opening will not be made until August 20<sup>th</sup>. The decision will be communicated to parents via a wide range of communication methods. Please remember that the decisions made on the 20<sup>th</sup> could change as late as the afternoon of the 26<sup>th</sup>. Again, the schools and district will do their best to communicate up to date information in as timely a manner as possible.

Q: How does COVID-19 impact fall sports at WJSH?

A: The Wallace School District has received a wide range of guidance resources from federal, state, and local agencies specifically related to student activities. As I type this letter the athletic directors and principals of Idaho Jr/Sr High Schools are developing plans to address sport seasons for the 20-21 school year. With fall sport's official start date of August 10<sup>th</sup>, it is important to know the following:

- As of 7/30/20, the WSD is planning to conduct try outs and the first day of practice on August 10<sup>th</sup>. Specific sport information will be distributed by that sport's coaches.
- How each practice looks are highly dependent on the specific sport, level of COVID-19 community spread, and the precautions put in place based on that level of spread.
- Regardless of the level of community spread it is vital that student athletes practice social distancing when possible, don't share water bottles, towels, or equipment, screen themselves daily for symptoms of COVID-19, and report any symptom to their coach as soon as possible.

Q: How/when will parents be informed of the students on the A/B block schedule list?

A: Lists will be posted at district and school offices. In addition, schools will be communicating with parents via School Messenger. List information will be distributed the week of August 5<sup>th</sup>.

If you have any other questions concerning the School District's plan to reopen school for the 20-21 school year, please contact your child's school or the Wallace School District office.

Sincerely,

Todd Howard  
Superintendent/Federal Programs Director  
Wallace School District #393



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## Silver Hills Elementary COVID-19 Operational Plan

Level 1- No Community Spread (all students back in the building)

Level 2- Minimal to Moderate Community Transmission (limited number of students in the building)

Level 3- Substantial Community Transmission (soft closure)

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### PPE Strategies

- **Level 1 and 2**
  - Staff and students encouraged to wear a face mask/shield (school appropriate) when physical distancing is difficult
    - A fever will require a student or staff to be sent home.
  - Sneeze guard in place in the office
  - Students exhibiting symptoms of illness will be sent home
  - Sanitizer available in all workspaces and key locations
- **Level 2**
  - Face masks worn by staff when physical distancing is difficult
  - Further encourage students to wear face masks when physical distancing is difficult
  - Digital thermometers utilized for staff and students at school and on buses

### Cohort Grouping

- **Level 1 and 2**
  - All daily activities and procedures will be conducted in a manner in which students and staff are kept to the smallest and most consistent cohort group possible. Considerations for small cohort groups will include, but are not limited to common areas, buses, hallways, classrooms, intervention services, cafeteria, playground, and restrooms.

### Classroom

- **Level 1**
  - Sanitize surface areas regularly and frequently
  - Limit the use of shared materials and spaces
    - Keep student belongings separate
    - Avoid sharing supplies
  - Integrate good hygiene practices into classroom routines and expectations
  - Avoid outside food in the classroom
  - Students and staff use personal water bottles and water bottle filling station



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- **Level 2**

- ½ of students in classrooms with alternate schedule (Coordinate with HS to have siblings on same face-to-face schedule)

Monday A list	Tuesday B list	Wednesday A list	Thursday B list	No students in the building
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- Seating arranged for maximum social distancing

#### Attendance

- **Level 1 and 2**

- Normal attendance policy.
  - If a student is quarantined, the requirement is for the student to complete and submit work on a daily basis in order for the absences to be waived.

#### Office Strategies and Other Non-Instructional Spaces

- **Level 1**

- Sanitize surface areas regularly and frequently
- 7:45 am entrance into the school
- Encourage hand sanitation upon entry into the school
- Restrict mixing grade level groups during transition time
- Adhere to schedule times and school procedures

#### Cafeteria

- **Level 1 and 2**

- Breakfast with maximum spacing and assigned seating by classroom, utilize outdoor space when possible
- Hand sanitizer available upon entry
- Limit contact
- Lunch- staggered schedule to limit number of students in the cafeteria

#### Recess

- **Level 1 and 2**

- Encourage strategies for social distancing at recess and line-up
- Assigned grade level areas on the playground with staggered recess times.
- Encourage sanitizing of hands upon re-entry of the building



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## Assemblies/field trips

- **Level 1**
  - Split grade levels to limit number in attendance
  - limit outside groups
- **Level 2**
  - virtual only or cancel

## Visitors

- **Level 1 and 2**
  - No irregular/unscheduled visitors
  - Limited visitors to parents, by appointment, and critically important visitors
  - All exterior doors locked during school hours
  - Ring bell at the front door to be admitted at appointment time
  - Parent pick-up and drop-off procedure are at regular times (Roll-thru pick-up procedure in the student handbook)
  - Ring bell for late student admission and drop off of items

## Busing

- **Level 1**
  - Masks optional
  - Hand sanitizer available
  - Buses will be sanitized between routes
  - Regular routes and regular ridership
- **Level 2**
  - Student temperatures taken prior to loading the bus (if a student has a temp or visible symptoms of illness they will not be allowed to board the bus).
  - Reduce bus capacity below 50%. (Siblings could be asked to sit together)
- **Level 3**
  - During "soft closure" regular busing will be suspended.



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## **Wallace School District Response to a Confirmed Case of COVID-19 Within a School or at a School Activity**

- School/District personnel will alert Panhandle Health Dept. and assist with contact tracing and investigation.
- School/district personnel will communicate with staff, students, and parents the possible exposure to COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality as required by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA) and the American's with Disability Act (ADA).
- Possible responses to a confirmed case could include, but are not limited to the following:
  - Short Term (1-2 day) school/facility/district shut down for deep cleaning.
  - Cancellation of scheduled activities/events.
  - Required quarantine of staff, students, cohort group, classes, or grades.
  - Longer term (2-3 week) transition to Tier 3 "soft closure" for distance learning.

## **Communication Strategies**

- Social media <https://www.facebook.com/silverhillselementarypto>
- School Messenger
- District Webpage [www.wsd393.org](http://www.wsd393.org)
- Class DoJo

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Brooke Miller  
SHES Principal

Todd Howard  
Superintendent

Chris Lund  
WJSHS Principal



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**Keeping Schools Open Will Take Community Effort: Health Checks:** All students/parents, shall take student(s) temperature reading and ask the following three **questions daily** before allowing the student to attend school.

**1. Since the last day at school has the student had any of these symptoms?**

- Oral temperature of 100.4 or greater
- Cough
- Shortness of Breath
- Cold-like symptoms
- Nausea/Vomiting
- Chills/Repeated Shaking
- Headache
- Sore Throat
- Recent loss of taste or smell
- Muscle/Body Ache
- Diarrhea

**Response:** *Students with symptoms will not be allowed to attend school. Students may return to school 24 hours after symptoms resolve without the use of fever-reducing medication. If student is suspected of having COVID-19, see Response to question #2.*

**2. Is the student diagnosed with, being tested for, or suspected of having COVID-19?**

**Response:** *Student with a YES answer will not be allowed to attend school until:*

- *At least 10 days from the first symptom and at least 24 hours fever free without fever-reducing medication and when respiratory symptoms are improving, or*
- *The medical provider has determined a different illness other than COVID-19 and has cleared the student with a signed note to return.*

**3. Has the student been in close contact with someone that is diagnosed with COVID-19 in the last 14 days?**

**Response:** *Students with a YES answer should self-quarantine for 14 days from the date of last contact prior to returning to school. If the student becomes sick during quarantine and is diagnosed with, being tested for, or suspected of having COVID-19, see Response to question #2.*



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**If the answer is YES to any of the above questions :**

- Do not attend school.
- Do not medicate a student to reduce fever and then send to school.
- Contact the school to notify of the student's need to be absent.
- Consult the student's healthcare provider for advice.

Students who are absent due to COVID-19, whether due to quarantine or a positive test result, will be given ample time to make up missed classwork.

District requirement to drop and re-enroll a student after a consecutive ten-day absence due to COVID-19 will be suspended for the 2020-2021 school year.

**Responding To A Confirmed Case of COVID-19:** An important part of limiting the spread of COVID-19 in our community is identifying those who may be sick, infected or who have been exposed, and requires all of us working together to keep the virus in check. **Students who become sick at school will need picked up quickly; please plan for multiple options for pick-up and update contact information.**

**Student/Family Responsibilities:**

- If a student has tested positive, or has been confirmed to have COVID-19, or is living in a home with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, or has been told to quarantine by a health official:
  - Do not attend school or school activities.
  - Notify the school of the positive case and the student's need to be absent.
  - Students who have tested positive for COVID-19 or who have not been tested but confirmed to have COVID-19 and directed to stay home, may return to school per CDC guidance :
  - At least 10 days from the first symptom and at least 24 hours fever free without fever-reducing medication and when respiratory symptoms are improving.
  - Students living in a home with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 may return to school 14 days after the date of last exposure.

**Resources**

- State of Idaho School Reopening Plan  
<https://www.sde.idaho.gov/re-opening/files/Idaho-Back-to-School-Framework-2020.pdf>
- American Academy of Pediatrics  
<https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/>

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