

# Axtell Community School

*Return to School Plan*

## WILDCATS

The purpose of this document is to provide a framework for how the Axtell Community School will respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the educational program at Axtell Community School during the 2020-2021 school year. The framework of this document is structured using the Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association (NRCSA) document developed by rural school superintendents and information provided by Two Rivers Health Department in order to allow the district to be responsive to changing public health circumstances. The presence of a formal, more detailed plan developed for the Axtell community will support the district in articulating this summary that will be used at the building level and provide guidance and training for our teachers at all levels. The NRCSA document link can be found on the Axtell Community School website and for more regional information you can access the Two Rivers Public Health Department website.

As a parent, you have to make the best decision for your child under the ever-changing circumstances, so if you are ever in doubt concerning the Coronavirus please contact Two Rivers Public Health Department for more expert information. For example, please call Two Rivers Public Health Department for advice on direct exposure, possible or 2<sup>nd</sup> level exposure, or if anyone in your family is experiencing symptoms of COVID. We as a school district can't give medical advice or opinions.

Axtell Community School firmly believes that face to face education is the best for all our students and we will strive to keep that format for as long as possible, hopefully the entire school year. If your student shows symptoms of illness while not at school, please respect the health of others and remain at home until healthy or a doctor's note can be obtained. It is imperative that we all communicate with each other and change our mindset in regard to not feeling well and being in attendance at school. We understand that some parents may feel comfortable sending their child at some COVID risk levels and not at other levels. As a school we will work with every child to help them succeed whether they are here or not. With all illnesses, we ask that you do your part to communicate with the school and support the educational process in this very difficult time. In conclusion, the effectiveness of the plan depends solely on individual compliance. Our hope is that everyone familiarizes themselves with this plan, supports it, and supports each other throughout the 2020-21 school year.

### **Axtell Mission Statement**

The Mission of Axtell Community School is to empower students in a safe climate that fosters lifelong learning, respect, and responsibility in preparation for future opportunities and challenges.

### **Return to School Task Force**

Rob Gregory, Superintendent	Sara Wells, Board President	Andrea Runge, Food Service Director
Jeff Schwartz, K-12 Principal	Brad Nelson, AD & HS Staff	Kurt Behrhorst, Board Member
Brittney Anderson, Title I Staff	Michelle Jura, Parent	Tricia Danburg, Parent
Jesse Nickel, MS Staff & Crisis	Brian Hubbert, Elem Staff	Ann Miller, Parent
Andy Ohlson, Tech Director	Tina Peterson, Head Custodian	Shannon Sis, Para
Vicky Olson, Secretary	Tina Silvers, Transportation Director	

A collaborative effort by staff will result in a weekly level of risk and will become part of our daily announcements. The district will determine our current level of risk by receiving information from the Kearney County Emergency Manager, statistics provided by the Two Rivers Public Health Department, current information from the Kearney County Law enforcement, and data compiled by our district through absences; and temperature recordings. All of this information will be accessed, then communicated, then will affect how the school conducts operations daily. The school will at a minimum continue to operate at a higher level of risk regarding cleaning and sanitizing the building. Likewise, the school district may choose to modify, change, or alter plans that are not fulfilling the intent of the safeguards that they were created to convey. The intent behind the leveled model above is to proactively outline the actions that the district may take as circumstances change throughout the pandemic. Some classrooms or grades may have heightened restrictions placed on them depending upon conditions in those grades or classes. We will do our best to communicate conditions within our ability and follow all HIPAA/FERPA laws.

**Statement of Attendance:** The expectations for students will be in-person learning and/or as described in the district's re-open plan for 2020-21. Student attendance will be handled according to district policy and published in the student parent handbook. The district will work with students and families to provide reasonable accommodations outside of in-person learning for those with qualifying conditions related to their verified disability, 504 plan, IEP, or as documented by their physician.

### **COVID RED: Severe COVID-19 PANDEMIC OUTBREAK**

- Widespread community or regional transmission of COVID
- There is a significant increase in COVID positive cases or percent positive cases which may potentially overwhelm the local healthcare system
- There is a significant increase in flu-like symptoms and COVID-like syndromic cases which may potentially overwhelm the local healthcare system
- Hospitals are utilizing surge capacity
- There is inadequate testing capacity for critical workers
- There is inadequate capacity to conduct investigation and contact tracing
- There are shortages of critical medical equipment or testing supplies
- There are PPE shortages impacting critical workers

### **COVID Yellow: Moderate Risk of COVID-19 Spread**

- COVID positive cases are stable or have a downward trajectory
- There is a downward trajectory in levels of flu-like symptoms –or- COVID like syndromic cases in Two Rivers Health Department region
- There is minimal community spread within the Two Rivers Health Region
- COVID has a small impact on the local healthcare system capacity
- PPE supplies are adequate for critical workers and community needs
- COVID testing is available for all suspected cases and focused asymptomatic surveillance.
- Two Rivers Health Department is able to conduct investigation and contact tracing for new cases and associated contacts without assistance
- Critical medical equipment is readily available

### **COVID Green: Low Risk of COVID-19 Spread**

- Minimal cases of COVID-19 within the greater community.
- COVID-19 has minimal impact on local healthcare system
- Viral and antibody testing is readily available
- There are effective treatment modalities for COVID-19 and an effective vaccine is widely available
- PPE is easily obtainable through standard supply chains

Plan	Description	Rationale
A	School is in <b>Regular Session</b> on campus for all students and staff beginning on August 20 <sup>th</sup> as originally scheduled.	Community health conditions warrant a return to school on campus with appropriate safety precautions based on a COVID risk level of <b>Green</b> and <b>Yellow</b> .
B	<b>Alternate School Calendar</b>	Community health conditions warrant a delayed start, early dismissal or extended closures to the school year. In this scenario, the beginning/ending of school and/or vacation and/or makeup days could be altered to meet instructional requirements as indicated by Rule 10. An altered schedule will be released as needed.
C	<b>Hybrid Model</b>	Community health conditions warrant social distancing practices that can only be obtained with smaller class sizes by having approximately one-half of the students on campus and spreading those students throughout the entire facility. This model maybe used at <b>Red</b> and will be to meet the requirements of the Health Department and allow for face to face educational process.
D	<b>Remote Learning</b> by all students PK-12 through online learning –or- remote learning.	Due to a staff or student’s COVID status, a short-term (2-5 day) closure is warranted, in order to clear, disinfect and contact-trace potential COVID exposures. Or if community health conditions warrant an extended closure of school. (more than a week). All student learning will occur remotely through online learning. This model will be used with a <b>Red</b> level of risk for all students -or- any level where individual students need to be quarantined.

**Detailed Operational Plans at the District level include:**

**Governance:** includes the core structure that will guide district decision making and the response to the public health crisis including but not limited to board policy, administrative regulations or memorandums, and the framework that will guide the application of the district vision and mission during the pandemic.

**Health Services/Screening:** includes the delivery of services by school health personnel on campus during the pandemic including but not limited to how to handle symptomatic students, and monitoring of on campus illness and absentee rates. Steps will be taken to assess students and staff for COVID-19 symptoms prior to

engaging in the school environment.

**School Operations:** includes operational aspects of how schools run such as passing periods, visitor access, student movement throughout the school, staff meetings, recess, student attendance policies.

**Food Service:** includes school meal services such as breakfast, lunch, and grab and go when school is operating on campus and during extended school closure as well as take-home meals for off-campus.

**Cleaning/Facility Modifications:** includes guidelines for custodians and staff for how to proactively avoid the spread of germs and illness, how to respond when someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 has been on campus, and any safety related facility modifications made.

**Extracurricular Activities/External Facility Use:** includes sports, activities, field trips, and co-curricular functions beyond core, within school day, instruction as well as access to school athletic facilities by external groups.

**Technology Services:** includes promotion and support for the use of instructional technology for in-person and remote learning as well as logistics related to the distribution of devices and technology support (device repair, internet access strategies, etc.) in the event of an extended school closure.

**Transportation:** includes plans to keep students safe and healthy on school buses within guidelines provided by public health experts.

**Crisis Team:** includes delivery modification plans related to providing crisis support for students, staff, and the Axtell School community in the event of a tragic incident or death.

### **Governance**

**Attendance:** Any student or staff who has a confirmed diagnosis of COVID or who is asked to self-quarantine will not count against their attendance at school. A doctor's note will be required. The administration will work with all students or staff to make up work missed, some or all of material could be altered-or-waived and this will be handled on an individual basis depending upon the severity of the situation. Students not in attendance without a doctors note will be counted absent.

**Active Case:** When a positive COVID-19 case is confirmed in our school, that individual will be excluded and allowed to return based upon current guidance from the CDC at the time. Two Rivers will work with schools to consider the following questions when determining how that case will impact others in their classroom and/or school building.

*What is the level of community spread outside the school building?*

*Was the individual with COVID-19 wearing a mask most of the time?*

*Were other students and staff who were within 6 feet of the individual with COVID-19 for more than 15 minutes masked?*

*Was the individual with COVID-19 part of a cohort within the building or did they interact with a large number of students and staff throughout their day?*

*To what extent is the school community implementing other non-pharmaceutical interventions such as hand washing, hand sanitizers, etc.*

The answers to these questions will determine 1) the number of close contacts, 2) if the close contacts who are not symptomatic may stay in the classroom, and 3) the number of other students and staff who will need to be quarantined.

**Screening:** Students will be temperature checked and double checked if needed daily. If a staff member or student has a temperature of 100.4 or higher, they will be sent home and may not return to school until an entire day has passed and they are symptom free. For example; if a student goes home on Monday, the earliest they

may return is Wednesday. Axtell Community School encourages all students and staff to receive a flu vaccination when they become available in our area.

**Remote Learning:** If the school is required to go to remote learning, students and staff are expected to continue education with all grades and assignments due as if they were in school. Food services will continue for those that request. Technology services will be available for those that need support. Ancillary personnel may be asked to perform duties other than their job description.

**Face Coverings:** At the **RED** COVID risk level, or if directed by administration, students and staff will be required to wear a mask. At the yellow COVID risk level, masks will be encouraged but not required (see daily school operations for more details). The school will provide multiple cloth face masks per child and staff throughout the year. After that disposable paper masks will be used. The family is responsible for cleaning and sanitizing the cloth face masks. If there are ADA circumstances that a student or staff member cannot wear a face mask, a face shield can be provided. If accommodations are not feasible, alternative placement that will allow a student or staff to continue to be educated or do their job may be achieved.

**Building Access/Visitors:** At COVID risk level **green** and **yellow** visitors will be allowed to enter the building during school hours with prior approval only. They will be required to follow all rules associated with level green, yellow levels. At COVID risk level **red**, no outside visitors will be allowed to enter the building during school hours.

#### **Health Services/Screening**

**Temperature Checks:** Staff and students will monitor individual temperatures daily upon arrival. Social Distancing will be adhered to when possible. Adults entering the building when students and staff are present will also have their temperature taken in the office.

**At- Risk or Vulnerable Populations:** Every student and staff member has a different level of risk. Although the school will operate under the guidance of the COVID risk dial and administration daily assessment, for those populations that have elevated risk, the school may make additional accommodations and operate at a higher risk level when dealing with this population. Communicate with administration.

**Class Parties:** Will be handled on a case by case basis. All COVID factors will considered at the time of the event.

**Clubs & Organizations:** Club meetings and use of facilities will be determined on a case by case basis. Examples of this could be the booster club, TeamMates, Jets football, and dance. Currents conditions will determine decisions.

**Hygiene:** Students and staff will be asked to ask wash their hands on a regular basis determined by COVID risk level. The higher the risk level, the more hygiene will be promoted.

## Daily School Operations

	LOW/NO SPREAD Building Open	MINIMAL/MODERATE SPREAD Modified Use of Building	SUBSTANTIAL SPREAD School Building Shut Down -Or- Possible Hybrid Model
<b>School Academic Plan</b>	A normal school day will proceed with social distancing recommended when possible	A normal school day will proceed with increased social distancing. A hybrid model may be developed and implemented by school personnel as needed.	Hybrid model may be developed and implemented by school personnel as needed. K-6 Remote Academic Plan 7-12 Remote Academic Plan
<b>Temperature Checks</b> *We ask that parents screen their child each day for temps, flu like symptoms including fever, cough and shortness of breath. Please do not send your child to school if they are feeling ill.	Temperature checks will be conducted daily upon arrival in the morning. *Students with a temperature of 100.4 degrees or more will be given a face covering/mask and isolated, rechecked and parents will be called to take home if necessary. *Students must be fever free w/o medication for a full day to return. If student/staff goes home on Monday earliest return is Wednesday. *Two-step process: Temperature taken at the front door must be verified in the office before being sent home.	Temperature checks will be conducted daily upon arrival in the morning. *Students with a temperature of 100.4 degrees or more will be given a face covering/mask and isolated, and parents will be called to take home if necessary. *Students must be fever free w/o medication for a full day to return. Student/staff goes home on Monday earliest return is Wednesday. *Two-step process: Temperature taken at the front door must be verified in the office before being sent home.	Temperature checks will be conducted daily upon arrival in the morning. *Students with a temperature of 100.4 degrees or more will be given a face covering/mask and isolated, and parents will be called to take home if necessary. *Students must be fever free w/o medication for a full day to return. Student/staff goes home on Monday earliest return is Wednesday. <b>Two-step process: *Temperature taken at the front door must be verified in the office before being sent home.</b>
<b>Mask/Face Coverings</b>  District will provide face coverings for all students and employees	Face covering/masks are encouraged but not required.	Face coverings/masks are encouraged but not required. Masks may be required in certain high traffic areas. Administration may direct masks in high at-risk teachers' rooms if requested.	Hybrid Model Face covering/masks will be required on campus.
<b>Recess</b>	Recess times as normal with social distancing.	A rotation for recess to limit the number of students on playground and play equipment may be implemented. Playground equipment disinfected daily.	There will be a rotation for recess to limit the number of students on the playground. The playground equipment will be closed.
<b>Hallways</b>	Normal passing periods and movement by students.	Normal passing periods and movement by students.  Face covering/masks in hallway may be implemented by administration.  Staggered release times may be established to limit the number of students in hallways.	Face covering/masks in hallway will be required.  Staggered release times may be established to limit the number of students in hallways.

<b>Field Trips</b>	Evaluate field trips requests. Case by case basis.	No field trips scheduled.	No field trips scheduled.
<b>Specials (Elementary) Art, Music, &amp; PE</b>	Students/staff transition to specials.	Students/staff transition to specials.	**In hybrid model, specials may/may not be offered.
<b>Handwashing</b>	PK-4 scheduled 3 times per day. 5-12 Announcement every morning supporting handwashing. Student council stall notes and hall reminders. Handwashing prior to lunch.	PK-4 scheduled 3 times per day. 5-12 Announcement every morning supporting handwashing. Student council stall notes and hall reminders. Handwashing prior to lunch.	PK-4 scheduled 3 times per day. 5-12 Announcement every morning supporting handwashing. Student council stall notes and hall reminders. Handwashing prior to lunch.
<b>Lockers</b>	Normal use. Clorox wipe daily.	Normal use. Clorox wipe daily.	Hybrid model: alternate locker schedule may be implemented.
<b>Drinking Fountains</b>	Drinking fountains will be shut off and students will use their personal, clear water bottle and re-fill at the filler stations. Water only, please.	Drinking fountains will be shut off and students will use their personal, clear water bottle and re-fill at the filler stations. Water only, please.	Drinking fountains will be shut off and students will use their clear water bottle and re-fill at the filler stations. Water only please.
<b>Restrooms</b>	Normal use of restrooms.	Staggered use of restrooms. Exceptions will be made.	Staggered use of restrooms. Exceptions will be made.
<b>Beginning of the Day</b>  Students upon arrival will have their temperature taken at the front or north door.  All teachers are on-duty at 7:45 a.m. each day. Temperatures taken and recorded.	K-12 students must enter main front door. PK students through their classroom door. Temp checks. K-4 <sup>th</sup> grade students will be seated by class in the main gym practicing social distancing under supervision from staff. MS & HS students will be seated by class in the practice gym using social distancing and under supervision. After 8:00 a.m., students must report to the office for temp check. Parents may enter the building with their students if the need to meet with school personnel upon approval from administration.  We recommend that parents release their children outside. Students will then come into the gym.	K-12 students must enter main front door. PK students through their classroom door. Temp checks. K-4 <sup>th</sup> grade students will be seated by class in the main gym practicing social distancing under supervision from staff. MS & HS students will be seated by class in the practice gym using social distancing and under supervision.  After 8:00 a.m., students must report to the office for temp check. Parents may enter the building with their students if the need to meet with school personnel upon approval from administration.  We recommend that parents release their children outside. Students will then come into the gym.	Hybrid Model: K-12 students must enter main front door. PK students through their classroom door. Temp checks. K-4 <sup>th</sup> grade students will be seated by class in the main gym practicing social distancing user supervision from staff. MS & HS students will be seated by class in the practice gym using social distancing and under supervision.  After 8:00 a.m., students must report to the office for temp check. Parents may enter the building with their students if the need to meet with school personnel upon approval from administration.  We recommend that parents release their children outside. Students will then come into the gym.
<b>End of Day</b>	Regular dismissal. All students are asked to leave the building at the end of the day unless they are in the after school program, school activity, or working with	Regular dismissal. All students are asked to leave the building at the end of the day unless they are in the after-school program, school activity, or working with	Hybrid model: Dismissal may be staggered. Once dismissed all students are asked to leave the building at the end of the day unless they are in the afterschool program, school activity

	a teacher. Meet parents outside or in pre-arranged area.	a teacher. Meet parents outside or in pre-arranged area.	or working with a teacher. Meet parents outside in pre-arranged parking area. Dismissal from classes at the end of the day, for students riding busses, will be by families, to allow for loading from back to front of bus at the end of the day.
<b>After School Program</b> All after-school programs staff arriving at school will have temperature check in the office. Examples include: TeamMates, dance, 9 <sup>th</sup> hour, clubs, and meetings. Sanitize all materials daily.	Regular after school program will continue with appropriate social distancing practiced.	Regular or possibly limited after school program may continue with appropriate social distancing practiced.	Hybrid model: limited. Red model: no afterschool program or activities.
<b>Technology</b>	Normal use of Chromebook. Students maintain hygiene of device. Tech coordinator available.	Normal use of Chromebook. Students maintain hygiene of device. Tech coordinator available, or via email.	Hybrid model: Normal use of Chromebook. Students maintain hygiene of device. Tech coordinator available, or via email for remote learning.

### Cleaning of Facilities

	<b>LOW/NO SPREAD Building Open</b>	<b><u>MINIMAL/MODERATE SPREAD</u> Modified Use of Building</b>	<b><u>SUBSTANTIAL SPREAD</u> School Building Shut Down -Or- Possible Hybrid Model</b>
	Normal cleaning procedures including the use of disinfect wipes, disinfect fogger and sprayer, and other cleaning products will be used.	Normal cleaning procedures including the use of disinfect wipes, disinfect fogger and sprayer, and other cleaning products will be used.	Hybrid model: Normal cleaning procedures including the use of disinfect wipes, disinfect fogger and sprayer, and other cleaning products will be used.
	Classrooms will be cleaned during the teachers planning period or each night. Including wiping down of door knobs, desks, chairs, and common equipment.  Lunchroom will be cleaned after breakfast and lunch each day.  Cleaning procedures will include light switches, door knobs, hallways and restrooms.	Classrooms will be cleaned during the teachers planning period or each night. Including wiping down of door knobs, desks, chairs, and common equipment. Lunchroom will be cleaned after breakfast and lunch each day. Cleaning procedures will include light switches, door knobs, hallways and restrooms. Electrostatic disinfectant sprayer will be used daily. Gloves and PPE equipment by cleaning crew are required.	Classrooms will be cleaned during the teachers planning period or each night. Including wiping down of door knobs, desks, chairs, and common equipment.  Lunchroom will be cleaned after breakfast and lunch each day. Gloves and PPE equipment by cleaning crew are required.  All students will wipe down their desk area, chairs, and lockers daily.  Cleaning procedures will include light switches, door knobs, hallways and restrooms.

		All students will wipe down their desk area, chairs, and lockers daily.	Electrostatic disinfectant sprayer will be used daily. School is Remote: Deep cleaning of building during closing.
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### Food Service

	<b>LOW/NO SPREAD Building Open</b>	<b><u>MINIMAL/MODERATE SPREAD</u> Modified Use of Building</b>	<b><u>SUBSTANTIAL SPREAD</u> School Building Shut Down -Or- Possible Hybrid Model</b>
<p>All students may use cafeteria to eat grab and go breakfast and lunch with social distancing.</p> <p>All food will be served by staff from behind window.</p>	<p>Cafeteria staff will check temperatures daily and wear required PPE equipment.</p> <p>No salad bar</p> <p>Most PK-4 students will eat in the cafeteria but for social distancing some classes may eat elsewhere or in the classroom.</p> <p>MS &amp; HS students will eat in the cafeteria using social distancing practices.</p> <p>Guests may eat with students with prior approval by administration.</p>	<p>Cafeteria staff will check temperatures daily and wear required PPE equipment.</p> <p>No salad bar</p> <p>Most PK-4 students will eat in the cafeteria but for social distancing some classes may eat elsewhere or in the classroom.</p> <p>MS &amp; HS students will eat in the cafeteria using social distancing practices.</p> <p>Guests may eat with students with prior approval by administration.</p>	<p>Remote learning: Meals can be picked up at the front door similar to the summer meal program.</p> <p>Hybrid model: Students may be asked to eat meals in an isolated area or in their classroom.</p>

### Extra-Curricular Activities

	<b>LOW/NO SPREAD Building Open</b>	<b><u>MINIMAL/MODERATE SPREAD</u> Modified Use of Building</b>	<b><u>SUBSTANTIAL SPREAD</u> School Building Shut Down -Or- Possible Hybrid Model</b>
<p>Sports and activities will proceed with social distancing recommended.</p> <p>*Where social distancing cannot be accomplished coaches and sponsors are encouraged to wear face covering/masks.</p> <p>*Locker rooms will be sanitized daily.</p>	<p>Follow NSAA Guidelines Temperatures of every coach and participant will be taken daily</p> <p>Students will have their own water bottle.</p> <p>Coaches will sanitize and wipe down equipment daily.</p>	<p>Follow NSAA Guidelines Temperatures of every coach and participant will be taken daily</p> <p>Students will have their own water bottle.</p> <p>Coaches will sanitize and wipe down equipment daily.</p>	<p>Hybrid model: Follow NSAA Guidelines Temperatures of every coach and participant will be taken daily.</p> <p>Face covering/masks encouraged when possible.</p>

<p>*Showers available at all levels except shutdown. *Athletes encouraged to take laundry home daily.</p>		<p>Individual drills will be emphasized to limit team exposure.</p>	<p>Cleaning of equipment between groups. Remote: School will transition to remote learning and all activities will be suspended until further notice.</p>
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## Transportation

	<b>LOW/NO SPREAD Building Open</b>	<b><u>MINIMAL/MODERATE SPREAD</u> Modified Use of Building</b>	<b><u>SUBSTANTIAL SPREAD</u> School Building Shut Down -Or- Possible Hybrid Model</b>
<p>*Drivers will sanitize bus daily. *Mini-bus and vans will seat students by capacity of vehicle not by seat number. *Parents are encouraged to bring their child to school if able to assist with social distancing on busses.</p>	<p>Drivers will take their own temperatures daily. *Face covering/masks encouraged. *One to a seat using zig/zag formation. *Students will load back to front. *Students will have temperature check and verbal screening prior to boarding the bus. If a student registers a 100.4 temperature, he/she will be sent back into the house. Driver will notify parents and proceed to next stop.</p>	<p>Drivers will take their own temperatures daily. *Face covering/masks encouraged. *One to a seat using zig/zag formation. *Students will load back to front. *Students will have temperature check and verbal screening prior to boarding the bus. If a student registers a 100.4 temperature, he/she will be sent back into the house. Driver will notify parents and proceed to next stop.</p> <p>*If student numbers on busses are limited, parents may be asked to bring their students to school.</p>	<p>Hybrid model: Drivers will take their own temperatures daily. *Face covering/masks required. *One to a seat using zig/zag formation. *Students will load back to front. *Students will have temperature check and verbal screening prior to boarding the bus. If a student registers a 100.4 temperature, he/she will be sent back into the house. Driver will notify parents and proceed to next stop. *If student numbers on busses are limited, parents may be asked to bring their students to school. Remote: No transportation services provided.</p>