

## **Reopening Plan** **Forsyth Public School 2020-21**

The following guidelines will be in place when Forsyth Public Schools reopen on August 26, 2020. These guidelines are due to the COVID-19 pandemic and are established to help ensure the safety of our staff, students and their families. The guidelines will remain in place until the Forsyth Board of Trustees sees fit to lift them. The Board has declared a state of emergency in Forsyth, MT, and in doing so, these guidelines are needed to meet the requirements of the Montana Office of Public Instruction and the State of Montana.

\*Changes to these guidelines will be determined by mandates put in place by our County Health Department and/or the Governor of Montana. These changes may occur throughout the school year.

### **Goals**

- Provide for the physical safety and the emotional need of our students and staff.
- Provide educational opportunities to meet the specific needs of our students.

### **School Year/School Day**

- Forsyth Schools will follow the 2020-21 school calendar adopted by the Board in March.
- School doors will open daily at 8:00 am and will be locked at 4:00 pm.
- Students/Staff will follow the master schedules implemented by the building principals.
- All students will be required to attend classes according to their individual schedule (This includes both onsite and online students).
- The District will follow the current attendance policies approved by the Board of Trustees in the Student/Parent Handbooks.
- Parents will be required to sign an “opt out” form provided by the district for the child(ren) to receive online educational services. (Policy 1908F)
- Parents/students have the opportunity to try either learning venue for up to ten (10) consecutive school days. Once the learning venue has been chosen for the second time, the student will remain with it for the remainder of the semester.

### **School Wide Instruction**

- Onsite students will follow the traditional schedule and change classes every period.
- Google Meet will be the live streaming platform used by Forsyth Public Schools for our online students.
- Attendance will be taken each period for both onsite and online students.
- Homework, assignments, projects and assessments are to be completed and sent through Google Classroom.
- Hard copy packets are not part of the offsite instruction platform.
- The grading system adopted by the Board of Trustees will be followed.
- Online students will be projected onto the whiteboards and all students will be interactive during the class.

- A student will have the option of trying both onsite and online services, but when the student chooses the service for the second time, they will remain with that service for the remainder of the semester.

### Classroom Instruction

Students, staff, volunteers, and visitors are not required to wear a mask or face shield under this provision when:

- consuming food or drink;
- engaged in physical activity;
- communicating with someone who is hearing impaired;
- giving a speech, lecture, class presentation, course lesson, or performance when separated by at least six feet of distance from the gathering, class, or audience;
- identifying themselves;
- receiving medical attention; or
- precluded from safely using a face covering due to a medical or developmental condition. The superintendent, building principal, or their designee shall request documentation from a care provider when considering an exception to this provision for medical or developmental reasons. The School District will comply with all applicable disability and discrimination laws when implementing this provision.

Teachers may allow students to remove their masks or face shields if students are seated at their desks in a classroom and six feet of distance is strictly maintained between each of the students. If a teacher is working one on one with a student, both teacher and student must wear a mask or face shield. If students are working in small groups, the students must be wearing masks or face shields.

\*\*Classroom doors are to remain open during the school day. Ventilation is an important part of enclosed areas. I know this is something many of you may not want to hear, but in speaking with Public Health, this is a recommendation they want to see happen.

### Health Screenings

- In accordance with the latest report from the CDC, symptom screenings of students before each school day will not be conducted by the District.
- Parents or caregivers are strongly encouraged to monitor their children for signs of infectious illness every day.
- Students who are sick should not attend school in-person.

### Safety Protocols

- Physical Distancing—Forsyth Schools will adhere to State and Local mandates regarding physical distancing requirements. It is expected students, families and community members adhere to the recommendations of the district. \*Classrooms will be arranged according to distancing regulations.

- B. Students Who Are Ill**—Students feeling sick, ill or feverish school be directed to the school office. Students running a temperature above 100.00 degrees will be sent home. Once the fever is controlled for 24 hours without medication, the student will be allowed to return to school.
- C. Face Coverings**—Forsyth Schools will follow State and County directives regarding the use of face masks/face shields in the school building. Face coverings will not be required but highly recommended for students and staff anytime they are on school grounds (includes buses). \*\*Face coverings will be available at school offices.
- D. Sanitation**—Students and staff will be expected to sanitize their areas when arriving in class. Hand sanitizing stations will be stationed throughout the school buildings. Sanitizing wipes will be placed in each classroom for use by students and staff. Each school will have a sanitation plan developed by the building principal.
- E. Fogging Machines**—Fogging machines will be used to sanitize large areas after student use. Areas the machines will be used are: Buses, Elementary playground equipment, hallways, gymnasiums, lunch room, auditorium, locker rooms and weight room. \*\*Fogging will be done by maintenance or custodial staff.
- F. Cleaning Buildings**—Custodial staff will clean school building each night. A maintenance/custodial employee will be available during the school day.
- G. Drinking Fountains**—All drinking fountains have been turned off. The water bottle fill stations will be available to students/staff. Individual water bottles are required.

### **Meals**

- Prices for meals are located in the Student/Parent Handbook.
- Breakfast will be served in the classroom. Follow same routine as last year.
- Lunch will be served in the lunchroom with lunch tables distanced to meet state guidelines.
- Lunch staff will serve each student. There will be no salad/soup bar.
- Class rotation and seating arrangements will be determined by the building principals.
- Offsite students may receive breakfast and lunch by notifying the elementary office the previous day. Meals will be picked up at school. More details will be provided by the Elementary principal.

### **Transportation**

- Students will have assigned seats on the daily school routes.
- Seats will be assigned by family units and distancing protocols.
- Face coverings will be required on the school bus.
- Windows will be open whenever possible to increase ventilation.
- Students with a fever before school should not be sent to school on the school bus.
- Bus drivers will be responsible for sanitizing their bus after each route/trip.

### **Extra-Curricular Activities Trips**

- Passengers traveling out of the district will be required to wear a face covering when physical distancing is not practical or possible.

### **Athletics/Activities**

- Forsyth Schools will follow the guidelines from the MHSAA, the State of Montana and the County Health Department regarding the teams competing.
- Coaches will be responsible for monitoring and adhering to the MHSAA guidelines.
- Coaches will sanitize all equipment following each practice session.
- The final determination of the level of competition and activity outside of the district will be at the discretion of the Board of Trustees.
- Attendance at home events will be determined by guidelines issued by the State of Montana, Rosebud County Health Department and the Board of Trustees.
- Physical distancing will be followed.
- Masks will be worn by spectators at indoor events.

### **Out of District Travel**

- Out of district travel will occur within the guidelines of the MHSAA, the State of Montana and the Rosebud County Health Department.
- All out of district travel for school business will require prior approval from the superintendent.
- All district travelers need to be aware of face covering directives in the destination county.

### **Quarantine**

- If a student is quarantined by the County Health Department, the student will be moved to the online format until the quarantine is completed. Once the quarantine is lifted, the student may return to school. If the parent/student wishes to remain online, they will remain online for the remainder of the semester.

### **Technology**

- Each class will be live streamed into the classroom with Google Meet as the platform.
- Online students will be invited to attend and click on the link provided.
- If a student is in need of a tablet or laptop, notify the building principal to check out a district device. The student is responsible for the care of the device while in their possession.

### **Visitors**

Visitors will report directly to the main office of the school they are visiting. Visitors will not be allowed beyond the main office. Approved volunteers and/or maintenance contractors will be allowed to access the building for approved duties/services.

### **Positive Cases**

This school year will look like no other. It is possible, or even likely, there will be a positive case in the Forsyth community or potentially in our schools. Should Rosebud County Public Health identify a positive case in our schools, the District will follow all guidance provided by our local public health officials.

Should a student, faculty, or staff member be tested positive for COVID-19, Rosebud County Public Health will conduct a contact tracing assessment and notify all pertinent individuals. The district will, while maintaining confidentiality, announce the appropriate information. An approved disinfecting and sanitizing regime will be implemented immediately.

Students and staff who are mandated to quarantine will be expected to do so. The District will not permit entry to our school building for quarantined individuals.

\*Current guidance tells us: Individuals wearing appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) during the time of exposure to an infected person are NOT considered to be primary contacts. Although face-coverings may not be required, they are considered appropriate PPE and are highly encouraged.

### **School Closure Plan**

In the event COVID 19 cases surge to outrageous numbers throughout the state of Montana and the Governor mandates schools close OR the County Health Department quarantines an entire school, the following online plan will be implemented:

1. Maintain education plan for all students.
2. Staff will be at work daily.
3. Lessons will be broadcast online by Zoom, Google, etc.
4. All students are attending school online following individual daily schedules.
5. Attendance will be taken each period.
6. District will apply for summer lunch program waiver (if possible) to serve meals daily to our students.
7. Meals will be delivered, if necessary, through our transportation department.