



YSD-1 2021-2022 SCHOOL OPENING PLAN

First, the YSD-1 Board of Education and Administration would like to recognize and celebrate our ability to provide in-person instruction during the 2020-2021 school year despite numerous challenges and state mandates that required patience, understanding, and flexibility from students, parents, school staff and our community. We thank our community for the ongoing support of our schools.

As we get ready to welcome students and staff back for the 2021-2022 school year, we continue to have an obligation to provide a safe and healthy learning environment amidst ongoing COVID-19 presence. Our intent is to begin our new normal-where we focus on in person instruction and manage any illness within local control systems and Policy JLCC-Communicable/Infectious Diseases. (policy included at the end of this document)

The YSD-1 Board of Education and Administration believes that parents are the best decision makers when it comes to the safety of their child. Therefore, we encourage all parents to research the COVID health risks, safety recommendations and make decisions in accordance with the guidance you believe is important to the safety of your child. Information related to testing and vaccination can be found at: www.NCHD.org; <https://yumahospitals.org>; and <https://wrayhospital.org>.

We encourage all individuals to communicate with the school district any positive cases of COVID and follow local health guidelines related to prevention, isolation and quarantine. Furthermore, we will continue to closely monitor COVID-19 case rates and should the need arise to close classrooms or buildings, we will work with the local health department to assess and take appropriate action.

What will continue in 21-22?

We will provide In-Person instruction and only provide for synchronous instruction if closures are required.

Chromebooks will continue to be provided for home use for students grades 5-12.

We will maintain expectations of illness and timeframes to return to school after any illness as stated below. We do ask once again this year for your help in protecting in-person instruction for everyone by keeping your student home when they are sick.

WE WILL MAINTAIN THREE LEVELS OF SCHOOL PLANNING: (Periodic meetings will be held with the Yuma County COVID-19 Task force and/or Northeast Colorado Health Department to review school, city and county incidence rates and health needs.)

GREEN: Schools operate with general hygiene guidelines (under the new normal) including handwashing and ventilation strategies with protocols in place for students/staff exhibiting symptoms.

- **Staying home when Sick Guidelines:** Students must be fever and symptom free for 24 hours before returning to school after illness (with symptoms that include: Fever 100.4 or higher, Loss of Taste and Smell, New/Unexpected cough, shortness of breath, Sore throat, Body Aches, Headache, Fatigue, Nausea/Vomiting, Diarrhea).

YELLOW: In collaboration with Local Public Health, when an outbreak of any kind is present (COVID-19, Norovirus, Strep, etc) as per Policy JLCC- Communicable/Infectious Diseases, YSD-1 will consider increased layers of protection including but not limited to:

- **Staying Home When Sick Guidelines: YELLOW ZONE:** Students must be fever and symptom free for 48 hours before returning to school after illness (with symptoms that include: Fever 100.4 or higher, Loss of Taste and Smell, New/Unexpected cough, shortness of breath, Sore throat, Body Aches, Headache, Fatigue, Nausea/Vomiting, Diarrhea.)
- No Visitor, volunteers or Non-school business deliveries
- Encourage home symptom screening for students
- **Additional Considerations:** Increased social distancing/cohorting, seating charts, reduced spectator capacity at events, alternative parent/teacher conference schedules, temperature checking upon entry, limiting field trips, increased frequency of cleaning, short term mask usage, changes to cafeteria service, etc.

RED: In collaboration with Local Public Health, potential intermittent closures with full class schedule remote instruction in place.

Transportation: As per federal requirements regarding public transportation, masks will be required for all students/staff riding in school transportation when non school district staff/students are present.

File: JLCC - Communicable/Infectious Diseases

The Board of Education recognizes that communicable diseases which may afflict students range from common childhood diseases, acute and short-term in nature, to chronic, life-threatening diseases such as human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. This school district shall rely on the advice of the medical community in assessing the risk of transmission of various communicable diseases to determine how best to protect the health of both students and staff. The risk of transmitting HIV/AIDS is extremely low in school settings when current guidelines and preventative measures are followed.

Management of common communicable diseases shall be in accordance with Colorado Department of Health guidelines. A student who exhibits symptoms of a readily-transmissible communicable disease may be temporarily excluded from school attendance.

Students who complain of illness at school may be referred to the school nurse or designee and may be sent home as soon as the parent/guardian or person designated on the student's emergency medical authorization form has been notified.

The district reserves the right to require a physician's statement authorizing the student's return to school.

In all proceedings related to this policy, the district shall respect the student's right to privacy.

When information is received by a staff member or volunteer that a student is afflicted with a serious, readily-transmissible disease, the staff member or volunteer shall promptly notify the school nurse or principal to determine appropriate measures to protect student and staff health and safety. The principal, after consultation with the student and parent/guardian, shall determine which additional staff members, if any, have need to know of the affected student's condition. Only those persons with direct responsibility for the care of the student shall be informed of the specific nature of the condition if it is determined there is a need for such individuals to know this information.

The superintendent shall initiate procedures to ensure that all medical information will be held in strict confidence. Any school staff member who violates confidentiality shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary measures.