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July 28, 2020  
DRAFT #1- CORONA VIRUS PLAN  
\*Subject to final board approval

## *Welcome Back to School!*

Dear Parents, Students and Staff,

Thanks to many of you for the warm welcome! It was my hope that some of my first correspondence with our community, parents and staff wasn't centered around COVID-19 and its implications.

Public education across America this past spring was unprecedented as schools across the country closed for the remainder of the year. Students, parents, and staff stepped up to provide education remotely. This sudden shift to remote learning provided many lessons about how to ensure continued learning for students this fall, regardless of the status of the Coronavirus pandemic.

There are many varying points of input for our planning to get back to school. We have implemented guidance from public health officials, as well as back to school procedures provided by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare while developing the plan for reopening. This plan is fluid as communities change with virus cases rising or falling.

Mountain View School District plans to reopen on September 2, 2020 and will offer two learning options this fall. The first is for students to attend school as normal with extra safety measures in place. The second is for families that are not comfortable having their students return to school—MVSD will offer the option of online learning or a packet support for students.

Outlining steps necessary to provide safety for all, as well as determining a course of action to keep educating our students in light of this pandemic, is extraordinary. Disruptions impact learning; our focus is to try and minimize these impacts the best we can. There is no boilerplate to follow. Especially during this time, I appreciate everyone giving their best efforts to make this next school year a great one! As changes appear on the horizon I will do all I can to communicate our best path. Thank you for your understanding.

Sincerely,

Todd Fiske  
MVSD Superintendent



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### **Planning for the Unknown:**

No one can predict the course of the current world-wide pandemic. Everyone hopes that the spread will have slowed – or ended. One of the lessons from this past spring is that we need to be prepared for any scenario. In preparation for the 2020-21 school year, MVSD has prepared for three scenarios when schools reopen and have added an additional option for families who have chosen not to send their kids to school because of concerns surrounding COVID-19.

**MVSD is planning to open in traditional fashion this fall.** If MVSD enters the fall under orders that schools are closed, MVSD will go directly into remote learning.

As provided by the Governor's office, Idaho State Board of Education and Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, three categories have been outlined for our local utilization. MVSD and other schools have turned these categories into a color designation. Green, Yellow, Red.

**GREEN:** *Normal School Operations.* Minimal or moderate community transmission (as defined by Idaho Department of Health and Welfare) and NO positive cases in a school.

MVSD plans to start the year with schools open assuming conditions are the same as they are currently. Students and teachers will conduct teaching and learning in their classrooms. Once in school students will be instructed how to learn remotely if this should become necessary. Busses will run as usual. School food services will be provided. Extra-curricular activities will run as scheduled.

\*\*\* Safety procedures will be in place to reduce the chance of the spread of illness in all scenarios \*\*\*

### **Personal Protective Equipment and Standards**

- Identify and maintain hand hygiene stations in key locations in school buildings
- Mask/face shields recommended but not required for staff/students
- Part of student supplies – mask/face shield will become part of their school supply list
- Identify and isolation/screening room in each school for any child that is exhibiting symptoms

### **Health/Symptom Standards**

- In children, fever has been the most frequently reported symptom. However, fever is common in many other illnesses as well. MVSD must err on the side of caution. Parents/Guardians please be reminded that if your son or daughter exhibits symptoms outlined by the CDC efforts to send them home will be put into place.
- It is essential that we reinforce the importance of students staying home when sick until at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever or signs of a fever (chills, feeling very warm, flushed appearance, or sweating) without the use of fever-reducing medicine (e.g., Tylenol).
- Goal: Stay home if your son or daughter is feeling sick to help prevent the transmission of COVID to help keep schools open.



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### Classrooms

- Staff and students trained in physical distancing, hand washing, respiratory etiquette (sneezing/coughing into arm) and mask use (if utilized) to mitigate exposure
- Hand sanitizer and promotion of frequent hand washing
- Regular sanitation of desks and other hard surfaces and other high touch areas
- Specific cleaning standards implemented by the custodial staff to sanitize classroom areas
- Best arrangements of classrooms to best account for physical distancing
- Limit the use of shared materials and spaces

### Office Strategies and other Non-Instructional Spaces

- Maintain 6ft. Distance when possible
- Regular sanitation of surfaces (doors, windows, countertops)
- Hand sanitizer at workstations
- Suggested appointments by parents and visitors

### Cafeteria

- Regular breakfast and lunch menus
- Possible staggering of lunch if further reduction of distancing is necessary
- Possible options to eat outside
- Hand sanitizer or hand washing opportunity provided before entering food service line
- Possible self-service or pre-packaged food items to help eliminate multiple touch zones.

### Extra-curricular Activities

- MVSD works with the Idaho High School Athletic Association (IHSAA). Plans for activities and athletics for the 2020-21 school year are on-going and will be monitored in similar fashion as described in the steps above.
- As additional information is available about fall activities, MVSD will provide that information to parents and students.

### Visitors

- Information items posted at all office entrances about reducing the risk of spreading contagions
- Ask that ALL visitors call the office to schedule a time to visit
- Each school office will limit the number of visitors to parents and essential visitors to each campus. Schools may need to schedule an appropriate time for a visit to occur. Please call your school office to inquire.



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### Gatherings

- Implement strategies at each school for the gathering planned.
- Strategies will be implemented in each school that discourages gatherings in areas such as the bus drop off and loading areas, restrooms, recess, hallways, lunchrooms, before and after school.
- Field trips, assemblies, extra-curricular events and other large gatherings will be assessed to determine if social distancing can be achieved. This could mean the postponement or cancellation of an event.

### Online Options / Packet Learning – Mountain View School District

For families that do not feel comfortable sending their student to school, MVSD will offer an online option or a packet support for students. At the elementary level, students will be taught the same subjects and standards as are taught in their classroom. Teachers will collect work and provide the necessary feedback. Assessments and assignments will be graded. Group discussions will be implemented as part of the school (if available). At the secondary level, on-going options will be available for academic success through integration of on-line and packet learning. On-line learning will continue to be implemented to offer the best academics possible in light of connectivity difficulties and technology tools available (at home). It will be the goal of MVSD for students to earn credits toward graduation requirements and earn their high school diploma. Students participating in this medium will be allowed to participate in extra-curricular activities at their home high school. Students must be registered appropriately. A system of packet learning will be delivered in similar fashion to last spring.

**YELLOW – ALTERNATE DAY SCHEDULE** – Moderate community transmission (as defined by Idaho Department of Health and Welfare) and Positive cases(s) with some risk of exposure in an individual school and/or within the District.

Mountain View School District (along with other area schools) is developing contingency plans as an option to avoid complete school closure. The plan's implementation will be determined by guidance from the Central District Health Department and other Idaho governmental authorities that have jurisdiction over school operations. If physical distancing requirements become more stringent, schools may go to an alternating schedule with half the students attending one day and the other half of students attending on the alternating days that keeps families on the same school schedule. When not physically in school, students will utilize their time remotely (on-line or through provided subject work) to stay engaged in their learning.

Mountain View School District recognizes that this plan places an additional burden on families who will need to make accommodations for the days when their students are not in school. This scenario was developed to avoid a complete school closure in order to maintain regular contact between students and teachers.



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### **RED – SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED**

Substantial community transmission (as defined by Idaho Department of Health and Welfare) and widespread positive cases with significant risk of exposure within a school and/or multiple schools.

If there is a state-wide or local order to close all school or an individual school, learning will continue remotely. The transition to remote learning will happen immediately. Students will move to full-time on-line and/or packet learning. Students will submit work for review and receive feedback. Subject assessment (grading) will continue until schools re-open.

MVSD is a large geographical footprint. Parents and community members should be aware that one community school could be impacted and require closure. All of our communities will be monitored and assessments made with the guidance from Idaho Department of Health and Welfare.

### **Guidelines Provided by Governmental Entities**

MVSD follows the recommended guidelines of the State of Idaho, the State Board of Education, and our area District Health Department regarding opening school buildings safely. Links provided below.

State of Idaho – Stages of Reopening: <https://rebound.idaho.gov/stages-of-reopening/>

State Board of Education Re-entry Criteria: <https://boardofed.idaho.gov/resources/school-district-and-charter-school-re-entry-criteria-return-from-soft-closure/>

Informational ideas gathered by West Ada School District, Region 2 School group of Cottonwood, Culdesac, Highland/Craigmont, Kamiah, Lapwai, Lewiston, Moscow, Nezperce, Orofino, Potlatch, Troy, Whitepine.