

# A Plan for Safe Return to School

2023-2024

Date: 8/2021

Dates Revised: 8/8/22, 2/20/23, 7/10/23

The purchase of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III Fund is to help safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impacts of COVID-19 on the nation's students by addressing students' academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs.

**Universal and correct wearing of masks:** Elba Public Schools believes students, families, and personnel should have a choice of wearing a mask. A parent signature to decline wearing a mask and not holding the school COVID liable is an option for families. If the governor were to mandate wearing of masks, Elba Public Schools would comply.

**Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing:** Elba has an enrollment of 125 students. The classrooms are sufficient for social physical distancing, if needed. The cafeteria can be adapted for every seat to be skipped at lunch and all students will fit in the cafeteria. If staggering of lunchtime is needed the administration will modify the schedules.

**Handwashing and respiratory etiquette:** Elba Public Schools has installed multiple hand sanitizer dispensers throughout the building for student and staff use. Elba has also placed multiple visual signs for bathroom use. The younger students were retaught proper sneezing techniques. The older students were reminded proper sneezing techniques.

**Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation:** Elba Public Schools maintains cleaning guidelines. The custodian staff cleans twice as often as before. Elba Public Schools has purchased hand held spray sanitizer dispensers. Using ESSERS II funds Elba Public Schools purchased one hand held spray sanitizer dispenser per classroom for teacher use to maintain air quality.

**Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the state and local health departments:** Elba Public Schools will take the state and local health departments recommendations into consideration. Elba Public Schools will abide by the Governor of Nebraska's directives.

The local health departments recommendations are as follows: For school aged individuals who have had close contact with a person(s) whom has developed or during the 48 hours prior to the person developing one or more of the following symptoms: sudden onset of cough, sudden onset of shortness of breath or sudden loss of taste or smell; or whom has developed or during the 48 hours prior to the person developing two or more of the following symptoms: a few of 100.4 or above, chills, muscle aches, headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting,

diarrhea or fatigue or with a person whom has tested positive for COVID-19 whichever event occurs earlier, may meet the following conditions in lieu of quarantine:

**\*\*Self-monitor daily for fever or other symptom (listed above) development for 14 days and have NO symptom development.**

**If symptom development occurs within the 14-day self-monitoring need to follow isolation guidance.**

Isolation shall continue until:

**\*\*At least ten (10) days have passed since onset of symptoms AND**

**\*\*Symptoms have improved AND**

**\*\*The isolated individual has been fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication.**

**For individuals who tested positive for COVID-19 and do NOT have symptoms may discontinue isolation under the following conditions:**

**\*\*At least 10 (ten) days have passed since the date of their 1<sup>st</sup> positive test AND**

**\*\*Have had no symptom development AND**

**\*\*For 3 days following discontinuation of isolation, these people must continue to limit contact and when possible wear a face covering.**

**Diagnostic and screening testing:** All staff should continue to self-monitor for illness. Self-monitoring includes reflecting daily on the following questions:

Do I have any of the following symptoms:

- a. Fever above 100.0 degrees
- b. Shortness of breath
- c. Cough
- d. Chills
- e. Muscle pain
- f. Sore throat
- g. New loss of taste or smell
- h. Congestion or runny nose
- i. Nausea or vomiting
- j. Diarrhea

Effective August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 there will NOT be paid pandemic leave (quarantine or isolation) the one exception will be for staff who have been vaccinated and are confirmed positive for COVID-19. In this instance, staff will be able to use pandemic paid leave until the conclusion of the isolation period. To be eligible for paid pandemic leave, staff will be required to provide the district with a copy of their vaccination card.

Temperature checks is in place, if needed. The district will not temperature check until the need arises and appointment by the superintendent. If students do not feel well, we ask parents to keep the student(s) home.

**COVID Testing:** COVID student testing is allowed with parent permission.

**Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities:** Elba Public Schools will not offer vaccinations to the school community.

**Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies:** Students qualifying for extra support through an IEP or through a 504 Plan will continue to receive services and support according to their plans throughout the 2021-2022 school year. Accommodations, modification, and related service will be provided as outlined in a student in-person or on-line contingency plan.

**Coordination with State and local health officials:** Should a need arise, Elba Public Schools will meet with the state and local health officials to take their guidelines into consideration. Elba Public Schools will follow all directives by the Governor.

**Continuity of Services:** If Elba Public Schools has mandatory closure by the Governor or at the federal level Elba Public Schools will provide on-line learning through various platforms. This might include Google Classroom or Zoom most likely. Student who have an IEP or 504 Plan have a contingency plan outlined in their plan for the Special Education Department to adhere to. Usually the rule is half of the time of the in-person schedule. The mental health practitioner most likely will continue through an on-line platform. The counselor will also be available by appointment via on-line.

Most likely if there is a school closure, students will receive lunch sack lunches available at the school or delivered or a combination of both options.

**Public Comment Requirements:** In July, the superintendent sent a survey listing all domains of the ESSERS III grant classifications. Each family received a questionnaire and asked to return the survey to the superintendent. The counselor, principal, superintendent and two teachers collaborated to discuss the 2020-2021 "Return to School Plan" and adaptations for the 2021-2022 school year. The team reconvened team meetings. The school board and superintendent had a board retreat on August 1<sup>st</sup> to discuss the ESSERS III grant and "Return to School Plan" protocol. During the August 9<sup>th</sup> board meeting the public was given an opportunity to speak in reference to the 2021-2022 Return to School Plan and the uses of the ESSERS III funds.

