

Ainsworth Community Schools



“LAUNCH ACS”

**2020-21 School Reentry Plan w/
COVID-19 RESPONSE PROTOCOLS**

ACS...CARES

*“We are **C**ommitted to **A**chieving **R**esults for **E**veryone’s **S**uccess”*

[Ainsworth Community Schools](#) joins our North Central District Health Department ([NCDHD](#)) in wanting Nebraska schools to open and stay open. It is our goal that this plan and its protocols aim to create a school environment that will reduce the spread of COVID-19, while minimizing the impact on the school community and the student learning experience should students or staff test positive for COVID-19. The school will work with the local health department and state officials on an ongoing basis to analyze the level of COVID-19 risk in our community, using a Green, Yellow, Orange, and Red Risk Dial. The recommended actions taken using these protocols are intended to mitigate, not eliminate, risk.

ACS put together a “district reentry team” to work with the [Nebraska Department of Education](#) ([Launch Nebraska](#)), [Instruction Partners](#), and NCDHD in order to develop the following working document to guide the 2020-21 school year. Further, the team considered guidance documents from the [Nebraska Association of School Boards](#), [Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association](#), and the [Nebraska School Activities Association](#). The district provided survey and input opportunities to parents and staff which guided decisions in developing this document. The ACS Reentry Team wishes to thank all parents and staff for their valuable input and support. The following individuals make up the district reentry team:

Leanne Maxwell, School Nurse and Safety Coordinator
Scott Steinhauser, School Psychologist, SPED Coordinator, and Co-AD
Lisa Schlueter, Guidance Counselor
Jessi Owen, HS Teacher Representative
Nichole Flynn, MS Teacher Representative
Stacey Alberts, K-4 Teacher Representative
Jessica Pozehl, School Board Member and Parent Representative
Geraldine Erickson, Educational Service Unit #17 Administrator
Curtis Childers, PreK-6 Principal
Steve Dike, 7-12 Principal
Dale Hafer, Superintendent

Please note this document is a “working” document and is subject to change in order to reflect updated information from State, Regional, and Local Officials. We encourage all parents to monitor the district website and Facebook pages and stay tuned for updates regarding the plan and its implementation.

Our full intent is to provide a flexible plan allowing us to work with our students, parents, staff, and community to serve the needs of all students in the district. The district’s staff and board of education are dedicated to ensuring the 2020-21 school year is productive, positive, and impactful for all students.

OVERVIEW:**GREEN****(Minimal Spread)**

"New Normal"

YELLOW**(Minimal to Moderate)**

Enhanced Mitigation

ORANGE**(Moderate)**Reduced # or
Hybrid Model**RED****(Significant)**

Remote Learning

GREEN

- Enhanced screening
- At home screening
- Plan in place for responding to positive cases
- Enhanced cleaning
- Increased emphasis on social-emotional supports
- Education on handwashing, COVID-19

YELLOW

- Face covering when feasible
- Physical distancing
- Limited gatherings and reduced size
- Continue Green level interventions

ORANGE

- Alternative scheduling to reduce number of students in building
- Pivot to hybrid model of instruction
- Continue Green and Yellow level interventions

RED

- ACS returns to Remote Learning environment
- Extracurricular activities and athletics discontinue

STATEMENT OF STUDENT ATTENDANCE:

The expectation for students will be in-person learning and/or as described in the district's reentry plan for 2020-21. Student attendance will be handled according to district policy and as 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 students with qualifying conditions related to their verified disability, 504 plan, IEP, or as documented by their physician. Parents with questions or concerns related to student attendance are encouraged to contact their child's Principal to find out how the district can accommodate their needs.

SCENARIO GREEN: MINIMAL COMMUNITY SPREAD

Viral Status: Few, if any, active COVID-19 cases locally

Safety:

- School preparedness activities primarily focused on awareness and updating operations plans.
- Close and continuing communication between school and NCDHD focused on local changes in disease surveillance that would necessitate a change to YELLOW (minimal to moderate spread) status.
- Evaluate whether there are students or staff at risk for severe illness and/or staff living with a high-risk individual and develop or refine plans for remote work and education if necessary.
- Students and staff with a fever of 100.4 or greater, cough, or shortness of breath **when screened at home** should stay home and not attend school/activities. A health care provider's note ruling out COVID-19 allows for return to school after the individual is 24 hours fever-free without fever reducing medication or resolution of symptoms. For individuals confirmed with COVID-19 or who chose not to seek medical care, but are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms: May return to school if at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared, symptoms have improved, and no fever for 24 hours without fever reducing medication. A mask is strongly recommended for the first 3 days upon return.
- Clean and disinfect work and school areas regularly (between groups of students, between school day and after school programs, etc.)
- Embed teaching of hygiene practices into regular routines.
- In the event of student illness with COVID-19 symptoms, collaboration with Administration, teachers, parents, and the student will occur to help support in-home learning and attendance.
- Water fountains will not be used. Bottle-filling stations and water faucets will be utilized to fill individual water bottles. Students will be encouraged to have their own labeled water bottle but water bottles will be available in the office, if needed.
- Singing will be allowed, with social distancing of 6 feet encouraged.

School Operating Status: Open for in-person instruction with health measures.

Mental and Social-Emotional Health

- The school counselors and school nurses will assess students and staff on an ongoing basis for signs of increased mental stress associated with COVID-19 concerns, intervening as appropriate.
- Staff will be encouraged to notify the school counselors regarding students or staff that show evidence of being at high-risk for insufficient coping skills.
- The school's Crisis Team will meet monthly and as needed to focus on student and staff mental health and wellness.

Hygiene

- Provide adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors, such as soap, running water, hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, paper towel, tissues).
- Teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer can be used (for staff and older children who can safely use it). Younger children may use hand sanitizer with stand-by supervision or the assistance deemed appropriate.
- Custodial staff will systematically and frequently check and refill hand sanitizers.
- Encourage staff and students to cough and sneeze into their elbow or to cover with a tissue. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash and hands washed or sanitized immediately
- Limit sharing of personal items, such as writing utensils. Keep students' personal items separate in individually labeled containers, cubbies, or lockers.
- Post signs in highly visible locations to promote everyday protective measures to prevent the spread of germs.

Spacing, Movement, and Access

- Limited class sizes, whenever possible, is encouraged. Social distancing of 6 feet is encouraged, when feasible.
- Efforts will be made to keep greater distance between students in the hallways and staggered movements at incremental intervals will be used if feasible to minimize the number of persons in the hallways.
- Parents are discouraged from entering the school building except under extenuating circumstances determined by school officials; adults entering the building should wash or sanitize hands prior to entering. Only one parent per child should be allowed to enter except under extenuating circumstances.
- Records, including date and time, should be kept of visitors entering and exiting the building. Prior to admission, visitors will have their temperature checked and asked about symptoms and close contact with a known or suspected case. All

visitors will report to the school office, once cleared through the screening process.

Screening Students

- Children who become ill at school will be placed in one of the two designated isolation rooms with a surgical mask in place until parent/guardian arrives. Students will not be placed in a mask if developmentally unable to remove it.
- School nurses or other designee caring for a student showing possible symptoms of COVID-19 will wear a surgical mask, gown, goggles, and gloves.
- Parents are encouraged to check the student's temperature at home every morning; students with a temperature of 100.4 or greater should stay home and consider coronavirus testing if no other explanation is available. Parents are encouraged to ask their children or monitor for symptoms of COVID-19, including cough, shortness of breath, congestion, loss of taste or smell, or gastrointestinal symptoms every morning. The presence of any symptoms should prompt the parent to keep the student home from school.
- Temperature checks on students will be performed once per day, upon entry into the building. Students with a temp of 100.4 or greater or other obvious symptoms of COVID-19, will be sent to the isolation room, put on a mask, until transported home by parent/guardian. In the event the student drove to school, the parent/guardian will confirm if the child is to drive self home. Staff will self-check temperature once per day, upon entry into the building. Staff with a temperature of 100.4 or greater, or other obvious symptoms of COVID-19, will leave the building as soon as possible, while notifying office personnel and/or their Principal.

Return to School After Being Sent Home

- Alternative Diagnosis: A health care provider's note ruling out COVID-19 allows for return to school after the individual is 24 hours fever-free without fever reducing medication or resolution of symptoms.
- For individuals confirmed with COVID-19 or who chose not to seek medical care, but are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms: May return to school if at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared, symptoms have improved, and no fever for 24 hours without fever reducing medication. A mask is strongly recommended for the first 3 days upon return.

Responding to Positive Cases

- In the event that a student tests positive, the school will immediately call the NCDHD to report it, and work with them to contact any close contacts (those who spent more than 15 minutes in close proximity to the student) so they can be quarantined at home. Classmates should be closely monitored, at home and at school, for symptoms.
- In the event of a positive test among staff or a student, the classroom or areas exposed should be closed until cleaning and disinfection can be performed. If possible, smaller areas should be closed for 24 hours before cleaning.
- If the person was in the building without a mask, or large areas of the school were exposed to the person, short term suspension of classes (2-5 days) may be required to clean and disinfect the larger areas. This decision would be made in concert with the NCDHD.
- Custodial staff cleaning after a confirmed COVID-19 should wear a mask, gown, goggles, and gloves.

Dining, Gathering, Athletics, and Extracurricular Activities

- Meal activities continue per normal operating procedures with visitors discouraged.
- Students, teachers, and cafeteria staff are required to wash or sanitize hands before and after every meal.
- Students and staff should wash or sanitize hands before and after every event.
- Large scale gatherings are allowed per normal operating status.
- Extracurricular activities and gatherings conducted normally.
- After school programs are open and operating normally.
- All activities are allowed to continue per normal procedures.
- Spectator events are allowed per normal procedures.
- A responsible party will be assigned by the AD, sponsor, or coach to confirm that participants are without symptoms prior to any event.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Staff that may be in contact with a student or staff member with suspected COVID-19 or cleaning after a confirmed COVID-19 case will be provided with PPE, trained on when and what PPE is necessary, how to don and doff PPE, limitations of PPE, and proper care and disposal of PPE.
- Face masks are not required for staff or students. However, CDC recommends masks should be worn by staff and students (particularly older students) as

feasible, and are most essential in times when physical distancing is difficult. The face covering should be worn over the nose and mouth.

- During annual health screening, students who are able should wear a mask.
- A mask should be worn by anyone delivering direct care where physical distancing cannot be maintained.

Cleaning

- School will undergo normal cleaning on a daily basis.
- Frequently touched surfaces, such as desks, tables, door knobs, light switches, benches, bathrooms, athletic equipment, etc. should undergo cleaning and disinfection at least twice daily.

Busing and Student Transportation

- School busing operations proceed normally. No changes to schedules or seating patterns are required. Bus drivers will be encouraged to wear a mask when students are on the bus.
- Temperature checks will be performed by the bus supervisor before the student enters the bus, on a trip by trip basis. The parent/guardian is encouraged to wait while the temperature is taken. The child will not be allowed on the bus if temperature is 100.4 or greater; the parent/guardian will be notified so the student can be transported back home by the parent/guardian.
- Transportation personnel will use disinfectant to wipe down seats, handrails, and other hard surfaces frequently touched by students, before or after each trip.
- Parents should plan to have their children at their respective pick-up point 5-10 minutes early to allow time for temperature and health screening of all riders before loading the bus.

Medically Vulnerable Students and Teachers

- SPED staff and school nurses will review all Individual Healthcare Plans, Individual Education Plans, and 504 Plans and update the plans as needed to decrease their risk for COVID-19.
- Any student or staff identified as high risk for severe illness due to COVID-19 will have a plan in place to address requests for alternative learning arrangements. Enable staff and students to minimize face-to-face contact and allow them to maintain a distance of 6 feet from others, modify job responsibilities that limit exposure risk.

SCENARIO YELLOW: MODERATE COMMUNITY SPREAD

Viral Status: NCDHD has analyzed risk using variables such as number of positive cases, percent of positive cases, and hospitalization rate. Robust testing, contact tracing, and containment protocols in place.

Safety:

- School preparedness and response activities shift from ongoing surveillance to a series of mitigation measures.
- The school will be prepared to immediately implement physical distancing measures that include: reducing frequency of large gatherings, altering schedules, limiting inter-school activities, and deploying remote learning.
- Students and teachers at increased risk of severe illness should be prepared to implement distance teaching and learning options.
- Singing will be allowed, with social distancing of 6 feet maintained and masks highly encouraged.

School Operating Status: In-Person Learning with Increased social distancing.

Mental and Social-Emotional Health:

- Continue Green Scenario interventions
- Consider additional resources for staff self-care and populations with special needs.

Hygiene

- Continue Green Scenario interventions

Spacing, Movement, and Access

- Spacing is 6 feet between desks and between students seated at tables is encouraged whenever feasible.
- All desks will be arranged to face in the same direction.
- Class sizes will be kept to **30** students or fewer (as afforded by necessary spacing requirements and personnel)
- Teachers will try to maintain 6 feet of spacing between themselves and students.

- Assemblies of more than 50 students are discouraged but allowed as long as facial coverings remain in use and 6-foot distancing is implemented.
- Facial coverings are recommended at all times for grades K-12 and staff, as feasible and tolerated and/or essential in times where physical distancing is difficult.
- Efforts will be made to keep small groups of students in the same classroom, eat lunch together, and arrive/leave at the same time. For upper classes, having teachers rotate/move rooms rather than students, will be considered.
- Efforts will be made to keep 6 feet of distance between students in the hallways and staggered movements at incremental intervals will be used if feasible to minimize the number of persons in the hallways.
- Parents are discouraged from entering the school building except under extenuating circumstances determined by school officials; adults entering the building should wash or sanitize hands prior to entering. Only one parent per child should be allowed to enter except under extenuating circumstances.
- Records of visitors will be maintained, as according to Green Scenario interventions.

Screening Students: Same as Green Scenario

Return to School After Being Sent Home: Same as Green Scenario

Responding to Positive Cases: Same as Green Scenario

Dining, Gathering, and Extracurricular Activities

- Students, teachers, and cafeteria staff wash hands before and after every meal.
- Meal times will be staggered in an effort to create seating arrangements with 6 feet of distance between students.
- Cafeteria staff will wear a mask when working directly with students.
- Assemblies of up to 50 students will be discouraged but allowed, if masks are worn, except while eating.
- After school programs continue but masks are required.

Athletics and Extracurricular Activities

- Students and staff should wash or sanitize hands before and after events.
- A responsible party will be assigned by the AD, sponsor, or coach to confirm that participants are without symptoms prior to any event.
- The school will follow the guidance of the Nebraska High School Athletic Association (NSAA) and the NCDHD when deciding which sports can be safely

conducted and what restrictions may be required. Unless otherwise determined, spectators are allowed provided that masks are used by observers at all times and physical distancing is maintained. Anticipate that any sport that does not allow adequate distancing such as football, wrestling, basketball, etc. will be discontinued.

- Weight room and conditioning activities should follow guidance from the NSAA.
- Anticipate that large scale spectator and stadium events will not be allowed.
- Accessibility to the locker room and group changing areas will be dependent on guidance from the NSAA.
- There will be no sharing of equipment or water bottles.

PPE and Cleaning

- Staff and students are recommended to wear face coverings.
- Continue Green Scenario interventions.

Busing and Student Transportation

- Clean and disinfect transportation vehicles after each use, paying attention to surfaces in the driver's area, hard seats, door handles, doors and window, and grab handles.
- Keep windows open between trips, when possible.
- Any individual that becomes sick during the day must not use group transportation to return home. A plan will be made for getting the students home safely if not allowed to board the vehicle.
- Encourage the use of hand sanitizer before entering the bus.
- Allow for 6 feet between students and between students and the driver, when possible. Optimal seating would allow one rider per seat in every other row.
- Parents should plan to have their children at their respective pick-up point 5-10 minutes early to allow time for temperature and health screening of all riders before loading the bus.

Medically Vulnerable Students and Staff

- Continue Green Scenario interventions.

SCENARIO ORANGE: ELEVATED MODERATE COMMUNITY SPREAD

Viral Status: Further increasing spread warrants enhanced precautions.

Safety:

- All staff and students should wear face coverings when feasible.
- Short-term suspension of classes (2-5 days) and suspension of extracurricular activities should be expected for cleaning and contact tracing purposes.
- Students and teachers at increased risk of severe illness should be prepared to implement distance teaching and learning options.
- Singing will be discouraged.

School Operating Status: Actions to limit student contact; implementation of hybrid schedule with a combination of limited in-person and virtual/remote learning activities.

Grades K-4 General Schedule and Plan: The K-4 operating plan is described below:

Green: Normal schedule with various health measures in place.

Yellow: Normal schedule with enhanced/additional health measures in place.

Orange: Hybrid learning schedule where K-4 students will continue in-person learning on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Wednesdays will be virtual learning with a focus on social emotional learning and assisting students in need. Additional health measures will be in place with enhanced cleaning of the facility on Wednesdays.

Red: Remote/Virtual Learning only with additional supports for student academic and social emotional wellness.

Grades 5-12 General Schedule and Plan: Please select the following [link](#).

Green: Normal schedule with various health measures in place.

Yellow: Normal schedule with enhanced/additional health measures in place.

Orange: Hybrid Learning Schedule that incorporates both in-person and remote learning with social emotional supports and enhanced facility cleaning. Students will be placed into 2 groups, A and B. Group A will be in-person on Mondays and Thursdays with group B on Tuesdays and Fridays. Wednesdays will be virtual for all students and allow for additional cleaning of the facility.

Red: Remote/Virtual Learning only with additional supports for student academic and social emotional wellness.

Mental and Social-Emotional Health

- Continue Green Scenario interventions
- Consider additional resources for staff self-care and populations with special needs.

Hygiene

- Continue Green Scenario interventions

Spacing, Movement, and Access

- Spacing is 6 feet between desks and between students seated at tables.
- Administration and NCDHD will collaborate and change to alternative schedules resulting in a hybrid instruction model.
- All desks will be arranged to face in the same direction.
- Class sizes would be kept to **20** students or fewer.
- Teachers will try to maintain 6 feet of spacing between themselves and students.
- Large scale assemblies of more than 50 students are discontinued.
- Facial coverings are highly encouraged by all, unless otherwise required by NCDHD. Anyone who has trouble breathing should not wear a facial covering. Any one unable to remove the mask without assistance should not wear one.
- Staff should wear a mask unless eating or alone in their classroom, if determined by board resolution or NCDHD requirement.
- Parents are discouraged from entering the school building except under extenuating circumstances determined by school officials; adults entering the building should wash or sanitize hands prior to entering. Only one parent per child should be allowed to enter except under extenuating circumstances.
- Records of visitors will be maintained, as according to Green Scenario interventions.

Screening Students: Same as Green Scenario

Return to School After Being Sent Home: Same as Green Scenario

Responding to Positive Cases: Same as Green Scenario

Dining, Gathering, and Extracurricular Activities

- Students, teachers, and cafeteria staff wash hands before and after every meal.
- If possible, meals should be delivered to the classrooms with disposable utensils.
- If the cafeteria needs to be used, meal times will be staggered to create seating arrangements with 6 feet of distance between students.
- Disposable utensils should be used and cafeteria staff will wear a mask and gloves when working with students and staff.
- Outside guests are not allowed to attend.
- Large scale assemblies of greater than 50 students should be discontinued.
- Off-site field trips are discontinued.
- After school programs continue but masks are required.

Athletics and Extracurricular Activities

- Students and staff should wash or sanitize hands before and after events.
- A responsible party will be assigned by the AD, sponsor, or coach to confirm that participants are without symptoms prior to any event.
- The school will follow the guidance of the Nebraska High School Athletic Association (NSAA) and the NCDHD when deciding which sports can be safely conducted and what restrictions may be required. Anticipate that any sport that does not allow adequate distancing such as football, wrestling, basketball, etc. will be discontinued.
- Weight room and conditioning activities should follow guidance from the NSAA.
- Anticipate large scale spectator and stadium events are not allowed.
- Accessibility to locker rooms and group changing areas will be dependent on guidance from the NSAA.
- There will be no sharing of equipment or water bottles.

PPE and Cleaning

- All staff and students should wear face coverings when feasible.
- Continue Green Scenario interventions.

Busing and Student Transportation

- Clean and disinfect transportation vehicles after each use, paying attention to surfaces in the driver's area, hard seats, door handles, doors and window, and grab handles.
- Keep windows open between trips, when possible.
- Any individual that becomes sick during the day must not use group transportation to return home. A plan will be made for getting the students home safely if not allowed to board the vehicle.
- Encourage the use of hand sanitizer before entering the bus.
- Allow for 6 feet between students and between students and the driver, when possible. Optimal seating would allow one rider per seat in every other row. Multiple routes may be needed in order to transport students under distancing guidelines.
- Parents should plan to have their children at their respective pick-up point 5-10 minutes early to allow time for temperature and health screening of all riders before loading the bus.

Medically Vulnerable Students and Staff

- Continue Green Scenario interventions.

SCENARIO RED: SIGNIFICANT COMMUNITY SPREAD

Virus Status: High, uncontrolled community prevalence rate, as determined by NCDHD, in collaboration with ACS administration.

Safety

- Nebraska leaders decide to return to Phase One of the Directed Health Measures for the county/region or have ordered a complete shutdown of the state of Nebraska.
- School preparedness and response activities shift from ongoing surveillance to further active mitigation measures.
- Schools are closed for all in-house activities for an extended period of time.

School Operating Status: Virtual or Remote Learning Only. School is closed for in-person instruction.

Grades K-4 Remote Learning Plan:

Grades 5-12 Remote Learning Plan: Please click the following [link](#) and refer back to the description under the “orange” section above.

Mental and Social-Emotional Health

- Consider innovative ways to ensure mental health support for students and staff.

Spacing and Movement

- Schools are closed to in-person instruction and remote learning plans are implemented.

Dining, Gathering, Athletics, and Extracurricular Activities, Transportation

- Schools enact off-site food programs.
- All athletics and extracurricular activities are suspended.
- All busing operations are suspended.