



Fernwaters Public Charter School

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We help small town kids launch BIG life dreams!

FERNWATERS COVID-19 SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION PLAN

Fernwaters Public Charter School is committed to ensuring every child has access to safe, in-person instruction. Fernwaters will implement the following mitigation strategies.

- Recommend that students and staff stay home if sick. Sick students will be granted due date flexibility.
- Staff and student self-monitoring recommended.
- Students and staff trained in areas of social distancing, hand washing, respiratory etiquette, and mask-use to mitigate exposure.
- Routine hand washing before lunch.
- Hand sanitizers placed in each classroom.
- All commonly touched surfaces sanitized daily.
- Face masks optional for students and staff and recommended for those who have not been vaccinated. Masks should completely cover the nose and mouth and fit snugly against the sides of face without gaps.
- Teachers may identify students showing symptoms of COVID-19 and isolate them from the general population until the child can be sent home.
- Efficiently utilize facilities to maximize social distancing.
- Virtual program available for students home sick or in quarantine.

SCHOOL CLOSURE/FULL VIRTUAL

The policy of Fernwaters will be to remain open for live sessions. However, Fernwaters will move to a full virtual program under the following conditions:

- A statewide or nationwide mandated closure of public schools
- 50% or more of the student body is absent due to illness for 3 consecutive days
- Staff absenteeism is severely impacting the efficacy of the learning program

PLAN RE-EVALUATION

This plan will be evaluated every six months by Fernwaters stakeholders, staff, and board.

Procedures and Protocols For A Confirmed COVID-19 Case Among Staff/Students:

Staff/Student/Guardian Responsibilities:

If you have tested positive or have been confirmed to have COVID-19:

- Do not report to school/work or enter any school or district facilities.
- Notify your school or immediate supervisor of the positive test and your need to be absent or take leave.

Staff/students who have tested positive for COVID-19 or who have not been tested but were directed to stay home from school/work may return to work under the following conditions ([per CDC guidance](#)):

- At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and**
- Improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); **and** ,
- At least 5 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

Watch for these symptoms. Children with these symptoms should not attend school.

According to the CDC, People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever or chills (100.4° or higher)
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache

- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Vaccinations

All Fernwaters staff have been offered the vaccine. Fernwaters may inform the school community of where and how to get vaccinated. However, Fernwaters recognizes the importance of personal choice, and neither staff nor students will be required to be vaccinated.

Narrative

Academic Needs: Fernwaters has an effective instructional program that meets the needs of all students. Students will be provided highly qualified certified teachers and trained paraprofessionals in a student: staff ratio not to exceed 16:1. Students will be regularly assessed to determine the need for interventions, and students will be provided tiered interventions as required to meet academic benchmarks. Students in quarantine will have access to web-based learning through the use of modern technology.

Social/Emotional Students: Fernwaters contracts with a Lemhi Valley Social Services. A certified counselor is available to all students with parent request.

Social/Emotional Staff: Fernwaters will provide staff with a list of qualified counselors in our community and implement personal and sick leave policies that respect the physical, social, and emotional needs of all staff.

Plan Feedback Timeline: Parents and staff were provided an opportunity to offer feedback in a Survey Monkey survey posted June 2021 and December 2021. Fernwaters will solicit ongoing feedback according to the following schedule: June 2022, December 2022, June 2023, December 2023.

Plan revised December 2023