



PUBLIC HEALTH TASK FORCE

TRIBAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS **DURING THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY**

AS OF MONDAY, JULY 27TH, 2020

POLICY STATEMENT

While the risk of COVID-19 infection is low in students, serious medical complications have been documented in children who have fallen ill, and exposed children can also shed the virus and potentially expose high-risk individuals in their household. Because COVID-19 is so easily transmissible, school policies must protect both students, staff, and their family members from exposure and infection. The Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe (CRST) recognizes that re-opening education systems is critically important to create a safe learning environment, to support social and emotional skills, to meet nutritional needs, and to facilitate physical activity.

GUIDELINES

In addition to each facility's normal policies regarding cleanliness, good hygiene practices, and sick children, the following guidelines should be implemented to the greatest extent possible by Secondary Schools (PreK and K-12), Head Start Centers, and Tribal Colleges in order to ensure that students, staff and their families are safe from the COVID-19 virus.

1. LEARNING OPTIONS
 - a. Follow the CRST Emergency Response Status for guidance on when schools may be open and when schools should transition to distance learning. This includes transitioning to distance learning for a minimum of 10 days if any COVID-19 case is identified in the building.
 - b. When your school is open, offer a distance learning option if possible, to accommodate students who are high-risk, and those who are not comfortable attending school in-person.
 - c. When your school is using distance learning:
 - i. Make every attempt to support students with access to internet and a computer.
 - ii. Continue providing meals if possible.
 - iii. Provide extra support and regular check-ins for students with greater educational needs, lack of academic support, or home safety concerns.
2. INTENSIFY CLEANING, DISINFECTING, AND HAND WASHING
 - a. Frequent and regular disinfecting must be done throughout the day and at the end of each day.

- b. Routinely clean, sanitize, and disinfect surfaces and objects that are frequently touched, especially toys and games. This may also include cleaning objects/surfaces not ordinarily cleaned daily such as doorknobs, light switches, classroom sink handles, countertops, nap pads, restrooms, desks, chairs, cubbies, and playground structures. Use the cleaners typically used at your facility.
 - c. Minimize the use of items that are difficult to clean or disinfect.
 - d. Ensure adequate school supplies for each child and/or classroom to minimize sharing of high-touch materials
 - e. Support frequent and proper handwashing by making hand sanitizer and sinks accessible, use visual reminders, schedule handwashing breaks, and provide instruction on handwashing.
 - f. Be ready to follow CDC guidance on how to disinfect your building if someone is sick.
3. REDUCE OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXPOSURE
- a. Arrival and drop off times should be staggered if possible to avoid large groups converging at the entrances at the same time.
 - b. Avoid mixing groups of students as much as possible by having teachers move between classrooms, and staggering times when students need to be in common areas, such as the hallway, restroom, or cafeteria.
 - c. Use disposable food service items whenever possible; otherwise non-disposable items should be handled with gloves and washed thoroughly.
 - d. Use pre-packaged meals and avoid self-service or buffet-style meals.
4. SYMPTOMS AND EXPOSURE
- a. Parents, older students, and staff should be strongly encouraged to monitor themselves and younger students for signs of infectious illness or close contact/potential exposure to someone with COVID-19 before arriving to the building every day.
 - b. Provide thermometers to families if possible. If not, encourage families to contact the CRST Tribal Health Department for a thermometer.
 - c. If students or staff have any symptoms of COVID-19 or a temperature of 100.4 degrees or greater, they cannot enter the building.
 - d. If a student or staff member has had close contact/potential exposure to someone with COVID-19 within the last 10 days, they cannot enter the building.
 - e. School administration is expected to work collaboratively with CRST Tribal Health for COVID-19 testing and contact tracing.
 - f. Encourage parents and staff (regardless of tribal membership) to cooperate with CRST Tribal Health for COVID-19 testing and contact tracing.
 - g. Maintain confidentiality and privacy for students and staff who are sick or exposed.
 - h. Refer to CDC for symptoms, screening considerations, monitoring forms, return-to-school recommendations, and isolation protocols at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/symptom-screening.html>.

5. AVOID OVERCROWDING
 - a. Conduct as many activities as possible outside.
 - b. Practice social distancing in the building as much as possible.
 - c. Use visual cues and posters to remind of social distancing.
 - d. Consider limiting classroom capacity, or transitioning to a hybrid or blending learning option if there are concerns regarding COVID-19 community spread in the school district or service area.
 - e. If gatherings are necessary, limit attendance to a number which allows social distancing.
 - f. Whenever feasible, open windows and doors, and/or use fans to promote airflow.

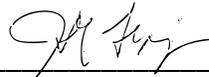
6. FACE COVERINGS
 - a. Require age-appropriate face coverings for students, staff, and visitors, especially when social distancing is difficult to maintain.
 - b. Teach and reinforce proper use of face coverings.
 - c. Provide face coverings if possible.
 - d. Strongly encourage students and staff to wash reusable cloth face coverings daily. Assist with daily washing if possible.
 - e. Refer to CDC for considerations and practical recommendations at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/cloth-face-cover.html>.

7. STAFF
 - a. Implement flexible sick leave policies and practices that enable staff to stay home when they are sick, have been exposed, or caring for someone who is sick.
 - b. Prepare for an increase in staff absenteeism and turnover by cross-training staff and creating a roster of trained back-up staff.
 - c. When possible, find alternative positions to reduce the risk of exposure for high-risk staff.
 - d. Provide mental health supports for staff by encouraging self-care, counseling, and staying connected during periods of distance learning.

These guidelines are for all Secondary Schools (PreK and K-12), Head Starts, and Tribal Colleges on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation.

7-27-20

DATE



Harold C. Frazier, Chairman

RESOURCES

CDC. Schools & Childcare: Plan, Prepare, Respond. Available at:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html>.