



Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan (ARP Act)

LEA Information

1. LEA Name (one LEA per form)*

Red Mesa Unified School District #27

2. Entity ID Number*

4159

3. CTDS Number*

0102270000

4. Plan's Primary Contact Name*

Janeane Candelaria

5. Plan's Primary Contact Email Address*

jcandelaria@rmusd.net

6. Plan's Primary Contact Phone Number*

4807570527

Please submit your Safe Return to In-Person Learning Plan every six months from your prior submission date.

Revision Timeline: May 2023-September 2023

7. Since your last submission date, when did your LEA last review and/or revise your plan? Please provide the updated mm/dd/yyyy of your review/revision. This date should be updated from your last submission. *

08/30/2023

All LEAs receiving ESSER III funds must make publicly available on their website, a plan for the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services. Please list the link where the plan/template is posted on the LEA's website.

8. Insert the link below with directions on how to find your LEA's Safe Return to In-Person plan located on your LEA website (do not link directly to the PDF). The plan must be on the ADE template that will be downloaded from EMAC after completing your responses.*

The Safe Return to In-Person Plan can be accessed by the public on the Red Mesa Unified School District Web site at:
https://www.rmusc.net/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=541123&type=d

How the LEA will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff and the extent to which it has adopted policies, and a description of any such policies, on each of the following safety recommendations established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

9. Has the LEA adopted a Governing Board policy on universal and correct wearing of masks?*

Yes

10. Please describe the LEA's Governing Board policy on universal and correct wearing of masks.*

The district will continue to follow the requirements of the Navajo Nation and at this time, they are no longer required but are suggested.

11. Has the LEA adopted a Governing Board policy on modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)?*

Yes

12. Please describe the LEA's Governing Board policy on modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding).*

All school building floors have been marked for social distancing. Some classrooms have been equipped for Plexiglas desktop/tabletop dividers. Additional student desks and seating will be ordered. The district is in the process of getting windows that cannot be opened replaced with windows that can be opened for better airflow and ventilation, along with all main entry doors replaced with automatic opening/closing doors. All buildings and classrooms have access to PPE and cleaning sanitizing supplies.
In the event that elementary and junior high classes have reached/exceeded room capacity, the classes will be split into small class sizes and into separate classrooms.

13. Has the LEA adopted a Governing Board policy on handwashing and respiratory etiquette?*

Yes

14. Please describe the LEA's Governing Board policy on handwashing and respiratory etiquette.*

All school building restrooms are equipped with touchless hand soaps and paper towel dispensers. All public water fountains have been upgraded to touchless water bottle filling stations.

15. Has the LEA adopted a Governing Board policy on cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation?*

Yes

16. Please describe the LEA's Governing Board policy on cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation.*

All classrooms and offices throughout the district have been equipped with an ALEN air purifier, which remains in constant ON mode 24/7. The district is ensuring that all HVAC systems are working and serviced properly, and filters are changed regularly.

In the event that a classroom's HVAC system is not working properly, students and teachers will be relocated to a different classroom with a working HVAC system until the non-working system is fixed. All school building restrooms are equipped with touchless hand soaps and paper towel dispensers. All public water fountains have been upgraded to touchless water bottle filling stations. All school building floors have been marked for social distancing. Some classrooms have been equipped for Plexiglas desktop/tabletop dividers. Additional student desks and seating will be ordered. The district is in the process of getting windows that cannot be opened replaced with windows that can be opened for better airflow and ventilation, along with all main entry doors replaced with automatic opening/closing doors. All buildings and classrooms have access to PPE and cleaning sanitizing supplies.

In the event that elementary and junior high classes have reached/exceeded room capacity, the classes will be split into small class sizes and into separate classrooms.

School administrators have created and assigned staff to a daily monitoring schedule to ensure all health/safety protocols are being practiced among students in the hallways, restrooms, playground, cafeteria, and bus lineup. District staff routinely and regularly disinfect and sanitize high-traffic areas of the district buildings throughout the day. Each time a classroom is vacant of students it gets disinfected and sanitized. The district staff will keep a log and checklist outside of each classroom/ office area they tend for quick access due to contact tracing. Deep cleaning of all classrooms and school offices will take place every Thursday.

17. Has the LEA adopted a Governing Board policy on contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments?*

Yes

18. Please describe the LEA's Governing Board policy on contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments.*

In the event that a school or the District Health Office is notified of a possible COVID-19/Acute Infectious Disease exposure within a school building/classroom, the following procedures will be followed:

1. Once the information is received and confirmed by the District Health Aide, the school principal, school attendance clerk, and Superintendent or HR Specialist will be notified.
2. The identified student will be pulled from class and placed in a holding room while the student's parents and/or emergency contacts are contacted for pick-up.
3. Contact tracing will commence and if there are any other students or staff members identified through investigation to have been potentially exposed, the District Health Specialist/Aide will notify those persons.
4. If a student is identified to have possible COVID-19/Acute Infectious Disease exposure, depending on the case, the persons identified through contact tracing may be asked to leave campus for the remainder of the day and quarantine at home for 3-5 days (for vaccinated people) and students who are unvaccinated will quarantine at home for 5-10 days and will be recommended to seek a COVID test on the 5th day; this will vary on a case-by-case situation.
5. If a staff member is identified to have possible COVID-19/Acute Infectious Disease exposure, the staff member will immediately inform their direct supervisor, who will then inform the District Health Aide, and the HR Specialist or Superintendent. The staff member will quarantine at home for 3-5 days if vaccinated and if not vaccinated, the individual will quarantine for 5-10 days, and may be encouraged to seek a COVID test on the 5th day.

- Upon identification of positive COVID-19/Acute Infectious Disease exposure, we will immediately secure the area of contact, move the students to a different classroom, and prevent any further entry until the room is properly cleaned, disinfected, and sanitized. This includes office spaces, classrooms, cafeteria, school vehicles and buses.
- At no time will any information be provided to satisfy any requests of information related to any possible exposure or positive cases; any exception to the release of information will be at the discretion of the Superintendent, Human Resource Specialist, or the District Health Office.

19. Has the LEA adopted a Governing Board policy on diagnostic and screening testing?*

Yes

20. Please describe the LEA's Governing Board policy on diagnostic and screening testing.*

All persons entering district grounds will be health screened. Any person failing any part of the health screen (answering Yes to any of the questions, displaying symptoms of illness, and/or having a high temperature) may not be permitted to enter campus or district school bus/vehicle.

The best first line of defense in keeping everyone safe is to prevent any unhealthy individual from coming onto campus and/or boarding our school buses. The district's first step in keeping all persons on campus safe is to screen all staff, students, parents, and visitors as they come onto campus or board a school bus/district vehicle; this will be done at every main campus entry and may be done again at each building entry.

The district encourages parents to do a self-assessment at home prior to leaving for school or the bus stop. If a student is not feeling well, the student should stay home, along with any other enrolled siblings, and should not get on the bus or be taken to campus. If there are multiple students from the same household and one student is feeling ill/displaying symptoms of illness, all students from the same household will need to stay home until the ill-feeling student is cleared of illness/symptoms. A student is considered cleared to return to school if they do not require any medications for illness for over 24 hours, receive a negative COVID-19/ Acute Infectious Disease test result, and/or are cleared by a doctor with a doctor's note.

All vehicles entering campus will have to check-in/out. This practice helps with contact tracing. Health screens will only be done during initial entrance to campus or morning bus boarding; temperatures will be taken upon campus entry or morning bus boarding, and may be taken prior to lunch time and at random throughout the school day. If a student is visibly not feeling well, a staff member may bring the student out of class to take their temperature and notify the health office.

Each school building and office is supplied with hand sanitizer at every main entrance. Face Masks are available for anyone who may need one or need a replacement.

21. Has the LEA adopted a Governing Board policy on efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities?*

Yes

22. Please describe the LEA's Governing Board policy on efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities.*

The district cannot legally require students and staff to be fully vaccinated to be on campus. However, the board has approved a Navajo Nation COVID-19 vaccination requirement for all employees of the district.

23. Has the LEA adopted a Governing Board policy on appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies?*

Yes

24. Please describe the LEA's Governing Board policy on appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies.*

ESS (Exceptional Student Services) & HIGH RISK STUDENTS
 The district's ESS department has their own mitigation plans that they will implement when providing services to ESS students.
 Please contact ESS Lead Teacher for more information regarding the ESS Department
 (928) 656-4191.
 High Risk Students will follow the similar protocols as our ESS department and accommodations will be made on a case-by-case basis.

25. Has the LEA adopted a Governing Board policy on coordination with State and local health officials?*

Yes

*

26. Please describe the LEA's Governing Board policy on coordination with State and local health officials.*

The steps outlined in this mitigation plan contain the efforts and professional suggestions of many stakeholders including guidance from the CDC, Arizona Dept. of Education (ADE), Dept. of Dine Education (DODE), and our local health agencies. This is a live document and the district is always willing to hear from any stakeholder with suggestions to improve the procedures for the health, safety, and education of students. Please trust the processes and procedures that have been established in this mitigation plan. Current real world situations are always apt to change, and the district is willing to adapt to meet any new circumstances that may arise. ...

The district is committed to doing everything possible to ensure a safe environment for students, staff, and parents/visitors. In any situation regarding possible exposure to or a positive COVID-19/ Acute Infectious Disease case, the district will, at no time, release any names of any students, employees, and/or parents involved in any known cases. Any exception to the release of any information will be at the discretion of the District Superintendent, Human Resource Specialist, or Indian Health Services. In collaboration with Navajo Nation guidelines & Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). ...

The health, wellbeing, and safety of our students and staff are top priority. We will continue to monitor all updates from the CDC, Departments of Education, Navajo Nation Department of Health and our local health agencies and notify all of our stakeholders. All district employees are to use professional judgment and will be mindful of privacy laws in regards to staff and students. We all have a personal and professional responsibility in creating and maintaining a safe learning and work environment for our students and employees. The plans and procedures stated in this mitigation plan are subject to change.

Continuity of Services

Including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs and students' and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services.

27. How will the LEA ensure Continuity of Services?*

Briefly describe an overview of the continuity of services and in the following questions you will provide more detailed information.

Student and employee health and safety measures are established and implemented to the fullest extent possible.

- The procedures and processes developed in this plan will help routine preventative measures, such as pool testing for employees and students, to aid in creating and maintaining a safe environment for all. (See attached documents)
- Parents, guardians, families, students, employees and employees' families, all have a personal responsibility and a role in helping the district create and maintain a safe environment for all.
- The district is frequently collaborating with Indian Health Services, and Navajo Nation CDC to ensure that processes and procedures are following local health guidelines.
- The privacy of our students, families, and employees will always be a priority.

28. How will the LEA ensure continuity of services for students' academic needs?*

In the event that a student is exposed to a possible case of COVID-19/ Acute Infectious Disease or tests positive for COVID-19/Acute Infectious Disease, the student will need to remain at home until cleared by a doctor to return to school, or show evidence of a negative COVID-19/ Acute Infectious Disease test result.

For all students that are homebound due to quarantine or illness, students may be marked with excused absences for up to four (4) days with daily check-ins with the school front office or Parent Liaison. Absences exceeding four (4) days may require a doctor's note, especially if there is no documented daily check in for the student. Otherwise, students may return to school if they are symptom-free for at least 24 hours or upon receiving a negative (-) COVID-19 test result. While a student is homebound due to quarantine or positive COVID-19, the student will have an alternative instruction plan approved by the school Principal.

29. How will the LEA ensure continuity of services for students' social, emotional, and mental health needs?*

The district's health aides are available to screen students. For further medical advice and treatment, parents will be contacted and students will be picked up.

- Please contact the district health aides at school locations:
 - Round Rock Elementary School, (928) 656-4506
 - Red Mesa Elementary School, (928)656-4303
 - Red Mesa Junior High School, (928) 656-4147
 - Red Mesa High School, (928)656-4181
 - Red Valley Cove High School, (928)656-4403
- For any emergencies beyond the general/basic expertise of school staff, Four Corners Regional Health Center will be contacted and the student may be transported by EMS to the health facility.

30. How will the LEA ensure continuity of services for students' other needs?*

This may include student health and food services.

District Food Services will continue to serve hot meals for breakfast and lunch each school day. In the event that school must revert to remote learning models, meals will still be provided in a grab-n-go fashion, and may be packed for up to two days.

31. How will the LEA ensure continuity of services for staff's social, emotional, and mental health needs?*

Purpose in accordance with the District's duty to provide and maintain a workplace that is free of known hazards, and consistent with the direction from the Navajo Nation Board of Education, the Board is authorizing the Superintendent to implement this Vaccination Requirement for Employees to safeguard the health of our employees and their families; our students and visitors; and the community at large, from infectious diseases, such as COVID-19, that may be reduced by vaccinations. This requirement will comply with all applicable laws and is based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and local health authorities, as applicable.

All employees are required to receive vaccinations unless a reasonable accommodation is approved.

Reasonable Accommodation

Employees desiring an exemption from a specific vaccination due to a medical reason or disability or because of a sincerely held religious belief must submit a written Request for Accommodation to the human resources department to begin the interactive accommodation process as soon as possible after vaccination deadlines have been announced. Accommodations will be granted where they do not cause undue hardship to the District or pose a direct threat to the health and safety of others. Accommodations may include a regular testing requirement and any other protocol deemed appropriate to protect the District and the community.

Confidentiality

The District shall make reasonable efforts to maintain the confidentiality of staff members' medical conditions and information. All medical information relating to employees, including vaccination status or testing results, shall not be disclosed to individuals other than those necessary to ensure compliance with this requirement.

32. How will the LEA ensure continuity of services for staff's other needs?*

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The District shall make reasonable efforts to maintain the confidentiality of staff members' medical conditions and information. All medical information relating to employees, including vaccination status or testing results, shall not be disclosed to individuals other than those necessary to ensure compliance with this requirement.

The LEA must regularly, but no less frequently than every six months (taking into consideration the timing of significant changes to CDC guidance on reopening schools), review and, as appropriate, revise its plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services through September 30, 2023

33. Describe the process used to seek public input, and how that input was taken into account in the revision of the plan.*

Parent Input at ZOOM meetings, Open Public comment at Governing Board Meetings, and written notices sent home with students.

The Safe Return to In-Person Plan can be accessed by the public on the Red Mesa Unified School District Web site at: https://www.rmusd.net/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=541123&type=d

After completing all responses in EMAC, save your information. Then, use the red download button to create a copy of your completed form to be uploaded to your LEA website. Once your form is uploaded to your LEA website, log back into EMAC to click the blue submit button and submit your form to be reviewed by your specialist. Your EMAC submission will not be approved unless this updated form is on your LEA website.

34. Did you upload the completed EMAC form to your LEA website?*

Yes