

ISHPEMING PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1
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ISHPEMING, MICHIGAN 49849



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Back to School Preparedness and Response Plan
2021-2022
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Our District goal is to teach students face-to-face as much as possible, by practicing safety guidelines throughout the day.

Students who are unable to return to school, or students who do not feel comfortable coming back to school, will be permitted to enroll in Ishpeming's On-line Academy. The district has a K-12 on-line curriculum, aligned with the State of Michigan's curriculum standards. Each student enrolled in the on-line academy will be assigned at least one in-house teacher mentor to monitor the student's progress. Students who choose to work on-line will be encouraged to continue that status for an entire semester, to avoid changes mid-semester. However, approval of requested changes will be reviewed, with approval decisions made on a case-to-case basis.

The Ishpeming Public School District will implement the following protocol for the 2021-2022 school year.

Face Coverings

Students and staff will have the option of wearing facial coverings/masks during the school day, during school functions, and while on district provided transportation. Wearing masks will not be a requirement. We will respect the decision of your family to wear or not wear a mask; and ask that you do the same for fellow students and staff. Athletes may have different requirements from the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA), in order to participate in athletics.

Hygiene

- All school facilities and buses will be supplied with hand sanitizing stations.
- All school facilities and buses will be supplied with adequate cleaning supplies and toweling.
- Staff will teach and reinforce proper safety protocol (cleaning, hand-washing, coughing, trash disposal) to students on a regular basis.
- Cleaners, sanitizers, and soaps will be refilled on a daily basis.
- We will limit the sharing of personal items or supplies.
- Computers will be cleaned after each use.

- Staff will encourage regular hand-washing with soap, throughout the day.
- Individual desks, lockers or cubbies will separate personal items.
- Signage will be posted throughout the school regarding safely protocol.
- Instead of using their mouths to drink out of drinking fountains, staff and students will use personal water bottles that are labeled with their name.

Cleaning

- Teachers will routinely sanitize desks, doorknobs and counters.
- Custodial staff will clean and disinfect all surfaces each evening.
- Computers or other shared supplies will be sanitized after each use.
- Office staff will routinely sanitize counters, doorknobs and desks.

Athletics

- We will comply with the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) and the National Federation of State High School Association (NFHS) guidelines.
- Coaching staff will use proper hygiene techniques before and after practices, events, and other gatherings.
- All equipment will be cleaned after each use.
- Buses will be cleaned before and after each use.

Screening

- All staff will be required to conduct self-health assessments before reporting to school. If staff exhibit any respiratory or gastrointestinal symptoms or have a temperature of 100.4 degrees or greater, they shall stay home. Any symptomatic staff should consult their supervisor and school nurse to determine when they may return to school, based on the local public health department recommendations.
- Parents are encouraged to conduct self-health assessments on their children before sending them to school. Symptomatic students should consult with their building administrator and school nurse to determine when they may return to school, based on the local public health department recommendations.
- Students who become ill will be isolated until they are picked up or can be sent home. The student who becomes ill will required to wear a mask while they are waiting to be picked up.
- If a student becomes ill, their parent will be contacted immediately to arrange for transportation home, and encouraged to arrange for testing.
- Any staff or student-testing positive of COVID-19 must inform school administration immediately.
- An IEP or 504 meeting will be scheduled for any student identified as medically vulnerable to determine accommodations.

Testing

- Staff or students who develop a fever, become ill, or have symptoms of COVID-19 will wear a mask and be sent home. Anyone being sent home is encouraged to follow-up with COVID-19 testing.
- Any staff or student who tests positive of COVID-19 must inform school administration immediately.

- Any student or staff who tests negative of COVID-19, may return to school when they experience an improvement of symptoms, fever free for over 24 hours, and free of vomiting/diarrhea for over 24 hours.
- If a student or staff member chooses not to be tested, they will not be permitted to attend school for 10 days from the onset of symptoms.

Positive Case

- When we are informed of a positive case of COVID-19 at the Ishpeming Public School District, we will continue to identify close contacts. We will use a 3 foot radius of the positive student, for a period of 15 minutes.
- If a student is exposed to COVID-19, the parent may choose between the three options if their student is symptom free: staying in school while monitor symptoms, periodic testing over 7-days to stay in school, or quarantine.
- If a staff member is exposed to COVID-19, they may choose between the three options if they are symptom free: staying in school while monitor symptoms, periodic testing over 7-days to stay in school, or quarantine.
- If the family chooses to quarantine for this period, we will provide work for the student during their absence from school.
- A student who tested positive of COVID-19 will need to stay out of school until allowed back based on health department regulations

Student Transportation

- Hand sanitizer stations will be mounted in each bus. Students and staff riding the bus must use hand sanitizer as they enter the bus.
- Facemasks will be optional during transportation of students and staff.
- If a student becomes ill while in school, they will not be permitted to return home on the bus.
- Weather permitting; the windows on the bus should remain open during transportation of students.
- Buses will be cleaned, with surfaces disinfected, before and after each route.
- If a driver becomes ill, they must follow protocols as outlined above.
- Their parent or guardian must transport students who are unable to ride the bus.

Social-Emotional Support

- Provide resources for self-care.
- Continue to make available: our assigned social workers, our school nurse, and the Hematite Health Clinic.
- Continue to work toward our school wellness goals, and expand upon them.
- The wellness team will continue to meet and evaluate current processes, and discuss how we can better support our staff and students.
- Utilize the referral process in identifying students needing support.
- Review and update the District Emergency Management Plan, and update team member list.
- Schedule all recertification trainings for renewals of credentials.