

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan



School District of Horicon *Updated August 29, 2023*

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Updated September 19, 2022
Template Developed by CESA 5



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Introduction

On March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plans (ARP) Act was signed into law. In it, the U.S. Department of Education is providing an additional \$121.9 billion for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER III Fund). This legislation will award grants to state educational agencies (SEAs) for providing local educational agencies (LEAs) with emergency relief funds to address the impact that COVID-19 has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools across the nation.

Wisconsin will receive \$1,540,784,854 in ESSER III funds from the Act, with 90 percent being awarded to school districts with amounts determined in proportion to the amount of Title I, Part A funds they received in summer 2020 from funds under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The remaining funds will be used for state-level activities to address issues caused by COVID-19.

This plan describes how the School District of Horicon will provide a safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services for all students, including those that have already returned to in-person instruction.



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Maintaining Health and Safety

Description on maintaining the safety of staff and students

The School District of Horicon will begin the 2021-2022 school year with a five-day per week, face-to-face instructional model. The School District will complete the following:

- strongly encourage students and staff members to utilize the pre-screening checklist before entering a school facility,
- encourage staff members and students to stay home or be tested if they are showing COVID-19 symptoms or if they have tested positive for COVID-19,
- provide for on-site COVID-19 testing,
- provide sanitizing stations throughout the building,
- encourage and educate students on proper handwashing and social distancing,
- consistent review of practices with consideration for weekly public health and superintendent meetings, local school and community data, and CDC recommendations,
- school board meetings remain open for public comment in accordance with local policy.

Update: The School District of Horicon will continue to use the same protocols as above for the 2023-2024 school year.

Description to continue to provide services regardless of the mode of instruction (for example, health and food services if Horicon must pivot to virtual or hybrid instruction)

The School District of Horicon will offer in-person learning five days a week according to the Board adopted 2021-2022 Academic Year Calendar. In the event of school closure due to the pandemic, the district has purchased Chromebooks for all students to continue learning remotely in grades 6-12. Students in grades Pre-K through 5 will also have access to online learning as well as paper/pencil activities to continue learning as well.

Regardless of the mode of instruction, the School District of Horicon will continue to provide meals under the community provision as long as USDA continues the allowance. Meals will be provided for summer school attendees as well as all eligible youth during the school year. If school is closed due to a pandemic, the district will assess its ability to distribute meals utilizing the same process it used during the spring of 2020 and will adjust our distribution according to community need.

The School District of Horicon employs one full-time school nurse who will continue to offer health services in-person or virtually, including COVID-19 testing for all staff and students on site. The school district also partners with Dodge County Human Services and Church Health Services to provide mental health support for families.

Update: The School District of Horicon will continue to use the same protocols as above for the 2023-2024 school year.

Mitigation Measures



Masking

Please be advised that the District may require face masks if there is an increase in COVID-positive cases within our building.

Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (for example, the use of cohorts and podding)

Mitigation measures such as proper signage to encourage hand washing and social distancing, the installation of floor decals and water bottle filling stations, and the promotion of social distancing throughout the campus have been implemented at each facility. Additional outdoor seating has been provided to allow for increased social distancing during classes and lunch periods and will be utilized as weather permits. Staggered meal service will be continued for multiple grade-level cohorts while ensuring adequate time for students to consume their meals. The cafeteria will be utilized for all meal services at this time. In the event that additional social distancing at lunch is required based on local data, feeding times can be staggered to a greater extent.

Transportation will comply with CDC and Federal Transportation guidelines on all school transportation, including buses, vans, and all other school-sponsored transportation.

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette are taught to students with high emphasis in the primary grade levels. Signage is posted throughout the campus as reminders of handwashing and respiratory etiquette. Staff are present to encourage elementary students to sanitize their hands after each special class, upon entry to the building, and after eating breakfast, lunch, and snacks.

In addition, hand sanitizing stations/liquids are available in all classrooms and throughout the corridors on campus. Hand sanitizing stations are also posted in all building entrances.

Signage posted throughout the campus encourages effective respiratory etiquette and handwashing.

Update: The School District of Horicon will continue to use the same protocols as above for the 2023-2024 school year. .

Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

The School District of Horicon has enhanced its disinfection and sanitation procedures and has implemented them throughout the District. The procedures have and will continue to be focused on all high-touch surfaces. Our focus is to provide a safe and clean learning and work environment for all students and staff. The disinfectants that Horicon uses are hospital-grade disinfectants that are on the Environmental Protection Agencies (EPA) approved list for use against the COVID-19 virus. All rooms, surfaces, classrooms, and restrooms will be disinfected daily, with high-touch surfaces being disinfected twice daily. Cleaning solutions and towels are also available in every classroom and meeting room so staff can disinfect and sanitize their areas between classes and meetings. These rooms are also being disinfected every other evening or more often as needed, by use of electrostatic sprayers that aerosolize the chemical disinfectant to reach all hard-to-reach areas of the rooms. All rooms or spaces that have positive COVID exposure are treated almost immediately after being notified of the contamination. Alcohol-based hand sanitizer is also readily available throughout the District hallways, cafeteria, common areas, entrances/exits, locker rooms and work-out areas, and restrooms. The District also references the CDC resources of *Guidance for COVID-9 Prevention in K-12 Schools and Cleaning and Disinfection of Your Facility Every Day* for additional guidance on cleaning protocols.

The School District of Horicon's HVAC systems all operate within the manufacturer's specifications while using high-performance MERV 10 and MERV 13 air filters. These air filters provide the cleanest air possible, along with the proper airflow, to maintain comfort levels and to prevent mechanical failure. All HVAC systems are serviced twice a year to meet all codes and standards to ensure the maximum ventilation of all buildings and rooms. The District also references the CDC resource of *Ventilation in Schools and Childcare Programs* for additional guidance in building ventilation protocols.

Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments

The District will require isolation only for individuals who test positive for COVID-19. All other individuals who are close contacts are encouraged to monitor for symptoms. Further information can be found on our website.

The School District of Horicon will guide parents/students, employees, and contractors on screening protocols for the daily pre-screening process, which all parties should complete before entering the campus/building. Each school will continue to provide information to staff, students, and families about the signs and symptoms of COVID-19, when they should stay home, and when they can return to school.

Update: The School District of Horicon will continue to use the same protocols as above for the 2023-2024 school year.

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Diagnostic and screening testing

The School District of Horicon is working with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services to provide on-site testing for COVID-19 for all staff and students who are close contacts or who exhibit 2 or more symptoms of COVID-19. Students must have parental permission for testing. When another test is recommended, or for additional testing, the district recommends students and staff get tested for COVID by their medical provider or a local pharmacy.

Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible

All eligible staff employed in 2020-2021 were provided the opportunity to be vaccinated in the spring of 2021. Students ages 16 and older were provided access to an on-site vaccination clinic in the spring, summer, and fall of 2021. New staff will be given access to vaccinations by working with local healthcare partners and County Public Health.

Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies and practices

When circumstances require specific policies or procedures designed to protect the health and safety of students, 504 and IEP teams will determine if modifications and/or reasonable accommodations are needed for individual students with disability-related issues.

Coordination with state and local health officials

The CDC recommends that all decisions about implementing school-based strategies should be made locally, collaborating with local health officials who can help determine the level of transmission in the community. The School District of Horicon continues to work with Dodge County Public Health to implement mitigating strategies for the safety of students and staff.

Update: The School District of Horicon will continue to use the same protocols as above for the 2023-2024 school year.



Continuity of Services

District response on continuity of services

The District will provide for continuity of services as follows:

Student Academic Needs

The School District of Horicon has implemented and will continue to offer a summer school program to assist all K-12 students with academic recovery. The District plans to continue full-time, in-person instruction beginning the fall of 2021 and 2022. Additional support staff personnel has been added to staffing to implement further academic recovery efforts in core curriculum areas. Further, additional staff specializing in behavior strategies were hired in the winter of 2021. Finally, additional programming for after school homework help and skills assistance were offered during the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year.

Student Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs

Students' social and emotional learning needs will continue to be addressed through our universal social-emotional learning curriculum. Universal emotional and mental health screening tools have been purchased and will begin implementation in 2021-2022.

Other Student Needs (which may include student health and food services)

Food services will continue to provide meals under the community provision as long as USDA continues the allowance. Meals will be provided for summer school attendees as well as all eligible youth during the school year. Summer meals will be provided for summer school and all children age 18 and under through June 22, 2023.

Summer school meals will resume in the summer of 2023. It is assumed that the USDA will continue community eligibility provision under the new school meal application.

Staff Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs

The District staff's social, emotional, and mental health needs may be addressed through the Employee Assistance Program provided through the District insurance program. Professional Development to support staff social, emotional, and mental health needs will be provided in the February in-service.

Other Staff Needs

The District will follow national, state, and local governing agencies' laws and directives concerning staff employment and benefits.

Update: The School District of Horicon will continue to use the same protocols as above for the 2023-2024 school year.

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Periodic Review

District response on ensuring periodic updates to its plan

The School District of Horicon will periodically review and, as needed, revise the plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services. The plan will be reviewed at least every six months, and the school system will seek and take into account public input during the review process. Plan revisions will address updated CDC and County Public Health guidance on safely reopening schools if any are issued.

Plan reviewed: August 29, 2023

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Public Input

District response on public input in the development of its plan

The School District of Horicon has taken the following steps to make its plan available to the public:

- The plan is posted on the School District of Horicon website, <https://www.horicon.k12.wi.us/>.
- The plan was sent to parents, students, and employees via our School Messenger as a part of the Marshmen Minute.
- The plan was shared at the School District ESSER Engagement Session on January 4, 2022. An opportunity for public comment was available during the January 4, 2022 meeting.
- Upon request, a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA may be provided with the plan in an alternative format accessible by contacting our district office.
- If you would like a copy of this plan in a different language, please contact the District Office at 920-285-2898. Si desea una copia de este plan en otro idioma, comuníquese con la Oficina del Distrito al 920-285-2898.

[Provide feedback to the plan here.](#)

[Horicon ESSER III Stakeholder Engagement presentation](#)

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