

Seward Public Schools



Frequently Asked Questions- School Reopening 2020-2021 School Year

What learning format will be utilized for the start of school?

We plan for all students to attend school in-person when the school year starts on August 13th.

Will there be an alternative digital learning option available if I do not want my child to attend in-person?

This is only available for students who need a different education placement based on a determination of an Individualized Education Plan, a 504 Plan, Health Services Plan, under a directed medical quarantine, or students who live with a relative who is immunocompromised. In those circumstances, our district will work with individual families to create alternative arrangements. Please contact Connie Biaggio Special Services Director at (402) 643-2968 or at connie.biaggio@sewardschools.org

Will students in Seward Public Schools wear a face covering when attending school?

Yes, all Seward Public School students will be required to wear a face covering when they are not able to maintain 6 foot of separation from other students and staff while we are in the Yellow and Orange levels of the Four Corners Risk Dial. At the Green level, face covering use will be recommended. Preschool students are not required to wear a face covering. When students are In PE classes, eating lunch, or outside with appropriate social distance, face coverings will not be required.

Under what circumstances will students be exempted from face coverings?

Exceptions may be made only as required by law, such as based upon the student's IEP, 504 team, or an individual health plan. Students attending preschool will not be required to wear a face covering.

What if my child does not qualify for an exemption, and I don't want them to wear a face covering?

Wearing a face covering is part of a resolution passed by the board of education when we are in the yellow or orange category of the Four Corners Covid Risk Dial. Similar to our dress code policies and other safety policies this resolution must be followed in order for your child to attend school. Our schools will be working to find multiple opportunities for our students to have face covering breaks and get fresh air throughout the instructional day.

Will a face covering be provided by the school or can I select one for my child to wear?

If you have a face covering that your child is comfortable wearing, we recommend using that face covering for school. The facemask must meet the student dress code policy. The district will provide a face covering for students and will have disposable face masks available when face masks are lost or broken. Face shields are permitted for students who have medical needs documented by a medical doctor.

Will staff be required to wear face coverings?

Yes, any time that staff cannot maintain a distance of 6 feet from students and other staff members they will be required to wear a mask in the Yellow and Orange indicators of the Four Corners Covid Risk Dial. There may be instances where staff wear face shields instead of face coverings.

How will we maintain social distance in our classrooms?

When it is possible, students will be seated 6 foot away from each other, if this is possible, face coverings will not be required in the classroom. We do have classrooms where it will not be possible to maintain 6 foot of separation, and face coverings will be required in the classroom.

What else will Seward Public Schools do to keep the schools safe?

We have a thorough cleaning/disinfection protocol focused on hard surfaces of our school. Our district has purchased disinfecting machines that will be used regularly to disinfect our buildings and busses. We will also provide hand sanitizer throughout the school and encourage students and staff to wash their hands at multiple opportunities.

What are the implications for students who ride a bus?

Students who ride a bus will wear a face covering while we are in the Yellow and Orange indicators on the Four Corners Risk Dial. It is not possible on the school bus to maintain 6 foot of separation. Students will have assigned seating and will be placed in family groups. When the weather allows, windows will be lowered to increase circulation.

How/When will parents be notified if their child has possibly been exposed to Coronavirus?

A letter, or digital message will be sent to the classroom of students where the possible exposure took place. Four Corners Health Department will advise families on possible quarantines and future actions. This letter/message will be sent as soon as possible after the district is notified.

Will visitors be allowed in the school?

Visitors will be allowed into the office area at our schools. Visitors entering our school must wear a face covering while we are at the Yellow and Orange level of the Four Corners Covid-19 Risk Dial.

What can parents do to help schools and prevent the spread of Covid-19?

We need parents to please screen their children every day for Covid Symptoms, if your child is demonstrating any Covid symptom, please keep them at home and contact your healthcare provider. If your child or a family member your child has been in contact with contracts Covid, please notify us so that we can assist the Four Corners Health Department with contact tracing.

Will there be extracurricular activities in the fall?

As of today, extracurricular activities will resume when school resumes. The NSAA and Four Corners Health Department will continue to offer guidance on this topic over the coming weeks.