

Cottonwood Joint School District #242

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

Website Link: [www.sd242.org](http://www.sd242.org)

Revised Fall 2022

## **Introduction**

In-person learning plays an integral role in the success of all students. Cottonwood Joint School District #242 is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for students that support social and emotional development, provide access to services and improve life outcomes. Although COVID-19 outbreaks have occurred in school settings, transmission rates can be lowered if prevention strategies are in place.

Cottonwood Joint School District #242 works with the local public health department and local hospital to determine necessary protocols and prevention strategies. School Administrators consider multiple factors when making decisions about implementing prevention strategies against COVID-19. Cottonwood Joint School District #242 has created a Covid 19 Committee that creates and reviews protocols that the district follows to ensure the safety of staff and students on a daily basis.

## **Mitigation Strategies**

### **Universal and Correct Wearing of Masks**

The Cottonwood School District #242 does not require masks. If a student or staff member chooses to wear a face covering their choice will be respected.

### **Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette**

Staff and students will be encouraged to practice handwashing and respiratory etiquette. Students and staff covering coughs and sneezes, and are instructed to cough and sneeze into the crease of the elbow rather than into their hands to keep from getting and spreading infectious illnesses.

Hand sanitizer dispensers are placed throughout both buildings. At entrances, in the hallways, by water fountains, etc.

Signs are placed in all bathrooms encouraging students and staff to wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 sec.

Teaching healthy habits such as covering mouth and nose appropriately, and having students keep their hands to themselves.

## **Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities**

- Standard cleaning procedures will be done daily.
- Bathrooms cleaned daily
- Desks and chairs are wiped down by teachers and students when necessary.
- Handrails, door knobs, light switches, telephones, sinks, drinking fountains, countertops wiped down when necessary.
- Lunchroom tables will be cleaned prior and after each meal service.
- Classrooms will be vacuumed on a weekly schedule
- Computer labs / keyboards will be disinfected when necessary.
- Trash will be removed daily from the classroom / building.
- Cafeteria will be cleaned as required on a daily basis.
- Food service staff will wear gloves while serving
- Hand sanitizer, soap/paper towels and tissues will be made available to all employees/students.
- Gymnasiums and locker rooms will be cleaned after use.

## **Contact Tracing**

Cottonwood Joint School District will not contact trace based on the CDC recommendations that were released in August, 2022.

Based on the school board adopted flow chart, we have parents and students check for symptoms if they were exposed. If students are not showing signs or symptoms, they can attend school. We ask that parents monitor their students closely and if there is any slight symptom we ask parents and students to use their judgment to avoid spreading illnesses.

## **Diagnostic and Screening Testing**

When contacted by the local health department or local hospital of a positive test we will let staff know. The students' privacy will be respected.

Students, teachers and staff who have symptoms of infectious illness, such as influenza (flu) or COVID-19, are encouraged to stay home and speak to their healthcare provider. We want our parents and students to be honest and if they do not feel well, stay home if not feeling well.

## **Efforts to provide vaccination to school communities**

It is the staff, student, and parents choice to get vaccinated. This can be discussed with their local health provider.

### **Accommodations for Children with Disabilities**

Staff and Students of at-risk students will be encouraged to speak to a health care provider about safety protocols that are being recommended for them in a school environment. The Cottonwood Joint School District 242 will comply with any accommodations written in IEP's or 504 plans regarding Covid preventative measures or procedures.

### **Attendance and Absenteeism**

Cottonwood Joint School District will monitor student and staff attendance on a daily basis. Students and staff will be encouraged to stay home when sick, especially if they have any cold or flu-like symptoms. Students will also be sent home if they are running a fever (100.4) or display any signs of cold or flu like symptoms. We ask that parents stay in contact with the school if a student is ill. We will work with students and parents to provide work that can be done from home if the student is able to complete it.

If the district has confirmed cases, schools will only operate under the guidance of the local health department. If school is in session, staff may take personal, sick or vacation leave unless there are other state or federal protocols in place.

### **Communication Plan**

Cottonwood Joint School District created a COVID Committee in Fall, 2021 which meets every 6 months to discuss possible changes to the "Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services." The "Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services" is a document that will be updated if necessary and posted on the district website.

Covid-19 updates will be provided to the local school board and school staff when there are confirmed cases within the school community. No individual or personal information will be released to the community as a whole.

### **Narrative Information Required in District Plan**

#### **How the LEA is addressing and plans to address students' academic needs?**

Cottonwood School District offered in-person instruction for students during the 2021/2022 school year and is continuing to offer it for the 2022-23 school year. As a district, we are aware that students will get sick whether it is Covid, flu, or your common cold. We will work with students and parents while students are away to give them an opportunity to complete work from home if the student(s) are able to work from home.

For the 2022-2023 school year, Cottonwood Joint School District hired another paraprofessional to assist in our elementary school with students in need. We completed iStation testing the first

two weeks of school and that data shows that there are a number of students K-6 that are not at grade level. With the addition of another paraprofessional along with other paraprofessionals, we have the opportunity to work with more kids one on one to assist with the academic needs.

**How the LEA is addressing and plans to address students’ social, emotional, mental health, and other needs?**

Cottonwood Joint School District #242 has a district wide focus on social emotional learning. The Cottonwood Joint School District is a Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) District that focuses on the social well being and healthy connections between peers and adults. Communication between schools, families and the community is important. The Cottonwood Joint School District has placed an emphasis on building positive relationships between the school district and homes of our students.

Building healthy connections between staff and students provides a positive learning environment and a place that students feel comfortable attending.

**How the LEA is addressing and plans to address their staff’s social, emotional, mental health, and other needs?**

Topics that were discussed by the team were: setting up subs throughout the year in both buildings for teachers working in the same content area to have time to collaborate to better their instructional practices. We know this will be a work in progress, but we were thinking if we could have morning and afternoon subs to accommodate teacher collaboration times. Staff collaboration is important to work with best practices and have the opportunity to have dialogue with their colleagues. We believe conversations can be enriching and meaningful, if utilized correctly.

**The process and timeline for review and revision of the plan no less than every 6 months through Sept. 30, 2023.**

<b><u>Timeline</u></b>	<b><u>Activity</u></b>	<b><u>Persons</u></b>
January 10, 2022	Mid-Year Plan Review	Covid Committee
January 12, 2021 Board meeting January 17	Submit any changes to Board of Education for review.	Superintendent Jon Rehder

August 10, 2022	Plan Review – Planning for 2022/23 school year.	Covid Committee
August 15, 2022 Board meeting May 16	Submit any changes to Board of Education for review	Superintendent Jon Rehder
February 15, 2023	Mid-Year Plan Review	Covid Committee
February 20, 2023 Board meeting January 16	Submit any changes to Board of Education for review	Superintendent Jon Rehder
May 10, 2023	Plan Review – Planning for 2023/24 school year.	Covid Committee
May 15, 2023 Board meeting May 15	Submit any changes to Board of Education for review	Superintendent Jon Rehder

**Lea’s need to support and/or technical assistance related to implementing strategies identified in Table 1/ Mitigation Strategies and Table 2/ Narrative Information if applicable.**

Cottonwood Joint School District 242 will continue to provide support to staff and students regarding the use of 1:1 device within the district and for those who are participating in online learning. Professional development is planned for the staff regarding the use of programs, security options and supporting students in an online environment.

COVID-19 Committee Members

Jon Rehder- Superintendent/Elementary Principal

Matt Elven- Jr/Sr High School Principal

Suzi Quintal- Counselor

Darbie Duclos- High School teacher

Andrea Brannan- Elementary teacher

Gus Hoene- Board Trustee

Aaron Hinkelman- Board trustee

Tara Klapprich- Board trustee

Pat Alfrey- Board trustee

Keith Holcomb- Board trustee

Community members-TBD