

Hobart Public School Safe Return Plan

The health and safety of students, certified and non-certified staff is of the upmost importance as a Safe Return Plan is developed for the 2021-2022 school year. Hobart Public Schools has asked for and gained valuable input from community stakeholders through the use of a web survey and in-person gatherings.

Hobart Public Schools strongly believes the best teaching/learning practices stem from an in-person, traditional classroom style, environment. We believe teachers have the best opportunity to meet the individual needs of our students when they are around them daily and can firsthand observe their educational, social and emotional needs.

Hobart public schools will always take into account what the CDC recommends during pandemic conditions. Should a mandate come into place from county or state officials, Hobart Public Schools will follow their guidelines.

Following is a list of recommendations for Hobart Public Schools. The information used in the lists comes from school officials, community stakeholders and information taken from the school website survey.

- 1) **Masks**—If the need arises for the use of masks in our society to prevent infectious disease, all students, teachers, and staff members are welcome and encouraged to wear a mask or face shield at any given time during the school day. School personnel will monitor the universal and correct wearing of masks. Our school system will keep extra PPE equipment on hand at all times.
- 2) **Modifying facilities to allow physical distancing**—If the need arises for physical distancing of students and staff, Hobart Public will use available facilities to meet this need. We are currently in the process of adding security cameras and a projection system to our gymnasium that will provide a large area for classes to be held with lots of spacing available. We are also providing new tables, purchased with stimulus money, to use in our outdoor pavilions to provide additional outdoor seating to use when weather cooperates.
- 3) **Handwashing and respiratory etiquette**—Handwashing is one of the best means of protection against infection. Students and faculty will be reminded to wash their hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. All will have access to an alcohol based hand sanitizer. All faculty, staff and students will be reminded to cover mouths when coughing and keep a distance when speaking to others.
- 4) **Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities and improving ventilation**—Our custodial staff has continued to do an outstanding job of cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic. Hobart Schools purchased electrostatic machines to help maintain a germfree environment in all buildings. Stimulus funds have provided relief of added costs associated with extra cleaning materials. Our ventilation systems are monitored regularly and experts are called in to keep them running in excellent condition.
Hobart Public Schools has added individual based drinking units to each building and are in the process of updating our restroom facilities to be more COVID friendly.

- 5) **Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine**—Hobart Public Schools will continue to work with our local and state health departments for contact tracing and quarantine as instructed. Our system also logs statistics into the state website for a checks and balances system. We follow the CDC recommendations for identifying and quarantining anyone who suspects COVID-19 sickness.
- 6) **Diagnostic and Screening Testing**—Diagnostic and Screen Testing will be an ongoing process to determine the needs of our students on a routine basis. Results of testing will determine the plan of action taken for success.
- 7) **Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities**—Hobart Public Schools continue to work with our local health officials to provide available spaces for vaccinations to take place on school grounds. Many school personnel took advantage of the free vaccinations in the Spring of 2020 that were given during the school day on school grounds.
- 8) **Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies**—Accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety are constantly being monitors by our special education department and director. When needs arise, the appropriate people are contacted and situations are worked with to best meet the needs of individual students.
- 9) **Coordination with State and local health officials**—Hobart Public Schools has developed an excellent working relationship with State and local health officials and plans to keep this relationship over the upcoming years. This relationship has allowed the coordination of vaccine pods to take place on school grounds, contact tracing to go smoothly and quarantine situations to be handled professionally.

Hobart Public Schools will also ensure a continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address student's academic needs and students' and staff social, emotional, mental health and other needs, which may include student and food services. These services will likely include the following as long as funds allow.

- 1) Updated textbooks which will include technology components.
- 2) Credit Recovery summer school for students who have fallen behind in credits to graduate.
- 3) Summer enrichment camps taught by certified teachers.
- 4) Provide a summer bus route to pick up students that may not have transportation to our camps.
- 5) Leadership Days for older students such as a ROPES course to develop strong social and emotional awareness and leadership skills.
- 6) Provide a new reading series for our elementary students.
- 7) Motivational speakers for staff and students to help promote good social, emotional and mental health awareness.
- 8) Stem and Engineering Summer Camp
- 9) Provide hot meals during the summer to our students
- 10) Provide a person to work with students who are late getting to school, have excessive absences, and/or need academic tutoring. This person would also work with the parents of these students to help everyone achieve a better partnership with Hobart Public Schools.
- 11) Hobart Public Schools will provide a virtual learning component to our students should the need arise to close our doors due to a pandemic or other state mandated closure.