

CREATING
OPPORTUNITIES
FOR STUDENTS TO
KEEP WYOMING
STRONG

MEMORANDUM NO. 2020-130

TO: School District Superintendents
FROM: Jillian Balow, Superintendent of Public Instruction
DATE: August 19, 2020
SUBJECT: COVID-19 Guidance Updates



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COVID-19 GUIDANCE UPDATES

School District Staff Surveillance Testing

Surveillance testing will be an opt-in protocol and would extend to all school staff, including volunteers. The Wyoming Department of Health (WDH) will ask that 20% of the staff members be tested at least once every two weeks and each sample should include a representation from a range of staff roles. The individuals selected should be rotated every two weeks to get nearly 100% of the staff within 10 weeks. The test will detect current COVID-19 infection. Anyone with a COVID-19 infection within the previous three months should not participate. Staff cannot be required to participate. Both negative and positive results will be reported by the WDH and staff that test positive will be required to follow the existing state protocols for quarantine and contact tracing.

The goal of this effort is to detect infected individuals who don't have symptoms, or before they develop symptoms. This would allow public health officials to intervene. The WDH will work with school districts directly if movement between tiers is necessary based on testing results. The cost to school districts for participation is still being determined. The current goal of the WDH is to determine the interest of the school districts, as they try to define contracts for the tests. Responses are due by the end of the week, including the total number of staff to feliciana.turner@wyo.gov.

Positive Test Process

The positive test process is detailed in an [infographic](#) released recently by the WDH.

JAC Telemedicine and WiFi Broadcast

Draft JAC Bill

- \$5 million in CARES to ETS for acquisition and installation of telemedicine carts in school district facilities. First come, first serve basis with applications to ETS.
- \$1.3 million in CARES to ETS for acquisition and installation of wireless internet access points at school district facilities.

Telemedicine carts

- Arkansas is a known example:
<https://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2016/nov/25/rural-schools-to-go-telemedicine-route-/>
- Cost was about \$30,000 per cart.
- A survey to determine interest and cart content needs will be sent out this week. Response is requested as soon as possible.

Wifi Broadcasts

- ETS is working with the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) to submit a request to potentially purchase wifi for every school's parking lot. All school districts will be receiving a survey to help identify where there is a need. Response is requested as soon as possible.

Transportation and Health Orders

Can a district transport more than 50 children at one time in a bus? Relevant provisions in the 10th

Continuation of Orders Regarding K-12 schools and Gatherings:

- (i) K-12: Section 9(e) – six feet apart on buses, masks if you can't do six feet.
- (ii) K-12: Section 12 – orders done in conjunction with #2.
- (iii) Gatherings: Section 2 – gatherings of more than 50 prohibited.
- (iv) Gatherings: Section 3 – school bus likely a "gathering."
- (iv) Gatherings: Section 4(c) – excludes workers being transported to jobs.

School districts should seek an exception or variance before August 31 from the county health officer if keeping under 50 students aboard a bus is an issue.

CARES Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Purchasing

All administrative functions have been completed for the purchasing of PPE, and the first round of orders were placed on August 14. Due to high demand, some items have been more difficult to secure. The WDE will reach out to each school district this week to establish a point-of-contact that will be responsible for receiving the shipments, confirming that everything is in good condition, and providing final acceptance. The

final acceptance will allow the WDE to proceed with payment. Shipments may be split, so confirmation of total delivery will be needed for payment to go forward.

A few more grant requests have come in for technology and food service, and payments are being processed. You will receive an email in advance of the payments for your district.

Moving forward

A recording of this meeting is available upon request. The next COVID-19 Update with the WDE is set for 8:30-9:30 a.m. MDT on August 31. The WDE will continue to answer questions regarding operating under the current state health orders. WDE staff remain available by email or telephone to discuss any aspect of a district's adapted learning plan at any time.