



NICE Community Schools Safe Return to School Plan
2022-23 School Year
August 2022

Face Coverings

- NICE Community Schools students and staff will have the option, if they so choose, to wear masks during school functions, including utilizing school transportation. Masks will **not** be required. Families will be allowed to choose what's best for their children regarding wearing masks.
- If the Marquette County Health Department or the State of Michigan issue a mask mandate, NICE Community Schools students and staff will follow the mandate. When such a mandate is lifted, NICE Community School will revert to our mask-optional policy.

Hygiene

- NICE Community Schools will provide adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors including soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol for safe use, paper towels, tissues, and signs reinforcing proper handwashing techniques. We will also encourage handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and/or the safe use of hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- NICE Community Schools will encourage staff and students to cough and sneeze into their elbows or to cover their noses and mouths with a tissue. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash and hands should be washed immediately using proper hand hygiene techniques.
- NICE Community Schools' custodial staff will systematically and frequently check and refill soap and hand sanitizers.
- NICE Community Schools' teaching staff will strongly encourage students to thoroughly wash their hands with soap throughout the school day. Teachers and/or custodial staff will disinfect classroom materials or provide adequate supplies to assign for individual student cleaning.
- NICE Community Schools will continue to use hand sanitizing stations throughout the school buildings. This includes each individual classroom and school bus.

Cleaning

- NICE Community Schools' custodial and instructional staff will disinfect frequently touched surfaces including light switches, doors, benches, and bathroom fixtures throughout the school day with an eco-safe disinfectant or diluted bleach solution.

- NICE Community Schools' custodial and instructional staff will frequently disinfect media centers, computer labs, specials classrooms, and other hands-on areas with an eco-safe disinfectant or diluted bleach solution.
- NICE Community Schools' custodial and instructional staff will frequently disinfect student desks with an eco-safe disinfectant or diluted bleach solution.
- NICE Community Schools' custodial staff will routinely clean the playground equipment.
- NICE Community Schools' custodial and instructional staff will ensure safe and correct use and storage of cleaning and disinfection products, including storing products securely away from our students, and adequately ventilating areas when staff use said products.
- NICE Community Schools' custodial and instructional staff will be encouraged to wear gloves when performing all cleaning activities.

Athletics

- NICE Community Schools will comply with all guidance published by the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) and the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS).
- NICE Community Schools' coaching staff will use proper hand hygiene techniques before and after every practice, event, or other gathering. We will ensure all equipment is disinfected before and after use.
- NICE Community Schools' buses will be frequently cleaned and disinfected.
- All NICE Community Schools' athletes will use a clearly marked water bottle for individual use. There will be no sharing of water bottles

Screening

- NICE Community Schools will cooperate with the Marquette County Health Department regarding implementing protocols for screening students and staff as necessary.
- NICE Community Schools' staff will encourage families to check their child's temperature at home each morning using oral, tympanic, or temporal thermometers. Students with a temperature of 100.4 or greater will stay home and consider coronavirus testing if symptoms of COVID-19 are present.
- NICE Community School's staff will encourage families to monitor their children for symptoms of COVID-19. We will recommend that if there is the presence of any symptoms, including cough or shortness of breath, families should keep a student home from school and follow up with a primary care provider.

Testing

- NICE Community Schools will cooperate with the Marquette County Health Department regarding implementing protocols for screening students and staff as necessary.
- If required by the Marquette County Health Department, NICE Community Schools' families will be notified via email of the presence of any laboratory positive or clinically

diagnosed cases of COVID-19 in a classroom and/or a school to encourage closer observation for any symptoms at home.

- If we do have a lab or clinically diagnosed case of COVID-19, immediate efforts will be made to contact any close contacts (those who spent more than 15 minutes less than three feet in close proximity to the student or staff member) so that they can monitor symptoms for the next 14 days. Close contacts can remain in school if symptoms are not present.

Busing and Student Transportation

- NICE Community Schools' Transportation Staff will encourage the use of hand sanitizer before individuals enter a bus. NICE Community Schools will supply hand sanitizer on our buses.
- Mask will be optional for NICE Community Schools' transportation staff and all students. Masks are **not** required.
- NICE Community Schools' Transportation Staff will clean and disinfect transportation vehicles.
- If the weather allows, NICE Community Schools' bus drivers will keep doors and windows open when cleaning vehicles. In addition, drivers can keep windows open while a vehicle is in motion to increase air circulation.

Identification of Close Contacts and Quarantine

- NICE Community Schools will cooperate with the Marquette County Health Department regarding the identification of close contacts and COVID case numbers when necessary.

Projects/Activities performed using funding from the Elementary and Secondary School Educational Relief Fund (ESSER)

- Disinfectant and sanitation supplies
- Portable air purification units
- Ventilation improvements
- Additional personnel employed to combat social/emotional issues for our students and staff
- Additional technology to help address learning loss
- Additional personnel employed to address learning loss
- Summer school to address learning loss
- After school programming to address learning loss
- Currently working with Ishpeming Township to hire a School Resource Officer