

Freeman Public Schools



2020-21

Re-Opening Plan

7-10-20 DRAFT

This re-opening plan has been prepared with the input of Freeman Public School parents, students, staff, and administration and has been approved by the Freeman Board of Education. This plan has also been shared with the local health department and local law enforcement.

Freeman Public Schools is committed to providing a high-quality education to all students. We know that students learn best when they are in school and in direct contact with their teachers and peers. The goal is to re-open Freeman Public Schools for the 2020-2021 school year all while keeping our students and staff safe. To accomplish this goal, Freeman staff and administration, students, and parents have responsibilities they must meet.

As a school district, we are responsible for...

- Monitoring the health of all students and staff daily.
- Ensuring faculty and staff stay home if we are sick.
- Remaining in constant communication with local and state health authorities.
- Asking for and listening to feedback from students, parents, and staff.
- Communicating updates with Freeman students, parents, and staff as they occur.
- Preparing for all students to return to Freeman Public Schools while considering the safety of students and staff.
- Preparing Freeman staff to help students fill any gaps in learning.
- Providing social-emotional support for students in need.
- Providing accommodations for K-12 students who are unable to attend in person.
- Preparing staff and students for the possibility of remote synchronous online learning (students receiving new instruction remotely at set times).
- Being considerate of the thoughts, feelings, and actions of Freeman students, parents, staff, and community as we work through the challenges associated with COVID-19.

As a student, I am responsible for...

- Telling my parents if I am not feeling well.
- Staying home if I am sick.
- Washing my hands frequently with soap and water or using hand sanitizer.
- Covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue or into the inside of my elbow.
- Avoiding touching my eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Talking to my teacher if I am struggling with school work.
- Talking to an adult if I am feeling stressed or fearful about anything.
- Being considerate of the thoughts, feelings, and actions of my peers and others around me as we work through the challenges associated with COVID-19.
- Accepting the possibility that remote learning may occur.

As a parent, I am responsible for...

- Monitoring my child's health daily by taking their temperature before arriving at school or entering the bus).
- Keeping my child home if they are sick.
- Communicating my child's health condition with the school, including if my child is unable to attend.
- Educating my child on healthy habits (hand washing, covering coughs and sneezes, getting sleep, nutrition, etc.).

- Communicating my questions and concerns directly with my child’s classroom teacher and principal.
- Working in conjunction with the school to help my child fill any gaps in learning and supporting my child’s academic needs.
- Being considerate of the thoughts, feelings, and actions of other families as we work through challenges associated with COVID-19 and other conversations revolving around our children.
- Accepting the possibility that remote learning for your child may occur.

2020-2021 Re-Opening Plan

Freeman Public Schools plans to begin the 2020-2021 school year on August 13, 2020 for all K-12 students and plans to begin our pre-school program on August 17, 2020. Some precautions have been put in place to give students and staff the safest environment possible and have been broken down by category below. All parts of this re-opening plan are subject to change based on new information that is provided. Changes to this plan will be communicated with staff, students, and parents.

Activities - In School

- **Assemblies** - Student assemblies scheduled for the opening days of school will not be done in-person and will be done using an alternate format (digitally or small groups).
- **Falcon Families** - Freeman Public Schools will run on the normal bell schedule through Friday, September 4th. At that time, the district will determine when to begin the Friday Falcon Families bell schedule. It is our hope to begin Falcon Families on Friday, September 11th.
- **Student Aides** - High school students that have signed up to be a student aide for an elementary teacher will report to study hall through September 4th. At that time, the district will re-evaluate to determine if they can begin serving as an elementary student aide. High school students that are signed up to be a student aide for a secondary teacher or secondary office may report when school begins.
- **Walking Club** - Freeman’s #1 priority each morning will be taking the temperature of students and staff (see below). Once student temperatures are taken, there will be opportunities such as Walking Club for students to participate in before the beginning of the school day. Further information will be communicated from Mrs. Sieh with staff, students and parents regarding these protocols.

Activities - NSAA Sanctioned:

All NSAA extra-curricular activities will continue to follow the guidelines for practice and competition laid out by the Nebraska School Activities Association. Guidance from the NSAA will be based on a 4-phase system they have created. The NSAA believes it is essential to the physical and mental well-being of students to return to physical activity, athletic competition, and activities participation but does recognize there may be some variation to how that has previously occurred. Further guidance by the NSAA will be communicated by Mr. Schroeder to staff, students, and parents as they are released.

Activities - School Sanctioned

Examples: Concerts, Dances, FBLA, FFA, Student Council, Talent Show, Quiz Bowl, etc.

As long as Freeman Public Schools has students and staff in the building, it is our hope to continue all school sanctioned activities. Each event will be evaluated based on current directed health measures and the same precautions that are taken during the school day will be taken during these activities. If changes occur, information will be communicated with students, parents, and staff.

Community Library:

The community library will continue to stay open at this time. The community library will be closed the week of August 10th to prepare for the school year. School year hours will go into effect on Monday, August 17th. Community library staff will continue to encourage social distancing for those families and patrons who attend.

Concession Stand:

Use of the concession stand at activities may be limited to pre-packaged items or not allowed. Further determination will be made and communicated to students, staff, and parents.

Entry into the Building:

To better manage the taking of staff and student temperatures upon entry into the building (see below), a plan will be put in place for entering specific doors based on student grade and use of district transportation. That plan will be sent out to students, parents, and staff by principals before the start of the school year and entrances will be clearly marked. The district appreciates the help of all students, staff, and parents in ensuring this process is completed.

Those students arriving late to school must use the intercom system to buzz into the office. Elementary students arriving late may only enter through the main elementary entrance on the east side and secondary students arriving late may only enter through the west entrance. Student temperatures will be taken upon arrival.

Face Coverings:

The Center for Disease Control recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain, especially in areas of significant community-based transmission ([cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)). Public Health Solutions recommends that all people wear face coverings when and where social distancing is difficult. If positive cases do occur, those individuals wearing face coverings may be less likely to be quarantined or may be quarantined for a shorter period of time. Wearing face coverings may also prevent a shutdown of the school and a move to remote learning.

Face coverings for students and staff at Freeman Public Schools are **highly recommended** but not required at this time. We will continue to work with local health authorities in determining if changes in community-based transmission alter our requirements for face coverings. Depending on the level of community-based transmission, masks may be required at a later time.

The school can provide face coverings if needed but recommends that those students and staff that prefer to wear face coverings supply their own. Cloth or disposable face coverings can be found at many retail

outlets in our area. Freeman students, parents, and staff are asked to be considerate of others and the decisions they make in regards to face coverings.

Facility Use:

The use of Freeman Public Schools facilities for athletics may be approved through the facility use online application. While the use of facilities may continue by non-school sponsored teams involving Freeman students, Freeman Public Schools may limit those that can attend to coaches and players. We encourage all outside groups to follow local health guidelines.

The use of Freeman Public Schools facilities for non-athletic events may also be approved through the facility use online application. Freeman Public Schools may limit the number of attendees based on statewide directed health measures.

Falcon Program:

At this time, the Falcon Program (Before & After School care) will occur as scheduled. All precautions taken during the school day will apply to the Falcon Program. Per the latest Directed Health Measure, there will be a limit of thirty (30) children in the program.

Field Trips:

School sponsored field trips will be monitored on a case-by-case basis for the 2020-2021 school year. Freeman Public Schools will look for alternative ways to provide enrichment opportunities that students may experience through a field trip.

Hygiene:

Freeman Public Schools will continue to encourage all students and staff to use the Personal Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions (NPI) that were introduced in the spring. These include:

- Hand washing with soap and water or using hand sanitizer throughout the day
- Covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue or into the inside of your elbow
- Avoiding touching of hands, nose, or mouth
- Staying home if you are sick (Fever free without medication for 24 hours)
- Cleaning frequently touched surfaces

The school nurse and staff will help to reinforce NPI best practices as well as stress the importance of keeping hands away from the face.

Parent/Community Visitors:

To begin the school year, parent visitors will not be permitted into Freeman Public Schools during school hours. We ask that parents refrain from eating lunch with their students and visiting their classrooms at this time. This will be re-evaluated after September 4th.

In-person meetings involving parents (IEP, 504, etc.) should occur outside of school hours if possible and should be limited to essential members only. Online options such as Zoom are also an option.

At this time, Teammates Mentor/Mentee meetings will begin after their September 4th kickoff event. Teammate mentors will be required to have their temperature checked when entering the building. If mentors have a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher, they will not be allowed to enter the building and the meeting will be rescheduled. If either mentors or mentees are uncomfortable meeting in person, Ms. Nieveen and Ms. Evers will work with partnerships for alternatives.

Playground:

To begin the school year, the use of playground equipment will be allowed during recess. While recess will continue, students may be split into smaller groups or restricted to certain areas on the playground. Students will be asked to wash their hands before and after recess and respect the space of their peers.

Professional Development:

Professional Development opportunities occurring off-campus for staff will be limited during the 2020-2021 school year. Professional Development for staff will occur during scheduled PD days and district administration will look for alternative ways to provide opportunities for growth. Professional Development will include training over remote learning and how to deliver high-quality instruction online to students in the case that it is needed.

Sanitation:

Custodial staff will continue to clean and disinfect facilities multiple times a day to ensure surfaces are clean. Classrooms will be adequately equipped with tissues, hand sanitizer and cleaning supplies to be used throughout the day. Freeman faculty and staff may be asked to assist in cleaning efforts.

Student Lockers:

To begin the school year, students in Grades 6-12 will be asked to use a backpack during the school day and will not have access to lockers. The district will re-evaluate this change and communicate to students when lockers become available.

Social Distancing:

Freeman Public Schools will monitor movement throughout the building including areas that have the potential for an increased number of students. Plans may be put in place to limit movement of large groups together and to maintain social distancing the best way we can. We encourage all students to bring a water bottle to school to limit the use of public water fountains. Specific plans that are implemented will be shared with students, parents, and staff.

These plans may include, but are not limited to:

- Classes with a high number of students
- Use of water fountains
- Hallways during class transitions
- The use of the north and south commons during breakfast and lunch
- Entering and exiting the building

Social-Emotional Learning:

Freeman Public Schools will provide social-emotional support for students and staff in need. Students or parents should contact an adult in the building if there are concerns.

Temperature Checks:

All students and staff will be required to have their temperature checked upon entering the school building or bus. School staff will assist in taking student temperatures as they enter the building. School bus drivers will assist in taking student temperatures as they enter the bus.

If students or staff have a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher, they will not be allowed to enter the building/bus or attend school for the day. Parents will immediately be contacted and arrangements will be made for returning home.

Transportation:

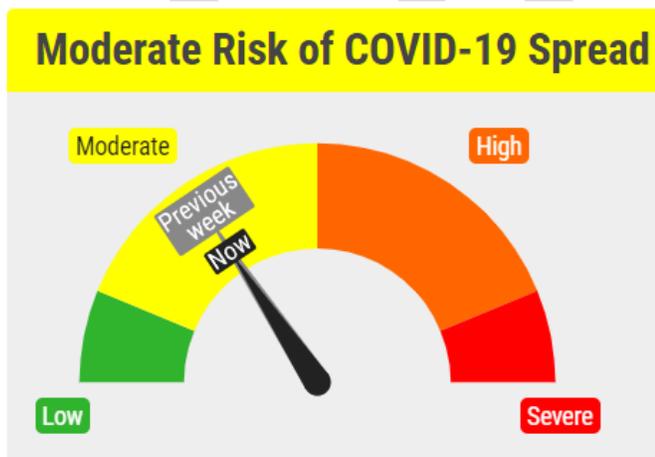
Freeman Public Schools will continue to provide transportation to those students who qualify. For those families that utilize transportation, if you are willing to transport your child to/from school for part or all of the school year, please contact Ms. Osterhaus. The following precautions will be in place:

- Student temperatures will be taken before entering
- Bus drivers will disinfect buses before each route
- There will be no guest bus riders
- Once the original route plans have been established, no changes will be made unless there are extenuating circumstances.

Public Health Solutions Risk Dial

Local health authorities across the state will be utilizing a COVID-19 risk dial to assess risk in their local area. Below is an **example** of the risk dial that will be utilized. Public Health Solutions serves Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Saline, and Thayer counties and one risk dial will be used to assess risk for this entire area. Freeman Public Schools will continually monitor the risk in the Public Health Solutions area but will not solely base decisions in our district on the dial.

Risk Dial Example:



Contingency Plans

The district's number one priority is the safety and well-being of all students and staff. The district's plan is to begin the school year on August 13th for all K-12 students and begin our pre-school program on August 17th. We hope that the precautions outlined above will keep our students and staff safe and that we can have a great year at Freeman Public Schools.

To assist students, parents, and staff with preparing for potential changes, the district will begin to develop contingency plans for the following possibilities:

Easing of precautions

The listed precautions will ease as the threat of the virus diminishes. We ask that all students, parents, and staff take these precautions seriously and understand they are put in place to keep everyone safe. When precautions ease, the school district will communicate changes.

Increased community transmission

If there is increased community transmission, the district may have to impose stricter precautions or move to an alternate learning environment. This may involve increased social distancing efforts, students and staff being required to wear face coverings during the school day, or limiting activities with other schools. It may also mean a short-term or long-term closure. While Freeman Public Schools hopes that these scenarios do not occur, we encourage staff, students, and parents to prepare for these possibilities.

If a short-term or long-term closure is needed, the district would move to synchronous online learning with students receiving new instruction remotely at set times during the day. School staff will begin planning for this possibility so that if it occurs, students can continue learning and be successful.

If the current learning environment is changed in any way, Freeman Public Schools will continue to communicate those changes with students, parents, and staff.

Freeman students or staff unable to attend school for COVID-19 related reason

Freeman students or staff may be unable to attend school due to COVID-19 related reasons. We ask that those students, parents, and staff remain in communication with the district during these instances. For each situation, a plan will be made to meet needs.

Freeman student or staff contracts COVID-19

Following the previously stated precautions should decrease the risk of transmission of COVID-19 in our school and community. We ask that parents monitor the health of their children and keep them home if they are sick. We ask that district staff monitor their own health and staff stay home if they are sick. We also ask that all students and staff continue to practice the Personal Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions listed above to help decrease the spread of the virus.

If a Freeman student or staff member contracts COVID-19, the district will work directly with our local health authority, Public Health Solutions. Staff and student families should remain in constant communication with the school district throughout the process. Steps taken may include the following:

- If a student or staff member becomes sick with COVID-19 symptoms, tests positive for COVID-19, or has been exposed to someone with COVID-19 symptoms or a confirmed or suspected case, he/she should not come to school and should notify school officials immediately.
- Staff and students with COVID-19 symptoms at school will immediately be separated. Individuals who are sick should go home or to a healthcare facility depending on how severe their symptoms are.
 - School administrators, nurses, and other healthcare providers will identify an isolation room or area to separate anyone who has COVID-19 symptoms or tests positive but does not have symptoms.
 - Procedures will be established for safely transporting anyone who is sick to their home or to a healthcare facility.
- Areas of the school that were exposed will be properly cleaned and disinfected. Areas used by the sick person will be closed off and not available for use until they are properly sanitized.
- Public Health Solutions (PHS) will work with the school to determine if others were exposed to the virus and their level of risk. Factors including wearing face coverings and social distancing efforts will be taken into consideration when determining the level of risk. PHS will contact all individuals deemed to be at high risk for exposure and provide instructions on self-quarantine. Positive cases will be actively monitored and given instructions for self-isolation of themselves and their household members. PHS will give the “all-clear” when they can return to school.
- In accordance with state and local laws and regulations, school administrators will notify local health officials, staff, and families immediately of any case of COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The school district will work with Public Health Solutions to inform those who have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19 to stay home and self-monitor for symptoms.