Hardeman R-X Reentry Plan

The Hardeman R-X School District is making decisions based on input from the Center for Disease Control, the American Association of Pediatrics (AAP), the Saline County Health Department, Fitzgibbon Hospital Administration, MUSIC (Missouri United School Insurance Council) and DESE (Department of Elementary and Secondary Education)

We shall attempt to follow all recommendations from local, state, and federal health agencies. However, the district cannot guarantee social distancing, face coverings, and other precautions will be followed by all students at all times. With the constantly changing information, it has been difficult to create a reentry plan that best fits Hardeman. However, this plan is based on the most current information available. We hope everyone can feel comfortable sending their children back to school. Movement between phases outlined below will be related to guidance received from the Saline County Health Department. Please be aware this plan for reentry is subject to change. The District will make adjustments to meet the continuously changing recommendations and mandates relative to COVID. Our plan is aligned with the current Saline County Health Department’s Risk Factor Categories of:

Level 1-Awareness

Level 2-Low Risk

Level 3-Medium Risk

Level 4- High Risk

Level 5-Interruption

**Level 1 (Awareness)**

Hardeman will make no changes or enforce any limitations to the school environment. Face masks use is encouraged at any and all times. Hand sanitizer will also be available throughout the building at all times and students will be educated on proper hand washing techniques and ways to keep themselves and others as safe as possible. There will be increased measures of building sanitation as a precautionary measure.

**Level 2 (Low Risk)**

**General:**

-Students and staff are encouraged to practice social distancing (3-6 feet apart). Spacing cues will be provided throughout the building.

-Face masks available for student and staff use

-Classified staff’s roles may change dependent upon building needs.

-Increased sanitation in high use common/shared areas such as restrooms, specials classrooms, buses, playground, etc.

- Increased sanitation of manipulative supplies, instructional items, learning centers, and high contact areas in the preschool and early elementary classrooms.

-Students and staff will not be able to use water fountains. We encourage families to provide a cup with lid or a bottle of water daily. The school will provide if needed. Cups with lids will be sanitized at the end of the school day and ready for refill the next morning; refills of ice water will be handled by staff. It is fine if the students want to use flavors for their water as long as they can do it themselves.

-Morning time before school starts will look different as we cannot all be in gym at the same time. Grade cohorts will be rotated between the gym, the front patio & front yard area and playground. A staff member will be at the back gym door for students who are dropped off to make sure they know where to go.

-The gym will still be utilized for eating meals.

-Make sure all meals brought from home are able to be opened without adult help. This is an issue with Pk and K students. The staff cannot cross contaminate by handling multiple students food and drink containers.

-Increased access and use of hand sanitizer and instruction on proper sneezing/coughing/handwashing procedures.

-Interior doors to remain open in order to decrease handling of knobs.

-Seating charts will be required in most settings (classrooms, buses, etc.)

-No unnecessary visitors will be allowed.

-Please call prior, if possible, before picking up students, dropping off/picking up items, or any other purpose that typically would require entry to the building. Direct public access to the building during the day will be limited to help conserve cleaning efforts. Parents/visitors will be met at the door by a staff member, except in case of emergency.

-Any classroom snacks will need to be individually prepackaged.

**Transportation:**

-Buses will be loaded from back to front.

-Family group/siblings will sit together (seating chart will be required).

-Masks will be encouraged.

-Routes may be split into two groups in order to ensure social distancing.

-Families are encouraged to provide their own transportation when possible. (The drivers’ job is to get our students to school safely. As/if we move into different risk levels the drivers will not have the ability to ensure that students are wearing masks and staying socially distanced).

**Recess:**

-Students will play as class groups in their cohorts only.

-Play equipment may be used by cohorts on a weekly rotational basis.

-Any play equipment that is shared will be sanitized between cohort use.

-Effort will be made to limit the number of groups on the playground at one specific time.

**Level 3 (Medium Risk)**

Continue all of Level 2 protocols and add the following:

- Staff will be required to wear masks when not able to achieve social distancing

from students and other staff

- Encourage use of outside classrooms when possible.

- Increased sanitization protocols will be implemented.

**Level 4 (High Risk)**

Continue all of Level 2 and 3 protocols and add the following:

-Temperature screenings prior to entering building.

-Masks strongly encouraged to be worn by students when not able to achieve social distancing (such as in hallways and on buses).

-Restricted student movement within the building.

-Students will remain predominantly in their classrooms with consistent staff. Teachers will rotate instead of students.

-Students will remain in homerooms during morning time before school begins.

-Breakfast will be served in classrooms (grab and go type meals).

-May add a third lunch shift or have some classes eat in classrooms.

-Eliminate use of student lockers or plan cohort groups to stagger locker use.

-Cancel public use of facilities.

**Level 5 (Interruption)**

-Building shut down and distance learning/educational packets will be implemented (there will be a 48 hour period where the building will be thoroughly sanitized. After this 48 hour period, teachers will return to the building and will provide lessons/teach from inside their classrooms for 20 hours per week. They will also offer office hours for parents and students to ask questions and receive help with assignments and lessons).

-Meal deliveries upon request.

For the health and safety of our students and their families, Hardeman school officials ask community members to follow the guidelines in these protocols. CDC Guidelines will be followed and since these guidelines may change, on an ongoing basis, these protocols may be adapted to reflect the CDC’s advice.

**Protocol: If a student or staff member has a temperature greater than 100.4 when they arrive to school or an activity:**

-The student or staff member will be sent home. They will remain in an isolation room

which is separate from the health office until they are able to exit the school.

-The principal and health office staff will be notified and the parent will be contacted.

-The student or staff member will not return until fever has been resolved (without a

fever reducer) for 24 hours.

**Protocol: If a student or staff member answers yes to any symptom question (see next page for symptoms) when they arrive to school or an activity:**

- The student or staff member will be sent home. While the student or staff member waits

to leave the building, they will remain in an isolation room which is separate from the

health office.

- The principal and health office staff will be notified and the parent will be contacted.

-The student or staff member will not return until the symptom is resolved for 24

hours.

**Protocol: If a student or staff member is known to have been in contact with (within 6 ft. for more than 15 minutes) or lives with someone who has or has had COVID-19.**

-The student or staff member will not attend activities for 14 days after the last contact

with the affected individual.

-The student or staff member must have been symptom free for the entirety of the 14

days.

-If the student or staff member develops symptoms, the individual will follow the guidelines for a student or staff member who has been infected.

**Protocol: If a student or staff member has been diagnosed with COVID-19:**

-Persons with COVID-19 who have symptoms, and were directed to care for themselves at home, may discontinue isolation under a release from the local health department.

-Hardeman will work with the local health department for initial notification.

-The local health department is the agency responsible for contact tracing.

**Protocol: If a student or staff member travels to** **state with a high infection rate:**

-Travelers entering the area from states that have an infection rate higher than 10 per

100,000 residents or report a positive test rate of 10 percent or higher, based on a seven-

day rolling average, are asked to self-quarantine for 14 days from the time of last contact

within the applicable state.

**Taken from School Nurse Algorithm provided by DESE:**

School personnel will remain vigilant at all times by observing students and themselves for signs of the virus. COVID-19 symptoms include:

**High Risk Symptoms:** new cough, difficulty breathing, loss of taste/smell

**Low Risk Symptoms:** Fever greater than 100.4, congestion/runny nose, nausea/vomiting/diarrhea, sore throat, headache, myalgia, or exposure to COVID-19 positive person

If student or staff member have one low risk symptom and no exposure to COVID they may return to school 24 hours after symptom resolution.

If student or staff member have two or more low risk symptoms or one high risk symptom and no exposure to COVID parent will have them evaluated by a healthcare provider. If they have a negative swab or if lab test and evaluation determine an alternative diagnosis is likely then they can return to school 24 hour afebrile (no fever) and symptoms improving. If they have a positive swab, they return to school after 24 hours afebrile (no fever) AND symptoms improving AND approval of local health department (typically 10-14 days)

If student or staff member has close contact with a positive exposure to COVID they can return to school after 14 days from last contact, unless symptoms develop. If symptoms develop, obtain swab. If swab is positive the Hardeman School will follow Saline County Health Office directives.

Please keep your children at home if they have any of the low and high risk symptoms listed above.

**Other Considerations:**

\*We are asking that parents take their child’s temperature before letting them get on bus or before dropping them off at school. Staff will have access to several touchless thermometers and will be using them as needed.

\*We have face masks available for staff and students.

\*Please know that Hardeman has invested in new equipment for sanitation of the facility along with hiring an additional employee who will ensure proper sanitation throughout the day in various areas including, but not limited to, buses, playground, lunch area, restrooms and classrooms. They will also provide support in the classrooms as needed.

**Close Contact for COVID-19-** The CDC defines a close contact to COVID–19 as an individual who has had close contact (< 6 feet) for ≥15 minutes. Brief interactions are less likely to result in transmission; however, symptoms and the type of interaction remain important.

\*Lunch, buses, recess, physical education, and early childhood/elementary classrooms are the areas that it will be most difficult to ensure social distance and will make contact tracing more difficult. As a precautionary measure we have invested in new equipment for sanitation and are hiring an additional employee who will ensure proper sanitation and assist with trying to keep children socially distanced.

\*LPHA’s **(**Licensed Practitioner of the Healing Arts) are responsible for contact tracings. School will assist by providing seating charts and attendance records.

**Isolation:**

Students, teachers, and staff who test positive or are symptomatic close contacts to a case should self-isolate and not return to school until the following criteria are met:

• 10 days since symptoms first appeared and

• 24 hours with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and

• COVID-19 symptoms have improved (for example, cough, shortness of breath)

**Quarantine:**

Students, teachers, and staff identified as close contacts to a COVID-19 case should not come to school and take the following steps:

• Stay home for 14 days after the last contact with a person who has COVID-19

• Watch for fever (100.4◦F), cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms of COVID-19

• If possible, stay away from others, especially people who are at higher risk for getting very sick from COVID-19

It is important to note that students, teachers, and staff who have previously tested positive for COVID-19 and have met the criteria to be released from isolation do not need to quarantine or get tested again for up to 3 months as long as they do not develop symptoms again. People who develop symptoms again within 3 months of their first bout of COVID-19 may need to be tested again if there is no other cause identified for their symptoms. The information provided is based on current CDC guidance and is intended to assist in the defining close contacts as part of the contact tracing efforts following the identification of a COVID-19 case in a school. Links to the references used to develop this guidance are provided. For additional guidance on COVID-19 and schools, please visit the “Missouri School Reopening Guidance Frequently Asked Health-Related COVID-19 Questions document available at:

<https://dese.mo.gov/sites/default/files/COVID-MO-K12-Reopening-Guidance.pdf>