



	Mr. Tim Hood - Superintendent East Mills Superintendent Office thood@emschools.org 712-624-8700	Mr. Kelly Sutherland - Elementary Principal East Mills Elementary ksutherland@emschools.org 712-624-8696	Mr. Dale Scott - High School Principal East Mills High School dscott@emschools.org 712-624-8645
	<p>The purpose of the Return to Learn plan is to provide a framework for how the East Mills Community School District will respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the educational program during the 2020-2021 school year. The framework is structured to allow the district to be flexible and responsive to changing public health circumstances. The plan helps support the district's goal of articulating its intentions for the fall in a clear, comprehensive, and transparent manner. We intend to make and communicate decisions for 4-6 week periods of time as this could be an ever-changing situation. The initial plan was for the time period of August 18th-September 30th. The plan has been revised and updated to reflect the time period between March 15-May 24, 2021. We will make any necessary adjustments for December and beyond by following updates from Governor Kim Reynolds, the Department of Education, Mills County Health and recommendations from the Center of Disease Control.</p>		
	Low Risk	Moderate Risk	High Risk
Definitions ---->	No known COVID cases or community spread in the district	Verified community spread within the school district	MCPH in conjunction with the school district has closed the building
	School is in session on campus for students and staff	School is in session with occasional short-term closures	School buildings closed - Online required learning
Pre Screening for Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Guardians will screen their children at home for fever (100.4 or higher), chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea. - Call a medical professional if symptomatic. - If any of the above symptoms, Do Not send child to school - Notify school of symptoms and absence. 	<p>Same as "Low Risk" rules but now add temperature checks</p> <p>Temperature Checks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Temperature checks will be conducted once a day for all students and staff - during 1st hour at the HS and during attendance at the elementary. - If temp is above 100.4 then the student/staff member must remain at home until fever free without medication. <p>Daily temperature checks will be discontinued as of March 15, 2021.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All students will stay home and required to participate in online learning.
Pick-up / Drop-Off of Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No congregating at the entrance or exit area while waiting. - HS kids waiting for shuttle bus at the elementary will wait on the bus, not in the elementary school. - At the elementary there will be an extra shuttle bus coming to the HS to help with social distancing. - Drivers stay in their vehicle during pick-up and drop-off. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Same as "Low Risk" rules, but when students enter the building they will proceed to classroom - JH/HS students will report to their homerooms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - None
Entering Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social distancing practices will be in place for entering and exiting the building. - Students enter through an assigned door. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Same as "Low Risk" rules. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Restricted access to the building.
Student Attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Accommodations will be made for students in PreK-12 who are unable to attend in person to utilize synchronous online learning through Zoom (K-6th) or Google Meet (7th-12th). -Synchronous means that students log on to receive instruction with their class at scheduled times during the school day. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Accommodations will be made for students in PreK-12 who are unable to attend in person to utilize synchronous online learning through Zoom (K-6th) or Google Meet (7th-12th). - Synchronous means that students log on to receive instruction with their class at certain times during the school day. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attendance will continue to be taken daily during online learning.
Masks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wearing of face masks by students and staff will be strongly encouraged as it is supported by scientific studies and recommended by Mills County and Iowa Department of Public Health. - Face masks will be provided as requested by student or parent. - Students may bring their own masks if preferred. - School systems do not write directed health measures but we must follow them. We will follow recommendations as they come from medical experts and are supported by scientific studies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Masks will be mandatory to keep schools open. - Decisions will be made in conjunction with Mills County Health. 	
Hand Washing Hand Sanitizing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students and staff will wash or sanitize their hands often. - Hand washing signs and directions displayed by all sinks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We will increase the number of times a day students wash or sanitize their hands. 	
Touch Surface Cleaning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhanced protocols in place throughout the day. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Same as "Low Risk" rules. 	

Cafeteria / Meals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Elem: Breakfast- students will use all tables in the cafeteria and spread out as much as possible. Lunch - Students will spread out as much as possible or eat in classrooms. - MS/HS: Social distance or eat in a different location. Tables with plexiglass or outside with weather permitting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Elem: Breakfast/ Lunch in classroom if deemed necessary. - MS/HS: Increased number of lunch tables to social distance or students will eat in a different location. 	
Response to students and staff who become COVID symptomatic during the day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EMCSD will follow guidance from Mills County Health Department. - If a student or staff member becomes sick with COVID-19 symptoms during the school day, the student/staff member will be sent home and testing or isolation will be required. Students and/or staff cannot return until COVID results have been received or isolation period is complete. - Classroom will be thoroughly cleaned. - Student/staff will be required to wear a mask while in the building waiting for pickup. 	<p>Same as "Low Risk" rules:</p> <p>Positive Cases and Response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EMCSD will follow guidance from Mills County Health Officials. - Communication to families as recommended by Mills County Health Officials. - A case is considered "confirmed" when the individual has had a positive test conducted by a medical professional. - A confirmed exposure will be based on the continued tracing of the medical community. - An infected individual may return to school 10 days after the symptoms started and all symptoms have subsided. 	
Water Fountains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No mouth drinking will be allowed from water fountains. - Only water bottles will be used. - Water fountains with bottle fillers are installed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Same as "Low Risk" rules. 	
Passing Periods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students will be expected to walk on the right side of the hallway. - Jr/Sr High: one way walking traffic on the 2nd floor of Jr/Sr High will be expected. - One staircase will be for going up and one will be for going down. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Same as "Low Risk" rules plus: 	
Social Distancing Classroom seating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social distancing of 6 feet is recommended in classrooms when physically possible. - If 6 feet cannot be established between individual students, students will social distance as the classroom allows. - Plexiglass will continue to be used on student desks and tables where applicable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Same as "Low Risk" rules. - Additional cleaning procedures will be applied. 	
Exiting the Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Elem: Students will remain in their classrooms until an all-call is made for buses. - No congregating in the halls while waiting for buses to arrive. - MS/HS: Walkers will be dismissed first; Students riding on buses dismissed; Exit multiple points. - Drivers will need to remain in their vehicles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Same as "Low Risk" rules. 	
Visitors to School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Visitors will be restricted to the school office. - Guardians, please call ahead to schedule all meetings with school personnel. - For all students who need to leave the building (have an appointment, are ill, need to leave early, etc.) guardians will call the school office upon arrival to the building and the student will be released. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Same as "Low Risk" rules, but all visitors will be required to wear a mask to enter the building. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Restricted access to the building.
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students will have assigned seats and are highly recommended to wear masks; drivers are encouraged to wear a mask or face shield. - Surfaces are wiped down between routes. - Students will be expected to remain in the same seats once on the bus. - Hand sanitizer will be provided for each student. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Same as "Low Risk" rules. Students are required to wear masks on district transportation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There will be no school provided transportation.
Facility usage by outside organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outside groups (i.e. EMAYS) will follow Mills County Health for guidance and recommendations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outside usage of facilities may be suspended. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outside usage of all facilities will be suspended.

Extracurricular Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Guidance from Iowa School Activity Association, Iowa Department of Education, and local public health officials will be followed for all extracurricular activities. - The district will follow Iowa Department of Education and Mills County Health officials for travel guidelines. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Same as "Low Risk" rules. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extracurricular activities will be suspended.
Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Elementary- Kindergarten-6th grade 1:1 devices remain at school. - MS/HS- 7-12 devices are used at school/home. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Elementary: K-6th grade 1:1 devices will be sent home as needed. - MS/HS: 7-12 devices will be used at school/home. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Technology devices will be sent home with all students.
Specialist Classes (Art, Music, Band, PE, Guidance, Library)-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Classes will be held in the specialist's classroom with cleaning done by teacher and/or students between class periods. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Specials held in classrooms if deemed necessary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Specials will be done online with required online learning.
Recess	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Schools will continue to have recess as scheduled with hand washing or hand sanitizing upon entry. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Schools will continue to have recess with a staggered schedule to reduce the number of students on the playground with hand washing or hand sanitizing upon entry. 	
School Closure		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Short term closure- School could be closed for a period of time and decisions will be communicated to families. - Required online learning will occur during temporary closures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Long term closure. School could be closed for a long period of time. All decisions will be communicated to families. - Required online learning will happen during these closures for all students.
	<p>To clarify with families, during the Covid-19 pandemic, East Mills Community Schools offers two different types of state approved online learning for families. The first type of learning is for students and families who have underlying conditions which put the student or family member's health at risk of serious medical conditions and complications from Covid-19. Those students are long time learning and enrolled in the online Edgenuity program (6th-12) or Edmentum (PK-5th). The students enrolled in the two long term classes are not directly taught by East Mills teachers. East Mills provides the learning platform and contact person to troubleshoot issues. These online learning platforms must have a doctor's note provided for enrollment. The second type of online learning is for East Mills students who become quarantined due to exposure or receiving a positive test for Covid-19. This online learning is for a shorter duration of time based on the Mills County Public Health requirements for quarantine. Students log into their classes online through Google Meet and virtually attend regular East Mills classes the same as if they were present in school. East Mills teachers take attendance in the virtual Google Meet classes. This option is only available to students who have Covid-19 exposures or are awaiting test results.</p>		
	<p>The Return to Learn Plan has evolved over the last several months with one goal in mind - safety. The health and safety of all students, teachers, and staff is of the utmost importance, and we will remain responsive to that as we move forward. As we all work together, we feel confident we can bring students lp all students have a productive and successful 2020-2021 school year.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>~ Everyone, Every Day, A Success ~</i></p>		