COVID-19 Operational Plan
November 1, 2021

Health and Safety Committee
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Questions or concerns related to COVID-19 can be directed to someone in this group or to the school office at 541-683-6951.

Please note, changes in the plan for November are highlighted in green text.
Purpose

It is the goal of the Eugene Waldorf School to provide full-time, in-person education for all students every school day during the 2021-22 school year. In order to accomplish this goal, we have drafted an Operational Plan that outlines the health and safety measures that will be in place when school begins in September. This plan will be reviewed as needed throughout the school year and will be revised as needed to meet the current COVID-19 situation within our local community. This plan rests on layered mitigation strategies for our school community.

Decision Making

Many factors are being taken into consideration as decisions are made for the 2021-22 school year. Some of these factors are:

- Upholding the school’s mission and agreements
- Following current health and safety guidance for schools
- Striving for equity, diversity, and inclusion
- Supporting the mental, social, and emotional health of students and staff
- Acknowledging and addressing the impacts this past year had on everyone
- Providing a learning environment that promotes health, well-being, and opportunities for social connection
- Embracing trauma sensitive school, diversity, equity inclusion and restorative practices in our classrooms and workplace
Our school is committed to following the health and safety recommendations from Lane County Public Health, the Oregon Health Authority, the Oregon Department of Education, and the Early Learning Division. It remains our intention and focus to provide a full day, in-person school program.

**Health & Safety Practices**
(In Alphabetical Order)

**Airflow & Circulation**
Airflow will be maximized while indoors. It remains best practice to have cross ventilation in classrooms. Classroom windows will be open throughout the school day. In addition, HEPA air purifier units have been positioned in each classroom and workspace. These units are [Alen 75i air purifiers](#). Please follow these [best practice instructions](#). Outdoor activities and teaching will continue to be prioritized regularly during the school day. On an as needed basis, classroom doors may be closed for auditory purposes. During these times, the air purifier will be placed near the door and the classroom window left open to create cross ventilation in the room.

**Classrooms: Indoors and Outdoors**
We will be practicing universal masking with the exception of mask breaks that are physically distanced, supervised, outdoors and teacher led, or when eating. Prioritizing eating outside for grades classes continues to be best practice when possible. When eating indoors, masks are off and physical distancing should be six feet to avoid a potential close contact exposure. Masks should be worn when moving around in the classrooms.
Cleaning & Disinfection

School buildings will be cleaned and disinfected according to the Centers for Disease Control Cleaning Guidelines and in accordance with the Early Learning Division. It remains best practice for teachers and staff to clean and disinfect classrooms and workspaces. These supplies are available at the school office. Cleaning and disinfecting will be done each day after school (restrooms, classrooms, and high use areas).

Cohorts

Class groups/cohorts will remain together throughout the school day with minimized exposure to other classes while indoors. Students who attend Afternoon Special Subjects (first and second grade), Robin’s Nest (preschool and kindergarten), and music for grades seven and eight will combine into one cohort. Cohort logs will be kept for each class to assist with any contact tracing. Daily cohort logs are to be provided to the school office at the end of each school day. First through eighth grade cohorts can intermingle while outside and masked based on the update provided by ODE and OHA on October 19, 2021. Please note, adults need to maintain the 6 ft. distance with well fitting masks.

Communication

The Operational Plan will be provided to all EWS families with the back-to-school communication and on our website. Any health and safety guidance that changes throughout the school year will be communicated with families through the weekly newsletter and/or via email. EWS Admin staff/Health Aides will use the Planning for COVID-19 Scenarios in Schools toolkit and our school liaison at Lane County Public
Health to inform our communication with families in the event of an exposure or COVID-19 scenario in our school.

Teachers and staff carry walkie-talkies as a practical way to communicate and assist one another.

**Comfort Kits**

In case of a short-term emergency, we ask that each child brings the following items placed in a gallon-sized Ziploc bag labeled with their name:

- Non-perishable food items: granola/protein bar; canned juice, coconut water and/or bottled water
- Small items of comfort: family photo; small stuffed animal; drawing journal and pencil
- Staff are encouraged to have a similar kit in the workplace as a supportive measure during a short-term emergency scenario

**COVID-19 Testing**

EWS is registered with the SARS-CoV-2 school testing program in cooperation with the University of Oregon. This service provides systematic scheduled and regular testing free for EWS students five years and older. Those that register can elect to use this service. This testing service is not available to preschool students at this time.

Students Step 1: [Student COVID-19 Consent Form](#)

Students Step 2: [U of O Lab COVID-19 Screening and Testing for Students](#)

Testing kits (with instructions) will be sent home during health checks on Mondays. Completed testing kits need to be returned to the school office on Tuesdays by 8:45 am.
Weekly screening tests are also available for school staff through OHA. Interested staff members can sign up through this link: Faculty Screening Tests

Lane County Testing Resources

Daily Cohort Logs

Daily cohort logs are completed each day by school staff. All staff members who come in contact with the class cohort must sign in and out on the cohort log. Educational support staff who meet with students individually, fill out a separate cohort log. These are kept on file in the school office once complete.

Exclusionary Guidelines

Please refer to the school exclusion chart for more detailed information. Please note that the early childhood classes use the exclusion summary from the Early Learning Division. Health Aides will be referencing these exclusionary guidelines to determine best practices with families, students, teachers and staff.

When experiencing any symptoms, stay at home and do symptom care.

Face Masks

The following complies with Oregon Health Authority’s masking requirements in schools (333-019-1015). Everyone, regardless of vaccination status, is required to wear a face mask while inside the school buildings (preschool students are excluded from this requirement). It is very important that face masks: cover the nose and the mouth and rest snugly above the nose, below the mouth, and on the sides of the face. Face coverings are not a covering that incorporates a valve that is designed to facilitate easy exhalation. Mesh, lace, gators, and bandanas are not acceptable for
health and safety reasons for school wear. EWS has a significant supply of KN95 masks for students that need them. All classrooms are supplied with these masks. Teachers will help to support students to change out masks when one becomes soiled or wet. An extra, well-fitting mask can be brought from home and changed out when needed and preferred. When in an outdoor classroom, students can be unmasked if they are 6 feet or more apart and stationary. Mask breaks are supported.

The Oregon Health Authority will review the continued need for masking rules in schools on a monthly basis in light of scientific information related to the spread and control of COVID-19.

Field Trips

November Field Trip Guidelines:

- Outside field trips only
- Hiking field trips are preferred (or other activity that doesn’t put students in contact with people outside of class teachers and students)
- Parents/Caregivers drop off and pick up at the field trip site
- Should start and end at the same time as school drop-off and pick-up
- Health checks completed by the teacher upon arrival and cohort log completed
- Specialty teachers and/or WTEE students who already have vaccination documentation on file and the Operational Plan training can assist the class teacher
- All other field trip guidelines apply

We will continue to assess health and safety guidelines pertaining to field trips this school year.
Guidelines

We will continue to work with Lane County Public Health’s investigative guidelines and COVID scenarios toolkit for schools when working with public health school liaisons.

Hand Hygiene

Frequent hand washing with soap and water will be done regularly by everyone. Hand sanitizer may also be used. This has been stressed as one of the primary ways to ward off colds and viruses. Teachers are asked to have regular conversations with students to remind them to wash hands at times of transition during the school day: after each restroom use; before snack and lunch; after returning to class after each recess.

Health Checks

Health Check Locations by Class

Health Check Questions

*Please note, when students arrive late to school, it is necessary for parents to call the school office and arrange for a health check prior to the student joining class.

Passive health checks are done during the day by teachers. This is a helpful practice that was implemented last year as a routine way to support and check-in with students should symptoms arise.

Isolation & Quarantine

Anyone who becomes ill with primary symptoms of COVID-19 while on campus will be asked to wait in the isolation room until they can go home. Students will be supported and supervised while in the isolation room. Primary symptoms are: fever of 100.4 or
higher, chills, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, or new loss of taste or smell.

Meetings

In-person meetings are approved for the month of November. These meetings will take place outdoors. The faculty restroom is the designated restroom for meeting attendees. Masks must be worn if entering the building for restroom use. Use of outdoor classrooms and spaces will be scheduled with seven days notice to accommodate the cleaning schedule.

All risk mitigation efforts will be in place during in-person meetings:

- keeping a cohort log for all people in attendance
- physical distancing at 3 ft or more while wearing masks
- physical distancing at 6 ft or more when unmasked

Physical Distancing

Three feet of physical distance between people will be maintained while indoors. Six feet of distance will be maintained while outside and unmasked. When in an outdoor classroom, students can be unmasked while stationary and with 6 feet or more of distance from others. Close contact determinations are based on current Public Health guidelines within a school setting. A routine that holds physical distancing requirements will be in place when a student is actively eating, drinking or engaged in supervised and unmasked lessons.
**Reflection and Refocus (R & R) Room**

A reflection and refocus room will be available this school year. This room will be used for emotional regulation support. This room is a place where healing and support measures will be provided while also stressing the importance of school community and belonging. This new room is in part a way that EWS is forwarding the trauma sensitive school work of which we are entering our second year of training and practice.

**Restrooms**

[Restroom Locations for Classes](#)

**Training for School Staff**

All school staff will receive training on health and safety protocols before school begins and as needed throughout the school year.

**Vaccines**

EWS complies with the COVID-19 Vaccination Requirements for Teachers and School Staff (OAR 333-019-1030). EWS follows all rules and regulations associated with vaccine recordkeeping and the FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act). As with all vaccines for school age students, the school office will provide updates on the COVID-19 vaccine to school families, as needed, through the weekly newsletter. The school office will continue to reach out to make sure student’s certificate of immunization status cards (CIS) are complete. Please contact the school office with vaccination, medical and non-medical certificate of exemption status questions.
Visitors

Visitors, including parents, will not be allowed at this time in school buildings while school is in session. Our school buildings do not have enough space to support three feet of physical distance for students, staff, and parents all at the same time. In addition, potential contact tracing situations will be minimized by doing this. We know this continues to be hard, and we look forward to welcoming families into the school as soon as it is safe to do so. Educational support staff and Waldorf Teacher Education practicum students are not considered visitors and will be part of a stable cohort/classroom. Parents are welcome outdoors on the school campus during organized activities with your class teacher.

Wildfire Policy and Procedure

School closure due to wildfire smoke

Resources

Lane County Call Center Number: 541-682-1380

Child Care Provider COVID-19 Requirements and Recommendations

Ready Schools, Safe Learners Resiliency Framework for the 2021-22 School Year