

E | EVART PUBLIC SCHOOLS

COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PLAN



“Home of the Wildcats!”

Preparedness Plan Introduction

Return to Learn

By Executive Order 2020-142 – Every district must develop and adopt a COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan (“Preparedness Plan”) that is informed by Michigan’s 2020-21 Return to School Roadmap (“Return to School Roadmap”) from the COVID-19 Task Force on Education and Return to School Advisory Council.

Evert Public Schools has developed and adopted a COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan that is informed by the Michigan’s 2020-21 Return to School Roadmap from the COVID-19 Task Force on Education and Return to School Advisory Council. According to Executive Order 2020-142 the plan at a minimum must include the following things:

- A. Policies and Procedures that the district will follow when the region in which the district is located is in Phase 1-3 of the Michigan Safe Start Plan.
- B. Policies and Procedures that the district will follow when the region in which the district is located is in Phase 4 of the Michigan Safe Start Plan.
- C. Policies and Procedures that the district will follow when the region in which the district is located is in 5 of the Michigan Safe Start Plan.
- D. Address each subpart of the Return to School Roadmap and indicate if a school plans to exclude any protocol that is highly recommended.

Each phase will address how Evert Public Schools will implement policies and procedures to meet all the requirements that are found in the Return to School Roadmap. The plan will follow the District Preparedness Plan Template that was developed by MAISA in consultation with other professional organizations including MASA, MEA, MEMSPA, MSB, MASB, MASSP, and Middle Cities Education Association. All requirements presented in A, B, C and D of the template will be addressed.

In addition, Evert Public Schools agrees to meet all of the requirements of Executive Order 2020-142 listed on the Preparedness Plan Assurance Page.

A. Evart Public Schools District and Building Implementation Plan for Phases 1-3.

A region is placed in Phases 1-3 if community spread of the virus is increasing and substantial. There is a concern about health system capacity and testing and tracing efforts may not be sufficient to control the spread of the pandemic.

In this phase no in person instruction is allowed. Instruction must be done remotely. School employees including teachers will be allowed in the school for the purposes of conducting basic operations, including remote live instruction. All inter-school activities are discontinued and after-school activities are suspended. All athletics are suspended. Cleaning practices are adjusted to maintain school building functional order. Food distribution programs should be enacted.

Safety Protocols Required in Phases 1-3

- Schools are closed for in-person instruction.
- School employees will be allowed to work to continue basic school operations, including remote live instruction as determined by school administrators.
- Schools enact food distribution programs.
- All inter-school activities are suspended.
- After-school activities are suspended.
- All athletics are suspended
- Cleaning practices are adjusted to maintain school building functional order.
- Student busing operations are suspended.

Evart Public Schools Plan for Instructions While in Phase 1-3

The district plans to use an online model for instruction using online learning platforms. Online instruction will be available to all students in PreK-12 grade. The virtual format used in Phase 4 for students who did not participate face to face will continue. To ensure that we have purchased enough hot spots to meet the needs of all those without internet service, parents will be contacted at the beginning of the 2020-21 school year to verify device and internet status currently available to their student(s). The district currently has 100 hot spots that can be deployed. Each student in our district will have a Chromebook assigned to him/her at the beginning of the year. For a student who does not have a device at home, a Chromebook will be provided. For a student who does not have internet service, a hotspot will be issued. Each Evart student in a household will be issued a Chromebook but only one hotspot will be needed to access all of the devices. Distribution of the devices and/or hotspots will begin as soon as possible upon closure of the school. School and course materials-if needed-will be available when food is delivered or picked up. Students will be expected to complete all requirements of the class and grades will be given. Students who fail to complete course requirements will not receive credit.

Teachers will continue to teach five days each week. All teachers will be using Google Classroom as the online platform. All teachers received training during the summer on using Google Suite. They were then allowed eight paid professional development hours to set up their Google Classrooms and practice using the extensions and applications that would enhance the online delivery. All students will be instructed in Google Suite and will use it in face to face classrooms at the beginning of the year in preparation should our district be moved back to Phase 3. Depending on the grade level, how students receive the Google Classroom instruction may vary. It is expected at the middle and high school levels that instruction will be delivered via live and recorded content. Students will connect via Google Meet and participate with their classmates in real time. Also at the high school level, students who are in need of credit recovery will continue to use APEX. In addition, because our high school is very small and class offerings are somewhat limited, students will continue to have the opportunity to take a course not offered at our high school. These courses are offered through Educere. Dual enrollment is also an option. At the elementary level, instruction will be recorded and uploaded to Google Classroom. Specific details and expectations will be shared with all students and their families by each individual teacher via their classroom Facebook page and/or other electronic communications.

Beyond completion of assignments and projects on Google Classroom, students and teachers need to participate in twice a week, two-way communication. Teachers of 5th-12th grade students will send an email to the student's email account on the 1st day of every school week to check in, offer assistance, and inquire about questions the student may have. The student is required to respond by Wednesday of the same week via email as well as participate in a two-way phone conversation sometime during the week with his/her teacher. For the K-4th grade students, teachers will phone/email/text/video conference both the student and the primary parent/guardian twice weekly. Again, there must be documented two-way communication at least two times each week with every student.

There may be some variations for special education students. Special education teachers will work closely with the parents of these students and supply hands-on materials and activities if

more appropriate. General education and special education teachers will collaborate on delivery methods for assessments and instruction as outlined in IEPs and Continuity of Learning Plans.

Mental health supports will continue to be provided by social workers and counselors. They will continue to work with and reach out to students needing mental health support. Students and families will be reached through phone calls, video chat, emails and text messaging. Individual and group counseling, when possible, will still happen via phone and district approved online platforms, keeping FERPA as the paramount consideration. Teachers will discuss with the social workers and counselors any student that they feel is in need of additional mental health support.

Evert Public Schools will continue to provide breakfast and lunch for a minimum of five days each week following the same procedures that were used in the spring which were very successful in reaching many students. Food will be delivered to individual homes using the morning bus runs each Tuesday, using a delay start time schedule. Pick up will be available on Tuesday from 4:00 to 7:00 PM at the Evert fire station. If any changes are made to these scheduled times all participants will be notified. This schedule will continue as long as school is closed. Food will be prepared and delivered by support staff employees including bus drivers, food service personnel and some redeployed educational assistants.

The District and Building Implementation Plan for Phase 1-3 will be communicated in multiple ways to families. The modes of communication will be as follows: posting on the district website, via electronic mail, posting on school Facebook pages and using various messaging applications (Skyward and Remind).

The principal of each building will send additional information specific to their students through the method that was established in each building when students were in attendance.

B. Evert Public Schools District and Building Implementation Plan for Phase 4.

A region is placed in Phase 4 if the following four conditions are evident. The number of new cases and deaths has fallen for a period of time, but overall case levels are still high. Most new outbreaks are quickly identified, traced, and contained due to robust testing infrastructure and rapid contact tracing. Health system capacity can typically handle these new outbreaks, and therefore case fatality rate does not rise above typical levels. The overall number of infected individuals still indicates the need for distancing to stop the transmission and move to the next phase.

In Phase 4 in-person instruction is allowed if all the required Safety Protocols found in the Return to School Roadmap are followed.

Evert Public Schools believes that for students to fully access learning a face to face environment is necessary if possible. Therefore, Evert Public Schools will reopen school on August 19, 2020 with a full face to face option in place for all students in grades Pre-12.

There are many new policies and procedures that Evert Public Schools will implement while in Phase 4 to comply with the requirements necessary to allow our schools to reopen face to face. In the next few pages you will find policies and procedures outlined for each safety protocol specified in the Return to School Roadmap for Phase 4. You will find specific details under each of the following areas: Facial Coverings, Hygiene, Cleaning, Athletics, Screening, Testing and Busing/Student Transportation. In addition, details on the plan for Instruction which includes not only details on face to face instruction but also details on the available online instruction option. Both options are available to all PreK-12 grade students enrolled in Evert Public Schools.

Evart Public Schools Plan for Instruction While in Phase 4

Evart Public Schools will provide face to face instruction for all PreK-12 students beginning on August 19, 2020. All requirements for returning to face to face instruction will be shared with parents before school starts. Elementary students will be taught in a self contained setting. Special teachers will come to the classrooms. Lunch will be eaten in the room. Elementary students will not have to wear masks in the classroom. Students in Middle School grades 5-8 will all be assigned to a cohort group to reduce the comingling of students. Teachers at this level will also move to the students rather than having students move (with the exception of enrichment classes). At the high school, comingling cannot be avoided; however, many practices are being put in place to reduce the congregating of students. All students in grades 5-12 are required to wear masks. Mask breaks will be given as frequently as possible.

Realizing that not all families are ready to send their children back to school as a result of COVID-19, online instruction taught by Evart Public School teachers will be available for any student in Pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. All teachers will be using Google Classroom as the online platform. Depending on the grade level, how students receive the Google Classroom instruction may vary. It is expected at the middle and high school levels that instruction will be delivered via live and recorded content. Students will connect via Google Meet and participate with their classmates in real time. Also at the high school level, students who are in need of credit recovery will continue to use APEX. In addition, because our high school is very small and class offerings are somewhat limited, students will continue to have the opportunity to take a course not offered at our high school. These courses are offered through Educere. Dual enrollment is also an option. At the elementary level, instruction will be recorded and uploaded to Google Classroom. Specific details and expectations will be shared with all students and their families by each individual teacher via their classroom Facebook page and/or other electronic communications. Evart Public Schools will provide a chromebook and/or hot spot to any student needing these items to participate online.

1. FACIAL COVERINGS

All requirements for Facial Coverings (Masks) found in the Return to School Roadmap will be implemented as detailed below.

- Facial coverings (masks) will be worn by all staff except when eating.
- A staff member will provide a medical statement to the superintendent from a medical provider indicating that the staff member cannot tolerate the wearing of a mask due to a medical condition. Any staff member who cannot medically tolerate a mask must not wear one.
- Reusable masks must be washed daily and disposable masks will be disposed of at the end of each day. A mask will be provided to a student if they forget to wear one.
- Clear masks will be provided for elementary teachers.
- Masks must be worn by all students PreK-12 when in common areas on campus except when eating.
- Student masks may be reusable or disposable. It is expected that parents will provide masks; however, a minimum of one cloth mask will be available to each student. Evert Public Schools will help families who are unable to supply the masks for their children.
- Masks will be worn by all 5-12 students in classrooms unless a doctor's note is provided that the student has a medical condition that prevents the student from being able to tolerate wearing the mask.
- Because PreK through 4th grade students will be totally self contained, students will not be required to wear masks in their classrooms.
- Facial coverings are not recommended and will not be used by children ages 3 and 4.
- The expectations and rules for masks will be provided to parents/guardians before school resumes through district and building communications systems including but not limited to the district website, building Facebook pages, and Skyward (student information system).
- Building, grounds, and transportation signage will be prominent throughout all school facilities and clearly identify who is required to wear masks.
- Personnel and students who are exempted from wearing a mask will be recorded in a master database. Such individuals will have a lanyard or button, to be worn above the waist, at all times, while on school campus.
- Students who are capable of wearing a face covering and refuse to do so in an area where face covering is required will be given a face covering by an adult and asked to comply. The instance will be documented. Parents will be notified of each instance of non-compliance when it occurs.
- Students continuing to be not-compliant will be removed from face to face instruction and placed into remote instruction until the student agrees to comply with this safety protocol.
- Staff members who are capable of wearing a face mask and refuse to do so will be addressed by the school administrator and could face progressive disciplinary measures up to and including termination.
- Anyone entering the school building must wear a mask. Disposable masks will be available. This includes substitutes for all positions, law enforcement, state employees, Parents/Guardians, etc.

2. HYGIENE

All hygiene requirements found in the Return to School Roadmap will be implemented as detailed below.

- Adequate supplies including soap, hand sanitizer, paper towels, and tissues will be provided in each classroom as well as other common areas.
- Signs reinforcing proper hand washing techniques will be installed.
- Students will be taught effective hand washing procedures using soap and water for 20 seconds.
- Students and staff will be educated on how to cough and sneeze into their elbows or always use a tissue. Hands should be washed immediately after using a tissue.
- Custodians will ensure that soap and hand sanitizers are checked frequently so they never run out.
- Teachers will develop schedules to ensure that hand washing with soap and water happens at least every three hours. Teachers and staff will also ensure that personal hand washing will occur every two to three hours.
- Student school supplies and personal items used in the classroom will be kept in a separate pouch or container with the child's name on it. There will be no sharing of these items.
- Student's personal items such as coats, lunches, shoes, etc. will be kept in individual cubbies, lockers, or apart of each other by spacing items out.
- Classroom materials that will be used by more than one student such as classroom manipulatives, toys, time-out chair, etc. will be disinfected before being used by another student.
- All classrooms will have either sinks or hand sanitizing stations available.
- Proper mitigation strategies will be communicated to families via newsletters, web pages, Facebook, etc. Parents/Guardians will be asked to review and reinforce these strategies with their students.

3. CLEANING

All cleaning requirements found in the Return to School Roadmap will be implemented as detailed below.

- District Administrators will meet to review all guidance to cleaning and disinfecting of buildings prior to the start of school.
- An inventory related to all EPA approved cleaning supplies related to COVID has been taken to address increased cleaning protocols.
- Custodial staff will clean frequently touched surfaces including but not limited to light switches, doors, benches, bathrooms, at a minimum of every four hours.
- Custodians will always clean using an EPA approved disinfectant.
- Classrooms including libraries, computer labs, art room, gymnasiums, and any other classroom involving hands on activities will be cleaned after each class.
- Each classroom will have a designated person(s) including teachers, educational assistants, and custodians to wipe down student desks before use by another student.
- Playground structures will continue to undergo normal routine cleaning.
- Cleaning stations will be identified around the buildings to hold materials for use by trained individuals.
- All cleaning and disinfection products will be stored securely away from children.
- Adequate ventilation will always be considered when using cleaning products.
- Gloves, surgical masks, and face shields will be provided by the district to be worn when performing cleaning activities.
- Areas of frequent usage throughout each building will be identified and listed for all custodial personnel to ensure that proper cleaning takes place in the proper time intervals to ensure the safety of our students and staff.
- Shared materials used by students such as toys, tools, gym equipment will be wiped down before another student is allowed to use such materials.
- Information on cleaning materials and protocols will be shared with all staff members at the beginning of the school year.

4. ATHLETICS

All athletic requirements found in the Return to School Roadmap will be implemented as detailed below.

- Evart Public 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).
- Students, teachers, and staff will be required to use proper hand hygiene techniques before and after every practice, event or gathering.
- Players will have temperatures checked before every practice or event. A player will be sent home if he/she has a temperature of 100.4 or higher.
- Any player should confirm that they are healthy and not feeling ill in any way prior to any event.
- Each participant must use a clearly marked water bottle for individual use.
- Participants must not share any equipment.
- Unnecessary contact between players such as handshakes, fist bumps, etc. is prohibited.
- Outdoor physical conditioning activities are allowed as long as social distancing is maintained.
- Indoor weight rooms and physical conditioning activities that require shared equipment are suspended.
- All equipment must be disinfected after every use.
- Inter-school competitions may be held provided that facial coverings are worn if school transportation is provided. Buses must be cleaned and disinfected before and after every use.
- Outdoor spectator or stadium events are limited to 100 people, and people not part of the same household must maintain six feet of distance from one another.
- Indoor groups are limited to 10.

5. SCREENING

All screening requirements found in the Return to School Roadmap will be implemented as detailed below.

- Evart Public Schools will cooperate with the local public health department (Central Michigan District Health Department 10) regarding implementing protocols for screening students and staff.
- Administrators will participate in webinars and zoom meetings provided by the Central Michigan District Health Department.
- EPS will use the Return to School Toolkit provided by the Central Michigan District Health Department.
- Every school has established a designated quarantine area where students will go if they become ill.
- Students in the quarantine area will be given a surgical mask to wear. Parents will be called immediately to pick up their student. Directions on where and how to pick up their student will be given.
- School staff member(s) will be identified to care for these students and will also wear a surgical mask. The student will not be left alone.
- Students sent home with symptoms will be allowed to return to school following Central Michigan District Health Department Guidelines for returning to school.
- All school staff will be required to conduct a health safety self assessment at home prior to coming to work. Verification that they are safe to work will be documented through a Google Form each day.
- Students will have their temperatures taken before entering the school using a no touch thermometer. Temperatures will be taken before entering the bus, before parents leave the drop-off loop, or at the building door if the student walks to school.
- Students who ride a bus and have a temperature of 100.4 or higher will be walked back to the house. Students who are being dropped off that have a temperature of 100.4 or higher will be taken home by their parent. Students who walk and have a temperature will immediately be taken to the quarantine area and parents called.
- Parents will be encouraged to monitor their children for symptoms of COVID-19. Information provided by the Health Department will be sent home with each student and posted on social media.
- Our school nurse will serve as a liaison between the school, parents, and health department when the school is aware that a student has tested positive for COVID-19. Evart Public Schools will adhere to the regulations and guidelines established by the Central Michigan District Health Department.
- Any employee who tests positive for COVID-19 should notify the Superintendent immediately.
- FERPA and HIPAA will always be followed.

6. TESTING PROTOCOLS FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF AND RESPONDING TO POSITIVE CASES

All testing protocols for students and staff and responding to positive cases found in the Return to School Roadmap will be implemented as detailed below.

- Evert Public Schools will cooperate fully with the Central Michigan District Health Department regarding implementing protocols for screening students and staff.
- Students who develop a fever or become ill with COVID-19 symptoms at school must wear a mask and be released in the care of their parents/guardians. EPS medical staff will contact the parents to follow up on the child's condition.
- Staff who develop a fever or become ill with COVID-19 symptoms at school should leave the school immediately. Our school nurse will contact the staff member.
- Symptomatic students and staff sent home from school should be kept home until they have been released from isolation according to the Central Michigan District Health Department 10 guidelines.
- Families should be notified of the presence of any laboratory positive or clinically diagnosed cases of COVID-19 in the classroom and/or school to encourage closer observation for any symptoms at home, following FERPA and HIPAA guidelines.
- In the event of a lab or clinically diagnosed case of COVID-19, the Central Michigan District Health Department 10 will be contacted by our school nurse or an administrator. The Superintendent will be immediately notified.
- The Health Department will put the proper procedures in place for identifying and contacting any close contacts (those who spent more than 15 minutes less than six feet in close proximity to the student or staff member). The Health Department will determine who and for how long someone needs to be in quarantine.
- It is advised that anyone who has been identified as a close contact and then develops symptoms should seek out testing.
- Parents and guardians are encouraged to monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 using the information provided by the Health Department. The presence of any unexplained symptoms, including cough or shortness of breath, should prompt the parent or guardian to keep the student home from school and follow up with their primary care provider.
- Our district will fully cooperate with Central Michigan District Health Department 10 if a confirmed case of COVID-19 is identified, and collect all contact information as requested.
- Local health officials, staff, and students will be notified if appropriate of any possible case of COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality consistent with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other applicable federal and state privacy laws.
- Staff will be given guidance on confidentiality laws and statutes that protect student and staff health information. Student communicable disease related information is protected health information.
- School staff and officials must not participate in discussions or acknowledge a positive test even if a family/student/staff member acknowledges and publicly discloses a positive test.
- Employees with a confirmed case of COVID-19 may only return to work after they are no longer infectious. Local health officials will provide instruction about return to work.

7. Busing and Student Transportation

All requirements for busing and student transportation protocols found in the Return to School Roadmap will be implemented as detailed below.

- Hand sanitizer is available on every bus.
- Each student will be required to use hand sanitizer when entering the bus.
- The bus driver, staff, and all students in grades PreK -12 if medically feasible must wear masks while on the bus.
- Face masks will be available at the entrance of the bus in the event that a student comes to the bus without this mandatory item.
- An adult aide will be assigned to each bus. The aide will check the student's temperature before the student boards the bus. If the student has a temperature of 100.4 or higher the aide will escort the student back to the home safely. If no one is home a special seat will be available for the student to sit in until parents are contacted or the bus arrives at school.
- Communication documents will be developed to enable the drivers to know what the safety plans are for any specific student who for medical reasons will not be wearing a face mask.
- There may be situations when it is not safe for the bus driver to wear a facial covering. Decisions about these situations will be made on a case by case basis.
- All transportation vehicles will be cleaned before and after every route by the bus driver. No children will be present during cleaning.
- Frequently touched surfaces in the vehicle including hard seats, arm rests, door handles, seat belt buckles and dash controls will be cleaned and disinfected prior to morning and afternoon routes.
- Equipment including car seats, wheelchairs and adaptive equipment being transported to school will be cleaned and sanitized.
- If a student is not allowed to board the bus due to refusal to comply with safety protocols, a plan to get the student home safely will be followed.
- If a student becomes sick during the day they will use an alternative mode of safe transportation to get home.
- If a bus driver becomes ill during the day, he/she will not be allowed to drive the afternoon route and a substitute will be called to transport the students home.
- When weather permits, doors and windows will remain open when cleaning the vehicle and between trips to let the vehicle thoroughly air out.
- When appropriate and safe, windows will be kept open while the vehicle is in motion to help reduce spread of the virus by increasing air circulation.
- Signs will be posted on the bus listing expectations for students including wearing masks, hand sanitizing, loading the bus and assigned seat requirement.
- Routes will be adjusted based on equalizing the number of students on each route.
- Drivers and bus aides will be informed of all requirements outlined in the Back to School Roadmap.
- There will be no bus passes for students to get on a different bus at the end of the day. Because of family situations some students will have assigned seats on more than one bus.

FOOD SERVICE, GATHERING, AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (This area is not addressed in the required template)

All required guidelines as well as recommended guidelines found in the Return to School Roadmap will be implemented as detailed below.

- Indoor assemblies that bring together students from more than one classroom will be prohibited.
- Classrooms will be used for students to eat meals; outdoor areas may be used.
- One class is able to eat in the cafeteria on a rotating schedule. Social distancing will be maintained.
- Students and teachers must wash their hands before every meal.
- Large scale assemblies of more than 50 students are suspended.
- Classroom field trips are suspended.
- Recesses will be held outside whenever the weather permits. Social distancing and cohorting of students will be required.
- Breakfast and lunch meals will be delivered to the classrooms at the elementary and middle school levels.
- A grab and go lunch may be available at the high school.
- Extracurricular activities (non-athletic) will continue with all participants wearing face coverings.

SPACING, MOVEMENT AND ACCESS (This area is not required in the template)

Strongly recommended guidelines found in the Return to School Roadmap that we are able to do in PreK-12 face to face setting will be implemented as detailed below.

- Students will be spaced as far apart as possible.
- As feasible, all desks will be arranged facing the same direction toward the front of the room.
- Teachers will maintain six feet of spacing between themselves and students as much as possible.
- Family members are not allowed in the school except for scheduled meetings or other extenuating circumstances. All adults entering the building must wear a mask.
- No volunteers will be allowed in the building at the beginning of the school year.
- Markers may be used to help maintain six feet distancing.
- Social distancing floor/seating markings in waiting and reception areas will be provided.
- Signage for proper hand washing will be posted in all bathrooms.
- Classroom windows should be kept open as much as possible.
- Teachers of elementary special classes such as art and music will go to individual classrooms rather than having students move to a different location.
- Many doors will be used when students enter and exit the school building to prevent congregating.

C. Evert Public Schools District and Building Implementation Plan for Phase 5.

A region is placed in Phase 5 when new cases and deaths continue to decrease for an additional period of time. At this point, the number of active cases has reached a point where infection from other members of the community is less common. With widespread testing, positivity rates are often much lower than earlier phases. Rapid case investigation, contact tracing, and containment strategies cause new cases to continue to fall.

Evert Public Schools Plan for Instruction While in Phase 5

Evert Public Schools will continue to provide face to face instruction with an online option for all students as described in Phase 4.

Policies and procedures outlined in Phase 5 for Facial Coverings, Hygiene, Cleaning, Athletics, Screening, Testing, and Busing and Student Transportation will follow the strongly recommended guidelines for each area as listed in Phase 4 in the roadmap and when the district is initially allowed to move to Phase 5.

Evert Public Schools will follow all strongly recommended protocols from the Return to School Roadmap whenever public schools are allowed to move into Phase 5. If and when COVID-19 does not pose as serious of a health risk as currently evident in not only Michigan but the entire United States some strongly recommended protocols may be relaxed.

D. After considering all the protocols that are highly recommended in the Return to School Roadmap, please indicate if Evert Public Schools plans to exclude protocols that are highly recommended for any of the categories required in Phase 4.

- The only strongly recommended protocol that Evert Public Schools cannot comply with in a total PreK-12 face to face instructional model is strict social distancing. The number of students that are in each class combined with the size of the classroom prevents students from always being six feet apart. It should be noted that spacing was not part of the Phase 4 protocols required in the Preparedness and Response Plan Template.

Preparedness Plan Assurances

The District agrees to meet all of the following requirements of Executive Order 2020-142

- ✓ The District assures that when it provides in-person instruction to its students without disabilities, the district must also provide in-person instruction to its students with disabilities, consistent with their individualized education programs (IEPs).
- ✓ The District assures that when schools are closed to in-person instruction, districts must strive in good faith and to the extent practicable, based upon available resources, technology, training, and curriculum, as well as the circumstances presented by COVID-19, to provide equal access to any alternative modes of instruction to students with disabilities from birth through age 26. This assurance includes the provision of auxiliary services under section 1296 of the Revised School Code, MCL 380.1296.
- ✓ The District assures that while any state of emergency or disaster related to the COVID-19 pandemic continues, it shall comply with guidance from the United States Department of Education, including its Office of Civil Rights and Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, and the Michigan Department of Education concerning the delivery of alternative modes of instruction to students with disabilities in light of the impact of COVID-19.
- ✓ The District assures that it shall, to the extent practicable and necessary, make individualized determinations whether and to what extent compensatory services may be needed for students with disabilities in light of the school closures during the 2019–2020 school year.
- ✓ The District assures that during **Phase 1, 2, or 3** of the *Michigan Safe Start Plan* it will close its buildings to anyone except: (a) District employees or contractors necessary to conduct minimum basic school operations consistent with a Preparedness Plan, including those employers or contractors necessary to facilitate alternative modes of instruction, such as distributing materials and equipment or performing other necessary in-person functions. (b) Food-service workers preparing food for distribution to students or their families. (c) Licensed child-care providers and the families that they serve, if providers follow all emergency protocols identified by the state.
- ✓ The District assures that during **Phase 1, 2, or 3** of the *Michigan Safe Start Plan* it will suspend athletics, after-school activities, inter-school activities, and busing.
- ✓ The District assures that during **Phase 1, 2, or 3** of the *Michigan Safe Start Plan* it will provide for the continued pay of school employees while redeploying staff to provide meaningful work in the context of the Preparedness Plan, subject to any applicable requirements of a collective bargaining agreement.
- ✓ The District assures that in **Phases 1, 2, or 3** of the *Michigan Safe Start Plan* it will provide for the continuation of food distribution to eligible students.
- ✓ The District assures that during **Phase 4** of the *Michigan Safe Start Plan* it will prohibit indoor assemblies that bring together students from more than one classroom.
- ✓ The District assures cooperation with the local public health department if a confirmed case of COVID-19 is identified, and agrees to collect the contact information for any close contacts of the affected individual from two days before he or she showed symptoms to the time when he or she was last present in school.

Requirements for Submission

Date of Approval by the District Board of Education: August 5, 2020

Signature of Board President: 
Alan Bengry, Board of Education President

Link to the approved plan posted on the District website:

<https://evartps.org/our-district/eps-r2s/EPSCOVID-19PREPAREDNESSANDRESPONSEPLAN.pdf>

Name of District: Evert Public Schools

Date Received by the ISD:

Date Submitted to State Superintendent and State Treasurer: