Sterling Public Schools COVID-19 Reopening Plan 2020-21

The general format that Sterling Public Schools (a.k.a the District) will follow for day-to-day operations for school year 2020-21 will fall into one of four risk modes based on the level of threat of community spread of COVID-19 for the district. The four risk modes will warrant three response models followed by the school: 1) New Normal (2) Homeroom Model (3) Remote Learning. The risk mode in which Sterling Public Schools will operate on a given day will be based on the risk of COVID-19 spread for the District. To the degree possible, the District's risk mode will align with the Southeast District Health Department risk models as they apply specifically to the District. Additionally, directives from governing entities with legal jurisdiction over the District will be applied to the degree that the directives specifically require the District to operate in a particular manner.

The general format that the school will operate under, on a given day, are based on these risk modes described in this chart (detailed later on in this plan):

Minimal Risk Mode	Moderate Risk Mode	High Risk Mode	Severe Risk Mode
"New Normal"	"New Normal"	"Homeroom Model"	"Remote Learning"

The manner in which Sterling Public Schools will operate in each risk mode is addressed in this plan in these categories: Activities, Custodial and Health, Food Service, Instruction and Class Size, Logistics and Transitions, Personnel, and Transportation.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

CONFLICTS WITH POLICY AND HANDBOOKS:

For components of this reopening plan that contradict board-approved mandates, the provisions in this document shall supersede any other Board policies, handbook provisions, or safety plans until such time that the Sterling Public School Board of Education takes action to discontinue or amend this plan, or until COVID-19 pandemic conditions diminish to a degree that renders this plan no longer applicable.

ADMINISTRATIVE DISCRETION:

Administration shall determine specific aspects of day-to-day school operations, not clearly addressed in this plan, for each category at each risk level. The Administration has the final authority to determine the risk mode in which the school will operate any given day, using their best judgment in applying health department risk modes to the District.

QUARANTINING AND APPLICATION OF DIRECTED HEALTH MEASURES (DHM) FOR STUDENTS:

Students who test positive for COVID-19 are required to quarantine from the school until they can provide a doctor's note indicating they no longer have the virus. Students who are presumed positive for COVID-19 should quarantine for 14 days or the duration recommended by their doctor and do not need a doctor's note for readmittance. Students who have come in contact with someone with COVID-19, as defined by <u>Directed Health Measures</u> (a.k.a

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DHM's), are expected to quarantine from the school as defined in the DHM's. However, unless a DHM specifically requires the District to enforce a quarantine, it is the student's responsibility to quarantine. Because the District lacks the authority to enforce law (a DHM is a law), the District will not enforce any student quarantine, based on DHM's directed only at individuals and not at school districts, including when a student has interacted with a COVID-19 positive individual. Individuals must follow DHM's directed toward individuals.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE, MAKE-UP WORK/LEARNING, AND MEDICALLY-EXCUSED ABSENCES:

Student instruction will occur in-person in the classroom (or in a home online-learning interface as defined herein) unless otherwise directed by law. All students who are enrolled in the school district are required to attend school on all days when school is open for providing instruction, unless they are excused from attendance by law. Student IEP or 504 Plan teams may take into consideration alternate learning accommodations based on risks associated with specific student disabilities.

Students who quarantine due to COVID-19 contraction or exposure, or students who stay home because they have COVID-19 related symptoms, are expected to make up missed school work and learning in the same manner as for any illness-related missed school days as outlined in the student handbooks and board policy. All COVID-19 related missed school days will be treated as medically-excused absences with a doctor's note. Guidance on quarantining can be obtained from your doctor via telephone and notes can be faxed to the school. Physical examinations are not required for medically excused absences.

POSITIVE COVID-19 TESTS:

If a student or a member of the household tests positive for COVID-19, please notify the school immediately. Personally identifiable information will not be made public however the information will help to inform our decisions to prevent further spread and exposure. The response to possible exposures within groups of students will be handled on a case-by-case basis under the guidelines of the Southeast District Health Department and the CDC.

OPERATION PROCEDURES FOR EACH SCHOOL CATEGORY IN EACH RISK MODE

FACE COVERING (Masks only! Bandanas, scarves, neck gaiters, balaclavas, etc. will not be allowed.)

Minimal Risk Mod		oderate Risk Mode	High Risk Mode	Severe Risk Mode
"New Normal"		"New Normal"	"Homeroom Model"	"Remote Learning"
to wear face masks to face masks are encour provided by the schoo Parents/guardians will	 Staff and students in grades PK-12 are encouraged but not required to wear face masks to enter the building. Students opting to wear face masks are encouraged to provide their own. Masks will be provided by the school based on availability. Parents/guardians will fill out an opt-in/opt-out form requesting that their child does/does not wear a face mask throughout the 		 All students and staff are required to wear face masks unless Opt-out forms are signed and submitted. Students and staff are encouraged to provide their own. Masks will be provided by the school based on availability. 	All instruction will take place remotely. Masks are no longer a school consideration.

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LOGISTICS & TRANSITIONS

Minimal Risk Mode "New Normal"	Moderate Risk Mode "New Normal"	High Risk Mode "Homeroom Model"	Severe Risk Mode "Remote Learning"
 Upon arriving at school, stud Pre-K students will be dropped morning walking club. Students will not be allowarrangements with a special Students will be temperated in the student has a temped not drive, arrangements Students are encouraged sanitizer will be availabled Students must report directly to their first personners. 	ed off on the south side of the high school buildings in the morning edific teacher or sponsor. The sture screened, using touchless thermonous rature of 100.4 degrees or higher, he/she will be made for the student to be picked to apply hand sanitizer upon entering the in every classroom. The etcly to their classrooms. Stop at their locker, but then must be eriod classroom. Students are not allways, cafeteria, lobby, gym, locker	he building where their first class will be. ol near the Pre-K entrance. There will be NO ngs until 7:50 AM, unless they have made meters, upon entering the building. e may not attend school. If the student did	Logistics and transitions for daily physical operations of school are not applicable due to the closure of facilities to students until the school is no longer in the Severe Spread mode.
to wear a face mask while th Visitors into school will be children, such as ESU and Parents/guardians, grand on an emergency basis of Parents/guardians in items for their child	ey are in the school buildings. be limited by administration to individual d OT/PT workers, guest speakers, mento dparents, student's family members, etc or for scheduled meetings (such as IEP m nay come to the main office to turn in pa	and Class Size.) If it, high equivalent contests, will be required Its necessary to support the education of ors, volunteer workers, etc. It will only be allowed into the school building	

TRANSPORTATION

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Minimal Risk Mode "New Normal"	Moderate Risk Mode "New Normal"	High Risk Mode "Homeroom Model"	Severe Risk Mode "Remote Learning"
unless only contact thermo Students with a temperature If the student has (as per DHHS guide reached, the bus of other transportation until a parent/guate lift no pare the bus of the bus of the bus of the bus of lift there is (e.g. due administre isolate af lift there is (e.g. due administre iso	ints will be taken prior to entry on the bustometers are available. Ire above 100.4 may not ride the morning a fever of 100.4 or higher and no parent elines), the bus driver/monitor will attend driver will stay at the residence with the ion of the student to the school building indian arrives. In the shome, and a student is left home of the student it would be unsafe to lest o degree of illness, disability, level of more to arrange other transportation of the arriving at school until a parent/guar I ensure that passengers are adhering to see that the passengers are adhering to see that se	tis home, and the child is below the age of 11 mpt to call the parent. If the parent cannot be student and call an administrator to arrange and then will isolate after arriving at school due to a fever, regardless of the student's age, rent before leaving the residence. ave a student at home without a parent present naturity, etc.), the bus driver will call an the student to the school building and then will rdian arrives the health and safety expectations and to conduct masks. (More information can be found under routes and activities are the same as outlined in each on, sits at the front of the bus). exposure. The same household will sit together. The tassigned by administration to a specific at route (e.g. a group of students cannot ride dents cannot ride a bus to be dropped of for	 Transportation to school is not applicable due to the closure of facilities to students until the school is no longer in the Severe Spread mode. ALL BUILDINGS will be closed to students and guidelines from the SEDHD and NDE will be followed by the SPS administration.
Additional provisions for Minimal and Moderate Risk Mode mode: • Bus routes and activity trips will operate at full student capacity, with the reasonable health measures above implemented to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Additional provisions for Moderate and High Risk mode: • Bus routes will generally operate at full student capacity, however student capacity may be reduced to the extent			

	possible as determined by administration. Administration may consider using multiple buses for activity trips to better space students for large activity groups, if doing so is feasible. If all certified drivers become suddenly unavailable due to COVID-19 related circumstances, clause 001.02A (iv) in NDE Rule 91 may be utilized, allowing for "the operation of small vehicles in emergency situations when approved by the school administrator or person designated by the local governing school board."
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CUSTODIAL & HEALTH

Minimal Risk Mode	Moderate Risk Mode	High Risk Mode	Severe Risk Mode
"New Normal"	"New Normal"	"Homeroom Model"	"Remote Learning"
 Students, staff, or visitors we hours without the assistance. Students, staff, or visitor difficulty breathing, fat congestion or runny not symptoms are not obvious. If during the day a student in an isolated room. After the student is pice. Hand sanitizer dispensers we or learning area. Students are encourage recess, PE, music, and I cleaning supplies will be made. Cleaning supplies will be made. Commonly used classroom students, and/or custodial standards. 	with temperatures of 100.4 or higher are to be of medication. ors with symptoms including but not limit sigue, muscle or body aches, headache, no bee, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, should it is it	consider staying home from school if nces. be required to put on a mask, and be placed opt are to be thoroughly sanitized. dings, and at the entrance of each classroom the building and after transitions including antitized multiple times daily by teachers,	 Cleaning and sanitizing will continue to occur in areas of the school used by staff members while the school facilities are closed to students. Thorough sanitizing of facilities will be conducted before students return for on-campus learning.

Teachers and support staff shall promote effective hand-washing pro	
 Students will be utilized by teachers/monitors as needed to sanitize their desks or station prior to transitioning to their next learning settings, or within their learning sessions as needed. 	
 Students and staff are recommended to have their own water bottle filling stations. Water fountains, excluding bottle filling stations, will not be available 	

INSTRUCTION & CLASS SIZE

Minimal Risk Mode "New Normal"	Moderate Risk Mode "New Normal"	High Risk Mode "Homeroom Model"	Severe Risk Mode "Remote Learning"
	Normal Bell Sched	dule	Facilities will be closed to all students.
Practices to follow for COVID-19 Desks and workstations but if that is not possible	 Instruction methods and schedule are TBD. 		
sanitized before exchange The library will be sanitized wh In the elementary building as other provisions within Outside recess elementary On day in the grown in the gro	will be limited to the highest degree porging from one student to another. have protocol established to socially onen returned before being placed backings (grades PK-6) instruction will remain this document: will be allowed as scheduled if weathers will take place on a rotational basis to intary classes will not be in the same place by when students cannot go outside digym or have structured activity time in	er conditions permit. To limit exposure between classes. Two place at the same time for recess. The time to weather, students will either be given time	

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Elementary (PK-6) • The class size will be the same as it for the Minimal & Moderate Risk Mode The instruction model will remain largely the same as for the Minimal Intentionally left blank Risk mode, with the exception that specials (PE, Music, Library, Spanish, Counseling) may be taught differently or eliminated based on administrative discretion. High School (7-12) High School (7-12) • Instruction will move from direct interactive • Classrooms will be assigned with students at normal capacity, with reasonable health measures implemented learning, to asynchronous online learning. to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Students will be assigned to • Shared school supplies will be limited to the highest "homeroom" classrooms where they degree possible, and when they are shared, items will be will spend most of their school day. sanitized before exchanging from one student to Opt-In/Opt-out face mask preferences another. will be taken into consideration when • The library will have protocol established to placing students in their homeroom socially distance students when they visit. All groups. If forms are not available when books will be sanitized when returned before determining placement, homeroom being placed back on the shelf for checkout. assignment will be based on student Instruction will remain typical with the following activity involvement. conditions, as well as other provisions within this Opt-in/Opt-out form must be filled out for preferences to be document: • Students will follow a normal bell schedule, considered. walking from class to class as usual between • Instruction will be provided online by teachers classes. using various learning mediums, such as Breakfast will be eaten in the classroom (more Google Classroom and Zoom. details about breakfast and lunch is provided in Instruction and learning will not be live, the Food Service section). but rather occur asynchronously. Lessons that are interactive in nature will be Teachers will be monitoring their modified to better ensure social distancing and assigned groups of students at the same sanitizing of items between use by students. time they are working on their online Band and vocal instruction will be provided, instruction and grading for the courses with chairs spaced out as much as possible. they are teaching. • Students may be allowed to leave their homeroom to work with special education

teachers and other support service providers, on an individualized or small-group basis,

following a schedule that prevents large group interactions. • Students may also be allowed to leave their homeroom to receive support from subject-matter teachers that cannot be clarified through electronic communication, following a schedule that prevents large group interactions at the discretion of the homeroom teacher and administration. • Students will need to supply their own headphones, ear phones, or ear buds so that they can listen to any audio instruction without disrupting other students. • Teachers' online instructional workload for students will be comparably equal to the regular workload for in-person instruction. Grades for assignments will be weighted comparably equal as assignments during in-person instruction.

PERSONNEL

Minimal Risk Mode	Moderate Risk Mode "New Normal"	High Risk Mode	Severe Risk Mode
"New Normal"		"Homeroom Model"	"Remote Learning"
specified otherwise in this do Staff members with tempera without the assistance of me Staff members with sym breathing, fatigue, musc runny nose, nausea or ve obviously the result of e	raged to wear face masks anytime ocument. atures of 100.4 or higher are to stated and the stated are to stated and the stated are to stated at the stated at the stated are the stated at the stated a	they are in close contact with students, unless by home until they are fever free for 72 hours to chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or r staying home from school if symptoms are not essary.	Practices to follow for COVID-19 safety with staff members: • In-person instruction will discontinue until the school is no longer in the Severe Risk mode. • Based on the circumstances, the Administration, and potentially the School Board, will decide who can or should

- Staff members are entitled to accommodations and leave under law and policy (such as ADA, FMLA, and PTO or sick leave) however the fear of exposure is not itself a valid excuse to not report to work.
- Due to COVID-19, staff members may be assigned duties that are not typical to them, such as bus monitoring, extra lunch room duty, extra cleaning, etc.

report to the school building to work.

 Days that are assigned as online learning days will count as teacher contract days.

FOOD SERVICES

Minimal Risk Mode "New Normal"	Moderate Risk Mode "New Normal"	High Risk Mode "Homeroom Model"	Severe Risk Mode "Remote Learning"
 Practices to follow for COVID-19 safety to provide students with breakfasts and lunches: All food service staff will wear face masks and gloves to prevent COVID-19 spread. The food service staff, along with administration, will develop a system for providing individually-wrapped grab-and-go breakfasts to students. Breakfasts will be prepared and placed in grab-and-go bags and made available to students in the cafeteria. Students will take breakfast bags with them and eat in their classrooms. Lunch point-of-service will not involve any student self-service, such as salad bar or buffet. Food service staff will dish food onto students' trays, separated by sneeze guards, from where students/staff stand to be served. Seconds and a' la carte food options will be prepackaged for students to request at the original point of service. Requests will be made prior to serving lunches. The staff member responsible for tracking point-of-sale meals will enter students' ID rather than each student typing his/her own code. Students are allowed to bring their own lunches to school and can eat their own lunches in the same manner, and with the same provisions, as students who eat school lunches. 			Traditional meal services will not be provided unless allowed for under specific state or federal provisions.
PreK • Students in PreK will walk to the socially-distanced manner at the social standard manne			
Elementary (K-6) • Students in the elementary (gr lunch and bring it back to their conditions of the students may opt to wear conditions of the students may opt to deposit food waste and students food waste and students of the students o			

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• Afternoon elementary snacks will be individually packaged so that students do not touch or breathe on other students' snacks.

High School (7-12)

- Students in grades 7-12 will walk to the lunchroom to receive their food and eat in a socially-distanced manner in the lunchroom.
- Secondary students may wear face masks as they transition to the lunchroom, receive their tray, and exit the lunchroom to their next class.
- The secondary class schedule may be adjusted, to the degree possible, to balance the number of 7-12 students in first and second lunch.

High School (7-12)

- Students from the secondary building (grades 6-12) will walk to the lunchroom, receive their filled tray with a tray cover, and bring it back to their homeroom to eat.
 - Lunch serving times to/from each secondary homeroom will be staggered to help ensure social distancing.
 - After secondary lunch times in the classrooms conclude, food service and custodial staff will come to each classroom to collect trays for cleaning and waste for disposal.

ACTIVITIES

Minimal Risk Mode	Moderate Risk Mode "New Normal"	High Risk Mode	Severe Risk Mode
"New Normal"		"Homeroom Model"	"Remote Learning"
 additional forthcoming gui Jr. high activities, that are the same guidelines for pa Activities not governed by guidelines for participation Administration shall have to guidance, if administration Coaches and sponsors that 	erned activities, the District will follow idance from NSAA, as well as the provide same activities as those covered barticipation and public attendance as a NSAA (e.g. FFA, NHS, Quiz Bowl, Studen and public attendance as applied to the authority to limit the degree of ph	by the NSAA for high school students, will follow applied to NSAA-governed high school activities. ent Council, etc.) shall follow the same NSAA-governed activities. hysical interaction for activities, beyond NSAA by based on community COVID-19 circumstances. ol practices, will communicate with	 In-person activities, including practices and individual skill development, will discontinue until the school is no longer in the Severe Spread risk.

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Music concerts, public performances, banquets, fun nights, and other gatherings of people in school buildings for public performances may be discontinued during the pandemic if the risk of the activity cannot be mitigated.
 For contests, administration will monitor the risk mode of the host school or visiting school to determine if local guidelines for competition are safe.

Additional provisions for Minimal or Moderate Spread mode:

- Contests for activities that are NSAA-governed events, such as play production, speech, and music contests, will be allowed to occur following NSAA guidelines. Indoor public performances for those activities may not be allowed.
 Virtual broadcasts of high school performances will be allowed if the students can properly social distanced during the performance and resources are available to do so.
- Outdoor public performances by activity groups, such as the band marching in a parade or playing at a football game, will be allowed.
- Spectators in attendance at activity contests are encouraged to wear facemasks, but doing so is not required.
- Food served at home contests concessions must be limited to prepacked or premade items (e.g. popcorn can be premade and served, but cannot be made while it is being served).
 - Hot food service can be provided (such as hot dogs and hamburgers) but again must be premade and pre-wrapped.
 - Shared condiment containers cannot be available to the public to use. Condiments need to be provided in individual packets, or applied by concessions workers at least 6' behind where the food is served.
 - No food can be prepared within 6' of where the food is served.
 - All concession workers must wear face masks at all times while preparing or serving concession food.
- Fundraiser meals sponsored by groups at activity contests, or as standalone fundraiser meals at the school, will not be allowed.
- Field trips, college visits, and other student trips, as well as off-site community activities, will be allowed if administration deems it safe.
 - When scheduling field trips, teachers/sponsors should look for local destinations in low COVID-19 risk locations/situations, that allow for effective social distancing of all visitors.

Additional provisions for High Spread mode:

- Field trips, college visits, and other student trips, as well as off-site community activities, are not allowed.
- Outdoor public performances by activity groups, such as the band marching in a parade, will not be allowed.
- Teams and organizations are allowed to continue to practice following NSAA guidance and other provisions of this document.
- If the District is in Low risk, but administration determines the COVID-19 conditions of a host or participating schools' communities to be in Moderate or High Spread (or the equivalent for their health region), administration may prevent the District from participating in a contest at that host school.
- If the District is in Low risk, but administration determines that COVID-19 conditions of the visitor school(s)' community/communities to be in Moderate or High Risk(or the equivalent for their health region), administration may prevent the District-hosted contest to occur.

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