Mission and Beliefs
The mission of the New Mexico School for the Deaf (NMSD), New Mexico’s first public school, is to provide for the unique needs of children and students who are deaf/hard of hearing, their families, and professional partners by providing a comprehensive array of school and statewide programs.

As a school, NMSD provides an American Sign Language and English bilingual learning environment that includes direct, ongoing access to language and communication in and out of the classroom with a wide range of peers and adults. The students are interactive learners who receive dynamic high-quality standards-based instruction in a variety of curricular and extra-curricular activities.

As a statewide service agency, NMSD collaborates with families, school districts, agencies and communities throughout the state to meet the critical language, communication, and learning needs of children and students in New Mexico who are deaf/hard of hearing, birth through high school.

Program Plans
NMSD has multiple functions serving children and families. In addition to its academic programs, the campus in Santa Fe operates as the hub and resource center for its extensive early intervention and outreach programs serving deaf and hard of hearing children and youth from birth through age 22 in the whole state of New Mexico.

The plans attached to this document outline how NMSD will provide continuity in our serves to children and families in programs below as restrictions and health and safety concerns fluctuate in our state and communities:

- Academic Programs in Santa Fe (Preschool through Highschool)
- Satellite Preschools in Albuquerque, Las Cruces, and Farmington
- Early Intervention and Parent Children Programs Statewide
- Outreach Consultation and Training for Families and Educators Statewide

If NMSD is able to partially open its campuses for in person instruction, all social distancing and mask requirements will be enforced. Student numbers in classrooms will be at a minimum and students and teachers will be arranged in pods for instruction and meals. Schedules for arriving on campus will be staggered to allow contact with very few individuals. All families and staff will be screened before entering campus or NMSD vehicles. Attached to this document are protocols and procedures that will be employed on our campuses in Albuquerque and Santa Fe to maximize COVID-19 safe practices:

- Categories of Personal Protective Equipment Use (PPE) Recommendations
- Cleaning and Disinfecting Process for a Confirmed COVID-19 Case
- Protocol for Sick Student, Staff, or Visitor on Campus
- Managing a Confirmed COVID-19 Case Facility Workflow
- Protocol for Testing Staff for COVID-19
- Screening Protocol
- Letter to Families from NMSD Family Nurse Practitioner

*Processes subject to new standards and guidance from the NM DOH and CDC
*Safety practices for Early Intervention and Parent Child services follow the EIDS entry plan
Where we are now:

- Beginning March 12, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, NMSD began providing all early intervention services through a tele-intervention model. NMSD will continue this model of service delivery through August 30, 2020. This has been approved by NMSD administration and the New Mexico Family Infant Toddler Program.
- A parent survey was sent out recently. Many parents reported that they would like in-person visits to resume while expressing a need for safety measures to be in place.
- Between March 12 and August 30, NMSD has also created a Re-entry Task Force in order to acquire PPEs and set protocol and procedures for the next phase of service delivery.

Where we are headed:

Beginning September 1, 2020, EIDS will begin to provide options for both the continuation of tele-intervention visits and/or in-person home visits. All COVID-19 safety practices will be implemented for in-person home visits.

- Safety considerations that will determine the provision of in-person home visits:
  - Directives from the Governor, Department of Health, and NMSD.
  - Incidence of COVID-19 cases within areas. (Areas where there have been additional lockdowns or directives, given the high incidence of COVID-19.)
  - Staff or families who are at high risk, according to established CDC guidelines, will continue with tele-intervention services.
  - The Home Visit Safety Consideration Guide and COVID-19 Checklist (both attached) have been adhered to with each home visit.
If a family has indicated that they would like to resume in-person home visits, the following Safety Practices for Home Visits must be followed. Directives from the Governor, Department of Health, Family Infant Toddler Program and NMSD will continue to guide EIDS service delivery.

**Do:**

- **Use the COVID-19 Health Checklist** - You, and the families you visit, must check the COVID-19 health checklist before each home visit. If you, or the families you visit, answer “yes” to any of the questions on the checklist, an in-person home visit should not occur for at least 14 days.

- **Stagger in-person home visits** - Schedule home visits so that you will not be moving directly from one home to another, with never more than three in-person visits in a day. Schedule visits so that you have adequate time to disinfect before going to another family’s home.

- **Wear a mask whenever you are meeting in-person and make sure each family member over 3 also wears a mask** - Disposable masks will be provided for you by NMSD. These are primarily intended for use by families who do not have their own masks, but staff may use them as well, if the situation warrants. In general, staff should have several cloth masks that can be worn at a home visit and then laundered. Please do not use the same mask when visiting different families until the mask has been cleaned.

- **Conduct home visits in well-ventilated areas** - When the weather allows, families may want to have visits outdoors or with the windows of their homes open.

- **Clean your hands often** - Wash your hands often and thoroughly, especially at the end of each home visit, whenever possible. (Do not wash your hands at a family’s home. Instead, keep hand sanitizer and wipes readily available in your vehicles.) Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed
hands. Wipe down any surface you touched since the home visit, such as the car door handle.

- **Avoid close contact** - Social distancing is difficult during home visits. Homes may be small and young children frequently move between their parents and the DS. However, as much as possible, try to maintain at least 6 feet between you and others.

- **Stay home if you are sick** - Please use your sick leave. We are responsible to keep each other well. If you are taking a sick leave day, please tell your supervisor why. This will be confidential.

- **Clean and sanitize** - Surfaces such as keyboards and steering wheels should be wiped down on a regular basis.

- **Remember that home visits may still be conducted as tele-intervention visits.**

**Do not:**

- **Do not schedule in-person group events for families.** Such events will need to be postponed or conducted remotely.

- If you arrive at a home visit and a family member is sick or refuses to wear a mask, **do not stay at the home visit.** You must leave immediately.

- **Do not schedule in-person home visits if you (or someone living at the home you will visit) is at “high-risk” for complications from COVID-19.** (Risk factors include: age of 65 or older, diabetes, high blood pressure, asthma or other respiratory issues, a BMI over 30, and any other chronic condition.) You must talk with your direct supervisor to self-disclose your high-risk condition. All information you disclose will be confidential and shared only on a need-to-know basis.

- **Do not schedule home visits in areas where there have been additional lockdowns or directives given the high incidence of COVID-19.** Talk to your supervisor for direction.

- **Do not bring items into the home.** Leave bags, books, electronic devices, etc. in your car unless these items are for the family to keep.

Please remember, this will not last forever. When can deal with this situation best when we do it together. If we all follow these requirements, we will have our best outcomes. Thank you for all you do. Your work makes an amazing difference to children and families.
In order to keep each family we serve and our staff safe, we ask that your family complete this survey before each home visit. If you answer “yes” to any of the questions, please postpone your in-person home visit to a later date. Please also remember that all family members, excluding children under the age of 3, must wear masks. Social distancing and adequate ventilation during the home visit must also be observed. Thank you for helping us all stay healthy!

☐ Have you, or anyone living in your home, had any direct contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 14 days?

☐ Have you, or anyone living in your home, had any of the following symptoms:
  - Cough
  - Diarrhea
  - Sore throat
  - Body aches
  - Headache
  - New onset fatigue
  - Nausea/vomiting
  - Difficulty breathing or tightness of chest
  - Chills
  - Rash
  - Temperature over 99.2°F
  - Loss of taste or smell

☐ Have you, or anyone living in your home, traveled outside of the state in the past 14 days?

☐ Are you, or anyone living in your home, considered at “high risk” for complications from COVID-19? (Risk factors include: age of 65 or older, diabetes, high blood pressure, asthma or other respiratory issues, a BMI over 30, and any other chronic condition.)
### Level 1: Learn from Home – Teacher facilitated online Learning

### Level 2: Hybrid model with a choice of learn from home or learn on Santa Fe campus or area support centers with Full COVID-19 Safety Precautions. Cottages are closed. No outside groups allowed to use NMSD facilities. Sporting activities and all travel cancelled. NMSD Preschool and childcare in Albuquerque and Santa Fe open.

### Level 3: Partial campus opening with Full COVID-19 Safety Precautions.
Student learning on campus. Cottages are open. Limited outside groups allowed to use NMSD facilities. Sporting activities may be allowed.

### Level 4: Instructional buildings, most building spaces, and offices open, most student activities resumed with full COVID-19 Safety Precautions

### Level 5: All campus open with reasonable safety and cleaning precautions.
The New Mexico School for the Deaf

Fall 2020
Instructional Plan
Levels I & II
## Timeline:

### Level 1: Full Distance Learning (August 10th)

- Grades 1-12 Classes are fully online until at least Sept 8.
- NMSD reviews information regularly to determine when it is safe to bring students to campus and have in person support.
- Teachers teach from campus as much as possible.
- Training and protocols established and planning for students to return continue.
- ECE services available starting on the 24th.
- ABCs begin on the 24th for students without online access.

### ECE & Area Based Centers ABCs (August 24)

- Full day ECE and Kindergarten in Alb and Santa Fe with instruction in the mornings and aftercare in the afternoons.
- Area Based Centers begin for students who do not have any access to online resources.
- NMSD Task Force continues to meet, plan, and work toward bringing students back on campus when safely able to do so.

*Opening of Early Childhood campuses are dependent on evolving health and safety issues.*

### Level II: Hybrid Model (TBD)

- Main Learning Center (Santa Fe campus) opens for students able to commute on a daily basis.
- Area Based Centers shift to supporting students who are unable to commute to campus.
- In-person learning is phased in beginning with students most in need, elementary, middle school, and finally high school.
- NMSD continues to assess/modify plans and work on solving issues as they arise.
- NMSD assesses and plans for further opening of activities and cottages when safely able to do so.

*Note: Opening campus and in person supports (ABC’s) may be scaled back if warranted by health and safety circumstances.*
**Instruction Department Objective**

Each NMSD student, regardless of ability or location, will receive the best possible education and supports that NMSD and its staff can provide under ever-changing circumstances.
Level I

Learn At Home

- On-campus learning & aftercare for early childhood in Alb. and Santa Fe
- Las Cruces and Farmington Preschools follow host school learning plan
- Full distance teacher supported learning for Grades 1-12
- Area-Based supports for students who do not have online access.
- Home-Based Learning for students who have online access.
- All IEP services provided
Level II

Learn at home
Learn on campus or area based center

- On-campus learning in Alb and Santa Fe and aftercare for Early Childhood (Toddler-Kindergarten)
- Combination of distance and in-person learning for Grades 1-12
- Area-based learning for students who live outside a 60-mile radius of the Santa Fe Campus and need additional support.
- Option of distance and/or in-person learning for students who live within a 60-mile radius.
**Main Learning Center**

- Based on the Santa Fe campus. Most teachers teach from the MLC due to the availability of tech/resources to support all students.
- Students who prefer, benefit from or require in-person support and live within the region may attend classes at the MLC. Serves students within approx. 60 mile radius.
- In-person support provided by teacher or Educational Assistants in consultation with teachers.
- Students can move between the MLC and HBL models as needed.
- If it is not safe, students move to HBL with the same schedule.
- Teachers direct learning for their students within any model.
- Students view instruction/lessons at the same time in-person or via technology.
- All share the same bell schedule, lessons and E-learning tools.
- Effective independent learners receive same instruction/information as others.
- Available to all students, including those who require social distancing due to medical concerns.
- Some parental support may be needed.

**Area Based Centers**

- Centers established in strategic locations around the state to best serve students who need in-person support.
- In-person support provided by Educational Assistants in consultation with teachers.
- Teachers may rotate/teach from area centers.
- Students can move between the ABC and HBL models as needed.
- If it is not safe, students move to HBL with the same schedule.

**Home-Based Learning**

- All safety precautions and protocols apply.
- Students can move between the ABC and HBL models as needed.
- If it is not safe, students move to HBL with the same schedule.
- Bell Schedule remains constant throughout the Fall semester.
- Early Childhood take place daily on campus beginning August 24.
- Elementary Classes take place either online or on campus in the mornings (M-F)
- Middle and High School Classes take place either online or on campus in the afternoons. (M-Th)
- Distance learning during the rest of the time for Grades 1-12.
  - One-on-one instruction time/supports
  - Related services when appropriate/needed
  - Tutoring
  - Independent learning/projects
- Teachers teach from campus with aide support even during distance learning as much as possible.
Related and Support Services – Level II

• Flexible model. May happen during distance learning or in person.
• Largely one-on-one
• High levels of safety precautions (full PPE as needed).
Level I and II Learning Format: Elementary (Grades 1-5)

Focus Areas

- English and ASL Language Arts
- Math, Science and Social Studies
- IEP Goals
- Continued Language Development
- Specials in a format that is meaningful to students
- PE and exercise time available.

Supplementary Supports

- Daily morning classes from 8:30-11:30.
- Ongoing related and support services as per IEPs
- Distance Learning when student not on campus.
- Virtual office hours for 1-1 parental and student support.
- Small classes with additional staff support.
- Resources sent home to support distance learning.
Focus Areas

- All classes taught according to student’s bell schedule.
- IEP Goals
- Continued Language Development
- Workshops during homeroom time.

Supplementary Supports

- Daily afternoon classes from 12:00-3:45
- Ongoing related and support services as per IEPs
- Distance Learning when student not in school.
- Virtual office hours for 1-1 parental and student support
- Small classes with additional staff support
- Resources sent home to support distance learning.
## Connectivity
- For families unable to connect to the internet, various local resources explored.
- Area Based Learning Centers or home-based supports provided for students who are unable to connect and unable to attend school on campus.

## Hardware
- Early Childhood (Toddlers through PreK): Hardware depends on what families have accessible. A few families supplied with technology if there are no alternatives.
- K-2 Grades (and select groups of older students using SeeSaw): iPads distributed to each child.
- 3-5 Grades: MacBooks distributed to each child with the exception of those using iPads.
- 6-8 Grades: Windows Laptops distributed to each child with the exception of those using iPads.
- 9-12 Grades: Windows Surfaces distributed to each child with the exception of those using iPads.

## Software/Apps
- For students attending online, Zoom is used with aides monitoring students working online and communicating with the teacher live.
- K-2 Grades: SeeSaw serves as their learning management system.
- 3-12 Grades: Google Classroom or SeeSaw depending on type of class.
- Other online learning apps used with both on-campus and online students.
- All students regardless of learning location will be using the same learning materials.
Because PED recommends the restriction of nonessential visitors and volunteers, the vast majority of our services will be offered virtually this fall. If a district/school or family has a situation they deem essential for live consultation, we will consider those requests based on COVID incidence in that location and, if deemed appropriate, will follow all CDC, state, district and NMSD guidelines to maintain safe engagement.

**REMOTE & HYBRID INSTRUCTION SUPPORTS**

- Receive virtual consultation for classroom teachers, administrators, related service providers, and interpreters.
- Receive virtual pre-IEP discussions, support in drafting the Communication Considerations Addendum, and IEP meeting participation.
- Virtual student observations provided live via Zoom (or other platforms).
- Virtual training and workshops are available live or pre-taped for classroom teachers, administrators, related service providers, interpreters.
- **NEW** online ASL Classes will be offered statewide this fall for school staff assigned to work directly with D/HH students.
- ASL Tutors can meet virtually or, possibly, in homes with families to grow ASL Skills.
- Learn how to increase visual and auditory access for D/HH students learning virtually.
- Planning is in progress to potentially provide virtual student evaluations.
- Consultation in support of post-secondary transition planning is available.

**SUPPORTS FOR FAMILIES**

- Have a conversation with an Educational Consultant to support home learning and increase visual and/or auditory access related to learning online.
- **NEW** online ASL Classes will be offered statewide this fall for families of D/HH children.
- ASL Tutors can meet virtually or, possibly, in homes with families to grow ASL Skills.

**CONTACT US**

- cindy.huff@nmsd.k12.nm.us
- 505-670-7896 (v/t)
### Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Recommendations
#### NMSD 2020-2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Mouth/Nose</th>
<th>Eyes</th>
<th>Body</th>
<th>Hands</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visitor or Staff (on campus, satellite facility or home visit)</td>
<td>Laundered cloth or surgical mask</td>
<td>Not required</td>
<td>Follow the dress code and consider washable business clothing if applicable</td>
<td>Use good hand hygiene (washing or sanitizing hands frequently)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student &gt;2 years old (on campus, satellite facility or home visit)</td>
<td>Laundered cloth or surgical mask</td>
<td>Not required</td>
<td>Not required</td>
<td>Use good hand hygiene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Providing care that may involve exposure to blood, body fluids, secretions, excretions, touching oral mucosa or medication assistance (e.g. toileting, diaper changing)</td>
<td>Mask</td>
<td>If potential for splash, face shield</td>
<td>Gown</td>
<td>Gloves and use good hand hygiene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Close contact with those with excessive saliva, or behaviors such as spitting</td>
<td>Mask</td>
<td>Face shield</td>
<td>Gown or plastic apron</td>
<td>Gloves and use good hand hygiene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feeding a person or providing nutritional support</td>
<td>Mask</td>
<td>If potential for splash, face shield</td>
<td>Gown or plastic apron</td>
<td>Gloves and use good hand hygiene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caring for a SYMPTOMATIC/SICK student, no aerosol generating procedure</td>
<td>Mask</td>
<td>Face shield</td>
<td>Gown</td>
<td>Gloves and use good hand hygiene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caring for a SYMPTOMATIC/SICK student, w/ aerosolized procedure (e.g. nebulizers, throat swabs)</td>
<td>N95 mask</td>
<td>Face shield</td>
<td>Gown</td>
<td>Gloves and use good hand hygiene</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Facilities is notified of a confirmed COVID-19 case in building

- Note that if it has been more than 7 days since the person who was sick visited or used the facility, additional cleaning and disinfection is not necessary. Continue with routine cleaning and disinfection to maintain healthy environment.
- If <7 days, follow algorithm below

**Close off affected area(s)**
- Consider shutting off HVAC to limit spread of droplets to unaffected area(s)

**Open outside doors and windows (if possible)**
- This will allow for increased circulation in the affected areas.

**Vacuum the space if needed**
- Use of vacuum with HEPA filter if available
- Do not vacuum while space has other people in it

**Clean & disinfect ALL AREAS used by the person who is sick**
- Wear appropriate mask, disposable gloves and gown for ALL tasks in the cleaning process. If risk of splash, consider additional PPE (e.g., face shield)
- PPE should be carefully removed when finished so as not to contaminate surrounding areas
- Hands should be washed often with soap and water.

Once area has been appropriately cleaned AND disinfected, it can be re-opened for use.

Per CDC Guidelines:
Screening application “Dr. Owl” will be used by each staff member, visitor and student prior to arrival on campus or respective satellite facility. If there are any newly identified sick symptoms, recent travel, or exposure, the app will instruct the individual to STAY HOME and call the health center for further instruction and an enhanced screening. Those who have had close contact to a person diagnosed with COVID-19 will need to stay home and follow New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH) guidance if symptoms develop and/or follow appropriate guidance for home quarantine if asymptomatic (see attached reference).

The following protocol applies to those who develop symptoms WHILE ON CAMPUS.

Covid-19 testing sites for NM:
https://cvprovider.nmhealth.org/directory.html
Developed according to recommendations by CDC and NMDOH
MANAGING A CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASE – FACILITY WORKFLOW

*Per CDC Guidelines:

**Confirmed person with COVID-19 in building**

- Notify HC immediately AND
  - If person is still at facility, place in isolation room with mask. Make sure to wear appropriate PPE.
- Notify facilities AND Superintendent.
  - Anticipate a short building dismissal (2-5 days)
  - This allows for cleaning/disinfection as well as any contact tracing
- Make sure we are protecting patient confidentiality!
- Close off any areas used by the person who is sick
- Turn off HVAC. Open outside doors/windows if possible to increase circulation to affected area(s)
- Wait at least 24 hours before starting the cleaning and disinfection process to allow respiratory droplets to settle
- HC will coordinate with local health officials to determine next steps and testing.
  - Direct exposures will likely need to quarantine for 14 days.
- Private transportation should be arranged for person to go immediately home or appropriate healthcare facility
- Workers WITHOUT close contact with the affected person can return to work once affected areas are re-opened (after cleaning/disinfection process)
- Once area has been appropriately disinfected, the area can be reopened for use.

**Workers Superintendent**

- Notify HC immediately AND
  - If person is still at facility, place in isolation room with mask. Make sure to wear appropriate PPE.
- Notify facilities AND Superintendent.
  - Anticipate a short building dismissal (2-5 days)
  - This allows for cleaning/disinfection as well as any contact tracing
- Make sure we are protecting patient confidentiality!
- Close off any areas used by the person who is sick
- Turn off HVAC. Open outside doors/windows if possible to increase circulation to affected area(s)
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  - Direct exposures will likely need to quarantine for 14 days.
- Private transportation should be arranged for person to go immediately home or appropriate healthcare facility
- Workers WITHOUT close contact with the affected person can return to work once affected areas are re-opened (after cleaning/disinfection process)
- Once area has been appropriately disinfected, the area can be reopened for use.
COVID-19 Screening Protocol for Students/Staff/Visitors
New Mexico School for the Deaf

Screen yourself at home

- This will apply to all students, staff, and visitors and is required.
- Screen yourself BEFORE arriving to campus or hosting NMSD staff in home. It is encouraged to do this PRIOR to leaving your home for the day.
- Dr. Owl app or Dr. Owl website will be utilized. If none of these resources are available, please call the HC cell phone at (505) 699-8281 to provide your answers to nursing staff over the telephone. Answers will be kept confidential.
- Each site will have a specific location/screening questions, so ensure you are checking into the right place (e.g. ABQ, SF campus, or for the specific service that may come to your home)
- Make sure you have a thermometer to check your temperature at home, as this question will be asked upon the initial screening process

Acute vs. Chronic symptoms

- Student, staff, and visitors should answer questions for ACUTE symptoms only, in other words, only new or rapid onset symptoms. Do not answer "yes" to symptoms that are related to a known CHRONIC condition (i.e. longer than 3 months), such as seasonal allergies, migraines, fatigue.

Follow Dr. Owl's Advice

- If there are no flags identified on the initial screening process, you may proceed to your respective campus or with scheduled appointment.
- If a sick symptom or other flag is identified on the initial screening process, you will be alerted via Dr. Owl to stay home and to contact the Health Center at 505-476-6410 for further instruction. Leave a message if no answer and staff will return your call that day. If you are an employee, follow NMSD protocol for notifying your supervisor.
- If needed, COVID-19 testing and isolation information will be provided by the HC and your personal information kept confidential per HIPAA guidelines. NM DOH will be notified by HC staff if suspected COVID-19 symptoms. HC will also follow (+) COVID on Campus protocol with any person demonstrating suspected COVID-19 symptoms.
- All denied entries will also be flagged to appropriate staff with an email or push notification alert in real-time
- NM DOH will contact appropriate staff and students for contact tracing for a positive COVID-19 case.

Additional Temp Checks Required

- Additional temperature checks will be performed by staff upon arrival to ABQ campus, Santa Fe Campus, before getting on school transportation and/or if staff visits you at home.
- For day long classes (e.g. ECE), temperature checks will also be taken in the afternoon
- Any child/staff/visitor with a temp check >99.2F will be turned away from campus and sent home (or home visit cancelled).
- Any child/staff/visitor with visible acute/sick symptoms may also be turned away from campus and sent home (or home visit cancelled).
PROTOCOL FOR TESTING STAFF – COVID-19

- If an employee answers “yes” to any of the preliminary screening questions via Dr. Owl app or has a screening temperature >99.2°F during the initial screening they should return home and obtain free testing through the Department of Health (https://cv.nmhealth.org/public-health-screening-and-testing/location-details/)

- If a staff member is already on campus when symptoms develop, the employee should immediately isolate themselves, continue wearing mask, and proceed directly home.

- In both above situations, employee will need to immediately contact their supervisor as well as the NMSD health center for tracking and containment purposes.

- Employee confidentially will be maintained

- It will be recommended that the individual undergoes COVID-19 testing, even for mild symptoms, prior to returning to work. Employee will need to self-quarantine at home, while awaiting test results. If positive test, employee should expect follow-up from NM Department of Health (NMDOH) on when they safely return to work.

- NMSD health center will be in contact with NMDOH if there is a suspected COVID-19 case.

- Consider initiating COVID positive student/staff protocols. This will be done on a case-by-case basis, after an “enhanced” screening is performed by NMSD health center staff.

- COVID-19 is a reportable disease; which means that positive test results must be reported to NMDOH by the lab and clinic that performed the tests. NMDOH will follow-up with cases and contacts, particularly household and very close contacts of the employee.

There also may be situations when testing of ALL employees should be considered. For example, if there is a large increase in positive cases within a short period of time on campus.

NMPED will be requiring surveillance testing on a set of school staff for the virus each week. This will be done by the NMDOH public health staff or their contract staff that they are in the process of hiring. If a case is confirmed, health officials will work with schools to identify individuals who were exposed to the infected person and conduct rapid response testing.

References:
https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/busiscreeentest.pdf
https://cv.nmhealth.org/covid-safe-practices/all-employers/
Dear NMSD Community,

As we are getting prepared for a new school year, many changes are on the horizon with the novel virus, COVID-19. As the science evolves, we can anticipate that there will be more changes in the future. Furthermore, COVID-19 cases are on the rise again, and I want to make sure we are all continuing to exercise caution in our daily lives.

As both a mother and a Family Nurse Practitioner, I want to assure you that the safety and health of your children is my number one priority. In conjunction with guidelines set forth by the NM Public Education Department and the CDC, the staff at NMSD are working hard to make sure our community is protected. We are working diligently to not only have protocols in place for potential COVID-19 exposures, but also how to minimize our overall exposure.

I’m writing this letter today because I want to emphasize how much your help and stewardship is crucial to the success of our community. A few key points that we would appreciate your help with, both in self-practice but also in educating your child(ren):

- Please stay at home WITH ANY SICK SYMPTOMS* or while awaiting COVID-19 testing results.
- Please understand that due to safety reasons, if your child does get sick while at school, we will ask you to pick them up immediately from school.
- Please follow the Governor’s most recent executive order; if any non-essential personnel in the household has traveled outside New Mexico (or an area of high COVID-19 prevalence) please home quarantine for 14 days to ensure the safety of others.
- Practice safe social distancing every day (minimum of 6 feet), wear your mask in public spaces, practice good hand hygiene, and avoid social gatherings.
- Please talk with your children and family about the importance of frequent handwashing, covering your cough/sneeze with your elbow, how to wear a mask and avoid touching their mask/face throughout the day, as well as social distancing.
- Make sure everyone is up-to-date on all recommended immunizations

We will be requiring all Santa Fe and Albuquerque students, staff, and visitors to utilize a COVID-19 screening application for the 2020-21 Academic School Year [Dr. Owl], as well as daily temperature screenings. We will also be utilizing this screening process if NMSD staff visit you in your area of the state. It will be vital to our community that you and your child(ren) comply with answering the questions before arriving on campus for the day, as well as conducting an at home temperature check. Students and staff will have temperatures checked a second time once arriving on campus or prior to boarding any school transportation.

The use of this screening tool will allow staff to identify any potential exposures as well as conduct contact tracing in case of an exposure. It takes less than a minute to complete and can easily be integrated with some practice into our new daily COVID culture. For those that don’t have access to internet or this application, rest assured that NMSD will work with you on how to perform the screenings without these technologies.

*Please stay at home with any COVID-19 symptoms or while awaiting COVID-19 test results.
Again, I just want to remind you that if your child(ren) or anyone in the household are exhibiting ANY sick symptoms, even if mild, please refrain from sending them to school. Make sure to notify the school so we can help guide the safe return of your student to the classroom. If you have any questions regarding a sick child, please feel free to call our health center at (505) 476-6410 or contact your local pediatrician/healthcare facility.

Sincerely,
Tiffany T. Roberts, MSN, FNP-C
Family Nurse Practitioner
NMSD Health Center Coordinator

*Sick symptoms include (but are not limited to):
- Fever (>99.2°F)
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Acute onset runny nose/congestion (not allergy related)
- Sore throat
- Headache
- New onset fatigue
- Muscle aches
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Loss of taste or smell
- Abdominal pain
- Nausea/Vomiting
- Diarrhea

To read more about the Governor’s most recent executive order:

Resources to share with your child(ren) regarding safe COVID-19 practices:
https://deafchildren.org/2020/03/talking-to-kids-about-coronavirus-asl-english-resources/