



Navajo Nation
Department of Diné Education

Navajo Nation School Reopening Readiness Assessment

Navajo Nation Board of Education Approved on 6/16/2021

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INTRODUCTION

The Navajo Nation School Reopening Readiness Assessment is aligned with the most current CDC guidelines and the Navajo Nation COVID-19 Safe School Framework. This document contains the checklist that schools will complete and submit to the Department of Dine Education at schoolreopening@nndode.org. In addition, schools will submit the attestation statement that can be found in Appendix A of this School Reopening Readiness Assessment.

The Safe Schools framework safety measures are categorized in two main areas of prevention strategies: Core and Conditional. In addition to these areas, this checklist includes a category of administrative considerations that pertains to school operations.

These categories are defined as:

Core Prevention Strategies

Prevention practices include parent options for hybrid and/or virtual learning, masks, physical distancing, student cohorting, hygiene, cleaning and ventilation, diagnostic testing, contact tracing, and reporting. An exception falls under the critical/very high transmission (purple phase) where in-person learning may be restricted to selected students.

Conditional Prevention Strategies

Conditional prevention measures are strict prevention strategies that include screening testing. These prevention strategies may be implemented in other phases at the discretion of the school.

Administrative Considerations

Administrative Considerations are policies that support the safe operating of a school. These policies should not only be documented in school reopening plans, but they should also be implemented to ensure a safe environment for all staff and students in the school buildings and on campus.

Guidance for schools that are housed in Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) facilities and buildings:

There are additional items that are not covered under this Navajo Nation School Reopening Readiness Assessment Checklist. For example, there is no section on playgrounds or water systems. However, The Department of Diné Education recommends that administrators work with their respective BIE facility maintenance person to ensure that all required indicators of the walk through are met by using both checklists. The readiness assessment checklist is influenced by the mitigation strategies that are aligned with relevant guidance and best practices as determined by the many Navajo Nation safety teams, including teams that work directly toward mitigating COVID-19 on the Navajo Nation (NHCOC, EPI, Testing, etc.) All efforts have been made to align both documents to ensure a school is safely prepared to reopen.

Reopening Readiness Assessment Team Composition

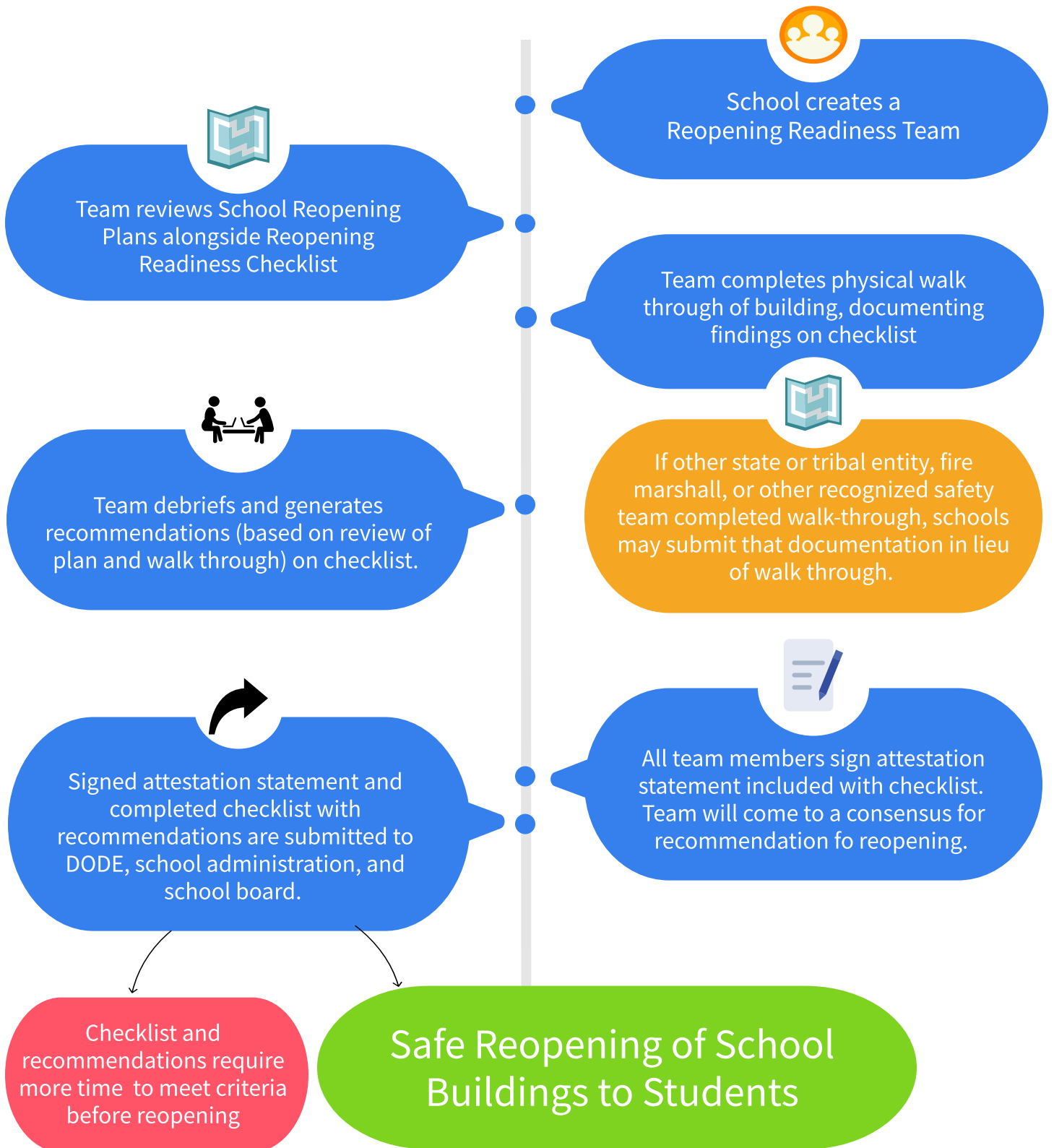
All schools and districts will complete the Reopening Readiness Assessment Checklist at each of their school sites. In doing so, the school or district will assemble a Readiness Assessment review team, with the recommended composition of five individuals below. This team is responsible for reviewing the checklist and ensuring that the core and conditional prevention strategies, and the administrative considerations are present in either documented plans or in a physical walkthrough of the building and campus.

Administrator	superintendent, principal, vice principal, counselor, or other employee that would act with the authority of the Principal/Superintendent in the event of their absence.
Local health worker	school nurse (can be at school or from neighboring school if necessary), health educator, employee that has knowledge of public health and/or health emergency.
Educator	teacher, librarian, paraeducators/paraprofessionals
Facility/maintenance representative	facility department manager, BIE facilities maintenance person, employee knowledgeable of facility and maintenance systems, or custodial staff who are knowledgeable about facilities maintenance.
Parent/guardian or community member	A parent/guardian who has at least one student attending the school or a community member, who has been a resident of the community for over a decade.

Although not required, the school may also invite additional members from their local Indian Health Service health facility or tribal health facility, school board members, Department of Diné Education staff, Navajo Department of Health (NDOH), or Navajo Health Command Operations Center (NHCOC)

The readiness checklist is aligned with CDC guidelines and the Navajo Nation's COVID-19 Safe Schools Framework. Once completed, the school will submit the readiness assessment document to the Department of Dine Education at schoolreopening@nndode.org. The school is also encouraged to share with their stakeholders.

Visual Representation of Reopening Readiness Assessment



**All documentation can be sent to:
schoolreopening@nndode.org**

Note: There is an exception of schools that have already met all criteria and can supply documentation and evidence to show readiness in all areas of readiness assessment.

Safety Guideline Checklist

CORE Prevention Strategies

Parent Options - For hybrid and/or virtual learning	Evidence of this indicator	No Evidence
Offer options for students at higher risk that limit their exposure (e.g. virtual learning, smaller student cohorts, or other). <i>BIE- Update Emergency action and communication plan</i>		
Collaborate with parents and/or guardians of students with disabilities or special health needs to ensure appropriate implementation of any accommodations and modifications that are needed for students to access the general or modified curriculum, as stated in their Individual Education Programs (IEPs). <i>BIE- Update Emergency action and communication plan</i>		
Masks - Universal and Correct Use	Evidence of this indicator	No Evidence
Teachers, staff, students, and visitors (ages 2 and above) who enter the school will consistently and correctly use face masks to prevent SARS-CoV-2 transmission through respiratory droplets. <i>BIE- General School Health & Safety Guidelines</i>		
Develop policies that indicate Masks are required in all classroom and non-classroom settings, including hallways, school offices, restrooms, gyms, auditoriums, etc. <i>BIE- Elevators and Stairs, Protective Barriers, PPB</i>		
Develop policies for exceptions and accommodations for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persons who, because of a disability, cannot wear a mask or wear a mask safely; • Settings such as accommodating those who are deaf or hard of hearing. 		
At times when mask wearing is not feasible (e.g., eating and drinking), ensure steps are taken to promote physical distancing during these times.		
School Guidelines for masks should consider and/or include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean masks should be worn each day (reusable cloth masks should be washed when dirty or at least daily). Throw away disposable masks after wearing once. • Masks are the preferred and recommended simple barrier to prevent source control. • The use of clear masks for instruction for students who need to visually see the instructor's mouth. • Ensure there are no breathing difficulties or over heating problems for the wearer. • Clear masks are not face shields; face shields are not recommended 		
Student Cohorting	Evidence of this indicator	No Evidence
In areas of high transmission, Students should be divided into smaller pods or cohorts to ensure school's ability to support contact tracing. This includes ways to manage cohorts in the school building and on buses.		
Based on CDC recommendations, when cohorting isn't available as an option, 6 feet of physical distance is recommended.		

Physical Distancing - At least 3-6 feet between students in classroom	Evidence of this indicator	No Evidence
<p>All staff should consistently communicate, explain, model, and reinforce appropriate physical distancing practices in ways that are developmentally appropriate for students, teachers, staff, and parents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider CDC recommended seating patterns <p style="text-align: right;"><i>BIE- Personal Protective Barriers</i></p>		
<p>Create transportation plans that follow physical distancing and ventilation practices.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>BIE- Communication plan, Bus transportation guidelines</i></p>		
<p>Outfit buildings with highly visual and visible physical distancing demarcations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Markers and physical guides on floors/walls to communicate where students and staff should stand or stay in order for all parties to stay 3-6 feet apart. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>BIE- Personal Protective Barriers</i></p>		
<p>Reconfigure workspaces and classrooms, if necessary and appropriate to allow for at least 3-6 feet of separation between individuals</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>BIE- Personal Protective Barriers</i></p>		
Hygiene, Cleaning and Ventilation Maintain healthy facilities	Evidence of this indicator	No Evidence
<p>Teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure access to essential hygiene supplies including consistent running hot and cold water, soap, paper towels, tissues, hand towels. Ensure handwashing stations are accessible. Post visible signs as reminders and behavior change support. Increase monitoring to ensure adherence among students and staff. Provide hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not readily available <p style="text-align: right;"><i>BIE- Facilities/Restrooms; General School Health & Safety Guidelines , Personal Protective Barriers (PPB)</i></p>		
<p>Ensure cleaning and disinfectant supply inventories are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Readily available and safely stored (locked and/or out of reach) according to the Safety Data Sheets (SDS) that are provided by the vendors used to follow schedules of increased routine cleaning and disinfection of frequently touched surfaces per CDC and EPA. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>BIE- COVID- 19 Hygienic Supplies</i></p>		
<p>Determine what needs to be cleaned, and how areas will be disinfected.</p> <p><i>Cleaning and Disinfecting schedule</i> that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surfaces and objects in public or shared areas High touch surfaces include: Tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, sinks. Post visible cleaning check sheets in restrooms, kitchens, classrooms, and high traffic areas. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>BIE- School Cleaning Guidelines</i></p>		
<p>Minimize shared Objects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discourage sharing objects that are difficult to clean or disinfect. For example, sharing of soft toys, stuffed animals, crayons and art supplies, sponges, clay, etc. Ensure adequate supplies (e.g., assign each student art supplies or equipment). Avoid sharing electronic devices if possible. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>BIE- Protective Barriers</i></p>		
<p>In building and classrooms, increase indoor air ventilation when possible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open windows and doors (assess safety to children first). Use child-safe fans to increase effectiveness of open windows. Decrease occupancy in areas where outdoor ventilation cannot be increased. Increase use of outdoor spaces when safe and possible (audience should be upwind of speaker) <p style="text-align: right;"><i>BIE- HVAC/Other actions to consider</i></p>		

Diagnostic Testing - Referral of symptomatic or exposed individuals to health care facility for testing	Evidence of this indicator	No Evidence
Plan “What to do if a Student Becomes Sick at School or Reports a New COVID-19 Diagnosis”		
Provide clear guidance and support for any staff or students with symptoms of COVID-19		
Incorporate into plans how all newly symptomatic individuals will be directed to receive immediate COVID-19 testing and to follow isolation protocols above (this is called “diagnostic testing”). All close contacts of COVID-19 cases also need diagnostic COVID-19 testing and to follow quarantine protocols. This might be seen in an isolation area.		
Incorporate into plans how diagnostic testing may be done: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the school-by-school personnel using a CLIA waived test (e.g., rapid antigen test) if a CLIA Certificate of Waiver is in place • At the school by a rapid response team deployed from the local health center/clinic. • On a referral basis at local health centers/clinics 		
Contact Tracing - Timely Isolation & Quarantine, and contact with local health care facility	Evidence of this indicator	No Evidence
Incorporate into school plans ways to follow Navajo Nation Department of Health, Health Command Operations Center and NN Government policies related to group gatherings to determine if events can be held <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess group gathering size limits. • Determine allowable types of activities (e.g. is singing or cheering permitted?) <i>BIE- General</i> 		
Implement sign in logs for all individuals who enter the building. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information should include, at minimum: name, phone number, and time in and out. 		
Advise students, teachers, staff, and families of home isolation and quarantine criteria. Develop policies that include quarantine protocols, CDC isolation protocol. Safety plans should closing off areas after cleaning and disinfection and cleaning until after 24 hours or as long as possible following safety practices.		
Inform those who have had close contact (see checklist available with definition) to stay home and self-monitor for symptoms, get tested, and follow CDC guidance if symptoms develop.		
Reporting Required -To local health care facility HCOG exposure portal, and weekly public notification	Evidence of this indicator	No Evidence
Schools must report all COVID-19 cases and close contact to local health officials and to the HCOG COVID-19 Reporting Portal . For questions about reporting cases, schools may call the Health Command Operations Center at (928) 871-7014.		

CONDITIONAL Prevention Strategies

Screening testing	Evidence of this indicator	No Evidence
<p>Incorporate into plans how screening testing will be handled. Screening testing is testing that is done to detect infection even when there is no reason to suspect infection (e.g., there are no symptoms and no exposures). Screening testing can help prevent silent spread of SARS-CoV-2 from asymptomatic people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools may consider screening testing of faculty, staff and/or students on a weekly or twice weekly basis, using school-based or home-based approaches to testing. 		
<p>Considerations for screening testing include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plans should discuss feasibility, including cost, personnel, physical space, ability to obtain informed consent, ability to maintain confidentiality, and ability to follow up all test results with recommended actions 		
<p>Schools with the following factors are encouraged to consult directly with HCOC POCs to develop and implement school testing plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contextual elements such as geographic mobility of student population, presence, or absence of residential or dorm facilities, and background community COVID-19 transmission patterns. 		

ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATIONS

Policies, Procedures and Protocols	Evidence of this indicator	No Evidence
Develop policies and update plans that include the identification and communication with local and regional public health experts in medicine, population health, Safety, and Navajo Nation Occupational Safety and Health Administration (NNOSHA).		
Develop resource lists of these professionals who provide training and support and can answer common questions about COVID-19 prevention practices.		
Include in plan the timeline to train staff on all safety protocols, including infection prevention and control (IPC) practices, psychological first aid, chemical and environmental health, etc.		
Encourage staff to attend training opportunities such as Navajo Health Command Operations Center (NHCO) IPC training, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) school related training, CDC training, and others.		
Develop policies that support and encourage employees and students to stay home when appropriate (including quarantine areas and change in attendance policy to reflect accommodations for increased absences).		
Schools must report all COVID-19 cases and close contact to local health officials and to the HCOC COVID-19 Reporting Portal . For questions about reporting cases, schools may call the Health Command Operations Center at (928) 871-7014.		
Ensure chemical hazards safety per NNOSHA, NN Safety, and related protocols (not accessible by children, following the recommended use, and adequate ventilation to avoid exposure).		
Consider the pros and cons of health screenings prior to arrival to school facilities or school transportation vehicles.		
Whenever 6 feet of physical distance is not realistic, strongly reinforce correct mask wearing.		
<p>Promote flexible staff leave policies (e.g., allowing leave to care for a sick family member):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff may telecommute where feasible, especially those with increased risk for severe illness. Implement flexible work schedules 		

Recommendations

CORE Prevention Strategies

CONDITIONAL Prevention Strategies

ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATIONS



Reopening Readiness Assessment Team Signature of Attestation

School: _____

Date: _____

Expectations of the team:

The School Reopening Readiness Assessment (RRA) team conducted a thorough review of the written school reopening plans and a thorough walkthrough of school facilities to assess and document any findings that may impede students from safely returning back to school grounds and/or using school facilities. The team was also tasked with debriefing on all findings and providing a consensus decision on recommending whether the school is safe to reopen. All requirements in the checklist that are not met will be the school's responsibility to remedy. Once all areas are remedied, the school shall reinvite the assessment team to assess deficiency remediation when completed.

By signing, I attest that the information provided in the completed and submitted form is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Role on Team	Position	Print Name	Signature
Administrator			
Local Health Worker			
Educator			
Facility/Maintenance Representative			
Parent/Guardian or Community Member			

We, the above signed reopening readiness assessment team of _____
School

recommend

do not recommend

the reopening of the school at this time.

Administrator (Superintendent/Principal/Vice Principal):

I certify that the RRA team completed all necessary steps to ensure compliance with the Reopening Readiness Assessment steps included in the Navajo Nation School Reopening Readiness Assessment checklist.

Print Name

Signature

Date