

# New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired

1900 North White Sands Boulevard  
Alamogordo, New Mexico 88310  
Telephone (575) 437-3505  
Fax (575) 439-4411

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August 3, 2021

Dear NMSBVI Families,

Welcome to the 2021-2022 School year! As you know, we are back to full in-person learning and we are very excited to welcome students and staff on campus. NMSBVI will be back on our regular in person schedules this year. The New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired holds the health and safety of our students, families, and staff at the top of our list of priorities. NMSBVI also stresses the importance of education for all of our students. This upcoming school year, there is an even greater need to stress education across all areas including academics, social-emotional well-being and safety and hygiene. We are excited to return to full in-person learning for the 2021-2022 school year.

We are committed to the safety and well-being of students and staff. We continue to practice all required COVID Safe Practices in our buildings. For more information, please look at our website at [www.nmsbvi.k12.nm.us](http://www.nmsbvi.k12.nm.us). NMSBVI will also be following the mandates and recommendations in the New Mexico Public Education Department's Toolkit, which can be found here: <https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/back-to-school-guidance/>. **We require students and staff to stay home from school if they are exhibiting any COVID-19 symptoms that are not related to other chronic conditions.** Mandatory quarantines will remain in place under certain circumstances. We will also continue to offer surveillance testing on site to staff and students.

**Please make sure that you have sent your completed registration packets with all medical forms so that your child can return to school on time.**

During this school year, NMSBVI intends to continue to promote technology skills, so a Blended Learning Model will be adopted by most classes. This model supports in person learning with lessons or homework that can be accessed online. The model will also support our focus on teaching early technology skills needed to access these online lessons and activities.

For the coming school year, the New Mexico Public Education Department is not requiring districts or charter schools to provide a remote learning model as an option to families and there are statewide

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options for families who choose to have their children remain remote. NMSBVI will not be offering a remote learning model as an option for families for the 2021-2022 school year unless the state mandates another school closure. However, if a student is required to quarantine for a long period of time, NMSBVI will provide remote learning assignments in an asynchronous manner to continue that student's educational program if the student is well enough to participate. **If your child is unable to wear a mask at school due to a medical, health-related, or disability reason, your principal will contact you to set up an IEP in order to determine the best accommodation(s) for your child.**

NMSBVI supports the state's efforts to ensure that all eligible students (anyone over 12 years of age) and staff receive the COVID-19 vaccine. If you have questions regarding the vaccine, please contact our Nurse Practitioner, Kelly McAlister, at (575)439-4480. You can also find information on the New Mexico Department of Health's website here: <https://cv.nmhealth.org/covid-vaccine/>

Also, the [\\$100 vaccine incentive has returned](#). Until August 31, any New Mexican receiving any dose at any location will be eligible.

### **Will school look the same as in the Spring of 2021?**

School will look similar to our full re-opening in April, 2021.

- We will enforce physical distancing as much as possible.
- We will require frequent hand washing and hand sanitizing for all students.
- Temperature checks will be required both prior to coming to campus and upon arrival for all staff and students. (*The Dr. Owl COVID19 screening tool is no longer required*).
- *Students and staff will not be allowed on campus if they are experiencing COVID19 symptoms. If a student or staff member has chronic conditions with symptoms similar to COVID19, they may submit a doctor's note.*
- **Face masks will be required for all staff and students in all buildings**, regardless of vaccination status (with some exceptions for students who cannot wear a mask due to medical reasons)
- *Masks will not be required outside, during naps, or during meals.*
- Water fountains may not be accessible. Please bring water bottles.
- Breakfast and lunch will take place outside whenever possible.
- Dorm suites will be single occupancy only.
- Students and staff will be required to bring laptops/ ipads home in order to be prepared for remote learning if we have to quarantine a classroom due to a positive case.
- In the event of a positive COVID19 case on campus, parents will be notified and expected to pick up their children within an hour of notification. For out of town parents, we will require you to contact us within an hour of notification to inform us of your anticipated arrival time.
- Visitors will be limited to only those who are essential for the functioning of the school. All visitors will be required to complete the Dr. Owl screening and wear a mask while indoors on campus.
- **Please know that these mandates and practices are subject to change**

NMSBVI is so excited for this school year. We have all COVID Safe Practices (CSPs) in place and are looking forward to having our students back!

Be well,  
Patty

*Patricia Beecher*  
Superintendent  
New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired  
Cell: (505)859-0031 Fax: (575)439-4411