

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Attached are the updated Osage Co. R-I SRCSP/COVID Response and Reopening Plans, which outline the procedures for communicating how suspected and positive COVID-19 cases will be handled in the school setting. Additionally, the document outlines specific procedures for returning to school or work after an exclusion from school and school activities..

There are a number of procedures that will be implemented in order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. While no single action will completely eliminate the risk of COVID-19 transmission, we must make a coordinated effort to implement multiple strategies designed to greatly reduce the risk. We must be vigilant in our mitigation efforts and work together in keeping our building open in order to effectively meet the academic, social, and emotional needs of our students.

Our 2023-24 SRCSP Plan is built around the following foundational priorities:

- 1. Continue In-Person Learning*
- 2. Utilize Mitigation Strategies As Needed*
- 3. Guidance from Local Health Department, DHSS, CDC, and DESE*

As we return for the 2023-24 school year, the Osage Co. R-I School District will work to minimize the risk of exposure to COVID-19 for students and staff. However, we must all acknowledge that returning to in-seat instruction will introduce a greater risk of exposure in spite of our best efforts. The overall goal is to provide a path that allows for in-person instruction to continue for as many students as possible, for as long as possible with minimal disruptions in learning. We hope you share the belief that the inconvenience of extended school closings and distance learning is much greater than any perceived inconvenience of procedures related to ensuring the health of our staff and students.

The information that follows provides a summary of what students and parents can expect as different situations arise. Please remember these procedures are a working document and can be adjusted as information becomes available and we adjust to any federal, state, or local requirements.

Level 1- In- person classes for all. Mitigating measures in place as needed..

Level 2- Limited positive cases in school. Increased mitigating measures. Possible distance learning required for some. Attempt to return to Level 1 as soon as possible

Level 3- Significant number of identified cases within the school..- Possibility of short term closure if absences are disrupting essential services.

The decision to move from one level to another will be determined by the district in consultation with local health officials.

Sincerely,

Osage Co. R-I Administration

LEVEL 1: No/Low Cases in School or county

- Mitigating measures consistent with local health department, DHSS, DESE and CDC.
- Social distancing as allowable and appropriate. Stressed handwashing/sanitation measures.
- Exclusion of students per policy 2860 and 167.191, RSMo

LEVEL 2: Limited Positive Cases in school (student or staff)- Increased County Rate- In Person Classes - Distance Learning for Some

- School will not provide or release any individual names to public.
- Implement more strict measures such as increase distancing, more aggressive sanitation strategies, increase mask wearing.
- Implement distance learning for individuals.
- Exclusion of students per policy 2860 and 167.191, RSMo

LEVEL 3: Significant Number of Positive Cases or Oubreak (student or staff)-Distance Learning

- Same procedure for exclusion from school for cases and contact.
- School will not provide or release individual names to public.
- Possible closure of facilities Deep clean/disinfect entire facility
- Implement distance learning consistent plans. Return to in-person ASAP.

LEVEL 1-Some, all, or additional measures may be in place

- School open with in-person classes.
- Preventative measures will be implemented to the extent necessary or possible.
 - Increased cleaning and disinfecting
 - Emphasis on hand washing and use of hand sanitizer
 - Health screening and temperature checks as needed for students
 - Masking as recommended for those exposed to Covid or recovering.

LEVEL 2 Some, all, or additional measures may be in place

- Continue Level 1 Procedures
- Increased mitigating measures may include:
 - Implement distance learning plans as needed for individuals or groups
 - Increased distancing efforts, assigned seating, etc
 - Masking as recommended for those exposed to Covid or recovering.

LEVEL 3- Some, all, or additional measures may be in place

- Building and District short term closing likely if services are disrupted
- Length of closing determined in conjunction with local health department
- Postpone/Cancel all extra-curricular and non-instructional activities
- Return to in-person learning ASAP

COVID Procedures

As the Osage Co. R-I School District plans for the 2023 school year, our goal is to provide a safe environment for our students and staff. We understand that these recommendations will be adopted, reviewed and revised accordingly to the guidance given by the Federal, State, and Local health officials. As a district we understand that this plan may create some inconvenience but we are following the guidelines and recommendations to minimize the spread of communicable diseases in our district. This plan will help reduce the threat of the spread of communicable diseases.

Governance

Policies- New state and federal laws enacted relating to the COVID-19 pandemic or the waiver, suspension or amendment of an existing law or regulation made by the federal government, the Missouri Governor or state agencies in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic may take precedence over current approved School Board Policies.

Attendance

- Attendance remains important for students, however it is much more important to stay home when sick to prevent disease transmission.
- Policies for unexcused absences will remain. Communication and documentation on reasons for absences is very important.
- Staff Leave associated with COVID-19- The district is to comply with any federal or state law governing staff leave associated with COVID-19. Extended COVID paid leave through local policy will not be available.

Instruction

- The 2023-24 school year will start with in-person classes on August 22rd.
- Elementary, Junior High, and High School students will follow a typical class schedule.
- Students will receive general education instruction, supplemental instructional services, and special services.
- Elementary students will receive instruction in “specials” (Music, Media/Library, Art, and PE/Health). Instruction and location may be modified or revised.
- JH/HS courses in Art, Music/Band, PE, Career Ed, etc will be taught with necessary modifications.
- Elementary students/teachers will remain with their class (stable group) as much as possible.
- Grading practices will be consistent with prior school years (normal grading).
- Other Level 2 and Level 3 procedures will be implemented as necessary.

Transportation

- Social distancing on the bus will be implemented when necessary and to the extent possible.
- Students will use hand sanitizer when loading and unloading the bus, or as necessary.
- Commonly touched surfaces will be cleaned each day.
- Modifications to routes may occur should there be a shortage of drivers.

Food Service

- Breakfast and lunch will be served in the cafeteria.
 - Mitigating measures include implementing
 - JH/HS Grab N Go Breakfast
 - JH/HS lunch in cafeteria, outside seating, and gym
 - Increased distancing and assigned seating
 - Decrease use of self-serve items, salad bars, etc.
- Tables will be cleaned after each shift.

Recess/Physical Activity

- Recess and physical activity will be incorporated.
- Playground/outdoor equipment will routinely be cleaned.
- Students will sanitize/wash hands before and after recess.

Classrooms

- Elementary students will go immediately to the cafeteria or to their classroom upon arriving at school.
- JH/HS students will go to the cafeteria for breakfast or to the high school building. Students may congregate in the hallway.
 - Mitigating measures include reducing congregation and reporting to 1st hour classroom.
- Desks/chairs will be socially distanced as necessary and to the extent possible.
 - Mitigating Measure- Assigned seats will be given within classrooms.
- Distancing will be practiced in classroom activities when necessary and to the extent possible.
- Classrooms, desks, etc will be cleaned/disinfected daily.
- Frequent handwashing and sanitizing will be incorporated.
- Improved ventilation measures will include opening windows when appropriate and safe, upgrading air filters where central air is present.

Restrooms

- Restroom breaks will be one class at a time (elementary).
- Proper handwashing will be emphasized.
- JH/HS will have some flexibility on passing time to ensure proper handwashing and distancing can occur.

Visitors and Parents

- Log all visitors and parents who enter building.
- Parents will have the primary responsibility of assuring that their child(ren) do not have signs/symptoms of COVID-19 OR any other illness including new-onset fever, cough or diarrhea before the child(ren) leave for school or for school-sponsored events.
- Parents should have contingency plans for childcare in the event that the child cannot go to school due to illness and/or exclusion due to exposure to a confirmed COVID-19 case.
- Mitigating Measures if needed may include:
 - Implement mask requirement for visitors
 - Limitation on attendance at school events

Student and Staff Health Protocols

It is essential for the school community to work together to prevent the introduction and spread of COVID-19 in the school environment and in the community while still providing a quality education program. State statute gives public school districts the authority to exclude students and staff who have a contagious disease such as COVID-19 or who are liable to transmit the disease after having been exposed to it. See 167.191, RSMo (Policy 2860). In addition, the local health department has the ability to request or recommend students and staff be excluded from school and school activities based on contraction or exposure to communicable disease. Osage Co. R-1 School District will consult with the local health department.

Given the nature of the pandemic, the school district may make additional medical inquiries of staff and students than they otherwise would have. Please note that federal law typically limits the type of medical inquiries that can be made but given the nature of the pandemic more leeway has been given by federal agencies in this circumstance. If a parent tells the school district that a student is ill, the school district may ask the parent whether the student is exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19. If an employee calls in sick or appears ill, the school district will inquire as to whether the employee is experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms. The school district may take the temperature of students, employees and visitors to school property in situations where there is reason to believe that the person may be ill. If a person is obviously ill the school district may make additional inquiries and may exclude the person from school property.

- Students and employees exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 without other obvious explanations should not come to school, and if they do come to school, they will be sent home immediately.
- Symptoms include:
 - Low Risk
 - A fever (100.4° or sense of having a fever)
 - Chills
 - Muscle pain, Fatigue
 - Headache, congestion, runny nose
 - Sore throat
 - Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
 - High Risk
 - Cough
 - Difficulty Breathing
 - Loss of taste or smell
- Temperature checks and screening will be completed for students/staff who display symptoms.
- Employees are encouraged to screen at home, but can also screen upon arrival. Thermometers are available in HS and Elementary office.
- Siblings and other household members of a student or staff who exhibit the above symptoms or test positive may also be excluded from school. If a student has had a positive COVID19 test, his or her siblings or other students living in the same household may be excluded from school and activities as recommended by local, state, and federal health agencies, and district policy. Factors that will be considered are masking, vaccination, symptoms present, and exposure at home.
- A separate space will be available to assess students or staff members who may be exhibiting symptoms of a communicable disease. Only essential staff will be allowed to enter the room and must wear a mask.
- Students and staff who exhibit COVID-19 symptoms, without other obvious explanations, may be sent home. Criteria for returning will be based on CDC DHSS, and local guidelines.

Once a student or employee is excluded from the school environment for COVID related illness or symptoms, they may return if they satisfy the following recommendations and health guidelines. Currently those guidelines are:

No known exposure to COVID-19- Persons who have not received a test proving or disproving the presence of COVID-19 but experience symptoms may return if the following conditions are met:

- 1 Low Risk Symptom- Return to school 24 hours after symptom resolution (without fever reducing medication)
- 2 or more low risk symptoms or 1 high risk symptom- Evaluation by health care provider is recommended.
 - Health care provider confirms alternative diagnosis for symptoms—Return to school after 24 hours without fever reducing medication and symptom improving
 - Negative COVID test- Return to school 24 hours without fever reducing medication and symptoms improving
 - Positive COVID test- Return to school only after exclusion period has ended. Exclusion of close contacts of confirmed cases in accordance with local health department recommendations, CDC guidelines, and district policies. Students and staff may also return if approved by health care provider.
 - No provider visit or test- Return to school 48 hours after symptom resolution without fever reducing medication.

Exposure to COVID-19 positive person-

- *Monitor for symptoms.*
- Wear a mask for 10 days.
- Test after 5 days if possible.
- If test is positive, begin isolation.

Exclusion for positive test- Students, teachers, and school staff who test positive or are symptomatic close contacts to a COVID-19 case should self-isolate at home and not return to school until the following criteria are met:

- Stay home for 5 days.
- If you have no symptoms or your symptoms are resolving after 5 days, and meet criteria for low risk/high risk symptoms you can return to school.
- Continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.

If you have a fever, continue to stay home until your fever resolves.

Defining Close Contacts

The CDC defines a close contact to COVID-19 as someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (for example, three individual five-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes). An infected person can spread SARS-CoV-2 starting from two days before they have any symptoms (or, for asymptomatic patients, two days before the positive specimen collection date), until they meet criteria for discontinuing home isolation.

The CDC added an exception to the definition of “close contact” for students in the K-12 indoor classroom setting or a structured outdoor setting where mask use can be observed (i.e., holding class outdoors with educator supervision). The close contact definition does not include students who were between 3-6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or a clinical diagnosis) IF both the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time.

In Missouri, the CDC’s exception to the definition of close contact was modified to include students, teachers, and school staff. In addition, the K-12 indoor classroom setting was expanded to include both classroom and non-classroom settings (e.g., school bus, hallway, lunchroom, etc.) during the regular school day. In Missouri, the exception to the close contact definition includes students, teachers, and staff in the K-12 indoor setting who were within 3-6 feet of an infected person (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) AND if both the infected person and the exposed person(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time. Individuals who meet this criteria are not considered close contacts to a case.

Correct and consistent mask use is a critical step that people can take to protect themselves and others from COVID-19. However, the type of masks used and whether they are used consistently and correctly varies throughout the general population. Except in K–12 indoor settings as described above, mask use is not considered when defining a close contact during case investigation and contact tracing, regardless of whether the person diagnosed with COVID-19 or the person exposed to SARS-CoV-2 was wearing a mask. Exposure risk in the healthcare setting is determined separately.

Immunocompromised students and staff

- Many people of all ages have conditions that put them at higher risk for COVID that may not be apparent to others. Students or staff members who have serious heart conditions, chronic kidney disease, COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), Obesity (BMI>30), Sickle Cell Disease, Solid Organ Transplant (heart, kidney, etc.), Diabetes, Asthma, Cerebrovascular disease, hypertension, pregnancy, Smoking or use of corticosteroids or immunosuppressive medications may be at higher risk for COVID-19 disease or many other diseases. Those over 65 in addition to those with chronic medical conditions may be at risk. It is important that adults take precautions consistently should they have any of these risk factors and that parents reinforce to their child(ren) with identified high risk conditions of the importance of following all the guidelines set forth by the school and the CDC. Alternate plans may need to be considered for accommodation and should be discussed with school authorities **before** an event occurs at the school.

Vaccinations

All eligible individuals are encouraged to receive a COVID vaccine. The school district will coordinate efforts with the local health department to make the vaccine readily available to students and staff who are eligible.

- **Parents and caregivers of vaccinated students are encouraged to provide the school office with a copy of the vaccination at the beginning of the school year, or after vaccination.**

In-School Gatherings

- In-school gatherings such as assemblies, rallies, school parties, dances etc. will be allowed if a low risk of transmission is present for COVID or other communicable diseases.
 - Mitigating Measures- Temporary pause on such activities until further notice.
- Additional details and guidelines regarding extra/co-curricular activities and competition will be released at a later time.
- The instructional day (regular school hours) should be focused on academics and considered a non-voluntary component of a student's education while co-curricular activity participation is voluntary. This approach will drive our planning and preparation for extra/co-curricular guidance when released.

General

- Refillable water bottles are required. Drinking from water fountain is not allowed.
- Maintenance will sanitize door handles and commonly touched items throughout the day. Maintenance will thoroughly clean all areas after school.
- Staff will clean their areas of use at least once a day (door handles, student desks, etc). Rooms will have cleaner/disinfectant spray, towels, and or wipes.
- Notify local health officials, staff, and families with a need to know immediately of any positive case of COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- Follow guidance from the local health department to inform those who have had close contact to a person diagnosed with COVID-19 to stay home and self-monitor for symptoms and to follow CDC guidance/health department recommendations if symptoms develop. If a person does not have symptoms follow appropriate CDC/health department guidance for exclusion period.

All students, staff, and parents need to make plans for any type of school closing or prolonged absence. Any of the following could occur:

- Closing a specific building
- Closing the entire district
- Specific classes or groups of students may be kept from school.
- Symptom free or otherwise healthy students/staff may be required to stay home if they are considered a close contact.
- Closing or specific class/grade cancellation due to a lack of substitute teachers or other staff.

We cannot predict all the possible scenarios, but please be thinking ahead. The district will work with individuals and groups to provide instructional services throughout the school year.

Face Covering Exemptions For School

Schools that continue to require people older than 2 years of age to wear a mask should make exceptions for the following categories of people:

- A person who [cannot wear a mask, or cannot safely wear a mask](#), because of a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.). Discuss the possibility of [reasonable accommodation](#) with workers who are not fully vaccinated who are unable to wear or have difficulty wearing certain types of masks because of a disability.
- A person for whom wearing a mask would create a risk to workplace health, safety, or job duty as determined by the relevant workplace safety guidelines or federal regulations.
- Exemption requests must be made to the building principal and will require supportive documentation from a physician.

Plan Review and Revision

- This plan will be reviewed and revised if necessary every 6 months.
 - The review and revision will include consultation with the following:
 - Students, families, staff, school administration
 - Stakeholders representing the interest of (to the extent present)
 - Children with disabilities
 - Homeless youth
 - Foster care
 - Other underserved students
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The Osage Co. R-I SRCSP will provide for the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of students and staff by:

- Provide in-person instruction when possible, with mitigating measures as needed.
- Provide appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities and as required or necessary as mandated by IDEA. This includes appropriate accommodations with respect to health and safety policies.
- Implement effective alternate methods of instructions for students who participate in remote learning. Students who cannot attend in-person classes due to exclusion or isolation will have the option to remote video link to classes from home or participate in homebound instructional services through remote video link.
- District will provide appropriate technology if needed.
- Ensure students who are remote learning have access to school meals, counseling services, and other necessary specialized services. Meals can be picked up at school for remote learning students.
- Provide counseling services as needed to students who need support.
- Provide extended learning opportunities for students such as after school programs and summer school.
- Provide professional development for staff that focus on accelerated learning, social and emotional wellness of students, effective remote teaching strategies, and other effective teaching practices.
- Develop programs to retain and recruit quality staff.
- The district will translate plan to additional languages upon request. Stakeholders requesting an oral interpretation of the plan may visit the elementary or high school office to receive assistance

Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies

Osage Co. R-I will provide appropriate accommodations by:

- Providing accommodations as necessary or as mandated by Individual Education Plan.
- Provide a possible exemption to any mask requirement if a person cannot wear a mask, or cannot safely wear a mask, because of a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.).
- Providing appropriate PPE for students or staff to reduce risk of virus transmission.
- Providing social distancing in classrooms to the extent possible.
- Providing instruction to students excluded from school including possible remote instruction or other methods agreed upon by the district and parents.

If You Test Positive for COVID-19	
Everyone, regardless of vaccination status.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stay home for 5 days.• Return to school 24 hours after symptom resolution without fever reducing medication.• Wear a mask for additional 5 days. <p><i>If you have a fever, continue to stay home until your fever resolves.</i></p>
If You Were Exposed to Someone with COVID-19	
Regardless of vaccination status or if you had a previous infection:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Monitor for symptoms.</i>• Wear a mask for 10 days.• Test after 5 days if possible.• If test is positive, begin isolation.

Up to date.....

Pfizer-BioNTech	Moderna	Johnson & Johnson's Janssen	Novavax
6month – 4 year old	6 month – 5 Years	18+ years old	18+ years old
Two weeks after final dose.	2 weeks after final dose	Immediately after getting all boosters recommended for you	2 weeks after final dose
5-11 Years Old	6-11 Years Old		
Immediately after 1 st booster	2 weeks after final dose		
12-17 Year Old	12-17 Years Old		
Immediately after getting 1st booster	2 weeks after final dose		
18 + Years	18 + Years		
Immediately after getting all boosters recommended for you	Immediately after getting all boosters recommended for you		