

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 2021-22 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 2021-22 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..- Alternate Method of Instruction plans implemented. Distance learning for all.

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. Masking recommended for all staff and all students. 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 relaease individual names to public.
- Possible closure of facilities Deep clean/disinfect entire facility
- Implement distance learning consistent AMI 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
 - Social distancing as needed and allowable based on CDC and local guidance
 - Masking recommended for all staff and students.
 - Health screening and temperature checks as needed for students
 - Daily staff self-check health screening.
 - Elementary students/teachers stay with class/stable group as much as possible.

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
 - Possible masking requirements
- Modify, postpone, or cancel non-essential instructional activities based on circumstances
 - Visitor restrictions, limited attendance at events, etc

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

- Building and District closing likely
- Length of closing determined in conjunction with local health department
- Implement distance learning for all
- Postpone/Cancel all extra-curricular and non-instructional activities
- Return to in-person learning ASAP

2021-22 School Year

COVID Procedures

As the Osage Co. R-I School District plans for the 2021-22 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.
- Students required to be excluded can only be counted for district attendance if they are placed on temporary homebound services or attend virtually by video link to their classes.
- 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 2021-22 school year will start with in-person classes on August 23rd.
- 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).
- Level 2 and Level 3 procedures may require distance learning. JH/HS distance learning will be primarily virtual or computer based. Elementary will be a combination of the two.
- Other Level 2 and Level 3 procedures will be implemented as necessary.
- Level 3 would be distance learning only.

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.
- All students and drivers are required to wear a mask while on the school bus.
- Modifications to routes may occur should there be a shortage of drivers.

School Buses – Masks Required per CDC Order --Per a federal order issued by the CDC, masks are required on public and private school buses and other forms of public transportation for both passengers and drivers. Per this CDC order, if a student attends a school where mask use is not required due to vaccination status (e.g., a high school with a high rate of vaccination), the student is still required to wear a mask on the school bus.

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.
- Teachers are encouraged to wear a mask when transitioning, monitoring halls, working in close proximity to students/when distancing is not possible, etc.
- 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.

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- 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.
- Visitors recommended to wear a mask when entering, transitioning, and when distancing is not possible.
- 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.

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- Students and staff are expected to practice social distancing as directed by the school guidelines.
- Students and staff are encouraged to wear a mask when social distancing is not possible. This would include on busses and in the hallway. The school may elect to provide masks for students and staff.
- 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 will be required to self-screen for COVID symptoms prior to the beginning of every school day. 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 Test to Stay, masking, 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.
- Students and staff **who are** identified as a close contact of a positive case may be allowed to remain at school if they meet district, local health recommendations, DHSS, and CDC recommendations.
 - **Contact has proof of COVID vaccination and symptom free.**
 - **Both positive case and contact were appropriately masked and contact symptom free.**
 - **Option to participate in Test to Stay.**
- Students and staff **who are not** identified as a close contact of the positive case will be permitted to return to school after contact tracing is complete.

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 such as Test to Stay. 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-

- Stay home- Consult with local health care provider, local health department, and school district.
- Return to school following exclusion period if necessary, recommendations from local health department and health care provider, and school district. If symptoms develop, seek a COVID -19 test.

Exclusion period will be based on recommendations from CDC, Missouri Department of Health Publication, "Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases - A Guide for School Administrators, Nurses, Teachers and Day Care Operators, local health department guidance, or until a physician certifies that the student no longer is liable to transmit the disease.

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: **January 2022**

- 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.

Exclusion for close contacts who are not vaccinated, not current on vaccination or booster shot, or not in Test to Stay- January 2022

- Stay home for 5 days. After that continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.
- Test on day 5 if possible.

Or

- Participate in Test to Stay

If you develop symptoms get a test and stay home

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. This will reduce the time a student may be excluded from school if identified as a close contact of a positive case.**
- **Proof of vaccination will be required if identified as a contact of a positive case in order to avoid being excluded from school if symptom free. Student will be excluded from school if vaccination is not verified and they do not meet other exemptions. County health department can assist if you need a copy of the vaccination.**
- **Same verification is required for staff.**
- **Vaccinated staff and students who have been identified as a close contact and asymptomatic will be encouraged to wear a mask at school to protect those who are not vaccinated.**

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.

Extra-Curricular and Activity Policy for Visitors

- Visitors are encouraged to wear a mask at any school event or activity. This includes students and staff.
- Osage Co. R-I students and staff are encouraged to wear a mask.
- Practice social distancing to the extent possible while attending any school activity.
- Avoid sitting in multiple areas in order to reduce the number of contacts you encounter.
- Make all attempt to sit by individuals you could identify by name for contact tracing purposes.

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

ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF INSTRUCTION (AMI)

If a local education agency (LEA) implements an AMI Plan that is approved by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), the LEA is not required to make up school hours (up to 36 hours) that were lost or cancelled due to exceptional or emergency circumstances (see Section 171.033, RSMo). LEAs must assure that the plan will favorably affect teaching and learning to receive DESE approval. LEAs are required to submit an AMI Plan for each school year of implementation.

The Osage County R-1 School District has developed an alternative method of instruction for the 2021-22 school year.

AMI Plan – Short-term closure.

- Communication through school website / school messenger/social media when AMI day is in session.
- Planned assignments will be review of previously taught concepts.
- Assignments will be given through packets/worksheets, Google Classroom, and posted on teacher's webpage.
- Assignments are due the next day school is in session, or submitted electronically on the AMI day.
- Students may check out needed technology to access AMI activities and instruction.

The Osage Co. R-1 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.

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- 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 consistent with the AMI plan, including possible remote instruction or other methods agreed upon by the district and parents.

Testing (updated October 2021)

Missouri's BinaxNOW Antigen Testing Program for K-12 Institutions

Osage Co. R-I is now able to provide COVID-19 Antigen Testing on a limited basis. The tests are intended for symptomatic students and staff. The Abbott BinaxNOW test is a minimally invasive anterior nasal swab test. The test must be administered by a trained health professional (or trained designee), and yields results in just 15 minutes without any additional equipment. A consent form is required to be completed before testing occurs.

- At this time, test administration is for symptomatic students and staff.
- Testing will occur on days in which the school nurse is on site, which is typically one day per week.
- Testing may also occur by appointment with the school nurse designee.
- Symptomatic students and staff should not come to school until a testing appointment is confirmed. Please call ahead.
- Contact the Elementary Office at 573-763-5446 for further questions.

Test to Stay (November 2021)

Guidance from DHSS/DESE -Quarantine outside of school setting is recommended.

Stay in school and participate in extracurricular activities. – Students, teachers, and staff identified as close contacts can continue to attend school and participate in extracurricular activities, if the following test to stay criteria are met:

- The close contact does not include household exposures (i.e., exposures among persons who live in the same household). There may be other similar higher-risk exposures where test to stay would not be recommended. The final decision regarding the inclusion in Test to Stay is determined by school district in consultation with local health department based on findings of the case investigation.
- Does **not** develop **symptoms** of COVID-19(14 days past the last date of exposure to the case.)
- Wears a mask consistently and correctly in school at all times 14 days past the last date of exposure to the case, other than when eating or drinking. When these individuals cannot be masked (i.e., when eating or drinking) they should maintain 6 feet of distance from other individuals to the extent feasible.
- Receive a minimum of three rapid antigen tests (e.g., BinaxNOW) during the first seven days of the period per the following:
 - Test One: Upon identification as a close contact (unless already participating in a screening testing program); **AND**
 - Tests Two and Three: A minimum of two additional rapid antigen tests, preferably on two non-consecutive school days within the first seven days of the period. For example: contact identified as a close contact on day 2 of would be tested on day 2 (Wednesday); day 4 (Friday) and day 7 (Monday); **AND**
 - The testing is conducted upon entry to school and negative results received prior to return to the K-12 setting.
- For participation in extracurricular activities, daily testing is recommended, though at a minimum, an additional rapid antigen test is to be taken on the day of participation throughout the duration of the 14 day period. The testing should be completed and a negative result received prior to participation in the event. This includes testing on days when the event occurs during weekends, holidays, or other days when schools are not in session (see additional guidance below regarding testing and participation in extracurricular activities).
- Receive negative test results from COVID-19 testing conducted throughout the duration of the 14-day period.
- Active monitoring of persons participating in test to stay for symptoms is conducted by the school throughout the duration of the 14-day period, and persons should self-isolate at home if symptoms develop.

A person with COVID-19 can spread the SARS-CoV-2 virus to others starting from two days before they have any symptoms (or, for asymptomatic patients, two days before the positive specimen collection date), until they meet the criteria for ending isolation. Therefore, persons can be infected with SARSCoV-2 and spread the virus to others without having symptoms or knowing they are infected. Test to Stay is a strategy where persons who are identified as a close contact to a case of COVID-19 are allowed to continue some activities during this period through participation in routine testing for the SARS-CoV-2 virus following an exposure. The frequent repeat testing would enable the prompt identification and isolation of close contacts who become infected to prevent further transmission of the virus. A routine Test to Stay response protocol, with daily testing in an environment

where masks are consistently used, has been shown to be generally equivalent to exclusion for school-based contacts, and a safe alternative to at-home isolation. DHSS and DESE have developed Test to Stay for use in the K-12 setting in Missouri.

Note: Persons participating in the Test to Stay option who develop symptoms of COVID-19 or test positive during the test to stay period or the 14 days following the last date of exposure, should follow the proper isolation protocols, including self-isolating at home and **NOT** attending school or participating in extracurricular activities. In addition, quarantine outside of the school setting and outside of extracurricular activities, as outlined, is still strongly recommended for individuals participating in Test to Stay.

Participation in extracurriculars such as sports or other activities that involve singing, shouting, playing instruments, and exercising that could lead to increased exhalation can increase the risk of spread of SARS-CoV-2 among persons in the K-12 setting. The prompt identification and isolation of persons with COVID-19 from participation in these activities is very important to avoid further transmission to others. Individuals following the Test to Stay protocol may be eligible to participate in school sports and extracurricular activities provided that they comply with all criteria included in the protocol. Daily testing is recommended, though at a minimum, an additional rapid antigen test is to be taken on the day of participation throughout the duration of the 14-day period. The testing should be completed and a negative result received prior to participation in the event.

Note: It is recognized that many extracurricular events occur on weekends, holidays, or when the school is otherwise not in session. If a school cannot arrange for someone to administer the test, the close contact needs to stay excluded from the activity and **NOT** participate in the event. Alternately, the individual may participate if tested negative (diagnostic test such as PCR or antigen test) by a health care provider, pharmacy, etc. (not to include at-home tests) on the day of the event. A negative test result or a note from a healthcare provider or pharmacy indicating the completion of the test and a negative result should be provided prior to participation in the event.

If You Test Positive for COVID-19	
Everyone, regardless of vaccination status.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <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	
<p>If you:</p> <p>Have been boosted OR Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 6 months OR Completed the primary series of J&J vaccine within the last 2 months</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear a mask around others for 10 days. • Test on day 5, if possible. <p><i>If you develop symptoms get a test and stay home.</i></p>
<p>If you:</p> <p>Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine over 6 months ago and are not boosted OR Completed the primary series of J&J over 2 months ago and are not boosted OR Are unvaccinated</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay home for 5 days. After that continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days. • Test on day 5 if possible. Or • Participate in Test to Stay <p><i>If you develop symptoms get a test and stay home</i></p>