

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 a quarantine.

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. Following Guidance from Local Health Department, 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.

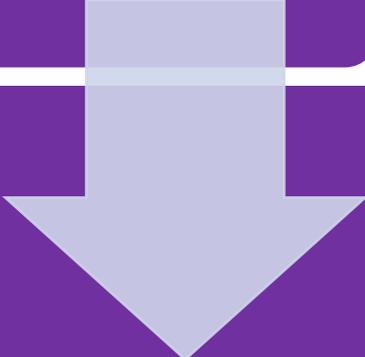
The decision to move from one level to another will be determined by the district in consultation with local health officials.

Sincerely,

Osage Co. R-I Administration

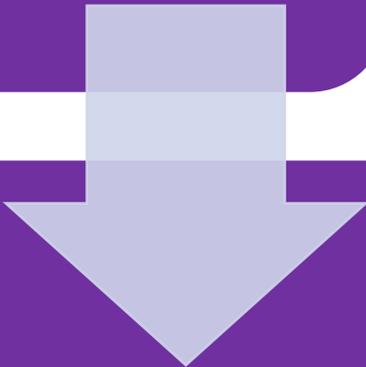
**LEVEL 1: No/Low Cases in School--
Steady County Rate- In Person Classes**

- Mitigating measures consistent with local health department and CDC.
- Social distancing as allowable and appropriate. Masking required for ALL STAFF and 7-12 students. Stressed handwashing/sanitation measures.



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

- County Health Department will lead contact tracing.
- School will not be provided or release any individual names.
- Implement more strict measures such as increase distancing, more aggressive sanitation strategies, increase mask wearing.
- Implement distance learning for individuals.



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

- Same procedure for tracing
- School will not be provided or release individual names
- Possible closure of facilities Deep clean/disinfect entire facility
- Coordinate with health department on length of closing
- 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 required for ALL STAFF and 7-12 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
 - Implement universal 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 quarantine 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 required to wear a mask when transitioning, monitoring halls, working in close proximity to students/when distancing is not possible, etc. Teacher-only area marked in each room (distanced from students, teacher mask not required in area).
- 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.

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service (SRCSP) Approved October 2021

- 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 required 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 quarantine due to exposure to a confirmed COVID-19 case.
- Mitigating Measures
 - 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 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. In addition, the local health department has the authority to exclude students from school and may order students and others to isolate or quarantine. 19 CSR 20-20.05. Osage Co. R-1 School District will be working closely with the local health departments.

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 staff are expected to practice social distancing as directed by the school guidelines.
- Students in grades 7-12 and ALL STAFF are required 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 will be excluded from school and asked to self-quarantine as determined by local, state, and federal health agencies.
- 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 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 local health guidelines and CDC recommendations.
 - **Contact has proof of COVID vaccination and symptom free.**
 - **Both positive case and contact were appropriately masked and contact symptom free.**
- 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 by the local health department 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 quarantine period has ended. Quarantine close contacts of confirmed cases in accordance with local health department and CDC guidelines. Students and staff may also return if approved by local health department or 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 and local health department.
- Return to school following quarantine period, requirements from local health department and health care provider. If symptoms develop, seek a COVID -19 test.

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 a quarantine order if symptom free. Student will be required to quarantine if vaccination is not verified. 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 required 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). Local Health Department responsible to lead contact tracing.
- 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 guidelines if symptoms develop. If a person does not have symptoms follow appropriate CDC/health department guidance for quarantine or isolation.

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.

All staff (any building) and students grade 7-12 are required to wear a mask when social distancing is not available. Masks are recommended for elementary students.

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 will follow previously stated mask requirements.
- 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 contract 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 quarantine 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 in quarantine 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.