

## **Fort Osage 2021-2022 Safe Return to In-Person and Continuity of Services Plan**

**Updated August 6, 2021**

The following protocols have been outlined for the 2021-2022 school year for the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan (SRCPS), American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) funds and submitted to the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). The plan was drafted based upon current public health information.

The safety of our students and staff is our priority. These procedures are in place to protect everyone in our schools and minimize the risk of COVID-19 exposure; however, this risk increases any time we enter a public setting, including a school.

We appreciated the input of our families and staff on our School Reopening Plan in the fall of 2020. That document, and the feedback on it, contributed greatly to this Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan.

### **Masks**

Fort Osage Schools will require face coverings be worn while inside District facilities by staff, students, and visitors beginning August 9 regardless of vaccine status (per the Jackson County Executive Order). The emergency health order is in place for 30 days at which time the Jackson County Legislators could extend or expire the order.

All staff and students are required to wear a mask inside with the following exceptions:

- Those who are deaf or hard of hearing
- Children younger than five years old
- Persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a face covering.
- When engaged in high intensity activities

If a student has a documented medical issue or special education designation which makes wearing a mask unadvisable, we will need to have a doctor's note on file to excuse the student from mask wearing.

Masks should be positioned carefully over the mouth and nose. Students and staff are encouraged to bring their own mask. If they do not have one, a paper mask will be provided for them.

Masks are required for those who ride the bus. Buses are considered public

transportation, so students and drivers are federally required to wear masks at this time.

### **Quarantines**

Fort Osage's focus remains to implement effective COVID-19 mitigation strategies in order to keep students and staff in school. Per the CDC and Jackson County Health Department guidelines, updated quarantine procedures will be in place. Contact tracing will continue to be conducted to the best of our ability on-site and with the assistance of the Jackson County Health Department. Should a child be identified as a close contact with an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19, parents will be informed of the quarantine options required by JCHD.

- If a student or staff member is exposed to the COVID-19 virus by another individual: ●
- The individual who tests positive will be required to isolate for 10 days and would not be allowed to attend in-person learning or participate in extracurricular activities or sports.
  - Unvaccinated students are not required to quarantine if both individuals have been properly wearing their masks, as long as they remain symptom free. This is a change from last school year and will reduce quarantines when masks are being properly worn. This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults.
  - Vaccinated students and staff are fully exempt from quarantining, provided they have no symptoms.
  - Vaccinated or unvaccinated students or staff who are considered close contacts and exhibit symptoms will be required to quarantine for 14 days.

### **Vaccinations**

- The District will continue to connect families and staff with vaccination clinic information as it is made available. The vaccine is not required for any student or staff member.

### **Safety Protocols and Mitigation Strategies**

- Schools will make reasonable best efforts to minimize risk.
- Classrooms will have assigned seating.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be found throughout each building.
- Students will be taught and reminded of proper hand washing and cough and sneeze etiquette.

- Door handles and other high touch surfaces will be disinfected throughout the day by facilities team members.
- Staff will eliminate communal school supplies where feasible.
- Where possible, social distancing between students and staff will be maintained.
- Students will be permitted to work in small groups as needed.
- The school will have visual cues to encourage social distancing throughout the building.
- Visitors to schools will be limited.
- Masks are required for those who ride the bus. Buses are considered public transportation, so students and drivers are federally required to wear masks at this time.

### **Prior to Arrival at School**

Prior to arriving at school, parents/guardians are expected to assess students using the following screening protocols:

- Check your child for symptoms of COVID-19 that may include: cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, runny nose or congestion, or other flu-like symptoms, such as nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.
  - If yes, the child should stay home and the parent/guardian should contact a health care provider or the Jackson County Health Department to determine if COVID-19 testing should be administered.
  - Take the child's temperature. If the child's temperature is greater than 100.4 degrees, the child should stay home and the parent/guardian should contact a health care provider or the Jackson County Health Department to determine if COVID-19 testing should be administered.

Prior to arriving at work, staff will self screen using the same protocol as above.

### **Arrival**

- Students will report to a designated area upon arrival.
- Screening protocols will be performed by staff in the classroom upon arrival and throughout the day.

### **Transportation Procedures**

We may not be able to provide social distancing on buses, but will take as many precautions as possible.

- Masks are required for those who ride the bus. Buses are considered public transportation, so students and drivers are federally required to wear masks at this time.
- Hand sanitizer is available on all buses.
- Students will have assigned seats on the bus.
- Surfaces will be disinfected on the buses daily.
- When possible, siblings will be seated together on the bus.
- Students who do not follow all safety protocols will have bus privileges revoked. This is to ensure the safety and security of all students.

### **Breakfast & Lunch**

- Classrooms and common areas may be utilized for breakfast and lunch to promote social distancing.
- Cleaning protocols will be followed between lunch shifts.
- Students are encouraged to bring a filled water bottle from home. Water bottle refilling stations will be open.

### **Antigen Testing**

Staff and students can be tested at various locations throughout the community. We will provide communication to staff and families regarding locations for testing as it is provided to us through JCHD or other means.

### **Notifying Local Health Department**

The District will notify the local health department immediately when there is confirmation that a person infected with COVID-19 was in a school building.

### **Continuity of Services**

The district will continue to monitor active COVID-19 cases and if changes to the safety protocols are made staff, students and parents will be notified.

### **Student/Staff Illness and Health Services**

- If students or staff become ill with COVID-19 symptoms once they arrive at school, they will be separated from others and sent home immediately.
- Should a student's parent/guardian or any staff refuse a doctor or health department's recommendation for COVID 19 testing, the student or staff will be unable to return to school until written documentation by the medical provider or health department

indicates it is safe to return.

- As we work to keep students and staff safe during this pandemic, the District will share as much information as possible with you, while still following legal and ethical privacy rules.
- If a student or staff member has a positive COVID-19 test, the District will follow current JCHD quarantine guidelines.

### **Communicating Positive COVID-19 Cases**

If a staff member or student tests positive for COVID-19, the school will perform contact tracing and will send an email home to parents notifying them of an identified positive case in the school.

### **Educational Supports and Continuity of Services**

If a child is quarantined for any reason they will participate in distance learning-until they are able to return to school. Instruction will be provided through SeeSaw in grades K-6 and Google Classroom in grades 5-12. School counselors and social workers will be available to provide support as needed. The District will continue to utilize trauma sensitive strategies to support the social-emotional and mental health needs of students.

### **Special Education and Section 504**

The school district will follow each student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Section 504 Plan. Parents or guardians may contact their child's school with inquiries about their child's most recent IEP or Section 504 Plan.