

Introduction

The School District of Clayton will be prepared to educate its students as we transition in the 2021-2022 school year. Schools need to reestablish a learning environment where employees, students and families feel safe, one that reduces the impact of COVID-19 when returning to learning but also considers what risk mitigation strategies need to be in place until vaccines are available for all school-aged children and the pandemic is under control. The following plan is based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and the St. Louis County Department of Public Health. This plan will be revised as guidance from public health authorities changes.

MITIGATION AND PREVENTION STRATEGIES

Face Coverings

Guidance for face coverings for the 2021-2022 school year was finalized in early August 2021 as there may be a need to maintain this protective measure in buildings where students have not had the opportunity to be vaccinated. Current guidelines for face-coverings include:

- Unvaccinated Students/Staff
 - All unvaccinated students and staff are required to wear a face covering at all times indoors and outdoors.
- Vaccinated Students/Staff
 - Indoors - All students and staff are required to wear a face covering indoors regardless of vaccination status.
 - Outdoors - PK-5 students will wear face coverings while outdoors, including for PE and recess. Vaccinated students in grades 6-12 may remove masks when outdoors.
- Any essential visitors or vendors in the building will be required to wear a face covering on campus.
- All students (regardless of age or vaccination status) will be required to wear a face covering when riding the bus.
- The following do not comply with the requirement for face coverings:
 - Halloween or plastic masks.
 - Ski masks with holes for the nose or mouth.
 - Masks that have a one-way valve designed for easier breathing (the valves are often a raised plastic disk about the size of a quarter, on the front or side of the mask). Holes or one-way valves allow droplets out of the mask, putting others nearby at risk.

Physical Distancing (e.g., including use of cohorts/podding)

Schools will work to maximize the physical distance between students throughout the school day. The CDC recommends a minimum distance of three feet in a PK-12 education setting. When three feet is not possible, additional layers of prevention such as face coverings and/or plexiglass barriers will be used to minimize risk of exposure.

Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette

Students will be encouraged to wash their hands often, including when entering classrooms, before lunch, after recess and after any activity outside of the classroom. We will take extra care to give students these opportunities to wash their hands during the school day. In locations where access to soap and water is limited, alcohol-based hand sanitizer will be available. A limited number of students will be allowed in the bathroom at the same time. [Health protocol video](#)

Cleaning/Maintenance/IAQ

Schools will follow cleaning procedures recommended by the CDC, using EPA-registered disinfectants. Electrostatic sprayers are used to spread disinfectant on surfaces and in hard-to-reach spaces. Frequently touched surfaces are being cleaned multiple times during the day.

The HVAC systems in each of the District's schools are designed to maximize outdoor air intake (fresh air) in each building while also managing temperature and humidity as too much of either one can promote the growth of mold and mildew and make the building and its occupants uncomfortable.

In addition to the filtering systems already in place, the District has installed Needlepoint Bipolar Ionization systems at each school which will further enhance air purification in each building. In addition to significantly reducing the spread of viruses like the flu or common cold, testing has shown this system reduces the airborne amounts of SARS-CoV-2 by more than 99 percent.

Contact Tracing/Quarantine Procedures

The District's contact tracing team will work to determine who was in contact (based on the most recent guidelines for contact tracing) with the individual who tested positive for COVID-19. Quarantine guidance has changed and will continue to evolve over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic. Current guidelines are as follows:

- Vaccinated Individuals - Vaccinated individuals who have no symptoms do not need to quarantine when identified as a close contact and must instead monitor for symptoms and take appropriate actions if they develop any symptoms of COVID-19.
- Unvaccinated Students - If both students (the positive individual and the close contact) are fully and correctly masked, and other mitigation strategies are in place, identified close contacts will not have to quarantine.
- Unvaccinated Staff - Unvaccinated staff identified as a close contact (within 3 feet for 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period; with or without a mask) will be required to quarantine for 10 days.

Diagnostic and Screening Testing

Staff and students/families must use self-check measures to monitor their health closely for symptoms of COVID-19. Adults or children who are sick or display symptoms of COVID-19 must stay home to prevent the spread of illness. The content of this self-assessment is based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Parents/guardians are asked to review the list of COVID-19 symptoms daily to determine if their child should go to school or stay home. Anyone with a fever of 100.4° or higher should not attend school. Families should conduct a self-assessment for symptoms including a fever, a sense of having a fever, chills, a cough, sore throat, headache, new loss of smell or taste, or new muscle aches. If these symptoms occur, do not attend school and call your child's school to report the symptoms your child is experiencing. Any staff member or student who is sick or displays symptoms of COVID-19 must stay home to prevent the spread of illness. They must also inform the school of their illness.

Vaccinations for Students and Staff

Through a partnership with Medley Pharmacy, the District has held first and second-dose vaccination clinics for all staff, students ages 16 and up and students ages 12-15. The District plans to offer additional vaccination clinics (which will also be open to all eligible students and staff) for students 12 and under as soon as they are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

Accommodations for Children with Disabilities

School nurses will work with the parents of students that have a health condition which prevents them from wearing a face covering. In addition, we understand that some students with disabilities may not be able to wear face coverings for disability-related reasons. With that in mind, IEP teams, parents, and school nurses will work together to determine reasonable accommodations.

Communication about Cases of COVID-19

Another school year in the midst of a pandemic brings challenges, opportunities and last-minute changes, requiring patience and flexibility. As changes arise, Clayton will communicate using its automated system for phone calls, emails and texts. Please make sure your contact information is up to date in PowerSchool, as well as your emergency contacts, and watch for updates to ensure you stay informed.

- **Positive Cases** - Positive cases will be logged and tracked (by school) on the District's data dashboard. The District will not be sending emails to all parents and staff when there is a positive case in a specific building.
- **Identified Close Contacts** - Students and staff who are identified as close contacts (even if they are not required to quarantine) will be notified via email and phone call of the need to quarantine and/or monitor for symptoms.

Continuity of Instruction

The District will work to support the learning of students who are quarantined due to exposure to COVID-19. With the expansion of eligibility for vaccines, we expect the number of students who actually need to be quarantined to continue to decline throughout the 2021-2022 school year.

Periodic Revision

The District will periodically review and revise, if necessary, its plan, no less than every six months. Revisions will be made in consideration of current pandemic conditions and in collaboration with the St. Louis County Department of Public Health.

Public Input

The School District of Clayton successfully offered both in-person and virtual learning for the 2020-2021 school year. That instructional plan was developed with input from Clayton students, parents and staff. The District's AMI and AMI-X were approved by the Board of Education. Decisions to offer more in-person instruction made throughout the 2020-2021 school year were also based on input from families and staff members. The District continues to receive feedback from students, parents and staff regarding its safe return to in person instruction for the 2021-2022 school year.

Translations

Please contact the District's Communications Department (314.854.6038) to receive a copy of this document in an language other than English.