

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

Starting April 4, 2022, the District will transition to a mask-recommended environment for all K-12 students, staff and visitors in our buildings. All buildings will remain mask-recommended as long as the COVID-19 positivity rate (of total students and staff in a given school/building) remains below 1.5 percent.

- **Pre-K/Early Childhood Programs Excluded** - Students and staff at the Family Center (including the Blue/Orange rooms at CHS) will continue to wear face coverings indoors until our early childhood students have access to the COVID-19 vaccine and have had the opportunity to be fully vaccinated. Starting April 4 we will allow our early childhood students and staff to remove their masks when they are outdoors.
- **Building-Specific Thresholds for Mask-Recommended** - In order to maintain a mask-recommended environment, the percentage of students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 in a school/building must be less than 1.5 percent of that building’s total student/staff population. If a building’s positivity rate exceeds 1.5 percent for three consecutive days, they will return to universal masking for a period of two weeks. Buildings will regain mask-recommended status when their total positivity rate drops below 1.5 percent for three consecutive days. Thresholds for each school are as follows:

School	Total Students + Staff	1.5% Threshold
CHS	1066	16 cases
WMS	686	10 cases
Captain	376	6 cases
Glenridge	386	6 cases
Meramec	436	7 cases

- **Masks Still Mandatory Following Quarantine/Exclusion** - Under the current guidelines, students and staff returning from quarantine after five days will be required to wear a mask until their quarantine period is complete. Our school nurses will help schools monitor anyone in this specific situation.
- Masks may still be required in certain classrooms or areas of a building depending upon the health and safety needs of individual students or staff members. The District will communicate with any affected students or staff should there be any specific instances where we need to maintain universal masking.
- Visitors or vendors will follow the same mask-recommended guidance for each school/building. See below for additional visitor/vendor requirements.

- Per the Feb. 2022 CDC guidance, students and staff will no longer be required to wear a mask 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.

Vaccinations or Negative Tests

- **District Employees** - On 10/27/2021, the Board of Education [approved a resolution](#) that requires all District staff to provide documentation that they are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or participate in a weekly testing program. Unvaccinated staff will have the option to be tested weekly at their building by a member of the District's Health Services staff or to provide, on a weekly basis, a negative COVID-19 PCR or antigen test administered by a healthcare professional of their choice within the last 48 hours.
- **Visitors, Vendors and Volunteers** - Any visitors, vendors or volunteers who will be interacting with Clayton students in our schools will be required to show printed or digital proof of full COVID-19 vaccination or a negative COVID-19 PCR or antigen test administered by a healthcare professional within the last 48 hours.

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. See related [health protocol video](#).

Students will also be taught and encouraged to use appropriate respiratory etiquette, such as:

- Covering a cough or sneeze by coughing and sneezing into a tissue or elbow;
- Disposing of tissue immediately in a nearby receptacle; and
- Washing/cleaning of hands and nearby surfaces.

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. Guidance regarding exclusion of individuals by school districts has changed and will continue to evolve over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic. Current guidelines are as follows:

- **Positive COVID-19 Cases** - A student (K-12 students only) or staff member who tests positive will need to stay at home for a minimum of five days. On day 6 (or thereafter), if they have NO symptoms or their symptoms are resolving, they can return to school if all of the following apply:
 - They have been fever-free for at least 24 hours without using any fever-reducing medication. If they have a fever, they must continue to stay home until the fever resolves.
 - They do not have a runny nose.
 - They have no more than a minimal, non-productive cough (i.e., not disruptive; not coughing up phlegm).

Even though we have transitioned to a mask-recommended environment at all K-12 Clayton schools, students and staff are required to wear a well-fitting mask around others at home and in public through day 10, regardless of when they end their 5-day isolation period. As testing remains a key mitigation strategy, we encourage antigen (rapid test) testing on day 5 or shortly thereafter.

- **Close Contacts/Exposure to COVID-19 Cases** - In certain situations, close contacts who are not fully vaccinated will be excluded from school/work for a minimum of five days.
 - If they develop symptoms:
 - They should get tested immediately and isolate at home until they receive their test results. (If you are exposed and symptomatic, health officials recommend [getting a PCR test](#) instead of a rapid test.)
 - If they test positive, they must follow isolation recommendations listed above.

- If they do not develop symptoms, they may return to school on day 6.
 - Even though we have transitioned to a mask-recommended environment while masks are still required at all K-12 Clayton schools, students and staff are required to wear a well-fitting mask around others at home and in public for five additional days (day 6 through day 10) after the end of their five-day exclusion period. As testing remains a key mitigation strategy, we encourage testing on day 5 or shortly thereafter.
- In most cases, students and staff who are close contacts with someone during the school day, but do not have symptoms, will be allowed to remain at school under our current guidelines.

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 5 and up. The District has also offered booster clinics for its staff members.

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.

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.
- **Identified Close Contacts** - Students and staff who are identified as close contacts (even if they are not required to be excluded) 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 excluded due to exposure to COVID-19. With the expansion of eligibility for vaccines, we expect the number of students who actually need to be excluded will 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 or other medical resources, as appropriate.

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 a language other than English.