

## Introduction

The School District of Clayton will be prepared to educate its students as we begin the 2022-2023 school year. Schools need to maintain a learning environment where employees, students and families are safe, one that reduces the impact of COVID-19 but also considers what risk mitigation strategies need to be in place when appropriate. 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

The District will start the 2022-2023 school year as a mask-recommended (mask-optional) environment for all PK-12 students, staff and visitors in our buildings.

- **Masks Following Quarantine/Exclusion** - Under current CDC guidelines, students and staff returning from quarantine after five days are encouraged to wear a mask until their quarantine period is complete.
- Masking may be necessary in specific classrooms or activities when required as a reasonable accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, or the Missouri Human Rights Act. Such decisions will be made in accordance with the procedures required under the applicable law.

### Physical Distancing

When appropriate, schools will work to maximize the physical distance between students throughout the school day.

### 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.

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.

### **Exclusion Procedures**

The District will comply with lawfully-issued Orders and Guidance from the County Health Department, the Missouri Department of Health and Human Services, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and/or the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education with respect to students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 or who have been exposed to COVID-19 cases, in accordance with the Orders and Guidance that exist when such positive test or exposure to a positive case occurs.

### **Vaccinations and Testing for Students and Staff**

The District will offer on-site testing and vaccinations for students and staff throughout the school year.

### **Diagnostic and Screening Testing**

Staff and students/families should use self-check measures to monitor their health closely for symptoms of COVID-19. Adults or children who 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, the student should not attend school and parents are asked to call their child's school to report the symptoms their child is experiencing. Any staff member or student who displays symptoms of COVID-19 must stay home to prevent the spread of illness. They should 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, 504 teams, parents, the students' health care providers, 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 reported to the District will be logged and tracked (by school) on the District's data dashboard.
- **Three or More Positive Cases in a Class** - The District will send a notification to families if/when there are three or more positive cases in the same class/classroom and strongly encourage masking in that class.



## Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

### **Continuity of Instruction**

The District will support the learning of students who are absent due to COVID-19.

### **Periodic Revision**

The District will periodically review and revise its plan, as necessary, but no less than at least once each semester. Revisions will be made in consideration of then-current pandemic conditions and in collaboration with the St. Louis County Department of Public Health or other health and/or medical resources, as appropriate.

### **Translations**

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