

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

June 23, 2021

Pending board approval July 20, 2021

Following are mitigation measures that will be utilized for the 2021-2022 school year, along with a draft of the re-entry plan for 2021-2022..

Mitigation Strategies

Masks: Masks were required for staff and students during the 2020-2021 school year, but there is no mask mandate for the 2021-2022 school year.

Physical distancing: During the 2021-2022 school year, social distancing will be encouraged. We will continue to require mandatory seating charts in classrooms and on buses.

Hand and respiratory hygiene: Proper handwashing will continue to be taught during the 2021-2022 school year, and students and staff will be encouraged to wash hands frequently. Hand sanitizer will be provided in every classroom, hallways, offices, and other common areas.

Cleaning and maintenance: Our custodians will have updated training on cleaning high-touch surfaces, and will be provided with appropriate supplies to provide a clean, safe learning environment.

Diagnostic and screening testing: Students and staff will be assessed by the school nurse and parents will be contacted to remove the child from school when necessary. Staff will have access to rapid COVID testing on site (provided the state makes it available).

Contact tracing: Each building principal will assign individuals to work in conjunction with the Dent County Health Department to identify individuals exposed to those who test positive for COVID, and quarantined appropriately.

Vaccinations: Information regarding vaccination clinics will be disseminated to staff, students and families.

Reasonable accommodations for those with disabilities: Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with IEPs or 504s, along with any students or staff with disabilities.

The district will provide for students' academic, and students' and staff social, emotional, and mental health needs, as a result of lost instructional time, by providing research-based interventions.

The district will utilize guidance from the CDC, the Dent county and Missouri State Health Departments, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, MSHSAA, and other professional organizations to determine if/when it is necessary to adjust our learning model. Below is a draft of our re-entry plan for 2021-2022, using our 2020-2021 plan as a guide. The plan will be modified over the next few months.

Salem R-80 District Re-entry Plan

Dear Salem Staff, Parents and Community Members:

Like you, school district administrators have been inundated with information regarding COVID-19 for months. We utilized guidance from the CDC, Dent County Health Department, the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, MSHSAA and other professional organizations to create a plan to allow students and staff to return to school, while ensuring safety continues to be a primary concern. This plan is subject to change at any time as guidance is updated.

Instructional options for 2021-2022 include seated classes with precautions or the following virtual instruction options:

Grades K-8

Virtual instruction through a third party MOCAP-approved vendor, **Acellus** from the American Academy of Science. Students will participate in online, video-based lessons, aligned with the Missouri Learning Standards. A district staff member will monitor student progress, but will not provide instruction. Parents may indicate interest in the virtual option by completing the application form at each building.

If a student chooses a virtual learning option, they will be required to commit to that option for the entire semester (after a 5-day trial period). If a student chooses seated instruction, they can switch to virtual learning during the course of the semester. Minimal technology requirements must be guaranteed by parents in order to enroll in these virtual options. Questions about the virtual learning options may be directed to building principals or Asst. Supt. John Smith at (729-6642, john.smith@salemr80.org).

Should we have to close the entire district, students will be using Google Classroom at all grade levels to continue providing quality instruction, including normal grading practices. Teachers will begin training all students on Google Classroom prior to any school closure.

Our re-entry plan is based on a set of collective commitments that, if embraced, will allow us the flexibility to adjust as the COVID-19 situation evolves. Detailed protocols for each building and activities follow. The nurse will share detailed information regarding protocols for illness, exposure to COVID, etc. closer to the start of the school year.

Please be patient as we make every effort to make wise decisions for the students of Salem R-80. We are looking forward to a wonderful 2021-2022 school year!

The Salem R-80 Administrative Team

District Commitments

- Check student and staff temperatures daily prior to entering the building.
- Increase intensity and frequency of cleaning and disinfecting surfaces.
- Provide training for staff on infection control, specific to COVID.

- Provide training for virtual instruction to accommodate students who choose that option.
- Ensure accessibility to hand washing and hand sanitizer for students and staff.
- Provide a virtual instruction option for students who do not choose to participate in seated classes, or who are absent due to quarantine, isolation or illness.
- Encourage the use of face coverings by staff and students, while recognizing the role of personal choice and responsibility.
- Provide face coverings for those who wish to wear them but do not have them.
- Require food service staff to wear face coverings during meal preparation and serving.
- Sanitize buses after each route
- Add an additional bus route in town to reduce the number of riders on those buses.
- Strongly encourage face coverings by staff and students on buses and in common areas at school.
- Provide live streaming of school events such as athletic events, board meetings, music performances, to maximize virtual participation.

Staff Commitments

- Encourage/monitor appropriate social distancing.
- Monitor symptoms in students and self.
- Use masks when in close contact with students.
- Participate in training regarding virtual instruction in order to be prepared for the possibility of a school closure, and to assist students who chose the virtual instruction option from Day 1.
- Encourage/model frequent hand washing and sanitizing among students.
- Clean classroom surfaces regularly.
- Create and maintain seating charts in classrooms and on buses (including trip buses).
- Listen to students' concerns and watch for signs of social-emotional issues related to the transition back to school.
- Maintain consistent virtual contact/ instruction with students if you are quarantined for exposure but not symptomatic.
- Follow Dent County Health Department and CDC guidance if quarantining or isolation becomes necessary.

Parent Commitments

- Monitor COVID symptoms in your children.
- Transport your children to and from school if at all possible.
- Limit visits to the school, agree to temperature check upon entry.
- Maintain social distancing at events.
- Follow other schools' safety protocols when at "away" events.
- Pick up your children from school promptly if they have a fever of 100.4 or above, exhibit other COVID symptoms, or have been exposed to someone with COVID, then follow Dent County Health Department and CDC recommendations regarding removal from school for the necessary number of days depending on exposure. Based on current guidance, the following protocols will be followed:

- ❖ If a student tests positive for COVID-19, the student must be quarantined for 10 days and be fever free (with no fever reducing medication) for 24 hours.
- ❖ If a student has been exposed to someone with COVID-19, the student must be quarantined for 14 days.
- ❖ If a student has a temperature, the student must stay home until they are fever free for 24 hours.

Student Commitments

- Maintain social distancing to the greatest degree possible, respecting others' personal space.
- Support other students' use of masks.
- Report any COVID-like symptoms to your parents or school personnel.
- Wash hands and use hand sanitizer frequently.
- Use tissue or your elbow to cover sneezes/coughs.
- Follow all building procedures.