

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

June 23, 2021

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Revisions approved August 19, 2021

Revisions approved October 21, 2021

Salem R-80 District Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan (SRCSP)

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 virtual instruction through 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 and assign grades, with additional staff assigned to each virtual student to serve as instructional resources. Parents may indicate interest in the virtual option by completing the application form at each building.

If a student chooses the 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

- 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
- Strongly encourage face coverings by staff and students on 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.
- 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 your children have a fever, keep them home until they are fever free for 24 hours, without fever-reducing medication.

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.

Mitigation Measures

Following are mitigation measures that will be utilized for the 2021-2022 school year.

Masks: Beginning Monday, September 20 all students in grades 6-12 will be required to wear a mask when they are within 6' of another individual. ALL staff will wear masks when within 6' of others. To comply with the federal mandate, all students are required to wear masks on buses. Staff will instruct students on the correct wearing of masks.

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. Students at the elementary level (PreK-5) will be cohorted.

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 and tissues 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 and students will have access to rapid COVID testing on site. Our head nurse, an RN, will administer the tests.

Contact tracing/Isolation/Quarantine: 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 quarantine appropriately.

- If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, they must be quarantined for 10 days, be fever free (with no fever reducing medication) for 24 hours, with other symptoms improving.
- When the positivity rate is 10% or higher, individuals within 6' of a person who tests positive must quarantine for 14 days after date of last exposure.
- When the positivity rate is less than 10%, the quarantine may be reduced to 10 days with the option to test out (with a PCR test) at 7 days, with day 0 being the last day of exposure.
- Exceptions:
 - Individuals who choose to provide proof of vaccination do not have to quarantine as long as they remain asymptomatic, but should mask for the length of the quarantine.
 - Individuals who choose to provide proof of a positive viral test within the previous 90 days do not have to quarantine as long as

they remain asymptomatic (at home tests are not acceptable), but should remain masked for the length of the quarantine.

- If a person diagnosed with COVID-19 and both the case and the potential close contact correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks, the entire time: AND remains without COVID-19 symptoms for the full 14 days past the last date of exposure, the close contact does NOT have to quarantine.
- Receive a minimum of three rapid antigen tests (e.g., BinaxNOW) during the first seven days of the quarantine period per the following:
 - Test One: Upon identification as a close contact (unless already participating in a screening testing program);
AND
 - Tests Two and Three: A minimum of two additional rapid antigen tests, preferably on two non-consecutive school days within the first seven days of the quarantine period. For example: contact identified as a close contact on day 2 of quarantine would be tested on day 2 (Wednesday); day 4 (Friday) and day 7 (Monday);
AND
 - The testing is conducted upon entry to school and negative results received prior to return to the K-12 setting.
 - For participation in extracurricular activities, daily testing is recommended, though at a minimum, an additional rapid antigen test is to be taken on the day of participation throughout the duration of the 14 day quarantine period. The testing should be completed and a negative result received prior to participation in the event. This includes testing on days when the event occurs during weekends, holidays, or other days when schools are not in session (see additional guidance below regarding testing and participation in extracurricular activities)

Note: Persons participating in the Test to Stay option who develop symptoms of COVID-19 or test positive during the test to stay period or the 14 days following the last date of exposure, should follow the proper isolation protocols, including self-isolating at home and NOT attending school or participating in extracurricular activities. In addition, quarantine outside of the school setting and outside of extracurricular activities, as outlined, is still strongly recommended for individuals participating in Test to Stay. Participation in extracurriculars such as sports or other activities that involve singing, shouting, playing instruments, and exercising that could lead to increased exhalation can increase the risk of spread of SARS-CoV-2 among persons in the K-12 setting. The

prompt identification and isolation of persons with COVID-19 from participation in these activities is very important to avoid further transmission to others. Individuals following the Test to Stay protocol may be eligible to participate in school sports and extracurricular activities provided that they comply with all criteria included in the protocol. Daily testing is recommended, though at a minimum, an additional rapid antigen test is to be taken on the day of participation throughout the duration of the 14-day quarantine period. The testing should be completed and a negative result received prior to participation in the event.

Note: It is recognized that many extracurricular events occur on weekends, holidays, or when the school is otherwise not in session. If a school cannot arrange for someone to administer the test, the close contact needs to stay in quarantine and NOT participate in the event. Alternately, the individual may participate if tested negative (diagnostic test such as PCR or antigen test) by a health care provider, pharmacy, etc. (not to include at-home tests) on the day of the event. A negative test result or a note from a healthcare provider or pharmacy indicating the completion of the test and a negative result should be provided prior to participation in the event.

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.

Social-Emotional and Mental Health Care Needs: 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 plan was originally approved by the Board at the July 20, 2021 board meeting during an open meeting, with revisions approved at the August 19, 2021 meeting and again at the September 16, 2021 meeting. Future revisions will be discussed by the SRCSP Team, which include students, families, administrators, teachers, school leaders, school staff and representatives from teacher organizations..

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 as necessary.

Please contact Central Office if you need the plan in a different language (573-729-6642 or lynne.reed@salemnr80.org)