

Harrisburg R-VIII 2021-2022 Re-Entry Plan

As we approach the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year, the Harrisburg R-VIII School District will continue to address the ongoing uncertainties the pandemic has created. The district's goal is to provide our community with a revised plan to provide the framework for continued learning while also allowing students to develop the social and emotional connections necessary for their growth.

Our plan for a safe return to in-seat instruction and continuity of services is built around the following commitments:

- Providing environments that are as safe as possible for our students and staff
- Ensuring access and equity for all students
- Communicating with staff, families, and community partners

****Please note: The information and guidelines provided in this document are subject to change at any time based on further guidance received by the district. (Last Revised 08/10/2021)**

The Harrisburg School District has developed health-related protocols and a Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan created in conjunction with the Columbia/Boone County Public Health and Human Services (PHSS), the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS), and the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The protocols are based on best practices from area schools and businesses, in addition to federal, state, and local health officials. These protocols are subject to change based on revised guidance and orders received by the school district.

These protocols aim to mitigate the risk of exposure to COVID-19 and other illnesses by reducing the number of personal and surface contacts students, and employees experience while at school. However, while reducing risk is the goal, it is impossible to eliminate all contact and risk of exposure.

Physical Distancing and Co-Horts

HARRISBURG ELEMENTARY

- To help lower exposure risk and for contact tracing purposes, student contact will be restricted to their homeroom classroom (cohort) while inside the building.
- There will be exceptions for students in Special Education, Art, Music, PE, Title I, and intervention services.

HARRISBURG MS & HS

- Students will follow their assigned schedule.

ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL

- Signs will be displayed to remind students to distance themselves while entering the building or standing outside physically.
- Students will be asked to walk directly to their first-hour class to discourage congregating in the hallways.
- Parents are asked to:
 - Drop students off as close to the school start time as possible to avoid the gathering of students before doors open.
- Students will be encouraged to distance themselves as much as possible during dismissal.

CLASSROOMS & FACILITIES

- Students are encouraged to carry water bottles or cups with lids. Bottle filling stations will be available for students to access water. Water fountains/bottle filling stations will be available in all buildings.
- The district will utilize assigned seating in classrooms to reduce potential close contacts and facilitate contact tracing.
- Students will be distanced in classrooms and other areas to the greatest extent possible.
- Students will be encouraged to wear masks when social distancing is impossible.

FACE COVERINGS

Face coverings are required within the indoor facilities and buses at the Harrisburg School District facilities for students and staff. In addition, posted signage will continue to promote face coverings in district facilities.

- The district will have a limited supply available for students who need a mask.
- Mask requirements are subject to change throughout the school year, based on guidance from state and local health officials, along with community and district conditions.
- Parents are encouraged to transport their children to and from school if possible.
- Social distancing on buses will not be feasible.

MEAL SERVICE

- Breakfast and lunch will be served in the cafeteria. Modifications to meal service will be made as needed.
- The USDA has granted all students a waiver to have free lunch and breakfast for the 2021-22 school year. Additional information will be provided once guidance has been provided by the USDA and DESE.

VISITORS & VOLUNTEERS

Visitors will be allowed into all facilities only with approval by the building administrator.

- We ask families only to drop off necessary supplies left at home (medication, eyeglasses). We ask that homework, projects, and other non-essential items not be delivered to the schools. In addition, deliveries from food establishments and parents bringing in outside food will not be permitted.
- Essential visitors providing mental, academic, and social resources and services to students will be allowed and must be approved in advance.
- Volunteers providing support to students will be allowed and must be approved in advance.
- The District is permitted to prevent any individual who fails the health screening criteria from being admitted into a school building until they meet the requirements for re-entry to the campus.

- Records of all school visitors will be maintained for future contact tracing, including name, contact information, date, time of visit, locations visited, and student/staff interactions.
- All visitors are asked to wear a mask while in district facilities.

HANDWASHING & RESPIRATORY ETIQUETTE

- Hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms and at most exterior doors.
- Signage will be displayed in all district facilities to encourage proper handwashing, cover coughs and sneezes, encouraging monitoring of symptoms related to COVID-19.
- Handwashing and sanitation procedures will be taught to students by district staff.

HEALTHY FACILITIES

- The district will coordinate with Blakemore Cleaning to implement a specified sanitation plan using approved cleaning products across the district. High volume areas and frequently touched surfaces will be a significant focus.
- Hand sanitizer will be available throughout our buildings and inside our classrooms.

HEALTH SCREENINGS

Personal health screenings are an essential component of helping maintain a safe and healthy school environment. Therefore, all students and employees are asked to self-screen before coming to school.

Students and employees should complete a daily self-check of COVID-19 symptoms before arriving at school. If you have experienced one of the following symptoms within the last 14 days, it is recommended you not come to school facilities or events:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Students and employees should not come to school under any circumstances if they are sick. In addition, building-level principals should be notified if a student will be absent if the absence is potentially related to COVID-19.

SYMPTOMATIC STUDENTS & EMPLOYEES

The following information is based on current guidance from national, state, and local health officials.

Symptomatic students & employees who become ill while at school will be treated in a precaution area isolated from others and asked to wear a face-covering until they are sent home. Students and employees will follow the return guidelines as outlined below.

The following symptoms indicate a possible illness that may decrease a person's ability to function productively and put them at risk for spreading disease to others. Please visit the CDC website for a complete list of expected symptoms.

- Temperature 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher
- Sore throat
- New, uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing or speaking.
- Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain
- New onset of severe headache (especially with fever)
- Loss of taste or smell

Anyone exhibiting any one or more of these symptoms should remain home until:

- Symptoms improve
- Fever free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications
- Upon returning to school, students and staff may be screened by the building nurse to verify recovery.

COVID-19 RELATED ILLNESS

If any of the following conditions apply, a person is considered at high risk of spreading the illness to others and should not come to school. Therefore, parents/students/employees are required to notify their building principal/supervisor if any of these conditions apply:

- A positive COVID-19 test result
- Pending results of a COVID-19 test (including pending results of a family member)
- Close contact with a person confirmed positive for COVID-19

Please Note: For a student or employee to return to school/work after a positive COVID-19 test, the following benchmarks must be achieved:

If the student or employee experienced symptoms:

- Ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared, and
- 24 hours with no fever (without the use of fever-reducing medication), and
- Other symptoms have improved (e.g., cough, shortness of breath)

If the student or employee did not experience symptoms:

- Ten days since the student/employee tested positive

Source: Columbia/Boone County Health Department of Public Health and Human Services, *“Home Isolation Instructions for People with COVID-19”*

If a student or employee is in close contact with a person awaiting test results for COVID-19, the student or employee should not return to school until test results are returned. For example, if a parent or sibling is awaiting test results, all students in the same household should stay home until the test results are received. If the test is negative, students may return to school. However, suppose the test result is positive. In that case, the family must work with the county health department to determine close contact status and establish the appropriate quarantine protocol for each family member.

COVID-19 CONTACT TRACING/QUARANTINES

In the event a student or employee is determined to be a close contact of a positive COVID-19 person, the district will follow Missouri DHSS and Boone County PHHS protocols for when the student or employee may return to school:

- Ten-day quarantine followed by four days of monitoring symptoms and mask-wearing at all times.
- Seven-day quarantine with a negative PCR test, followed by seven days of tracking symptoms and mask-wearing at all times.
 - To utilize the shortened quarantine option, you will need to get tested on or after **Day 5** of your quarantine. The PCR test is the best option and is more reliable for people without symptoms. Consult your doctor.

* If you develop symptoms of COVID-19 at any time over the fourteen days, please isolate immediately and get tested.

Source: Columbia/Boone County Health Department of Public Health and Human Services, *“Self-Quarantine Guidance for Close Contacts to COVID-19”*

If a student or employee has been fully vaccinated for COVID-19, they may not need to quarantine. PHHS states, “Vaccinated persons with exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 will not be required to quarantine if they meet all of the following criteria:

- Are fully vaccinated (i.e., more than two weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or more than two weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine)
- Have remained asymptomatic since the current COVID-19 exposure.”

You can read additional information regarding quarantining here:

<https://www.como.gov/coronavirus/novel-coronavirus-2019-covid-19/>

Proof of vaccination must be on file with the district to be exempt from quarantine.

Per local health guidance, students or staff members who have tested positive for COVID-19 and have recovered will be exempted from further close contact quarantines if less than three months since a lab-confirmed test. However, students and staff showing a positive antibody test will not be exempted from close contact quarantines. Testing results must be provided to the school district to be exempted from further close contact quarantines from school-related cases. More information can be found here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/testing-overview.html>

COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

For students or employees interested in receiving a vaccination, Columbia/Boone County Public Health and Human Services community vaccination clinics can be found here:

<https://www.como.gov/covidvaccine/>

SCHOOL NOTIFICATIONS

POSITIVE COVID-19

Following notification of a newly reported student *or* employee isolation status, the district will follow the protocols listed below for notifications if it is determined the positive individual was on campus during their infectious period requiring contact tracing within the school.

- Schools & Bus Transportation: Families of all students attending the same school and riding the same bus of a confirmed COVID-19 case will be notified of a positive case within the building or bus via email.
- Staff: All building staff, including traveling and classified staff, will be made aware of a positive case within the building.

- Close Contacts: Students and staff who have had their name submitted to the health department as a potential close contact of the positive case while at school will be notified. Students and employees who have been identified as a possible close contact should not return to school and await further instructions from the health department unless proof of complete vaccination is provided to the district as outlined above.

Due to privacy laws, personally identifiable information will not be released.

CLOSURES

- The school district will consider school closures based upon city, county, and state guidelines and community spread.
- Individual building or classroom closures may be implemented, depending on the exposure risk level across the district.
- It is important to note that should a closure, change to the school schedule, or exposure to COVID-19 occurs, the district will use various methods of communication to contact families.

CONTINUITY OF SERVICES

If it is impossible to keep the school open in response to pandemic trigger points, the district will pivot to an online learning environment. Content will be teacher generated and will resume promptly from the point of paused learning. Each staff member of seated courses will familiarize students with the online learning platform before a required closure. Learning will move forward to ensure coverage of all 2021-2022 content to minimize student learning regression. Education will move forward with standard grading practices in place.

Virtual Learning Option

We hope and expect our students will return to full-time in-person learning in the fall. However, we know some students who have a documented medical condition who need to continue virtual education. Therefore, the district will offer virtual instruction for a limited number of students who meet medical eligibility requirements to support these students. Virtual learning based on medical needs will be available for kindergarten through twelfth grades for the 2021-22 school year.

All students will be enrolled for in-person instruction unless specified by the family. Requests for online learning must be made by contacting your building principal.

Kyle Fisher High School Principal: 573 875 5602 or fisherk@harrisburg.k12.mo.us

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