Safe Return to In-Person Instruction
And
Community Services Plan (SRCSP)

Osceola School District
2021-2022

Plan Revised 01/2022

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction

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Osceola School District
Safe Return Plan
Preface

Dear Osceola Families and Community,

Our school district continues to have student learning and school safety as two very important priorities during the COVID-19 pandemic. With the pandemic continuing to be at the forefront of school concerns, our district has formulated a plan to address how best to meet our student and staff needs in order to keep everyone a safe as possible as well as provide instruction. This current response plan was based on the pandemic impacts of COVID-19 and updated for the 2021-22 school year to meet the requirements of the *Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan* **(SRCSP)**.

The contents of this plan will be reviewed every 6 months and revised according to the most recent public health information. This will ensure the plan continues to remain current with the recommendations of the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS), St. Clair County Health Department (SCCHD), the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Tasks assigned and delegated during each phase of the response plan, in the case of an influenza pandemic or novel virus pandemic (such as COVID-19), should be considered as possible actions and should be implemented based on the current situation and guidance from the DHSS, SCCHD, the DESE, and the CDC. The Osceola School District will work with local response partners to ensure a coordinated, and measured response is taken to protect our students and community members.

Pandemic severity information provided by the CDC and SCCHD, should be used to help gauge the necessary level of response. Based on this information the leaders of the Osceola School District will determine which actions in the SRCSP Plan to implement and which may be delayed. The actions listed under each Pandemic Phase should be implemented only as needed.

PANDEMIC RESPONSE PLAN

Purpose of SRCSP Plan:

This plan is intended to provide guidelines to implement an effective response to a pandemic. The plan's responses will reduce impact on students' and the community's health (i.e. reduce illness and possibly save lives) and minimize disruption to students' education. The following SRCSP Plan will be implemented after an influenza virus, novel virus (COVID-19), or resurgence of a formerly eradicated illness begins to spread readily from person to person, and it is geared toward action and specific responsibilities to be taken by the district under the direction of the authorities responsible for declaring a public health emergency.

Response Team:

District decisions will be based on information from SCCHD, DESE and CDC recommendations.

*Mr. Michael Fransen	District Superintendent
*Dr. Chris McClimans	Elementary School Principal
*Mr. Dustin Schubert	Secondary School Principal
*Sara Gordon	District Nurse
*Jana Williams	Director of Nutritional Services
*Pam Snider	EL Special Education Coordinator
*Cheryl Edwards	HS Special Education Coordinator
*Kevin Braddish	Director of Custodial Services
*Dr. Debbie Ross	Curriculum/Instruction
*Daniel Dysart	Board of Education Member

Stakeholders also include students, parents, community members, and those representing the interests of English Learners, homeless, foster care, migratory and other underserved students.

*These individuals are responsible for communicating and overseeing the development of the district's pandemic plan

Community Partners:

SCCHD, Golden Valley Medical, and CMH Medical

Definitions:

Infectious disease outbreaks: Disease outbreaks are usually caused by an infection, transmitted through person-to-person contact, animal-to-person contact, or from the environment or other media. An outbreak carries the same definition as epidemic, but is often used for a more limited geographic area (i.e. community, company, facility, school, etc.)

Epidemic: Refers to an increase, often sudden, in the number of cases of a disease above what is normally expected in that population in that area (i.e. localized area, state).

Pandemic: Refers to an epidemic that has spread over several countries or continents, usually affecting a large number of people (i.e. global).

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1. Planning and Coordination

If an unexpected outbreak should occur in our district, parts of the pandemic plan would be implemented to minimize exposure. The parts implemented would depend upon the specifics of the outbreak and would be determined in consultation with SCCHD experts, DESE, CDC recommendations, and local and state elected officials.

Characteristics of a pandemic that must be considered in preparedness and response planning include:
1) Continued spread of infection.
2) Loss of instructional time with students.
3) Missed meals for students on free and reduced lunch, or backpack program.
4) Increased hardship on families due to need for childcare.
5) Concern of lost wages and benefits for employees.

The following assumptions regarding a possible pandemic should be kept in mind at all times during the planning and response stages:

- Are there mitigation strategies? (social distancing of 3-6 ft and correct use of masking.)
- Basic hygiene and infection control strategies/enhanced cleaning may have to be reiterated and encouraged.
- School exclusions may have to be instituted to minimize disease spread.
- School closure and stay in place orders.

Guiding Principles in Pandemic Response

Since the district nurse is likely to recognize outbreak trends early, the nurse will report and collaborate with SCCHD regarding recommendations, and advise district administration. Once it is determined the pandemic plan needs to be activated, the response team members will meet to decide which phases of the plan should be initiated and how information should be disseminated throughout the school district.

Prevention and Control Measures:

The primary disease prevention strategies for a pandemic include (mitigation strategies):
- Social distancing (3-6 feet, use of cohorts/"podding").
- Universal and correct wearing of masks.
- Provide information and education regarding infection control (handwashing and respiratory etiquette).
- Maintain clean and healthy facilities, including improved ventilation.

- Track PPEs, medical, hygiene, and cleaning supplies.
- Diagnostic and screening testing.
- Monitoring and education of immunizations/vaccinations.
- Providing resources to acquire testing and immunizations/vaccinations.
- Monitoring of absences and contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine in collaboration with local public health authorities.
- Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies.
- Closure of school as directed by guiding health authorities. There are three key strategies for preventing transmission of disease, these include:
- Decreasing the probability that contact will result in infection, such as providing education on hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, the importance of staying home if sick, receiving annual vaccinations, social distancing and correct use of masking.
- Decreasing contact between infected and uninfected individuals, school exclusions, cancelation of events/activities, closure of school.
- Referral to healthcare providers.

Masking
- For anyone on campus, it is highly recommended to wear a mask.

  - If a student or faculty/staff member is unable to obtain a mask, the district can provide masks. Homemade masks are acceptable but must meet school dress code guidelines.
  - Elementary student requests for masks are subject to approval from parents/guardians.
  - Masks must be in clean, sanitary condition.
  - Students may not share masks.

- All students riding buses must wear a mask as per federal mandate.

- If the district has 10% or higher of student population excluded due to COVID-19, a mask mandate will be put in place. The mandate will remain until the percentage of excluded drops below 4% for 14 days.

Exclusion from School

If You Test Positive for COVID-19:

- Stay home for 5 days.
- If you have no symptoms or your symptoms are resolving after 5 days, you may return to school.
- Continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.
- If you have a fever, continue to stay home until your fever resolves.

If You Were Exposed to Someone with COVID-19:

- Monitor for symptoms
- It is highly recommended to wear a mask for 10 days.
- Test on day 5, if possible. If negative, you may return to school.

If You Were Exposed and Develop Symptoms:

- Stay home for 5 days. Continue to wear a mask for 5 additional days.
- Test on day 5 from when symptoms began.

* Any student participating in a MSHSAA activity must follow the "Return to Play" protocol. A link to MSHSAA's athletic protocol is provided in the resources on the last page of this plan.

2. Continuity of Student Learning and Core Operations

In the case of interruption of seated instruction, short or long term, the district could implement an Alternative Method of Instruction (AMI). The district will ensure all students have access to the internet (mobile hotspots and parking lot wi-fi). If there is a disruption or wi-fi capability is not available, students would be provided instructional packets. Teachers will provide instruction, both introductory and review of concepts and skills, through the use of Google Classroom as our LMS and will facilitate teaching and learning for all students by using various types of assignments, materials, and resources (such as iReady, learning games, electronic/web based apps, packets and textbooks).

The district will communicate the need for an AMI day to students and parents through social media, email, phone calls, Class Tag, district website, and the school calendar. All teachers will engage in the virtual learning process, and paraprofessionals will continue to support instruction in the virtual environment. Students receiving services through an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) will follow the accommodations/modifications outlined in form G of their IEP. The following guidelines will be utilized by district instructional staff:

- Assignments will be meaningful and linked to instructional standards.
- Google Classroom will be utilized to provide instruction.
- Teachers will be available by email during school hours and may choose to set up a Zoom meeting to provide opportunities to communicate virtually with students.

The following will be expected of students:
- All activities assigned during AMI days will be due upon the student's return to classes unless instructed otherwise.
- Students are expected to complete assignments in the virtual environment.
- Students are encouraged to contact teachers with specific learning issues utilizing approved district communication methods.

The district will communicate the continuity of district operations to district employees through phone calls and email.

3. Communications Planning

- Response team members will follow developing information regarding the pandemic as it unfolds via emails, phone calls, and meetings in their respected area of expertise, and bring information back to the team to make decisions about necessary actions to take.
- Inform staff, students, and families where to find accurate up-to-date pandemic information from federal, state, local and health sources.
- Collaboration of the district's pandemic plan with the local health department to ensure continuity of instruction and community containment measures.
- Share information from local public health resources about infection control (hand hygiene, cough/sneeze etiquette), fundamentals of a pandemic (signs and symptoms, modes of transmission), and personal and family protection, and response strategies (at-home care, when to seek medical care).
- Anticipate the potential fear and anxiety of staff, students, and families as a result of rumors. Provide and maintain factual information and a sense of calm to minimize panic. District communication by means of specific FAQ's and infographics will be provided as needed.
- All communication will be made available in various languages upon request.

Phases of a Pandemic

The following guidance was adopted from the CDCs "K-12 Schools and Childcare Programs FAQs for Administrators, Teachers, and Parents", March 2020 in response to the COVID-19 outbreak and updated accordingly.

1. **Planning Phase:**
   a. Review, update, and implement emergency protocols.
   b. Develop information-sharing systems with community partners.
   c. Teach and reinforce health hygiene practices.
   d. Intensify cleaning and disinfectant efforts.
   e. Monitor and plan for absenteeism (trend of increased absences due to illness will be reported to the local health department).
   f. Assess group gatherings and events.
   g. Require sick students and staff to stay home and establish procedures for students and staff who are sick at school.
   h. Create and test communications plans for use with the school community.

2. **Minimal to moderate community transmission in local area**
   a. Cancel or reduce field trips, assemblies, and other large gatherings.

b. Cancel or modify classes where students are likely to be in very close contact.
c. Increase the space between desks to at least 3 feet.
d. Stagger arrival and/or dismissal times.
e. Reduce congestion in the health office.
f. Limit nonessential visitors.
g. Teach staff, students, and their families to maintain a safe distance (3-6 feet) from each other in the school.

3. **Substantial community transmission**
   a. Local health officials will provide guidance to administrators and/or response team on the best course of action. Action taken will be implemented after local school board approval.
   b. May need to consider extended school dismissals (longer than 2 weeks). This decision will be directed in coordination with the school board, local health department and DESE.
   c. Includes cancelations of extracurricular group activities, school-based afterschool programs, and large events.
   d. May be necessary to implement strategies to ensure the continuity of education (distance learning), meal programs, and other essential services for students (special ed).

4. **Re-opening of Schools**
   a. Consult local health officials and DESE for guidance.
   b. Implement mitigation strategies;
      i. Universal and correct use of masks
      ii. Social distancing
      iii. Hand washing and respiratory etiquette
      iv. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation
      v. Contact tracing in collaboration with local health officials
      vi. Diagnostic and screening testing, along with education and guidance for vaccinations
      vii. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies
   c. Review/revision of plan every 6 months in consultation with all stakeholders

Respiratory Etiquette

Today, practicing good respiratory etiquette is essential to limiting, slowing, preventing and stopping the spread of COVID-19 globally. The willingness and ability of most people to practice good respiratory etiquette to protect their own and each other's health has made a huge difference in flattening and bringing down the COVID-19 curve.

Here are some simple but effective steps each person can and should take to practice good respiratory etiquette:

1. **Cover your cough and sneeze**
   Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, and put the used tissue in a wastebasket. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve or elbow, not your hands.
2. **Practice effective handwashing**
   Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, and especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water aren't available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.*
3. **Maintain a safe physical distance**
   Try to maintain a physical distance of at least 6 feet from others when possible since respiratory droplets from the virus that causes COVID-19 can spread to a person 6 feet or closer after someone with the virus coughs, sneezes or talks.
4. **Wear a mask to protect others**
   When physical distancing isn't possible, wearing a homemade non-medical mask or face covering is recommended in public settings such as stores or public transit. This can help reduce the spread of infectious respiratory droplets to others.
5. **Self-isolate and test when appropriate**
   If you experience possible symptoms of COVID-19 or have been exposed to someone who may have symptoms, self-isolate and get tested.
6. **Be socially mindful**
   Being aware of your own actions and the actions of others is part of practicing and encouraging good respiratory etiquette. Courtesy, thoughtfulness and good manners are helpful in handling breaches of respiratory etiquette that could affect your own or other people's health.

Resources

Everyday preventive actions from the CDC, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fprepare%2Fprevention.html

Handwashing resources from the CDC, https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html

Helping children cope with emergencies from the CDC, https://www.cdc.gov/childrenindisasters/helping-children-cope.html

Food and nutritional services from the US Department of Agriculture, https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/USDAfoodsPandemicSchools

Getting your school ready for Pandemic Flu, CDC https://www.cdc.gov/nonpharmaceutical-interventions/pdf/gr-pan-flu-ed-set.pdf

MSHSAA Return to Play Form,
chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/viewer.html?pdfurl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.mshsaa.org%2Fresources%2FPDF%2FMSHSAA%2520COVID-19%2520RTP%2520Form.pdf&clen=522163&chunk=true