

**BUCHANAN COUNTY R-IV  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**



**Safe Return to In-Person Instruction  
& Continuity of Services Plan**

**June 2021**

BOE Adopted 6/13/2021

## **SRCSP Stakeholders**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Role(s)</u></b>
Connie Werner	Buchanan County Health Department
Bessie McGaughy	District Nurse
Travis Dittmore	Superintendent
Jeremy Hanshaw	Board of Education, President
Mike Reagan	Board of Education
Pam Browning	Board of Education
Doug Hickman	Board of Education
Trevor Cassity	Board of Education
Jason Griffin	Board of Education
Tanner Lawson	7-12 Principal
Yvonne Black	PK-6 Principal
Estella Ferguson	7-12 Counselor
Susan Whitman	Grades K-12 Counselor
Hadley Roberts	Athletic Director
Dana Taylor	SAC Committee / MS Communication Arts
Angie King	SAC Committee / Music & Band
Sierra Matthews	SAC Committee / MS/HS Special Education
Chris Masoner	SAC Committee / Elementary Teacher
Keith Huffstutlar	Head of Maintenance
Crystal Martin	Nurse / Community Member

## **Introduction**

The Buchanan County R-IV School District held instruction as normal as possible during the 2020-21 school year, and will continue to offer in-building learning during the 2021-22 school year and beyond. This plan serves as a reminder of our mitigation policies that may be implemented if cases and/or quarantine numbers rise during the school year. This plan is a requirement of accepting and utilizing ESSER III funding provided by the federal government through the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Communication with the Buchanan County Health Department, local physicians, staff, students, and community members will continue to ensure the Buchanan County R-IV School District is able to provide quality educational opportunities for our students and families. The following mitigation strategies will be followed during the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school years. These strategies are created in conjunction with the most current Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance, but will be based on what is affecting our community and our county in determining protocols for our district. Parents are encouraged to continue monitoring for symptoms in determining when their child should refrain from attending school.

## **Mitigation Measures**

**Universal and correct wearing of masks:** Masks will not be required to be worn in-building or at school events, **unless deemed necessary** and communicated by Buchanan County R-IV Administration and Board of Education. Masks are allowed and are expected to be worn correctly at any time, and disposable masks are available from the school offices. Posters throughout the building remind students and staff of correct mask wearing procedures. The school district will continue to keep abreast and work to remain consistent with current CDC guidelines.

**Physical distancing:** Our smaller class sizes, number of Elementary and JH/HS classrooms, and extra classrooms, allow for physical distance when necessary. Classrooms will be designed with as much physical distancing between desks as possible, especially when seated together for more than 15 minutes. Efforts will continue in ensuring large groups of students are not present in hallways together for more than 15 minutes. The school district will continue to keep abreast and work to remain consistent with current CDC guidelines.

Our buses will continue to operate as they did during the 2020-21 school year. There will be assigned seating, with efforts to only sit family members in the same seat. Seating will be assigned so that physical distancing is maintained for as long as possible. Due to our smaller bus routes, rarely is there more than 20 students on a route at one time, allowing for appropriate physical distancing. Parents, etc. may bring students to and from school if preferred.

Our cafeteria seating arrangements will continue to promote physical distancing. The self-serve fruit and vegetable bar will be in operation if deemed possible by OPAA! And safe by the administration. Menu options will be provided by the food service staff to students as they choose their food options. Food sharing between students will be prohibited.

**Handwashing and respiratory etiquette:** Hand sanitizer will continue to be available, both in the dispensers attached to the wall throughout the building, as well as in individual bottles available in classrooms and high traffic areas. Elementary classrooms will continue to introduce and reinforce proper handwashing techniques. On both ends of the building, multiple opportunities for students to wash their hands daily are provided. Posters in bathrooms remind students and staff of the importance of hand washing. In addition, tissues are provided in all classrooms and office areas for respiratory needs. The school district will continue to keep abreast and work to remain consistent with current CDC guidelines.

**Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities:** In efforts to keep our district healthy, we encourage limited outside visitors during the school day. Items can be dropped off in the foyer of each building without the need to enter the main building. Our school district will continue with increased cleaning strategies, including having staff and students wipe down desks, tables, and objects that are touched with a high-frequency (i.e. door knobs). Disinfectant wipes have been and will continue to be purchased and utilized, as well as disinfectant spray. Buses will continue to be disinfected after morning and afternoon routes. When possible, windows and other ventilation options will be opened. Students are encouraged to bring water bottles to fill during the school day and for events. There are two bottle filler stations on each end of the building. The school district will continue to keep abreast and work to remain consistent with current CDC guidelines.

**Contact tracing:** Contact tracing will continue to be utilized in conjunction with the Buchanan County Health Department. Our District Contact Tracing Protocol will be used again this year for students and staff to determine the level of safety and timelines needed to separate those that could possibly infect others. The Buchanan County Health Department will help determine whether individuals have been vaccinated, and determine cases where students/staff are/are not required to quarantine. The school district will continue to keep abreast and work to remain consistent with current CDC guidelines.

**Diagnostic and screening testing:** Families will be asked to continue to monitor student health symptoms at home, and are asked to not send kids to school if COVID symptoms are present. Currently there will not be a daily screening protocol implemented in the school building. However, elementary teachers will send students to the nurse's office, and Middle School/High School teachers have an infrared temperature monitor along with a symptoms checklist to question students who are not feeling well.

Should a child become sick at school and show signs of potential COVID symptoms, they will be asked to wear a mask and move to the transition room until they visit with the nurse and a family member can arrive. COVID testing will be available at the direction of the Buchanan County Health Department and Mosaic Hospital. The school district will continue to keep abreast and work to remain consistent with current CDC guidelines.

**Efforts to provide vaccinations:** The Buchanan County Health Department has provided a large amount of free vaccination events available to educators beginning in March 2021. At this point, eligible members of the school community are encouraged to get vaccinated if they feel it serves their best interest. The Buchanan County R-IV School District will not be a host, or partner with other organizations, to host COVID vaccination events on campus. The school district will continue to keep abreast and work to remain consistent with current CDC guidelines.

**Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities:** Accommodations for children with disabilities are documented in an Individual Education Plan (IEP). The modifications or accommodations are legally required, and will be followed by the school district. The school district will continue to keep abreast and work to remain consistent with current CDC guidelines.

### **Continuity of Services**

**Interruptions of in-person learning:** If it is determined in consultation with the Buchanan County Health Department that our building needs to be closed, Buchanan County R-IV will continue to offer distance/virtual learning opportunities to our students through a wide variety of platforms. This may also be available to students in lengthy quarantine situations. Students and staff will utilize electronic devices to conduct class through a variety of methods, including Zoom, Google Classroom, etc. Other online learning outlets may also be incorporated. In addition, packets, worksheets, textbooks, and library books may also be sent home and utilized to support learning. Elementary teachers will check-in with students through their online platforms (Google Classroom) 2-3 times a week. Middle School and High School students will meet daily with their teacher through Zoom and utilize Google Classroom on their normal class period schedule. Attendance will be expected daily in these classes, and students will be required to adhere to the already set schedules.

We will use our standard registration process to determine whether students have the appropriate devices, and internet access necessary, to access distanced/virtual learning from home. We have enough chromebooks in our district for every student to check-out a device if warranted. Those families without internet access should communicate with the Buchanan County R-IV School District to make arrangements. For those families who lack internet services, we may be able to provide internet services through T-Mobile. Hot spots may also be acquired and utilized to help in this endeavor. We also will allow students to utilize our building during times of closure, in specific areas of the building with appropriate physical distancing. It is also possible for students to access the internet from our outdoor wi-fi options available from the parking lots in front of our respective buildings.

Packets will be available to be picked-up by a family member, scanned and emailed to the family, or provided through an online platform (Google Classroom). In necessary circumstances, packets may also be delivered to a residence. Once students return to school, they are expected to bring back the finished work so that it can be graded and utilized for attendance purposes.

**Social, emotional, and mental health needs of students and staff:**

The disruption to the lives of staff and students during the COVID-19 pandemic has made education more challenging. Since we have provided in-building learning during the past school year, and will continue to during the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school years, students and staff are aware of opportunities to visit with counselors or other staff members to offer support and encouragement. Counseling sessions are always available for students in a one-on-one setting, both in our building, and also virtually if necessary.

We will continue to utilize our At-Risk procedures and protocols to determine if there are students and/or families who are experiencing difficult situations. While it is impossible to determine the need for the upcoming school years, we will continue to support all students and staff through a wide variety of situations.

**SRCSP Plan review:**

The SRCSP Plan stakeholders will meet every 6 months or as necessary to discuss any needed updates/revisions to the plan. As this plan is a working document, all stakeholders understand that this plan may need to be modified/revised more frequently depending on outside factors.

The Buchanan County R-IV SRCSP will be made available in other languages as necessary.