

Message From Dr. Woods

Hello Dora community. This past school year was certainly a difficult time for all of us; parents, students, teachers and administrators. We are hopeful that this school year goes more smoothly as we return to campus.

In order to comply with federal regulations, school districts are required to post a “Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan.” Details are listed in the document following this message. Parts of this plan will look similar to the re-entry plan that was distributed last summer during the heights of COVID-19. We now know much more about how to combat the virus and district strategies will be outlined in the document. The document is much more simplistic now and will focus primarily on mitigation strategies and continuation of services should we find ourselves in a position to close the school doors for a period of time.

These policies and protocols are required to be examined and revised as needed every 6 months with input from community members.

Dr. Allen Woods

Dora R-III School District
Superintendent of Schools

The guidelines and protocols outlined in this document are subject to revision as needed to reflect local, state, and federal guidance.

Guidelines and protocols may also be revised as appropriate to reflect the needs of local conditions.

Definitions

Enrollment Options

Seated, in-person instruction is defined as instruction provided on campus each school day by Dora teachers.

Online/AMI learning is defined as instruction by Dora teachers taking place online for seated students due to a COVID-related closure.

Virtual learning is defined as a fully virtual curriculum provided by an outside agency (virtual Acellus platform).

- **“Social distancing”** or **“physical distancing”** refers to no less than six feet of separation.
- **“Close contact”** refers to someone who was within six feet of an infected person for at least fifteen minutes.
- **Face Covering** is a cloth material that covers the nose and mouth. It can be secured to the head with ties or straps or simply wrapped around the lower face.
- **Symptomatic** COVID-19 case is defined as a case who has developed signs and symptoms compatible with COVID-19 virus infection.
- **Asymptomatic** is defined as a laboratory-confirmed case of a person infected with COVID-19 who does not develop symptoms.
- **Pods** is a term for a strategy that schools may use to limit contact between students and staff. These strategies work by keeping groups of students – and sometimes staff – together over the course of a predetermined period of time.

Mitigating Strategy Policies

The Dora R-III School District was able to continue in-person instruction for the entire 2020-2021 school year, largely due to the mitigating strategies set forth in the board approved Re-Entry Plan that was approved for the 2020-2021 school year. Many of the protocols will continue in the 2021-2022 school year. Some of the highlights are as follows:

- Mask wearing for staff and students is optional.
- Physical distancing will be incorporated into classes, to the extent possible.
- Handwashing and respiratory etiquette will be taught and/or reinforced.
- Daily sanitizing and disinfecting will be a priority at all district facilities.
- The school will assist with contact tracing in collaboration with the local health department.
- Parents will be asked to appropriately screen their child to assess wellness before sending their child to school. If the child is showing symptoms, they should be kept at home and the family health care provider should be consulted.
- Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies will be determined, as needed.
- Vaccinations for staff are encouraged but not required. Information regarding vaccination distribution, locations and times can be obtained in the central office.
- Masks will be required for all bus riders per regulations.
- Visitors will be admitted into buildings by appointment only.

Continuity of Services

If students are required to quarantine or isolate, instruction will be provided to students via electronic methods, paper-pencil packets, or a combination of both. Teachers will provide students with information on office hours for student instruction and feedback opportunities via phone, email, text message, Remind, Google classroom, etc. in order to ensure learning is not interrupted. Teachers have received training, and will continue to receive training regarding how we can meet the social, emotional, and mental health needs of students and staff during any interruptions of in-person instruction, as well as during the regular school year.

Learning Settings for the 2021-2022 School Year

At present, we plan for our district to open the school year with seated learning and an online option

In addition, parents who would like to choose on-line learning via a vendor approved by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education may contact the Dora R-III School District and visit with the administrative team. Online learning options via outside vendors will be available to students unless it is determined that online learning is not in a child's best educational interest.

Local Virtual or Distance Learning

Local Virtual/Distance Learning options or AMI (Alternative Methods of Instruction) may only be offered in PreK-12th Grades under the following two conditions:

1. The district has to move to a different learning setting due to an extensive COVID presence within our schools.
2. Inclement weather prevents in-seated learning for a short period of time.

Students will report back to school on Monday, August 23rd. At this time, all students will attend school five days per week for seated learning, or they student can participate virtually via Acellus. It is the opinion of the Federal Department of Education, the Missouri Department of Education and the Dora R-III School District that student learning is maximized in-person. Should the district need to close a school or the entire district temporarily due to a significant increase of confirmed COVID cases within our learning community, a blend of in-person or AMI may be utilized, depending on the situation. The district will consult with the local health departments to determine what is in the best interest of all students.

As a district, we are working diligently to provide the safest learning environment. Please understand we may need to make changes in the future to further protect students and staff. We encourage flexibility among our entire learning community. If we need to pivot to different settings, we will notify our learning community immediately. We are committed to complete transparency and will provide up-to-date information via email, a text cast, our district website, and/or social media.

For the past several weeks, district and building administration have collaborated with staff, local health professionals, the Ozark, Douglas and Howell County Health Departments, and the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Collaboration and input has been extremely valuable. These united efforts to safeguard our Dora community is deeply appreciated.

Social Distancing

Teachers will stress the importance of social distancing while at school. We will make every attempt to ensure elementary students spend the majority of their day at school in cohorts. We will do our best to maintain social distancing as much as possible when students are not with their core group. We will arrange classroom desks and common seating areas (including tables) to maximize space between students when possible. It will be difficult to keep students 3-6 feet away from one another, but we will make every effort to maintain as much distance as possible. This will also help prevent the possible spread of COVID at times when social distancing cannot be maintained.

Breakfast and Lunch

During breakfast and lunch time, students will eat in the cafeteria while maintaining social distances to the extent possible. Parents/visitors will not be allowed to eat lunch at school, and at this time, we continue to ask parents/guardians to not deliver food items from outside vendors to students at school in efforts to minimize possible exposure.

Water Fountains and Water Bottles

Students are encouraged to bring a reusable water bottle to school every day. Water fountains at school will only be used to refill students' water bottles and not to directly provide drinks. Each water fountain has a bottle filler option added for touchless refills.

Transportation

While the district intends to provide transportation, it will be difficult to social distance on the bus. Families must designate a need for transportation during registration, enabling transportation to plan routes and ridership. Face coverings are a federal mandate for all students riding the bus. Buses will be sanitized between trips, and will open windows when weather permits for increased air circulation, following CDC guidelines. Parents will release/pick up students from the drop-off and pick-up lines. Staff will be on-site to assist students in the building and help them safely to class.

Vaccinations

The Dora R-III School District will work to limit restrictions and increase accessibility to COVID-19 vaccinations.

- The district will provide vaccine information and a list to employees on where to get vaccinated, including how to sign up and locations where walk-ins are accepted.
- Parents will be provided with information on locations, signup protocols, and walk-in locations of vaccination sites to assist them if they decide to vaccinate their children in consultation with their health care providers.
- Employees unable to get vaccinated after the school day or during district-organized events will be allowed, in coordination with the building administrator, a time during the workday to go to a scheduled vaccine appointment or visit a walk-in vaccine site.

Special Education

Accommodations, modifications, and any related special education services for students with Individualized Education Plans (IEP) or 504 Plans will be addressed in each student's individual plan. Changes in Form G will be made.

504 Closure Guidance

Teachers must continue to provide applicable 504 accommodations to eligible students as indicated within the current 504 plan. To ensure that teachers are monitoring 504 implementation the following guidelines will be followed.

The 504 Process Coordinator will provide necessary support to teachers and 504 teams during the closure and with parent consent continue any initial evaluations in progress. 504 teams will review and/or update 504 plans and address educational and health services as necessary. Counselors will communicate accommodations to teachers. Counselors will send this information to each student's teacher so that it can be reviewed by teachers to determine all appropriate accommodations which can be implemented remotely based on types of assignment given. Teachers will then monitor their students with 504's and document accommodations implemented. Counselors can hold 504 meetings virtually if needed during a closure with parent consent.

Periodic Revision

This SRCSP has been developed using information from the previously developed re-entry plan for the 2020-2021 school year. It also includes information from the planning for continuity of services, particularly academic services, in the context of Alternative Methods of Instruction (AMI). The plan includes many mitigating and prevention strategies that were previously board approved at a public board meeting. The SRCSP will be reviewed and/or revised, if necessary, at least every six months. The review and revision process will include consultation with stakeholders, including:

- Families
- School and district administrators
- Teachers and other school staff
- The Dora R-III Board of Education
- Students
- Stakeholders to the extent present in or served by the LEA in civil rights organizations (including disability rights organizations), or stakeholders representing the interests of children with disabilities, English learners, children experiencing homelessness, children and youth in foster care, migratory students, children who are incarcerated, and other underserved students.

Dora R-III School District

COVID Event Guidelines

We ask for your help to ensure a safe environment for students, coaches, officials, and spectators. The guidelines below are in place for any event hosted on the Dora R-III campus. This includes youth, junior high and/or high school.

All Facilities

- All spectators are required to perform their own self-assessment for COVID-19 symptoms prior to attending any Dora event. We ask that you please not attend if you are sick or generally not feeling well.
 - Visiting patrons should take temperatures prior to travel.
 - Social Distancing is encouraged when possible.
- Social distancing is encouraged when standing in line for the concession and restroom facilities.
- No gatherings will be permitted on the field or court at the conclusion of the event.

Indoor Facilities

- It is recommended that all spectators sanitize their hands upon entry.
 - Facial coverings are highly recommended.
 - Social distancing is highly recommended when possible.

Outdoor Facilities

- Facial coverings are recommended.
- Social distancing is encouraged when possible.
- No current restrictions on the number of fans for outdoor events.