

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



2021-2022 School Year

August 12, 2021

Dear Crest Ridge Community,

We are excited to start the 2021-22 school year. We are optimistic that we can expect a much more “normal” experience for students, staff and families as we approach the school start date of August 23rd, 2021.

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.

Yours in Education,

Mr. Brett Gray
Crest Ridge 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.

UPDATED ON 8-18-21

Mitigating Strategy Policies

The Crest Ridge R-VII 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. Protocols for the 2021-2022 school year will be:

- Mask wearing for staff and students is recommended, but optional for almost all circumstances. Masks will be required when being transported on a bus and when physical distancing is not possible indoors.
- 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.
- Information regarding vaccination distribution, locations and times can be obtained by contacting Johnson County Community Health Services.
- Visitors will be admitted into buildings by appointment only.

Physical Distancing

The CDC has updated guidance regarding physical distancing. Several [studies](#) from the 2020-2021 school year show low COVID-19 transmission levels among students in schools that had less than 6 feet of physical distance, especially when the school implemented and layered other prevention strategies, such as the use of masks.

Based on studies from 2020-2021 school year, the CDC recommends:

- Schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students

within classrooms, combined with indoor mask wearing to reduce transmission risk.

- When it is not possible to maintain a physical distance of at least 3 feet
 - it is especially important to layer multiple other prevention strategies, such as:
 - screening testing
 - cohorting
 - improved ventilation
 - handwashing
 - covering coughs and sneezes
 - staying home when sick with symptoms of infectious illness including COVID-19
 - regular cleaning to help reduce transmission risk.

A distance of at least 6 feet is recommended between students and teachers/staff, and between teachers/staff who are not fully vaccinated.

Mask use by all students, teachers, staff, and visitors is particularly important when physical distance cannot be maintained.

Close Contact Information

Close Contact (updated): Someone within [6 feet of an infected person](#) for a total of 15 minutes or more is considered a close contact.

- This includes anyone from 2 days prior to symptoms or if no symptoms, then 2 days prior to the actual positive test result.
- **Exception:** In the **K–12 indoor classroom** setting, the close contact definition is students **and staff** who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student with masking and other prevention strategies.
- **An exposed person (less than three feet from a positive case while both individuals were properly masked) may attend in-person learning while monitoring symptoms, wearing a mask consistently, and quarantining outside of school; attending sport/extracurriculars is not permitted.**

DESE has included teachers and staff in this current indoor classroom setting as of August 17, 2021.

Quarantine Information

Quarantine: People who have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 should expect to [quarantine](#). However, the following people with recent exposure may **NOT** need to quarantine:

- **An exposed person (less than three feet from a positive case while both individuals were properly masked) may attend in-person learning while monitoring symptoms, wearing a mask consistently, and quarantining outside of school; attending sport/extracurriculars is not permitted.**
- People who have been fully vaccinated do not need to quarantine as long as they remain symptom free and wear a mask for 14 days.
 - **Updated CDC guidance has added a recommendation that fully vaccinated individuals who have had a known exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 to be tested 3-5 days after exposure, and to wear a mask in public indoor settings for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result.**
 - Fully vaccinated is defined as:
 - **2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series**, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or
 - **2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine**, such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine.
- Someone who has COVID-19 illness within the previous 3 months **and**
 - Has recovered **and**
 - Remains without COVID-19 symptoms (for example, cough, shortness of breath)

Visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html> to see CDC's recommendations.

Unvaccinated individuals may be able to shorten quarantine:

- **An exposed person (less than three feet from a positive case while both individuals were properly masked) may attend in-person learning while monitoring symptoms, wearing a mask consistently, and quarantining outside of school; attending sport/extracurriculars is not permitted.**
- **Alternative Option 1:** Quarantine can end after Day 10 without testing if no symptoms are reported during daily monitoring, and individual wears a mask up to day 14.
- **Alternative Option 2:** Quarantine can end after day 7 after receiving a negative test result (test must occur on day 5 or later).

- In both cases, continued symptom monitoring and masking through day 14 are required.

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.

Periodic Revision

This plan 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) and Alternative Methods of Instruction-Extended (AMI-X) planning. The plan includes many mitigating and prevention strategies that were previously board approved at a public board meeting. This Continuity of Services Plan will be reviewed and/or revised, if necessary, at least every six months. The review and revision process will include consultation with stakeholders, including:

- Students
- Families
- School and district administrators
- Teachers and other school staff
- The Crest Ridge R-VII Board of Education
- 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.

If you need or know of someone who needs this plan read or translated to them, please contact:

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