

# Union R-XI School District



## Safe Return to School Plan

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

**Updated** for 2021-2022

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.



# WILDCATS

Union R-XI School District

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### **Posting on COVID-19 Liability for the Union R-XI School District**

#### **WARNING**

Under Missouri law, any individual entering the premises or engaging the services of the business waives all civil liability against the individual or entity for any damages based on inherent risks associated with an exposure or potential exposure to COVID-19, except for recklessness or willful misconduct.

# INTRODUCTION

## 2021-2022 Safe Return to School Plan

As the Union R-XI School District prepares to return to school for the 2021-2022 school year, there continues to be many question marks for school districts locally and across the nation. As we approach the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year, we are all eager for things to return to normal; but no one can predict when that may happen. The global Coronavirus pandemic has brought about many changes for education as we prioritize the safety of our students. Our schools are designed to educate students through social, face-to-face interactions, in relatively close spaces and in large groups. So, in times like these, we must prepare for multiple scenarios and ultimately educate students in the best way possible under any given circumstance.

As we plan for a new school year, the priorities we continue to hold are:

- Providing environments that are as safe as possible for students and staff;
- Providing a guaranteed and viable education.

To prepare individual learners for success in life, the Union R-XI School District provides meaningful experiences in a safe and caring environment. We continue to review countless documents providing guidance, engage professional conversations, and establish protocols aligned to feedback and research in the best way possible.

We recognize that without student safety, our mission cannot happen. During these difficult times, we must keep our expectations high, persevere, and adapt to a changing environment. It is our goal to continue to provide five days a week in person learning for all students as we know this is our most ideal instructional setting for student achievement. The various scenarios outlined in our plan takes into consideration the complexities of the pandemic and our response.

We ask for your understanding and patience as we continue to make this journey together. In the event that modifications to our plan are necessary, please know that our decisions will be guided by our desire to do what is best for our students, employees and community.

**Periodic Review:** As a note, this plan will be periodically reviewed each semester or earlier as necessary with changing local, state and national research and data. During each review, identified district stakeholders will collaborate on necessary changes or updates to the documents processed, procedures and information to the extent possible.

*Please contact the district office if this information is needed in a different language.*

# EDUCATIONAL PLANS

“What can I expect?”

**When our schools open again this fall, some normalcy will return, and some areas may still look different. What remains the same is our care and commitment to our students.**

The health of our students, staff and community is our first priority **See Safety Plan [here](#)**. Our decisions throughout the school year will be based on the most current guidance provided by the Franklin County Health Department and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The Union R-XI School District is focused on remaining open through this academic year. Depending on the extent of quarantines and pandemic outbreaks this school year, we will also be prepared for an E-Learning option of instruction if necessary.

**Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment and Connectivity:** Students will be expected to complete all coursework regardless of how we are in attendance. For students that either cannot afford or obtain internet access, accommodations may be made.

Based on feedback from families and staff, our Return to School Plans are focused on providing various learning schedule options for families this year. We have developed **two K-12 options** to meet the needs of our community.

1. **Full In-Person Schedule** - Students attend in-person for their whole schedule with health and safety precautions in place. This will give teachers the opportunity to provide direct instruction and support time to all students.
  - **Quarantine Remote Learning Days** - If a student is unfortunately quarantined, students on quarantine or COVID-19 positive students will interact via Google Classroom. All teachers across the entire district have a Google Classroom setup for their students and class. Google classroom is used to monitor academic success of our students during their time away throughout the district. Instruction is given through videos, recordings, and synchronously connecting to class if a student opts to do so. Communication and contacts are initiated by teachers through Google Classroom instructional posts and feedback on assignments.
2. **Virtual - Wildcat@Home Schedule:** Students enroll full-time in Union R-XI virtual learning schedule. Union R-XI District curriculum is delivered through the same content specific tools and software as our in seat students.
  - [Elementary/Middle School K-8](#)
  - [High School 9-12](#)

\*Please note that all students choosing a virtual learning option must apply and meet the eligibility requirements to enroll in virtual learning for the 2021-2022 school year.

## SPECIAL PROGRAMS

**Gifted (Project Challenge):** Gifted (Project Challenge) will follow the schedule chosen by the Union R-XI School District and their classroom protocols will be aligned to this plan. Enrollment in the program may dictate adjustments to the schedule throughout the year. The teacher of the program will communicate with parents prior to the first day of attendance.

**Special Education:** The District's Re-Entry Plan includes all students enrolled in the District, including students with disabilities. Therefore, all students will follow the plan that is in place for each student's appropriate building or the District as a whole. For those choosing Option 1: School-Based Learning, all students will follow the plan for the level that the school is currently functioning under. We recognize the Individual Education Plan of each student may have additional considerations and/or requirements associated as appropriate.

IEP/504 meetings will be held on campus unless parents request another format (by phone or virtually). If the District is connected virtually, all IEP meetings will be held virtually. District screening protocols and other safety measures outlined in this plan will be required of parents, guardians, or advocates arriving for meetings.

**Early Learning Special Education and Pre-K Programs:** The Union R-XI preschool programs will implement safety precautions that are in alignment with this plan. Because the programming, schedule, and staffing considerations are so unique in this setting, further communication will be provided directly by the Director of Academics regarding classroom protocols, class sizes, entry/dismissal procedures, and programming changes that may need to occur. Parents as Teachers will employ alternative methods of delivery when conducting visits in accordance with the level Union R-XI elementary schools are currently functioning under and/or in accordance with families wishes during times of community spread. More information will be forthcoming.

## FOOD AND NUTRITION

*Providing nutritious meals for all students*

Meals will be offered to students participating in both In-Person and Virtual Learning. When school begins, student meals will be free for all students. Details about how, when and where meals will be served or available for pick up will be communicated closer to the first day of school. Information about the number of students participating in each option are necessary to finalize these logistics.

- **Elementary:** Breakfast is grab-and-go and will be eaten in the classroom.
- **Secondary:** Grab-and-go and hot breakfast will be available in the cafeteria.
- **Table sanitization will occur between lunch shifts.**
- **Elementary Schools:** Students will eat in their grade level/teams to minimize cross-contamination.

- **Secondary Schools:** Along with the cafeteria, alternate spaces will be utilized during lunch periods to allow students to spread out more.

### **VIRTUAL: ALL STUDENTS**

- Grab and go meals for breakfast and lunch will be provided for pick up at select sites and times.

#### **DRINKING WATER**

- Drinking directly out of water fountains is prohibited. The use of water/drinking fountains is only allowed for those fountains that have a bottle filler application.
- Students are encouraged to bring their own refillable water bottle from home.

## **SOCIAL DISTANCING**

**Social distancing should be implemented to the greatest extent possible in all school activities. Ensuring that appropriate social distancing is in place will help prevent large disruptions in the school year due to illness or outbreaks of COVID-19. The following measures will help maintain social distancing during the school day.**

- To help minimize cross-contamination, elementary students are grouped together with the same staff throughout the day, and as much as possible for older students.
- Classes utilize outdoor learning spaces when applicable.
- Desks are arranged to increase space between students where possible.
- Only supervisors and staff who are required for instruction are allowed in classrooms.
- Adequate art supplies or other educational tools are available to minimize sharing. When sharing is necessary, staff minimizes the number of students with contact to supplies and teaches disinfecting techniques.
- Elementary recess schedules are altered to minimize the number of students on the playground and allow for social distancing.

### **ON CAMPUS AND IN THE CLASSROOM**



# TRANSPORTATION

*Bussing students safely to and from school*

Bus transportation will be available to eligible students, but due to social distancing recommendations, it is highly recommended that students/families provide their own transportation. Students at higher risk of illness from COVID-19, as well as students with special needs who may not wear facial coverings, are strongly encouraged to use alternate forms of transportation, if possible. **Due to current federal transportation mandates, masks will be required anytime a student is on the bus.**



**Here is what to expect:**

- All bus riders must wear face masks/coverings (which will be provided if needed).
- Student family members are asked to share seats.
- Buses are disinfected after each route, before starting the next route.
- Parents are encouraged to drop off / pick up students to decrease the number of students on the school bus.

# SCHOOL PROCEDURES

*Safer spaces for students & staff*

## **In the Classroom**

- Handwashing and infection prevention instruction will be required and taught to students. Students and staff will be expected to maintain distance from each other while in the school and taught appropriate hygiene practices.
- Assigned seating and other measures will be implemented in the classroom to minimize interaction.
- Spacing will be increased between desks and tables to maximize social distancing.
- Use of communal supplies will be discouraged and in instances where items are shared they will be disinfected after each use.
- Classroom field trips will be limited and must be approved in advance.

## **In the School**

- Students will report directly to their classroom upon arrival and avoid congregating in hallways, gymnasiums, etc.
- Students should not be dropped off more than 15 minutes before school starts unless they are enrolled in a before-school program.
- Schools will develop procedures that limit the number of students on the playground or within specific areas of the playground.

## **CLEANING STANDARDS**

*Disinfecting classrooms and school buildings*

### **Here is what to expect:**

- High-touch common surfaces (doorknobs, drinking fountains, desks, computers, tables, chairs and restrooms) are cleaned and disinfected properly multiple times daily. All disinfectants are EPA registered to kill COVID-19.
- All Union R-XI Custodians are training on enhanced cleaning protocols.
- Disinfectant is available for all classroom teachers.

## **LIMITED VISITOR ACCESS**

*Fewer People, Safer Spaces*

- Volunteers will be limited to those providing education services for students.
- Visitors will be limited to contracted providers/associates, other allowable community partners (before- and after-school providers), and student teachers/practicum students.
- Visitors/volunteers should follow normal school procedures by checking into the office to use the visitor management system to obtain a printed badge.
- Visitor/volunteer movement throughout the school building will be limited.
- A record of visitors/volunteers inside the school will be kept, and it should include areas of the school that were visited and the time the visitor entered and exited the building.

### **Visitor Screening Questions**

Individuals deemed essential to visit a Union R-XI building will answer the following questions prior to admission.

1. Have you experienced any COVID-19 symptoms?
2. What is the date, time and reason for your visit?
3. Where in the building are you going?

## **MENTAL & EMOTIONAL HEALTH**

*Helping students thrive during a public health emergency*

### **Monitoring Health at School**

Mental health issues which accompany the COVID-19 pandemic have rapidly compounded public health concerns. Research assessing the mental health implications of COVID-19 has identified a heightened prevalence of depression and anxiety among children, which reflects the widespread effects of uncertainty and health-related fears.

*Board Adopted August 3, 2020*

*Revised November 18, 2020*

*Revised September, 2021*

*Revised November 2, 2021*

To support positive mental health, Union R-XI provides a wide variety of programs and resources that may be helpful to your family.

### **Here is what to expect:**

- Counselors at every school will be accessible to students and families, in addition to regularly providing classroom lessons and discussions.
- Supports are also available through Compass Behavioral Health, which provides case management, individual/family therapy and connects students and parents to support services. Contact your school counselor for a referral.
- The Union R-XI Counseling Services website provides additional mental health supports and can be accessed online here. These supports are available for students in both In-Person and Virtual Learning.
- Counselors may set up daily check-in with struggling students.
- Whole group counselor sessions will be implemented in classrooms to teach positive coping skills.
- Whole group counselor sessions will be implemented in classrooms to take a proactive stance on anti-bullying around mask wearing.
- Any staff member may refer students to a counselor or care team as needed.
- Regular and clear parent communication from their teacher or other staff members will be given.
- Counselors may offer parent phone calls or virtual meetings to allow for 2-way communication.
- Resources for students, families, and staff will be published and updated on the district and school website.

## **HEALTH GUIDELINES**

*Doing our part to minimize the spread of COVID-19*

COVID-19 is mostly spread by respiratory droplets released when people talk, cough, or sneeze. Therefore, personal prevention practices such as handwashing, staying home when sick and environmental cleaning and disinfection are important principles that are covered.

### **Reducing the Spread**

- **Staying Home when Appropriate**
  - We will educate staff and families about when they/their child(ren) should stay home and when they can return to school.
  - We will actively encourage employees and students who are sick or who have recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19 to stay home. Develop policies that encourage sick employees and students to stay at home without fear of reprisal, and ensure employees, students, and students' families are aware of these policies.
  - Staff and students should stay home if they have tested positive for or are showing COVID-19 symptoms.

- Staff need to disclose positive test results and if they are identified as a close contact to the Director of Health Education Services and/or immediate supervisor.
- Families need to report the above to the building nurse/Health Services Department.
- Staff and students who have recently had close contact with a person with COVID19 should also stay home and monitor their health **unless they have been fully vaccinated and are not having COVID-19 symptoms.**
- **Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette**
  - We will teach and reinforce good handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and increase monitoring to ensure adherence among students and staff.
    - If soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol can be used (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer).
  - We will encourage staff and students to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash and hands washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
  - If soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol can be used (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer).
- **Other Safety Considerations**
  - Masks will be optional for all staff and students grades K-12 (**Please note mask-wearing will be required for staff and students while riding the bus.**)
  - We will continue to work with our health partners to monitor local virus trends to determine whether to ease or strengthen measures.

## **SYMPTOMATIC STUDENTS & STAFF**

*Balancing right-to-know with privacy and legal considerations*

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear **2-14 days after exposure to the virus.** People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- 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

This list does not include all possible symptoms. CDC will continue to update this list as we learn more about COVID-19.

Contact tracing will be necessary when students or staff test positive for COVID-19. Although guidance on this seems to be changing, the general rule is that anyone within 6' of a positive case for more than 15 minutes. Information pertaining to our nursing department's protocols, contact tracing and how we will respond to students and staff exposures and cases can be found later in this document. Our schools will work under the leadership of our local health departments to identify who was in close contact and may require quarantine, as well as for how long. By having seating charts (in the classroom, on the bus, at lunch, etc.) or utilizing a hybrid model, the number of students and staff that may be required to be quarantined can be minimized.

## **UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS**

*Good Practice for All of Us*

### Handwashing

- Wash hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds
- Where soap and water aren't readily available or social distancing is difficult, utilize hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol

### Social/Physical Distancing

- Avoid close contact with others
- Physical distance at 4-6' from others
- While in public or in areas where social distancing may be difficult, you could wear a face covering

### Cover Your Cough and Sneezes

- When you are in a private setting and unable to wear a face covering, remember to cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow. Throw used tissues in the trash. Immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water isn't available, utilize hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

### Clean and Disinfect

- Clean high touch surfaces frequently throughout the day and after school. High touch surfaces include: tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles,

desks, phones, keyboards, computers, toilets, faucets and sinks. Detergent or soap and water may be used in addition to household/commercial disinfectants.

## **TESTING - STAFF**

Due to a program available through DESE and the Missouri DHSS, Rapid testing is available at each school site for any employee who is exhibiting symptoms.

## **VACCINATION CLINICS**

Vaccination clinics may be held, in partnership with the local health departments, clinics or medical professionals to administer the vaccine to staff and school community members as arranged. These clinics are voluntary and will be held in accordance with guidelines and best practice.

## **COVID-19 CARE / EXPOSURE PROTOCOLS**

The plan has been developed to provide clear direction for safe operations through the prevention, early detection and control of COVID-19 in schools. It is our desire to promote the safety, health and well-being of our students and staff and thus act quickly and efficiently to ensure a safe return to school. Please note:

Continued Safety Activities:

- All employees and students will be directed to stay home if ill.
- Alerts will be sent to parents reminding them to keep their student(s) home if they exhibit symptoms.

Screening procedures will include (these are subject to change):

Parents are required to screen their children for symptoms each morning, checking their temperature and assessing them for symptoms. After assessing your child for symptoms, if they possess any of the symptoms below, keep your child home, contact your physician and your school nurse.

- A fever of 100.0 or higher or a sense of having a fever
- A cough that cannot be attributed to another health condition
- Shortness of breath or trouble breathing

- Loss of taste or smell
- Muscle aches or pain that cannot be attributed to another health condition
- A sore throat
- Chills or shaking not attributed to another health condition
- A headache not attributed to another health condition

**Staff screening procedures:**

Staff members (including substitutes) will be asked to self-assess before reporting daily to work. The same assessment of symptoms used to screen students is appropriate for staff. Staff or substitutes that exhibit symptoms, as outlined above, will be asked to contact their physician and their school nurse (or Director of Health Services if employee is a district employee not assigned to a particular building).

**Schools officials may visually screen or assess students and staff upon entry to the building if such protocols don't create wait times and overcrowding, thus making physical distancing an issue. More information regarding how to monitor and report screening procedures will be communicated by your building principals before school starts.**

Other procedures:

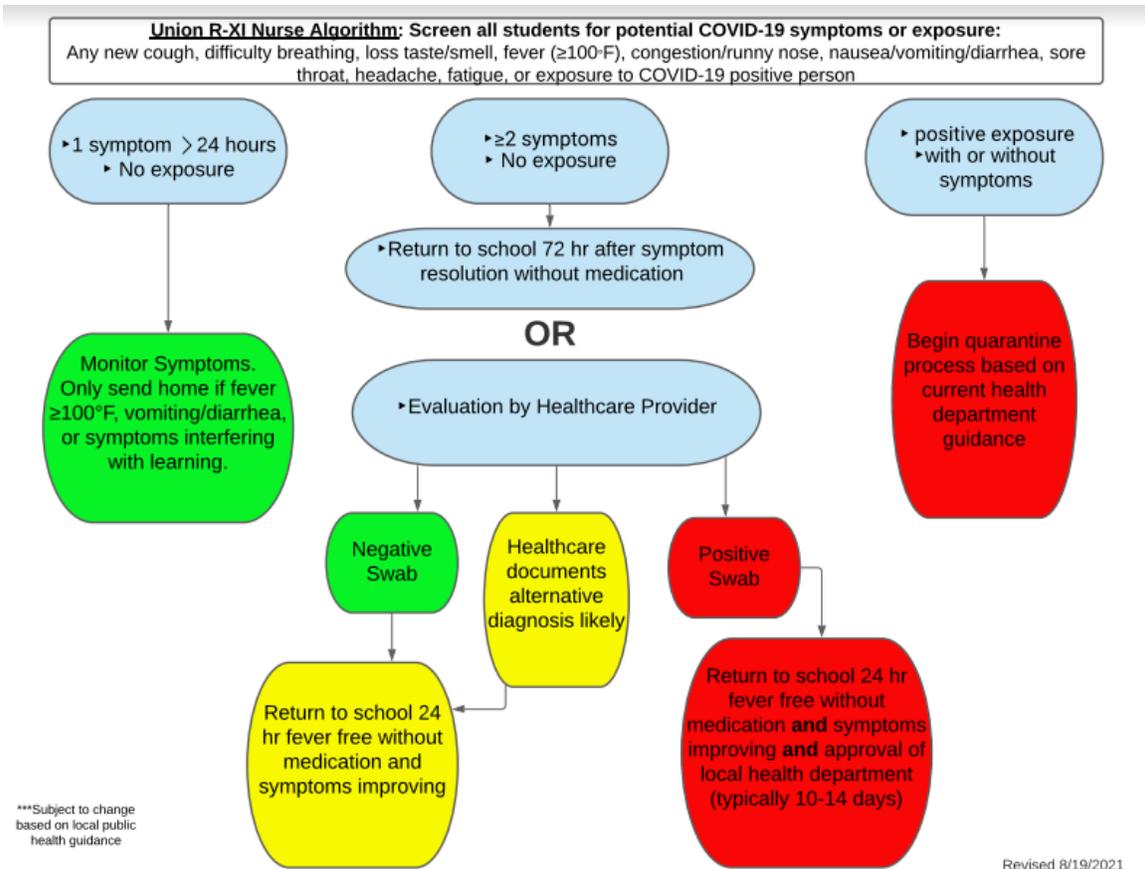
In addition to the above, both staff and students should remain home and contact their physician or local health care provider, if any of the following conditions apply to them:

- An immediate member of your household has a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19.
- The staff member or student has had close contact with a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19.
- The staff member or student has tested positive for COVID-19.
- The staff member or student/parent is awaiting COVID-19 test results.
- **The staff member has been vaccinated and is showing COVID-19 symptoms.**

**Student with fever/symptoms that reports to the nurse's office once at school will be assessed in the following manner:**

- Assessment by nurse will result in following checks:
  - temperature
  - lung sounds
  - pulse oximetry
- If student has one or more of the following the student will be given a face covering to wear and moved to an isolation area away from other students and staff:
  - temperature >100.4
  - pulse oximetry <90%

- audible adventitious lung sounds
- cough
- SOTB (shortness of the breath)
- headache
- chills
- muscle pain
- new loss of taste or smell
- The parent will then be contacted and asked screening questions. If there is reason to believe the student has been in contact with someone who is positive for COVID-19 or they are displaying symptoms of COVID-19, they will be sent home with parent/guardian for further testing with their medical doctor or the health department or return after 14 days.
- Students with temperature of >100.0 are to be sent home with parent/guardian.



## STAFF AND STUDENT QUARANTINE

**Staff with symptoms at school:**

*Board Adopted August 3, 2020  
Revised November 18, 2020  
Revised September, 2021  
Revised November 2, 2021*

Teachers or staff members (including substitute teachers) who develop symptoms consistent with infection of COVID-19 should leave the building as soon as possible to be evaluated and tested. If they are identified as a “case” by positive testing or a presumptive diagnosis based on a high clinical suspicion, then the students who had close contact would be quarantined for **10 days** from the last contact and would need to be monitored for signs and symptoms which would prompt the need for testing, and potentially an extended period of exclusion from school. Close contacts will be determined by examining factors such as distance in the classroom and use of face coverings. Close contact is defined by face-to-face contact within 6 feet for longer than 15 minutes. This is why seating charts, small cohorts and reduced mixing of groups may be recommended.

### **Students who have been in close contact of a COVID positive person:**

If the local health department **and/or our nursing staff** determines through contact tracing that a student has been in “close contact” of a positive or presumptive positive case, then the student will be **excluded from the school environment (noted as “quarantined” in this document)** for **10 days** from the last date of contact and would also need to be monitored for symptoms which would prompt the need for testing, and potentially an extended period of exclusion from school.

### **Standard/Full 10 day Quarantine**

Per the DHSS Statement on Newly-Modified CDC Guidance Regarding COVID Quarantines for Asymptomatic Individual on December 2, 2020, the district adopted the Franklin County Health Department use of the standard/full 10- day quarantine option.

- After day 10, and the student has no symptoms (i.e. fever, cough, difficulty breathing, loss taste/smell, congestion/runny nose, nausea/vomiting/diarrhea, sore throat, headache, or fatigue), the quarantined individual may return to school on day 11 with **recommended mask wearing** and continued monitoring throughout the full 14 days.
- If a symptom develops, the individual must immediately isolate and contact a public health authority or healthcare provider.

### **Test-Out Modified 7 day Quarantine:**

Per the DHSS Statement on Newly-Modified CDC Guidance Regarding COVID Quarantines for Asymptomatic Individual on December 2, 2020, the district adopted the Franklin County Health Department use of the early test-out quarantine option. To test out of quarantine early, the following **MUST** occur:

- Test for COVID-19 on DAY 5-7 and be negative on a PCR or Rapid Antigen test.
- The test must be lab confirmed and not a home test.
- Have no symptoms (i.e. fever, cough, difficulty breathing, loss taste/smell, congestion/runny nose, nausea/vomiting/diarrhea, sore throat, headache, or fatigue)

If the previous criteria are met, the quarantined individual may return to school on day 8 with

recommended mask wearing and continued monitoring throughout the full 14 days. If a symptom develops, the individual must immediately isolate and contact a public health authority or healthcare provider.

**Option 4 “Test to Stay” Quarantine: (Updated 11/2/21: Start implementing effective 11/3/21 on a tiered basis until fully able to implement district-wide.)**

Per the DHSS and DESE Operating Guidance on 10/8/21, the new Option 4 allows for testing and masking to remain in in-person learning with quarantine recommended outside of the school setting. “Test to Stay” also allows for participation in extracurricular activities.

- Students, teachers, and staff identified as close contacts can continue to attend school and participate in extracurricular activities, if the following test to stay criteria are met:
  - The close contact does not include household exposures
  - Does not develop symptoms of COVID-19 throughout the full duration of the quarantine period (14 days past the last date of exposure to the case).
  - Wears a mask consistently and correctly in school at all times during their quarantine period (14 days past the last date of exposure to the case), other than when eating or drinking.
  - Receive a minimum of three rapid antigen tests (e.g., BinaxNOW) during the first seven days of the quarantine period per the following:
    - **Test One:** Upon identification as a close contact
    - **Tests Two and Three:** On two non-consecutive school days within the first seven days of the quarantine period
- For participation in extracurricular activities, daily testing is recommended, though at a minimum, an additional rapid antigen test is to be taken on the day of competition throughout the duration of the 14-day quarantine period.
  - The testing should be completed and a negative result received prior to participation in the event. This includes testing on days when the event occurs during weekends, holidays, or other days when schools are not in session
  - Receive negative test results from COVID-19 testing conducted throughout the duration of the 14-day quarantine period.
  - Active monitoring of persons participating in test to stay for symptoms is conducted by the school throughout the duration of the 14-day quarantine period, and persons should self-isolate at home if symptoms develop.

**Note:** Persons participating in the Test to Stay option who develop symptoms of COVID-19 or test positive during the test to stay period or the 14 days following the last date of exposure, should follow the proper isolation protocols, including self-isolating at home and NOT attending school or participating in extracurricular activities. In addition, quarantine outside of the school setting and outside of extracurricular activities, as outlined, is still strongly recommended for individuals participating in Test to Stay.

## Guidance for Exposures and Quarantine in the K-12 School Setting

This information is from the Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services and the Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education "Guidance for Assessing COVID-19 Exposures and Defining Close Contacts in a School Setting" available [here](#) in the first section of the K-12 School COVID-19 Operating Guidance.

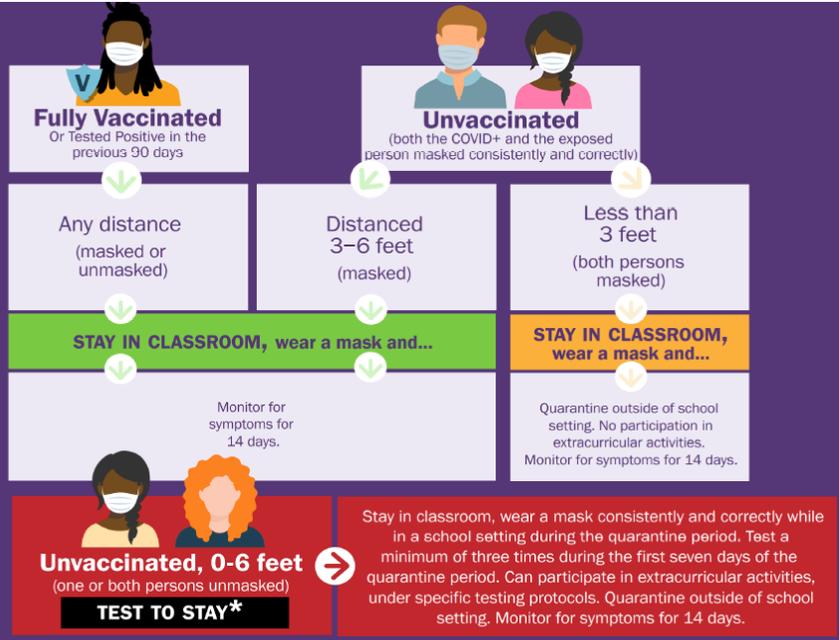
### Masking helps keep kids in the classroom.

Persons who test positive should not be in school until cleared by local health department. Persons who develop symptoms of COVID-19 need to test and isolate and not be at school or around others.

\*Individuals exposed in this category not participating in a test to stay program will need to quarantine at home.



Health.mo.gov/Coronavirus



## COMMUNICATION

*Providing timely and accurate information*

### Expect Regular Communication

- Via your student's teacher and school building
- Monitor the District website for updates
- Follow the District on Facebook and Twitter
- Make sure your contact information is up to date in our Student Information System

## ATHLETICS & CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

*Minimizing spread among players and coaches*

The Union R-XI School District believes that participation in extracurricular activities plays a key motivational role in school. It is our intent to participate in these activities as long as we can safely do so while adhering to the CDC, and the Franklin County Health Department recommendations.

The Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) and the Gateway Athletic Four Rivers Conference may further outline guidelines as to what or how participation can occur. As a District, we know how important these activities are to our students, and we will make an effort to participate within the confines of the situation. However, we know that decisions may be made that are beyond our control due to quarantines as it relates to close contact or COVID-19

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*Revised November 18, 2020*

*Revised September, 2021*

*Revised November 2, 2021*

positive cases, either locally or with one of our opponents. These situations may cause an inability to field a team, travel or participate.

As long as the District is in Levels 1 or Level 2 status, and the Health Department, Athletic Director, administration and Board of Education believe it is safe to participate, we will compete by following the MSHSAA guidelines and recommendations. Coaches and athletes will follow the handwashing protocols and physical distancing as reasonably able and screening protocols as outlined. **Masks remain optional for coaches, athletes, and spectators during events and practices; however, masks will be required by federal mandate on school buses to and from events.**

The links below provide Athletic Directors and school/district personnel with additional guidance. More information will be forthcoming as our conference, school and programs do the best they can to adhere.

- [Guidelines and Recommendations for Opening for Sports/Activities- MSHSAA July 16, 2020.](#)
- [MSHSAA Return to Play Flow Chart](#)

Note regarding participating in extra-curricular activities: Although we ask parents and students to consider their reasoning for choosing to go exclusively online (Parent Choice:

Wildcat@Home) as it relates to COVID-19 and determine if the same concerns materialize for them with extra-curricular activities, we will follow Board policy and the corresponding Administrative Procedure IGD-AP(3). The procedure states students may participate as long as:

1. Enrolling in, attending and completing the requisite number of courses required by MSHSAA and the district;
2. Earning adequate grades; and
3. Meeting MSHSAA and district eligibility requirements including, but not limited to, the requirements in procedure IGD-AP (3).

Co-Curricular Activities (including Band, Choir, Theatre, Yearbook, NJROTC competitions, etc.):

Again, the Union R-XI School District believes that participation in co-curricular activities are equally as important as athletics and other related opportunities. Participation in these activities must also be in adherence with CDC and public health guidance and recommendations. Certain opportunities may be modified, limited or even canceled if adherence is not possible. Some of these co-curricular events can be converted through virtual delivery, if necessary. If these activities are able to continue, the following considerations will need to be made: Use of larger spaces to provide room for physical/social distance. Multiple practice sessions to break into smaller groups. Adjustments in competition sizes and locations.

## CLOSING COMMENTS

As medical professionals, health departments and school district leaders learn more, this document and the protocols included within it will be revised. It should be known that we may be directed to implement less or more stringent measures as the conditions change. It should also be known that the District must keep the best interest of our students and staff in mind as it relates to their health, safety and well-being. With quarantining rules due to close contact, the time frame in which test results may be final, and the myriad of other issues we may encounter, we must realize that staffing our classrooms may become challenging. With that said, we must also prepare to shift to online delivery when quarantines occur. COVID-19 continues to be present in our community and we must take precautions both at home and at school.

## REFERENCE LIST

- Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education:  
<https://dese.mo.gov/communications/coronavirus-covid-19-information>
- MSBA Pandemic Response Planning Guidance:  
<https://www.mosba.org/2020/04/05/msba-resources-forthe-covid-19-pandemic-2/>
- Centers for Disease Control:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/prepare-safe-return.html>
- American Academy of Pediatrics:  
<https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/>
- Missouri State High School Activities Association Guidelines:  
<https://www.mshsaa.org/resources/PDF/2020-2021%20MSHSAA%20Guidelines-Recommendations%20for%20Opening%20Sports%20and%20Activities.pdf>
- Franklin County Health Department- weekly regional meetings with superintendents, Mercy Washington
- Mercy Hospital Doctors and staff, Washington, MO- weekly regional meetings with regional superintendents, health department

# UNION R-XI SCHOOL DISTRICT



## RESPONSE TO COVID-19

### SAFETY PLAN

2021-2022  
SCHOOL  
YEAR

Union R-XI's number one priority is the safety of our students and staff. Our safety plan is developed from local and state guidelines regarding social distancing and sanitation to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Union R-XI School District has or may take additional procedures in preparation for the start of school. These procedures are based on the most recent recommendations from state and federal resources may evolve as information is updated from state and federal health agencies.

#### MASKING & HYGIENE



- Face coverings for all staff teaching grades PK-12 will be optional.
- Face coverings for all students grades PK-12 will be optional.
- Students and staff are strongly encouraged to wash or sanitize their hands as they enter and before they leave school each day.
- Hand sanitizer is readily available throughout each school.
- Hand hygiene awareness signs are posted to remind everyone of the importance of clean hands to wash for at least 20 seconds.



#### TRANSPORTATION

- All bus riders must wear face masks/coverings (which will be provided if needed).
- Student family members are asked to share seats.
- Buses are disinfected after each route, before starting the next route.
- Parents are encouraged to drop off / pick up students to decrease the number of students on the school bus.

#### SOCIAL DISTANCING



- To help minimize cross-contamination, elementary students are grouped together with the same staff throughout the day, and as much as possible for older students.
- Classes utilize outdoor learning spaces when applicable.
- Desks are arranged to increase space between students where possible.
- Only supervisors and staff who are required for instruction are allowed in classrooms.
- Adequate art supplies or other educational tools are available to minimize sharing. When sharing is necessary, staff minimizes the number of students with contact to supplies and teaches disinfecting techniques.
- Elementary recess schedules are altered to minimize the number of students on the playground and allow for social distancing.



#### BREAKFAST & LUNCH

- Elementary: Breakfast is grab-and-go and will be eaten in the classroom.
- Secondary: Grab-and-go and hot breakfast will be available in the cafeteria.
- Table sanitization will occur between lunch shifts.
- Elementary Schools: Students will eat in their grade level/teams to minimize cross-contamination.
- Secondary Schools: Along with the cafeteria, alternate spaces will be utilized during lunch periods to allow students to spread out more.

#### CLEANING & DISINFECTING



- High-touch common surfaces (doorknobs, drinking fountains, desks, computers, tables, chairs and restrooms) are cleaned and disinfected properly multiple times daily. All disinfectants are EPA registered to kill COVID-19.
- All Union R-XI Custodians are training on enhanced cleaning protocols.
- Disinfectant is available for all classroom teachers.



#### HEALTH PROTOCOLS

- A nurse if available for every building.
- Any person exhibiting signs of COVID-19 is sent to the nurse immediately for evaluation.
- Students are sent home if they exhibit two or more of the symptoms of COVID-19 based upon CDC Guidance.
- Parents are encouraged to screen children daily before sending them to school.
- Parents must keep children home if they exhibit COVID-19 symptoms.
- We will follow protocol to determine a return to school if a student is excluded.

MORE INFORMATION AT [WWW.UNIONRXI.ORG](http://WWW.UNIONRXI.ORG)