

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.

Mitigating Strategy Policies and General Information

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.
- Under current Crest Ridge masking protocols, students and staff are considered exposed and must follow quarantine protocol when closer than 6 feet for a total of 15 minutes of someone verified as testing positive.
- The district will verify and take appropriate action when positive cases are reported. This includes the district determining who may be exposed and must quarantine as a result. The district will also assist with contact tracing in collaboration with the local health department if requested.
- At Home/Self COVID-19 tests will be accepted to verify positive cases of COVID. Unfortunately, these same tests will not verify a student's negative status as explained in detail in the "**Testing**" section of this plan.
- 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.
- 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.

Testing

At Home/Self COVID-19 Tests. The FDA has granted several “at home” or “self-tests” emergency use authorization approval for use. These at home tests are convenient and provide prompt results. **However, at home test results will not be accepted for decisions and recommendations regarding preventing or shortening periods of isolation and/or quarantine in the school setting, which includes the participation in sports and other extracurricular activities.** Persons who test positive by an at home test should stay home and follow all recommendations for isolation. In addition, close contacts to an individual who tests positive by an at home test should follow recommendations regarding quarantine. The State of Missouri has offered testing options to LEAs and LPHAs that may be utilized for the purpose of preventing or determining shortened periods of isolation and/or quarantine in the school setting. Such testing includes the option for LEAs to participate in the K-12 Screening Testing Program, mobile community testing opportunities offered through DHSS and partnering organizations, and other community testing events sponsored or operated by LPHAs and other community groups.

Physical Distancing

- Under current Crest Ridge protocol, physical distancing of 6 feet indoors is expected when possible.
- Under current Crest Ridge protocol, students and staff are considered exposed and must follow quarantine protocol when closer than 6 feet for a total of 15 minutes of someone verified as testing positive. Proper physical distancing is expected when possible to prevent disease transmission and quarantine of students.

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.

Quarantine Information

Board Approved on 1-24-2022 Students and staff that have been exposed to a positive COVID-19 individual will be notified as a close contact. Exclusion from school is not necessary unless the exposed student develops symptoms but is at the discretion of the parents/guardians.

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:

Mrs. Jenny Steward
Special Services Coordinator
Ph: 660-656-3316
Email: jsteward@crestridge.org