

Jefferson R-VII School District



2023-2024 School Year

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

Jefferson R-VII School District Return to School Document

This document is based on our local leadership decisions, which have been derived from guidelines established by local government and health authorities, based upon current factors and information.

This is a “working document” and is subject to change as new information is obtained and regulations evolve at the local, state and regional levels.

It is important to note that while the District will make every effort to provide a safe and healthy environment for our students and staff, there are inherent risks with participation in group activities. Therefore, the District cannot guarantee that your child will not be exposed to a virus or those who may have been affected. School safety for staff and students will continue to be priority of the District.

Commentary Regarding COVID-19 Guidelines and Protocols

- The COVID-19 guidelines developed and presented below follow all applicable local, state, and federal guidelines and incorporate many best practices advocated by school associations and groups.
- The Jefferson R-VII School District is committed to providing a quality education to all students, while ensuring their safety and well-being.
- Parents/guardians with questions or concerns are asked to contact their building administrator.

General Information for Students and Staff

- Students and staff will be encouraged to wash / sanitize hands during the day.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided at multiple locations throughout buildings.
- When students are physically present on campus, face coverings will be recommended but not required by students and staff throughout the day.
- Drinking fountains water filling stations will be available for all students and staff. Students may bring personal water bottles from home, but bottles must be plastic or metal, and in a clean, sanitary condition.
- Social distancing will be observed to the extent possible by all staff and students.
- Student activities and athletics will be conducted as usual to the extent they are permissible under local, state, and federal guidance.

Symptoms of COVID-19

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. The following are examples of symptoms:

- 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 and will be updated as more is learned about COVID-19.

What the District Can and Is Required To Do

According to Missouri Law under state statute. §167.191, RSMo.

School districts have a legal obligation to **exclude** students from school **who have a contagious disease** or **who are “liable to transmit” a communicable disease**. While a recent court decision has put into question the authority of local health departments to contain contagious diseases, **a school district’s authority and obligation to prevent the spread of contagious diseases in schools has not been impacted.**

According to Missouri Law under state statute. §167.191, RSMo.

“It is unlawful for any child to attend any of the public schools of this state while afflicted with any contagious or infectious disease, or while liable to transmit such disease after having been exposed to it. For the purpose of determining the diseased condition, or the liability of transmitting the disease, the teacher or board of directors may require any child to be examined by a physician, and exclude the child from school so long as there is any liability of such disease being transmitted by the pupil.”

According to Missouri Law under state statute. §167.011, RSMo.

The board of education has "general control of the property and affairs of any school district[.]"

According to Missouri Law under state statute. §162.261 and 162.471 RSMo.

A school board has "government and control" of its school district.

According to Missouri Law under state statute. §171.011 RSMo.

The school board may make “all needful rules and regulations” for the government in the school district.

In addition to State Law the Missouri Supreme Court has ruled:

That school boards can enforce reasonable rules to prevent disease in schools. State ex rel. O'Bannon v. Cole, 119 S.W. 424, 429-30 (Mo. 1909).

What the District Has Learned

- According to data tracked by the District pertaining to COVID-19 quarantines and isolations during the 2022-2023 school year, we have had less than a 1% weekly transmission rate in the school setting for all weeks with the exception of week 3 of the fall semester.
- According to data tracked by the District pertaining to students and staff testing positive with COVID-19, we have had less than a 1% average weekly positivity rate for all weeks with the exception of week 3 of the fall semester.
- The Jefferson County Health Department (JCHD) notified county school districts the Jefferson County Health Department will no longer mandate that schools contact trace and issue quarantines, and that the district should no longer issue the “notice of quarantine” letter from the JCHD.
- School data has shown that out of school exposures (generally home exposures) have led to a much higher transmission rate.

Jefferson R-VII School District Mitigation Strategies

- Going forward, Jefferson R-VII School District will follow our district policy and regulation EBB (Communicable Diseases)
- Based on policy and regulation EBB we will exclude students and staff with a communicable disease (including COVID-19). This means any student or staff that test positive for COVID-19 will be excluded from school for 5 days. Students and staff members may return to school after five days, if symptom-free, without being required to wear a facemask. If not symptom-free a face mask is required for days six through ten.””
- Masks will be recommended but not required for all buildings about the District.

- Due to the higher rate of transmission, out of school exposures (Household Exposures) will have the option of returning to school immediately if a mask is worn for ten (10) days or after 72 hours without a mask with a negative test from the date of the household member testing positive. The test needs to be from a medical professional i.e. (Pharmacy, Urgent Care, Doctors Office, Hospital, Health Department etc.), that identifies the student.

Symptom Assessment

The District will continue to follow the guidelines outlined in our student handbooks which states those with suspected COVID-19 or influenza symptoms may be required to stay home for up to 24 hours after being fever/symptom free without the use of medication AND improvement of other symptoms.

- Temperature of 99.5 degrees Fahrenheit or higher
- Sore throat
- New onset of a cough (for students with chronic cough due to allergies or asthma, a change in their cough from baseline)
- Difficulty breathing (for students with asthma, a change from their baseline breathing)
- Diarrhea or vomiting
- New loss of taste or smell
- New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever.
- New congestion/runny nose
- Fatigue from an unknown source
- Muscle/body aches

Athletics and Activities

The Jefferson R-VII School District will follow the same guidance outlined above.

Mask Within the District

- Jefferson R-VII School District will follow federal guidelines with regard to masks on school buses. At this time masks are recommended but not required on school buses.
- Jefferson R-VII School District recommends but does not require students and staff to wear masks.

Physical Distancing

Social distancing will be observed to the extent possible by all staff and students

Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette

Jefferson R-VII School District will encourage students and staff to follow all CDC guidance on Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette.

Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities

The Jefferson R-VII School District will continue its enhanced cleaning protocols, wiping down of high traffic and touch areas.

Contact Tracing for the District

The Jefferson R-VII School District will not contact trace or issue quarantine notices.

COVID-19 and Students with Disabilities

The Jefferson R-VII School District will provide special services for any needed safety plans for students with disabilities.

Additional Planning Information

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

The Jefferson R-VII Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan can be found at the following website: www.jr7.k12.mo.us.

District Use of CARES/APR/ESSER Funds

- ESSER 1 CARES- K12 Support - \$96,792.28 was received by the Jefferson R-VII School District during the 2020-2022 budget years. These revenues were used by the District for staff salaries and benefits.
- ESSER II Revenue - \$350,444 was received by the Jefferson R-VII School District during the 2021-2022 budget year. These revenues were used by the District for staff salaries and benefits.
- ESSER III Revenue - \$710,387 is total budget to be received by the Jefferson R-VII School District during the 2022-2023 and 2023-24 budget years. These revenues will be used by the District for staff salaries and benefits. The 20% use obligation of the revenue will be used to pay for the District interventionist salary and benefits are required by the federal distribution guidelines during the 2022-2023 budget year. The expected 2023-2024 ESSER funds will not exceed \$75,000.
- ESSER III - Received \$708,387 in 2022-2023 school year, leaving \$80,000 to be requested for the 2023-2024 school year.

Revised July 19, 2023

Lost Instructional Time and Most Impacted Students

- The District has provided an extended and robust summer school program for students of all ages Pre-school -12 during the past 3 school years to support lost instruction.
- The District will be using ESSER 3 resources for the salary and benefits of the District interventionist who provides services to students and staff for health matters.
- The District has and will continue to provide tutoring program for students in need for all grade levels.

Funding to Meet Student Needs

The Jefferson R-VII School District will continue to work students, families and staff across the District to meet the health and educational needs of all students.

Use of AMI (Alternative Means of Instruction)

In the event of a school closure due to a COVID-19 outbreak the Jefferson R-VII School District has an approved District AMI (Alternative Means of Instruction) Plan that can be used to educate students off campus and virtually.