

Palmyra R-1 School District Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan 2023-2024*

[Missouri School Reopening and Operating Guidance](#)

[Most current COVID cases \(Missouri\)](#)

The mission of the Palmyra R-1 School District is to recognize individual students needs and provide the means for every student to reach his/her highest potential remains unchanged and this promise will continue through every season.

The previous two years have been challenging for everyone. As we prepare for the 2023-2024 school year, DESE is requiring school districts to update the "Safe Return to In-Person and Continuity of Services Plan (SRCSP) in order to receive federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) funds associated with the American Rescue Act of 2021. As this document is written the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact people throughout the world, as well as our nation, state, community, and in some cases our own families.

The Palmyra R-1 School District plans to return every day for in-person learning once again this school year. As you know the COVID-19 pandemic response continues to be very challenging for everyone and our primary goal upon returning to school is the health and safety of our students and staff while maintaining high academic standards. This Back to School Plan is intended to organize the school district's efforts to maintain safe learning and working environments in all of our buildings and transportation services until the COVID-19 pandemic has ended. This plan includes mitigation strategies to reduce the impact of the virus and is designed to assist those who may miss valuable time should he or she be absent from in-person learning for an extended period of time.

The 2023-2024 Back to School Plan will be reviewed and updated to reflect changes as new information is made available through the proper health authorities.

Mitigation Strategies

Wearing of masks

The Palmyra R-1 School District will educate students/staff on proper mask wearing. Students and staff will be allowed to wear masks, masks will be highly recommended and/or mandated based on communication with the Health Department and local Board of Education. At this time masks are optional.

Physical distancing (e.g., including use of cohorts/podding)

Students will practice social distancing when needed as outlined by the local health department and the state of Missouri. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Students and Staff will be asked to always practice safe personal hygiene measures (covering coughs and sneezes) to keep from getting and spreading infectious illnesses, including coronavirus. Additional information on handwashing can be found in the CDC: Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools: Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html#handwashing>). Students and staff will be encouraged to self-monitor and assess each day for COVID like symptoms. If COVID symptoms are evident, the school district requires students and staff to remain at home. Return to school is possible after 24 hours symptom free, unless a positive COVID test is returned. Students and staff who test positive for COVID will be required to isolate and may return to school following proper COVID quarantine protocol. (Revised October 18, 2021)

Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

The Palmyra R-1 School District will follow CDC guidelines and will collaborate with local cleaning and hygiene vendors to review and improve daily proactive cleaning and internal ventilation.

Contact tracing

The Palmyra R-1 School District will contact trace positive cases based on guidance from the local health department and the state of Missouri.

Diagnostic and screening testing

The Palmyra R-1 School District will implement body temperature checks if or when county data reflects need and the district is mandated to screen.

Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible

The Palmyra R-1 School District has and will continue to communicate with staff and students on availability of local vaccination options. Vaccinations are NOT mandated at this time.

Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies

In the event of student absence due to COVID-19 and to accommodate children with disabilities, the Palmyra R-1 School District will provide remote learning through Google Classroom or an equivalent application such as SeeSaw. If electronic participation is limited or unavailable, a hard copy learning packet will be utilized to support continued learning. All efforts during this COVID-19 instructional interruption will respect recommended health and safety policies. Teachers will maintain communication with student via online support, phone calls, email, Zoom meetings, or other communication applications.

Interruptions of in-person instruction due to outbreak will be addressed with full building closure, and grade level, or targeted closure.

Nutritional and Health Services will be provided to the greatest extent practicable

Social, Emotional, and Mental Health needs

Social, emotional, and mental health needs of students and staff are important for academic success. The District will employ efforts and seek resources to continue to provide for these needs whether during in-person instruction, or in the event of an interruption to in-person instruction. Support staff such as counselors, social worker, and community resource specialists will work to do the following:

- create professional development for building staff regarding typical childhood reactions to stress and trauma
- collaborate with teachers on classroom activities to address student mental health upon return to school
- collaborate with community agencies on best practices
- provide classroom lessons on school expectations and structure around health safety and physical distancing practices to help students re-adjust to a full school schedule

Review and Revisions

The SRCSP is required to be revised no less than every six months. The Palmyra R-1 School District will continually review the plan for necessary changes that may be deemed necessary due to changes in guidance and best practices. Plan review team will include Superintendent, Building Principals, District Nurses, Homeless Student Coordinator, Foster Student Coordinator, Special Education Director, and survey results from parents.

Understandable Language

This plan will be made available in other languages by request.

Any part of this plan may change, including any or all accommodations or action plans to ensure the safety of our students and staff.

Other important information related to COVID protocol:

- Palmyra R-1 School district will NOT be offering distance learning at the start of the 2023 Fall semester. In-seat instruction will be in place for ALL students.
- Palmyra R-1 School District encourages all families to self-monitor and to stay home if symptoms are evident. In the event of a positive test result of COVID 19, we ask the family to contact the school.

*Approved by the Palmyra R-1 School Board 8.10.2021

*Approved by the Palmyra R-1 School Board 12.14.2021

*Approved by the Palmyra R-1 School Board 7.12.2022

*Approved by the Palmyra R-1 School Board 12.13.2022

*Approved by the Palmyra R-1 School Board 6-13-2023