

HAMILTON R-II SAFE RETURN TO SCHOOL

AUGUST 2021

MITIGATION AND PREVENTION STRATEGIES

FACE COVERINGS

IN CLASSROOMS AND BUILDINGS: Individual choice will be the district's current guidance concerning face coverings but may be recommended in some settings. This guidance will adjust accordingly depending on guidelines set by the Caldwell County Health Department. Students may wear face coverings if they choose to do so. Staff members will be allowed to wear a face mask if they choose to do so. Facemasks will be considered a school supply for students and will not be provided by the school.

CLEANING AND DISINFECTING

Custodial staff will focus daily efforts on cleaning and disinfecting high traffic areas including points of contact, or touchpoints, such as door knobs, light switches, locker handles, and handrails. Teachers and office staff are encouraged to frequently sanitize high use points of 'common' contact including but not limited to pencil sharpeners, drawer handles, keyboards, and telephones. Cleaning and disinfecting protocols will remain consistent with CDC Guidelines.

RESPIRATORY ETIQUETTE

Students will be taught respiratory etiquette and students and staff will be encouraged to follow the etiquette below:

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze
- Throw used tissues in the trash
- If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze your elbow, not your hands.
- Wash your hands immediately after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing.
- Wash your hands with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol to clean hands.

PERSONAL HIGIENE

Students and Staff are encouraged to practice increased personal hygiene regardless of location. Handwashing and/or disinfecting of hands with sanitizer is encouraged during breaks. Staff will provide students with demonstrations on proper methods to wash hand. Hand sanitizer will be available in commons areas and all classroom areas, however, thorough handwashing with soap and water is encouraged upon each visit to the restroom.

TESTING AND CONTACT TRACING

Parents are encouraged to contact their health care provider for guidance and referrals for testing. Everyone should monitor their own symptoms daily by screening for symptoms. A list of symptoms as published by the CDC can be found at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>.

Students are encouraged to stay home if parents believe they may be sick. Students should not attend school unless they are symptom free. Even if the student is symptom free they should not attend school if an immediate family member shows symptoms (or is waiting to be tested). It is necessary given these circumstances for you to contact school officials prior to sending your symptom free child back to school. The Caldwell County Health Department will notify school officials of when students or staff need to be contact traced. District administrators will then investigate and make decisions based on information they receive.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

The goal of social (physical) distancing is to prevent the spread of COVID-19 between individuals. Social distancing of at least six feet remains one of the best preventative measures for reducing the spread of COVID-19. It is recognized that this cannot be accomplished at all times during our school day. Distance of at least 3-feet has been shown to reduce infections. Hamilton R-II Schools will implement as many precautions as possible when social distancing is not feasible. Social distancing guidance will support a 3-foot radius around each participant, resulting in a 6-foot total distance between 2 people **whenever possible**. Students will retain a “normal” schedule, but interactions outside the classroom may be limited, in order to reduce the expansion of the established stable groups.

- Students will have a stable group of about 25-50 peers. (Each grade level has approximately 50 students.)
- Students are assigned to teams/cohorts/classrooms and we will make an effort, when possible, to assign seats so students are sitting with the same peers.
- A stable group is an individual’s personal collection of people who have been in their 6-foot perimeter (these are the people with whom they interact on a regular basis).

Hamilton R-II will promote social distancing as much as feasible by limiting group interactions and large gatherings. At some point these may include the following:

- Temporarily suspend school assemblies, field trips, and other large gatherings
- Stagger recess to decrease the number of students on the playground
- Temporarily suspend after school student meetings or activities to minimize intermingling of populations
- Rearrange classroom furniture to maximize space between students
- Consider adding additional locations for lunches
- Keep classrooms of students together for lunchtime, again to avoid intermingling of students as much as feasible
- Dismiss students to the bus by bus numbers or grade levels

- Classroom doors will be kept opened to reduce high touch surfaces when possible during passing time
- When transitioning between classes, students will travel in the hallways as far to the right as possible
- Where possible, one-way traffic will be established
- Lockers will be assigned during the first quarter. However, students are expected to carry supplies throughout the day and will have limited access to their lockers.

SCREENING, AND TRIAGE

Students and staff who have a fever (100.4 or higher without fever-reducing medication) will be asked to stay home and report the absence to the school attendance office or supervisor. In the event a student does show up at school with symptoms, they will be asked to put on a mask and isolate to a seat in the gymnasium to be screened further by the nurse. The Caldwell County Health Department will provide guidance on students and staff who have had contact with people who are suspected COVID-19 positive. The Caldwell County Health Department will also be available daily to test students for COVID-19.

VACCINATIONS TO STAFF AND STUDENTS

The Hamilton R-II School District will work closely with the Caldwell County Health Department in publicizing vaccination clinics for students and staff enrolled in our school district. While we will not require vaccinations for re-entry they will be highly encouraged. Incentives could be developed for individuals if they choose to get vaccinated.

APPROPRIATE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

In the case of school closure and to accommodate children with disabilities, Hamilton R-2 will provide the option of using Google Classroom or a hard copy learning packet along with virtual teaching and meetings to support continued learning. Every effort will be made to ensure that students have access to technology; including the provision of HotSpot devices and Chromebooks as needed. Teachers will maintain communication with families via online support, phone calls, emails and text messages.

CONTINUITY OF SERVICES

In the case of school closure, Hamilton R-2 will make every effort to continue to provide quality and accessible instruction for all students. Steps to provide “continuity of services” include:

- Hamilton Elementary School Plan:
 - Continued Learning: All classrooms will establish an on-line platform, either Google Classroom (2nd-5th) or a closed Facebook group (PK-1st), where teachers can communicate with students and families. This on-line platform will be shared with families at the beginning of the school year. Temporary

school closures would transition instruction to virtual learning immediately with continued learning packets in PK-2nd and remain in place until reopening.

- In the case of temporary school closure, teachers will use the online platforms, as well as Zoom, to communicate with students and families. It is vital that students and families maintain contact with teachers through these virtual platforms, texting apps, and email.
- For PK-2nd Grade students, continued learning packets will be sent home. Completed packets will need to be returned upon the return to school. In the case of extended closure, a return location and date will be communicated at that time. PK-1st Grade students will not be bringing home Chromebooks.
- For 2nd-5th grade students, assignments will be posted to the Google Classroom. Completed assignments can be submitted on the Google Classroom. Students in grades 2nd-5th will be allowed to take their Chromebook home with parent permission. In the case that a family does not have stable internet access, HotSpots and/or paper copies of assignments will be provided.
- Zoom or Google Meets are our online components to help deliver weekly live and recorded instruction from the classroom teacher. Teachers will send information regarding virtual meetings/lessons via closed Facebook groups (PK-1st) and Google Classroom (2nd-5th).
- If Hamilton R-2 has to close due to health concerns, students who are on an IEP will continue to receive related services via on-line platforms such as Google Classroom, Google Meets and Zoom meetings from their special education teachers, Speech Language Pathologist and/or Occupational Therapist and/or will be provided with paper copies of learning materials.
- Social-emotional well-being: As we return to school, the social-emotional well-being of our students and staff is a primary concern. District counselors will develop resources for parents and teachers to access when needed. The counselors will work with students individually or in small groups to address any well-being needs. If you need to contact our school counselor please email Mrs. Erin Yuille at yuille@hamilton.k12.mo.us.
- Communication Methods: To stay updated on the most up-to-date information:
 - Check out the district website, www.hamilton.k12.mo.us
 - Sign up for Text Caster by visiting the district website.
 - Check your email often for important information for the school district.
 - Become a member of the Hamilton Elementary PTO Facebook page.
 - Sign up for Remind or Class Tag texts from your child's classroom teacher.
 - Become a member of your child's class closed Facebook groups.
- Hamilton Middle School Plan
 - Teachers will use Google Classroom as the learning platform from the beginning of the school year. Lessons will be posted in the same process we would follow if we were 100% virtual.

- In the event we are ever required to provide virtual instruction again, the transition will be seamless. We are fully aware of the potential inequities of virtual instruction. In the event we encounter a similar situation, we will allow students to take home chromebooks. Students/Parents will have the opportunity to purchase an insurance agreement that would cover any damage to an issued chromebook. (This will be made available at the beginning of school.)
- Additionally, the district has purchased a number of hotspots that will aid in internet access. The qualification process for these devices will be provided at a later date. All of this will provide consistency for our students.
- Based on feedback from parent surveys, we will implement the following protocols. Teachers will update gradebooks weekly.
 - Teachers will use Google Classroom as the learning platform for grades 6-8 to deliver and collect student work.
 - Teachers will post learning schedules and assignments weekly prior to the start of the school week.
 - Teachers will provide accommodations/modifications to meet IEPs and 504 Plans for learners.
 - Teachers will communicate regularly with parents regarding expectations and student progress.
 - Teachers will update gradebooks on the student portal weekly (grades 6-8).
 - Teachers will conduct office hours twice a week.
 - Teachers will report out engagement scores each week to parents.
 - Middle School grades in a virtual setting will not use a “hold harmless” approach.
- MIDDLE SCHOOL SPECIAL SERVICES
 - All special education students will be provided instruction relative to their IEP goals.
 - A child’s case manager will work with families to ensure a child’s IEP is being met.
 - Students’ services will be provided during the students’ special education classes, in a pull-out and/or in a push-in model to ensure the student’s IEP goals are being addressed.
 - If Hamilton R-II has to close a school or the district due to health concerns, students will continue to receive their services from their special education teacher.
- Penney High School Plan
 - In-person classes will mirror the Google Classroom platform. Teachers will be teaching in-person primarily and may use online lessons to instruct students in the proper way of submitting assignments and other online learning skills necessary in the event we transition to online learning.. In the event of a school closure, instruction will transition to virtual learning immediately.
 - High School Special Services
 - All special education students will be provided instruction relative to their IEP goals.

- A child's case manager will work with families to ensure a child's IEP is being met.
- Students' services will be provided during the students' special education classes, in a pull-out and/or in a push-in model to ensure the student's IEP goals are being addressed.
- If Hamilton R-II has to close a school or the district due to health concerns, students will continue to receive their services from their special education teacher.
- Hot Spots will be provided to families as needed.

ADDRESSING LOST INSTRUCTIONAL TIME

Hamilton R-2 plans to utilize 20% of allocated ESSER III funds to address the academic, social, emotional and mental health needs of our students by utilizing the following evidence-based strategies: NOTE: The following plans/strategies can change at any time based on needs of the district and available staff/resources.

- Employ a full time school social worker to address the social, emotional and mental health needs of students due to loss of face-to-face time and school closure for a period of two years. (Approx. \$100,000)
- Provide additional professional development opportunities for staff so that they may increase their knowledge and strategies to accelerate learning for students affected by school closure. (Approx. \$10,000)
- Purchase web-based learning programs that students can utilize after school hours and/or while on virtual learning to accelerate student learning. (Approx. \$30,000)

DETERMINING MOST IMPACTED STUDENTS

Hamilton R-2 will utilize the following methods to determine "most impacted students."

- Any student who had less than 95% in-person attendance during the 2020-2021 school year due to COVID.
- Any student who attended virtual instruction greater than one semester during the 2020-2021 school year.
- Any student who is determined "at-risk" according to beginning of year benchmark assessments.

Identification of "most impacted students" will be made within 15 days of the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year.

PERIODIC REVISION

Hamilton R-2 will review and revise the SRCSP no less than every six months. The review team will include the following stakeholders:

- 2 representatives from the Board of Education
- 2 student representatives

- 2 parent representatives (must include parents of students in elementary, MS and HS)
- District superintendent and all building principals
- Curriculum director and one faculty member from each school (at least one faculty member must represent the special education department)

AVAILABLE IN OTHER LANGUAGES

If you need or know someone who needs this plan translated or read to them, please contact Billie McGraw at 816-583-2134 or mcgraw@hamilton.k12.mo.us.