

CALHOUN R-VIII SCHOOL DISTRICT

Re-Entry COVID-19 Plan

2021-2022 School Year

American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Plan

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



The guidelines and protocols outlined in this document are subject to revision as needed to reflect local, state, and federal guidance.

Adopted by Calhoun R-VIII Board of Education

Review of this document is on-going

**The advisory group will provide input every six months or sooner as needed
This plan is available in other languages through Google Translate for review.**

Introduction

The global Coronavirus pandemic has introduced a new level of risk for in-person instruction and in-person gatherings. Our schools are designed to educate students through social, face-to-face interactions, in relatively close spaces and in large groups. The benefits of this approach to education are well accepted. We know our community prioritizes student and staff safety, and expects a thoughtful re-entry plan.

As we plan for a school year likely to be continuously impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the priorities we hold are:

- Providing environments that are as safe as possible for students and staff;
- Providing equitable, guaranteed, and viable education.
- The COVID-19 guidelines developed and presented below follow all applicable local, state, and federal guidelines, to the greatest extent feasible, and incorporate many best practices advocated by school associations and groups.

CDC RECOMMENDED UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS

Hand Washing

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.

Physical Distancing

Avoid close contact by putting an appropriate distance between yourself and others. Remember that some people without symptoms may be able to spread the virus. Keeping an appropriate distance from others is especially important for people who are at higher risk of getting very sick.

Masks

Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others. You could spread COVID-19 to others even if you do not feel sick. Everyone should wear a cloth face cover when they have to go out in public, for example to the grocery store or to pick up other necessities. Cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance. The cloth face cover is meant to protect other people in case you are infected. Do NOT use a facemask meant for a healthcare worker.

Cover Coughs and Sneezes

If you are in a private setting and do not have your cloth face covering, remember to always 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 are not readily available, clean your hands with hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

Clean and Disinfect

Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces throughout the day. This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets and sinks. If surfaces are dirty, clean them. Use detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection. Then, use a household disinfectant. Most common EPA-registered household disinfectants work well.

Early Childhood Program

In-Person Classes

- Students will attend full-day.
 - Class sizes will not exceed licensure requirements in a classroom.
 - Student attendance will be closely monitored.
- In ECC classrooms, every best effort will be made to maintain stable groups (children will remain in one classroom for learning).
- Classroom protocols will be taken and other measures to minimize contact.
- Schools will make reasonable best efforts to minimize risk, ***however, attending our schools in-person will introduce a greater risk of exposure.***
- Individual school closures may occur when individuals have positive tests for COVID-19.
- Parents/visitors will be permitted to enter building for drop off and pick-ups, but will not have access to the classrooms.

Elementary Kindergarten - Sixth Grade

- K-6 Students will report to the cafeteria upon arrival to eat breakfast, after breakfast or after 7:30am, students will be allowed to go to their classroom.
- K-6 lunch shifts will be staggered by grade level to avoid long lines.
- Parents/visitors will be permitted to visit the school office, but will not have access to any other areas in the building.
- Classes will be taught in typical fashion with some classroom accommodations and will include an online format, and in the case of temporary school closures would transition instruction to virtual learning immediately and remain in place until reopening.
 - Students will be transferred to virtual learning with their teacher in the event of school closure.
- K-6 grading practices will follow the format identified in student handbook.
- Face coverings are recommended but not required. If a building reaches 10% of students and staff absent for isolation or quarantine, masks will be required for both the Elementary and High School until the building is below 10% for two consecutive weeks.
- Bus-transportation is available.
- In K-6 classrooms, every best effort will be made to maintain stable groups (children will remain in one classroom for learning). There will be ample time for children to use the restroom and be outside with peers.
- Schools will make reasonable best efforts to minimize risk, ***however, attending our schools in-person will introduce a greater risk of exposure.***
 - Classroom protocols will include assigned seating and other measures to minimize contact.
 - Recess: Depending on numbers, we may have to split students and/or grades for recess and utilize both playgrounds.
- K-6 students will have access to PE, Art, Music, Media, Special Education, and Title Services.

- Elementary 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 in a pull-out and/or push-in model to ensure the student's IEP goals are being addressed.
 - If Calhoun R-VIII has to close a school or the district due to health concerns, students will continue to receive their services from their special education teacher.

Secondary: Middle School and High School

- 7-12 students may go through the breakfast line using appropriate social distancing and after breakfast will report to the gym.
- 7-12 students will report to the gym if not eating breakfast or after finishing breakfast at 7:30am. Students will not be allowed to congregate in halls or other areas.
- 7-12 lunch shifts will be staggered to minimize the number of students gathered. Students will have assigned seating by grade level and not co-mingle with other grades.
- Teachers will be teaching in-person and incorporating online lessons, and in the event of a school closure, instruction will transition to virtual learning immediately.
- Face coverings are recommended but not required. If a building reaches 10% of students and staff absent for isolation or quarantine, masks will be required for both the Elementary and High School until the building is below 10% for two consecutive weeks.
- Bus-transportation is available.
- 7-12 students will retain a “normal” schedule, but interactions outside the classroom will be limited, in order to reduce the expansion of the established stable groups.
- Classroom protocols will include assigned seating and other measures to minimize the expansion of a stable grouping and aid in contact tracing.
- Schools will make reasonable best efforts to minimize risk, ***however, attending our schools in-person will introduce a greater risk for exposure.***
- (Career and Technical Education) Classes will be available for students.

- **Secondary 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 Calhoun R-VIII has to close a school or the district due to health concerns, students will continue to receive their services from their special education teacher.

Safety and Well Being

Pandemic Period/Response Activities

The District may consider implementing the following actions, if recommended:

School Building Access

- All entrances to schools will be locked.
- Entry into schools will be restricted to staff and students with parents having access to office areas only and on an as needed basis.
- If a child needs to be picked up for any reason, Calhoun R-VIII personnel will accompany the child to the front door and await the arrival of the parent/guardian.
- Cafeteria activities may be modified.
- There may be some degree of suspension of activities, including sporting events, performing arts performances, field trips, and after-school classes and clubs, as determined by Calhoun R-VIII Schools in consultation with the Henry County Health Department.

Surveillance, Screening, and Triage

General health information for students and faculty/staff

- Parents and students, as well as staff members, are encouraged to self-screen for potential COVID-19 symptoms before coming to school. Anyone with symptoms of illness should stay home.
- Students at school who display health symptoms that could suggest COVID-19 concerns will be checked by staff.
- Students and staff who have a fever (100 or higher without fever-reducing medication) and/or cough will be asked to stay home and report the absence to the school office or supervisor.

- Those allowed into the school buildings may be screened.

- Those who are identified to have a fever and/or cough may be instructed to wear an appropriate mask, use hand sanitizer, and go to a designated area to be picked up by parents and sent home.
 - Individuals suspected of being exposed to COVID-19 may be excluded from entry into the building and the child may be escorted out.

General information for students and faculty/staff

- Hand sanitizer will be provided at multiple locations throughout the buildings.
- Drinking fountains will not be used, except for the bottle filling capabilities.
 - Students should bring personal water bottles from home. They should be labeled with the student name, and in clean, sanitary condition.
- Social distancing will be observed to the extent possible by all faculty, staff and students.
- Student activities and athletics will be conducted as usual to the extent they are permissible under local, state, and federal guidelines.
- Daily sanitizing and disinfecting will be a priority at all district facilities.

Nursing

- Calhoun R-VIII Health staff regularly keeps a log of health room visits. The name and phone/number/address of all persons seen with fever and new cough will be recorded. Due to student privacy, these records are not public, however, information may be shared with the Henry County Health Department or doctors, as appropriate.
- The Henry County Health Department will provide guidance on students and staff who have had contact with people who are suspected COVID-19 positive.

In the event of a Suspected Case of COVID-19

In the event of a suspected case of COVID-19, the following protocols will be followed:

Positive COVID Test

- At home 5 days and returns for next 5 days wearing a mask if no fever and asymptomatic.

Student Exposed to Positive COVID Person

- Wear a mask for 10 days and stay in school if you have no fever and are asymptomatic. If symptoms develop, stay home and monitor, return with a mask for 5 days when no fever is present and asymptomatic, encouraged to test on day 5 or after.

Section 171.011, RSMo. states as follows:

- The school board of each school district in the state may make all needful rules and regulations for the organization, grading and government in the school district.

With respect to contagious diseases, Section 167.191, RSMo. states as follows:

- 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 education 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. If the parent or guardian refuses to have an examination made by a physician at the request of the teacher or board of directors, the teacher or board of directors may exclude the child from school. Any parent or guardian who persists in sending a child to school, after having been examined as provided by this section, and found to be afflicted with any contagious or infectious disease, or liable to transmit the disease, or refuses to have the child examined as herein provided, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

Custodial

- Calhoun R-VIII will maintain adequate supplies of personal protective equipment, soap, paper towels, hand sanitizer, and tissues throughout each school.
- Calhoun R-VIII will clean frequently-touched surfaces and objects (e.g., tables, water fountains, and doorknobs) with district-supplied cleaning and disinfectant products.

Communication

- Regular updates to the Board of Education, community members, and parents/guardians will be provided, as determined by the Superintendent. As part of that communication, our district will work with county and state officials to encourage and distribute vaccination information through social media and district communications.

Calhoun R-VIII Pandemic Period/Response Activities (School Closed)

The decision to close Calhoun R-VIII Schools may be made as a means to prevent further spread of an epidemic, or in response to high student and/or staff absenteeism. The Superintendent will make school closure decisions in consultation with the Henry County Health Department, and neighboring school district superintendents. Current CDC recommendations will help guide closure decisions.

Possible School Closure Trigger Points:

- Student absenteeism
 - When it is not economically prudent to keep the school open.
- Teacher/Staff absenteeism
 - When the number of staff available to supervise and instruct students drops below what is necessary to maintain a safe learning environment.
- Confirmed case(s) of COVID-19.
- To protect the public health and safety
 - When advised to close by the Governor or state and local health authorities.

The decision to close on these triggers is the school district's decision in conjunction with guidance from Henry County Public Health and Human Services, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, and the CDC.

Schools may close if absenteeism is above 20 percent for two consecutive days. Instruction would then transition to virtual learning.

Authority to Close Schools

- In a pandemic, schools may be closed and/or opened by the order of the director of the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) or his/her designee. Due to the need for consistency throughout the state, school closures and/or openings to protect the public health and safety will be directed at the state level.
- The School Superintendent has the authority to close and/or open school for absenteeism, as noted above. The Board of Education establishes the academic calendar for the school district.
- Schools may be closed to all staff and students, or just students. If schools are closed only to students, staff members are expected to work or use appropriate leave.
- The superintendent may cancel all activities on district property by outside groups. When a school is closed, activities scheduled at that school, including use by community groups, may be canceled. Activities held at another location that involve students and staff may cancel at the discretion of the administration, in consultation with local health authorities.

Human Resources

As we continue to navigate COVID-19 and the impact it has on our district, we have never lost sight or focus on the impact it has also had on our staff, students and community. We know that each individual has been impacted in different ways and that everyone has differing views on how we should return and what that should look like.

We will continue to follow the Department of Health recommendations regarding sanitation, social distancing, personal protection equipment (PPE), changing structures and systems to comply with guidelines, and best practices for the amount of individuals within buildings or spaces. As the guidelines change and adjust, so will our direction and communication. We will continue to adapt to our environment and provide the best support to our staff, students and community.

Daily Self-Check

If you are an employee and are exhibiting symptoms, daily self-check items:

- a fever (100 or higher), a sense of having a fever;
- chills, a cough, sore throat, headache;
- new loss of smell or taste, new muscle aches;
- or if you or a close contact has been diagnosed or presumptively diagnosed with COVID-19.

Masks/Shields

- Mask/face coverings for all staff are highly recommended.
- You may bring your own mask to work or one will be provided to you.

Student Services

Maintaining the health and safety of our students continues to be of paramount importance. With that in mind, it is crucial we ensure student information remains up to date. In the event that a student becomes ill, we must be able to get in contact with the legal parent/guardian or their designated alternate contact.

In the event a student needs to be sent home:

- For students who exhibit symptoms (fever, cough, etc.), as defined by the health department guidelines, and whose parents are unable to be located, the alternate contact person will be called to pick up the student.
- The school district may transport the student home for parents who are unable to pick up their child due to a lack of transportation. Both the staff member and the student will be required to wear a mask.

Professional Development

Professional learning is the cornerstone for a strong educational system and will continue for all Calhoun R-VIII employees when needed or required. For 2021-2022 school year, all measures will be taken to provide employees with a safe method of receiving professional development that meets health department guidelines.

ESSER Funds

Allowable Activities ARP ESSER funds are available for obligation from March 13, 2020 through September 30, 2024. While ARP ESSER requires that a minimum of 20 percent of the LEA's allocation be spent to address the students' academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs due to the effects of lost instructional time, the remaining LEA funds may be used for a wide range of activities to address needs arising from the coronavirus pandemic.

Allowable activities for the remaining funds under ARP ESSER include, but are not limited to:

1. Any activity authorized by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA), or Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (Perkins CTE). Specifically, ESSER III funds may be develop strategies and implement public health protocols including, to the greatest extent practicable, policies in line with guidance from the CDC on reopening and operating schools to effectively maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff
2. Coordinating preparedness and response efforts to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19
3. Training and professional development on sanitizing and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases
4. Purchasing supplies to sanitize and clean the LEA's facilities
5. Repairing and improving school facilities to reduce risk of virus transmission and exposure to environmental health hazards
6. Improving indoor air quality
7. Addressing the needs of children from low-income families, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and foster care youth
8. Developing and implementing procedures and systems to improve the preparedness and response efforts of LEAs
9. Planning for or implementing activities during long-term closures, including providing meals to eligible students and providing technology for online learning
10. Purchasing educational technology (including hardware, software, connectivity, assistive technology, and adaptive equipment) for students that aid in regular and substantive educational interaction between students and their classroom instructors, including students from low-income families and children with disabilities

11. Providing mental health services and supports, including through the implementation of evidence-based full-service community schools and the hiring of counselors

12. Planning and implementing activities related to summer learning and supplemental afterschool programs

13. Addressing learning loss

14. Other activities that are necessary to maintain operation of and continuity of services, including continuing to employ existing or hiring new school staff. * Capital expenditures require prior approval from DESE

Methodology and Credits:

This plan was developed and prepared by a committee. This process included a number of communications with the Henry County Health Department, Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), the review of nearly a dozen re-entry plans published by other districts statewide, CDC, and the continued communication with other local districts.

We would like to express our deepest appreciation for the following committee members who selflessly contributed to the successful completion of this plan.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS INCLUDE:

District/Building Administration
Counselor
Maintenance and Custodial Director
HS and Elementary Teachers
Early Childhood Director
Elementary/Secondary Students
Community Members
Parents/Guardians