

Miami R-1 Safe Return to
In-Person Instruction and
Continuity of Services Plan (SRCSP)

District Mitigation Strategies and Policies:

The LEA has returned to in-person instruction and was in session and on campus during the 2020-2021 school year. This plan will focus on how our school will continue safe operations to maintain the health and safety of students and staff. Our local school district has decided how to respond to various mitigation topics. This SRCSP has been developed using public input and in understandable language. We used our experiences from the past year and half as evidence to make informed decisions. The group consisted of parents, students, teachers, administration, and community members. This plan will be used and translated in other languages if necessary and available for non-English speakers. This plan will be reviewed in six months as we gather more public input and take a new look at transmission data of COVID-19.

Parents/caregivers and/or students should perform a general assessment for symptoms daily prior to arrival to school. Temperatures will be taken upon entry to the bus if there is a local area of concern as noted by the Saline County Health Department. Staff will also check temperatures throughout the day if there is a concern of illness.

Symptoms Associated with COVID-19 are as follows:

- 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 and/or Diarrhea

Staff and students with evidence of an acute illness or contact with a person with COVID-19 should not report to school. School staff should recognize that non-infectious conditions (e.g. asthma) and acute infections (e.g. influenza) can mimic COVID-19 in children. These conditions do not warrant isolation for the length of time as COVID-19. In cases where COVID-19 testing cannot be performed in a student with acute illness, the decision to return to school should be made by the school administrator in conjunction with the student's medical provider.

Hand Hygiene:

Hand hygiene is an important step in decreasing the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19. Hand hygiene should occur:

- Before, during, and after preparing food
- Before eating food
- Before and after treating a cut or wound
- Before and after touching (e.g. putting on or taking off) a mask
- After using the toilet
- After cleaning up a child who has used the toilet
- After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
- After touching an animal, animal feed, or animal waste
- After touching garbage

Hand washing instructions will be reviewed with students:

- Wet hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), and apply soap.
- Lather hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Lather the backs of hands, between fingers, and under nails.
- Scrub hands for at least 20 seconds. Hum the "Happy Birthday" song from beginning to end twice.
- Rinse hands well under clean, running water.
- Dry hands using a clean towel or air dry them.

An **alcohol-based hand sanitizer** that contains at least 60% alcohol can be used if soap and water are not available.

- Apply hand sanitizer product to the palm of one hand.
- Rub hands together.

- Rub the gel over all the surfaces of hands and fingers until hands are dry. This should take around 20 seconds.

Respiratory Etiquette:

In accordance with CDC guidelines the following measures to contain respiratory secretions will be utilized for all individuals with signs and symptoms of a respiratory infection. All staff will train and monitor compliance of students daily in proper etiquette.

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing;
- Use in the nearest waste receptacle to dispose of the tissue after use;
- Perform hand hygiene (e.g., hand washing with non-antimicrobial soap and water, alcohol-based hand rub, or with an antiseptic handwash) after having contact with respiratory secretions and contaminated objects/materials.

Universal Wearing of Masks:

Masking at this time is optional for staff, students, and visitors. The Miami BOE would like families, staff, and visitors to be able to make the decision whether to mask, or not mask their children, or selves. The only exception with this is with children who ride the bus.

If the Saline County Health Department reports an increase of active COVID-19 cases, they may require your child to wear a mask when riding the bus. Please let us know if you are in need of masks. They will be provided per request and for free. If you choose to send a mask with your child and have specific directions for usage, please communicate those to us so we can ensure your child is correctly wearing their mask. On the other hand, if you do not want your child to wear a mask at any time then please communicate that to us as well. Masks are available in every classroom. If a child wants to wear one, we will allow them to do so unless you as the parent, or guardian has told us differently.

Correct Wearing of Masks:

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends wearing a mask that covers the nose and mouth and fits snugly against the sides of the face, as a measure to contain the wearer's respiratory droplets and help protect their co-workers and members of the general public. If you as the parent or guardian requests your child wear a mask, staff will train and monitor correct wearing of masks.

Cleaning and Disinfecting Procedures:

Regular classroom and school cleaning and disinfecting will occur with a focus on cleaning/disinfecting efforts for common areas. High-touch surfaces and items that are touched routinely and frequently throughout the day. All custodial cleaning activities will be performed daily, while highly touched surfaces will be required more often throughout the day. We have actually hired another custodian to help keep our school as sanitary and clean as possible.

Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation:

The Miami R-1 Board of Education is working with the superintendent of schools to utilize ESSER funds to maintain healthy facilities which includes improving ventilation. The Board of Education is in the process of replacing/upgrading our HVAC system to include air purification. We also have an outdoor classroom to allow teachers to get students outside and learning in the fresh air. Classroom windows are encouraged to be cracked or open in learning spaces if possible. Old windows and screens will be replaced to encourage this practice and provide easier use.

Visitors will be kept at a minimum in the buildings. Many meetings with families and teachers will be conducted via teleconference. For larger meetings we will stagger the amount of families in the building at one time. Outdoor activities will take preference over indoor events. Indoor events with larger gatherings will only be held if the local levels of transmission are low.

Physical Distancing (including the use of cohorts)

Physical distancing and cohorting will be utilized when possible to minimize COVID-19 exposure and assist with contact tracing should a child or staff become ill. When physical distancing cannot be maintained, children will be kept in cohorts when possible. This means that the children learn together, eat together and play together allowing for the rapid identification of those who have been exposed should a positive COVID-19 case occur in the cohort. Teachers will also rotate between classrooms if needed instead of having children move from class to class to minimize mixing of students between classes.

Contact Tracing, Isolation, and Quarantine:

Contact tracings, isolations, and quarantines will be facilitated in collaboration with the local county health department. The state health department will also be utilized if deemed necessary by the superintendent of schools/nurse to gather more information on specific instances. The school and/or school staff may be notified of a COVID-19 positive case prior to the local health department. In this case, the school liaison to the health department should promptly notify the health department where the staff member or student resides to report the case. In the event of a positive case at our school, we will be working closely with the Saline County Health Department for directions on how to respond. If the illness is realized at school, we have an identified precautionary room that will be utilized for ill students until an adult arrives for pick-up. Each case is different and the guidelines to positive cases are ever changing. With our school being so small, confidentiality will be a priority.

Diagnostic and Screening Testing:

We will continue providing rapid antigen tests as a service to staff and students with symptoms with parental permission. Students will only be tested in the event their parent, or guardian has requested the test for them. As the district's nurse, Mrs. Pace has been trained to administer this screening tool for COVID-19. This is the non-invasive test and is not placed very high in the nasal cavity. Again, this test will only be administered per parental consent.

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

Miami R-1 will publicize any community vaccination efforts that they become aware of for students and staff. Families can then decide if the vaccine is right for their family. Vaccine information will also be shared on a per request basis. Please let Mrs. Self/Mrs. Pace know if you have any questions about the antigen test, or need information on the vaccines currently available for COVID-19.

Continuity of Services:

We have 36 alternative methods of instruction hours to be utilized for the 2021-2022 school year. In the event the school needs to be shut-down for cleaning and disinfecting, or we have a widespread outbreak, these days will be utilized first for virtual instruction of students. All students have chrome books and at this time internet access, however, packets will also be an option. If a student is in isolation or quarantine, they will be provided with a computer to continue learning with their class utilizing the Google Classroom platform as long as they are feeling well enough to participate. Included will be IEP services, 504 accommodations, therapy services, response to interventions, etc. Appropriate accommodations will be provided as necessary and in alignment with services documented in dyslexia reading plans, Individualized Education Plans, and 504's. Each student (including children with disabilities) in our district will also have appropriate accommodations to help them be successful with the health and safety policies. Accommodations could include adult support, hygiene checklists, visual charts, timer alarms, etc.

District Resources:

<https://www.childrensmercy.org/siteassets/media/covid-19/guidance-for-school-re-opening-during-the-covid-19-pandemic.pdf>

<https://dese.mo.gov/media/pdf/covid-mo-k-12-guidance-update-may-2021>

Miami R-1 Board of Education - Approval Date June 21, 2021

*To be reviewed with public input and approved again by the December BOE meeting.

The SRCSP could be posted on your website with a link on the homepage to an electronic version of the plan. Or it could be posted on a page linked to the homepage with COVID response information.