

Moniteau County R-I School District

COVID-19 Guidelines and Protocols



2020-2021 School Year Re-Entry

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

Guidelines and protocols may also be revised as appropriate to reflect the needs of local conditions.

Reopening Options for the District

Moniteau County R-1 Schools will have three (3) options available to consider for reopening. Each status may result in changes to the learning environment, but the information on the following pages are general guidelines that would be in place for at least a Green status. **It is the intent of the district to open in Green status at the time of this publication.**

Green:

- Regular classroom environment—Face-to-face with precautions in place
- All students selecting traditional learning option may be present
- Families may opt for homeschooling or district-approved online learning due to safety concerns

Yellow:

- School remains open with partial student attendance.
- A/B Day method used with an alternating day schedule
- A/B Day is assigned by households so those living together attend on the same day.
- Bus routes will be factored into A/B Day assignments to reduce the number of riders on a given day as much as possible.
- May or may not result in a 50/50 split in each classroom.

Red:

- Remote Learning Only—No Face-to-Face Classes

Commentary regarding COVID-19 guidelines and protocols

- The Moniteau County R-1 School District is committed to providing a quality education to all students, while also ensuring student and staff safety and well-being.
- 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.
- These plans also incorporate the desires of our parents and staff as was communicated through completed surveys.
- Parents/guardians with questions or concerns are asked to call the Moniteau County R-1 School District at 573-796-2145 to discuss and address those concerns.

General information for students and faculty/staff

- All classroom teachers and paraprofessional staff members will be provided with a face shield and a mask. During group instruction, when social distancing can be achieved, teacher discretion will be used pertaining to the use of a shield or

mask. Teachers and paraprofessional staff will wear a mask when working one-on-one or in small groups with students when social distancing cannot be achieved.

- Middle School and High School students will be required to wear a protective mask during group work in the classrooms, during hallway passing times between classes, and when going through the lunch line. We will make every effort to minimize the requirement for the use of masks when appropriate and feasible. There will also be efforts to stagger passing times so that not all students are in hallways at the same time.
 - The first mask will be supplied by the district. Students/families may provide their own.
 - Masks must be in clean, sanitary condition.
 - Students may not share masks.
- Students will be guided to wash/sanitize hands multiple times per day.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in every classroom and will be provided at multiple locations throughout the schools.
- All classrooms will be supplied with disinfectant spray bottles and clothes for classroom sanitation and will be used frequently throughout the day.
- Sanitizing and disinfecting will be a priority at all district facilities and routine disinfectant of common areas will be conducted multiple times daily. Custodial and maintenance staff have been trained on effective sanitation practices specific to COVID-19 by the district's cleaning supply partner.
- Traditional water fountains will not be used. Each building has multiple hands-free water fountains with bottle filling capabilities that will be used.
 - Students should bring personal water bottles from home (the district will have reusable water bottles available if that would be the preference of the family). 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.
- Attendance incentives for students will cease. Staff and/or students who are sick need to stay home. We will continue to follow the rule that students must be fever free for 24 hours without the aid of fever-reducing medication before they will be permitted to return to school. With this said, we believe attendance is still key to the success of the student in making academic progress and encourage parents to continue in making sure students are in attendance at school if they are well.
- During this time, school staff attendance is of the greatest importance as we ensure our students are achieving their educational goals. In the event a staff member must miss school related to COVID-19, the district will follow the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) pertaining to sick leave.
- Student activities and athletics will be conducted with multiple precautions in place to the extent they are permissible under local, state, and federal guidelines. MSHSAA sanctioned programs will follow all MSHSAA guidelines/requirements.

Understanding and recognizing COVID-19

- Faculty and staff will be trained to recognize symptoms that may be associated with COVID-19. Training will include, but will not be limited to, online modules provided by the Missouri United School Insurance Council. The CDC lists the following as possible symptoms of COVID-19
 - Fever or chills
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Headache
 - Sore throat
 - Newly emerged loss of taste or smell
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea

General health information for students and faculty/staff

- Students and staff members are directed 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 the nurse. If evaluation by the nurse suggests potential for COVID-19 infection, the student will be masked (if the student does not have one) until picked up by a parent/guardian.
- Students with a temperature of 100 degrees or higher will be sent home
- A student excluded from the school environment due to COVID-19 concerns may return to school in accordance with guidelines provided by the health department. Siblings and other students living in the same household will be excluded from school and asked to self-quarantine.

Positive Case Protocol

- In the event a positive case is confirmed, the district will take the necessary steps to assist the county health department in contact tracing.
- School may be temporarily closed upon the recommendation of the county health department to allow for proper cleaning and sanitation.
- The school district will contact parents/students and employees and notify them that a person who tested positive for COVID-19 was in the building and encourage cooperation with the school district and the local health department to trace contacts with the individual. The individual who tested positive will not be identified in communications to the school community at large but may need to be selectively identified for contact tracing by the health department.
- If a school building must be closed, all school activities will be cancelled or rescheduled, regardless of whether the activity was to take place in the building or another location, including extracurricular activities, before or after-school programs, and field trips.

- If a school building must be closed, students and employees will be encouraged to stay at home until more information is provided by the school district or the health department.

Transportation information

- Parents/guardians are encouraged to drop off students at school instead of using bus service. Drop-off and pick-up systems will be organized to ensure social distancing to the greatest extent possible.
- The school will only be open during posted hours beginning at 7:00 a.m. Early drop-offs will not be permitted as we do not want students congregating in groups outside the buildings.
- Bus riders will be required to wear a mask at all times while on the bus.
- Students riding the bus from the same household will be required to sit together.
- Drivers will assign seats for all bus riders.
- Buses will be sanitized multiple times per day.

Arrival at school

- Breakfast will be served starting at 7:00 a.m. each day in all buildings.
- Main entry doors at each building will be propped open in the morning at drop off times so students do not have to touch door handles.
- Students will be required to spread out in the cafeteria (and possibly other areas of the building) in an attempt to maintain social distancing.
- Students not eating breakfast will report directly to the gymnasium, their home room classroom, or other designated holding location. Students will not be allowed to congregate in hallways or other areas.
- Parents/visitors will be permitted to visit the school office, but will not have access to any other areas in the building.

During the school day

- Students will wash/sanitize their hands multiple times throughout the day.
- PreK-5 students will remain with their class all day.
- Classroom doors will be open while students are arriving in the classrooms so students do not have to touch door handles.
- Playgrounds will be disinfected daily.
- Sharing of supplies (art, books, etc.) will be minimized and/or eliminated.
- Equipment used by more than one student will be sanitized between uses.

At lunch

- Students will sanitize their hands upon entry into the cafeteria.
- Students in grades 6-12 will be required to wear face covering while in the lunch lines.
- Lunch shifts will be staggered as possible to minimize the number of students gathered.
- Pre-K-2nd Grade students will eat in the cafeteria each day but many grade levels will eat in their classrooms or other locations within the building to allow for appropriate social distancing.

- All lunches will be plated or boxed. Self-serve options will be eliminated where feasible.
- Elementary students will sit with their classes.
- All tables will be cleaned and disinfected thoroughly between uses.
- Kitchen staff will be required to wear face coverings while serving students.

Other information

- Attendance policies will be adjusted in order to remove any incentive/penalty for students to attend school while sick. The school district will not be providing attendance awards and/or incentives.

Health Protocol for Epidemics/Pandemics

It is essential for the school community to work together to prevent the introduction and spread of COVID-19 in the school environment and in the community while still providing a quality education program.

State statute gives public school districts the authority to exclude students who have a contagious disease such as COVID-19 or who are liable to transmit the disease after having been exposed to it. See 167.191, RSMo. In addition, the local health department has the authority to exclude students from school and may order students and others to isolate or quarantine. 19 CSR 20-20.05. Moniteau County R-1 School District will be working closely with the local health departments.

Exclusion from School

Students and employees will be excluded from school if they test positive for COVID-19 or exhibit one or more of the symptoms of COVID-19 based on CDC Guidance that is not otherwise explained:

- a) A fever of 100° F or greater
- Or a combination of the following:
- b) Cough
 - c) Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - d) Chills
 - e) Repeated shaking with chills
 - f) Muscle pain
 - g) Headache
 - h) Sore throat

- i) New loss of taste or smell.

Screening

The current CDC guidelines do not require screening of all students or employees for COVID-19 prior to entering a school building. Each student and family unit should self-screen prior to coming to school. Employees will be required to self-screen prior to the beginning of every school day as well. Students and employees exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 without other obvious explanations are prohibited from coming to school, and if they do come to school, will be sent home immediately.

Medical Inquiries

Given the nature of the pandemic, the school district may make additional medical inquiries of staff and students than they otherwise would have. Please note that federal law typically limits the type of medical inquiries that can be made but given the nature of the pandemic more leeway has been given by federal agencies in this circumstance. If a parent tells the school district that a student is ill, the school district may ask the parent whether the student is exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19. If an employee calls in sick or appears ill, the school district will inquire as to whether the employee is experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms. The school district may take the temperature of students, employees and visitors to school property on a random basis or in situations where there is reason to believe that the person may be ill. If a person is obviously ill the school district may make additional inquiries and may exclude the person from school property.

Return to School After Exclusion

Once a student or employee is excluded from the school environment, they may return if they satisfy the recommendations of the CDC. Currently those guidelines are:

- **Untested.** Persons who have not received a test proving or disproving the presence of COVID-19 but experience symptoms may return if the following three conditions are met:
 1. They have not had a fever for at least 72 hours (that is three full days of no fever without the use medicine that reduces fevers); and
 2. Other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved); and
 3. At least ten (10) calendar days have passed since your symptoms first appeared.
- **Tested.** Persons who experienced symptoms and have tested positive for COVID-19 may return to school if the following three conditions are met:
 1. They no longer have a fever (without the use medicine that reduces fevers); and

2. Other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved); and
 3. They have received a negative test.
- **Tested with no symptoms.** Persons who have not had symptoms but test positive for COVID-19 may return when they have gone ten (10) calendar days without symptoms and have been released by a healthcare provider.

Students may also return if they are approved to do so in writing by the student's health care provider.

Siblings or Other Students in the Household

If a student is excluded from school due to COVID-19 symptoms or has had a positive COVID-19 test, his or her siblings or other students living in the same household will be excluded from school and asked to self-quarantine.

Self-Quarantine

If a student or employee has recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19 symptoms or diagnosed with COVID-19 or has recently traveled from somewhere considered to be a "hot spot" by the CDC, the school district may exclude the student or employee from the school building and recommend that they self-quarantine for 14 calendar days.

Response to Exclusion from School or Self-Quarantine

As soon as the school district becomes aware of a student or employee that may have COVID-19 or that has been excluded from school or recommended to self-quarantine, the custodial staff will be informed so that all desks, lockers and workspaces of the person are thoroughly disinfected. If the school is not open when notification occurs, the custodial staff will wait 24 hours or as long as possible prior to disinfecting and instead will block off the area so that others do not have contact. However, if that is not possible or school is in session, the cleaning will occur immediately.

Separation While in School

Each school will have a room or space where students or employees who may have COVID-19 or another communicable disease will wait to be evaluated or for pickup. Students will be given a mask to wear. Only essential staff and students assigned to the room may enter, and the room will be disinfected several times throughout the day. Social distancing will be practiced, and staff must wear appropriate PPE. Students who are ill will be walked out of the building to their parents.