

# **Southern Boone County R-I School District**



## **Fall 2020 Reentry Plan DRAFT**

**Date of Approval:**

**This document is a DRAFT and will be updated upon the guidance of the Columbia/Boone County Department of Health and Human Service as well as state and federal guidance.**

Dear Southern Boone School Community,

The Southern Boone County R-I School District strives to provide the best learning environments for every student with support unique to the needs of each of our students. Given the COVID pandemic and the global environment we are facing today the district is working diligently to redesign our learning spaces and our approach to learning and instruction in order to provide safe school environments for our students and staff. The District administration is working closely with the Centers for Disease Control and our local Boone County Health and Human Services for continued guidance and insight as we navigate maintaining a compliant educational program in spite of the challenges of the COVID pandemic. This document outlines the approaches the District will take in the coming months to provide a stable learning environment for each of our students.

Needless to say, the learning environment with the pandemic will be very different than in past years. Students can no longer share supplies and devices. The district has a plan for ensuring students are assigned devices to assist in their learning as well as allowing for students to bring their own devices to school. To facilitate wifi, the district has improved our guest network, bandwidth and increased our filtering abilities to ensure safe content is accessible and that negative content is not.

It is critical that the district insure students have the technology they need at school and home. In the event of additional Stay Home Orders or school closures related to COVID transmission, our students must have access to online learning tools, as this offers our teachers the ability to provide a more robust and personal learning opportunity. The district will provide wifi access, "hotspots" to those families who need such access. Hotspots will be available in our building libraries for check out by parents.

Lastly, the Southern Boone County R-I Educational program is known for our community approach toward working together to address needs, concerns and difficulties. In times of concern we come together to help each other and find solutions. The challenges of educating our students within the COVID environment is no different. We are committed to working together with parents, our community, local, state and federal agencies to insure that the district is doing all it can to provide for the individual needs of our students as well as insure they have a stable environment to learn within.

Respectfully,  
Christopher Felmlee  
Superintendent of Schools

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**District Mission Statement**  
Excellence in Learning for All

**District Vision**

Develop and enhance quality educational/instructional programs to improve performance encouraging students to meet their personal, academic, and career goals

**District Goals**

1. Student Performance: Develop and enhance quality educational/instructional programs to improve performance and enable students to meet their personal, academic, and career goals.
2. Highly Qualified Staff: Recruit, attract, develop, and retain highly qualified staff to carry out the district's mission, goals, and objectives.
3. Facilities, Support, and Instructional Resources: Provide and maintain appropriate instructional resources, support services, and functional and safe facilities.
4. Parent and Community Involvement: Promote, facilitate, and enhance parent, student, and community involvement in district educational programs.
5. Governance: Govern the district in an efficient and effective manner providing leadership and representation to benefit the students, staff, and patrons of the district.
6. Safety: Provide collaboration between school district and community resources to provide student-centered, positive and safe school environments.

## **Virtual Learning**

As a result of the uncertainty related to the pandemic, families may wish to research the virtual options the district can offer. If you would like additional information, please call the central office, at (573) 657-2147, and speak to our Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Roth. He can help you facilitate this transition. Realize, as of now, students who are enrolled in all day virtual learning are ineligible to participate in school sponsored activities and athletics.

## **Minimizing Risk at School**

Based upon the guidance from the Centers of Disease Control and the Columbia/Boone County Department of Health and Human Services the district has developed a proactive plan that places student and employee safety at the forefront of returning to school. As a result, the district has taken the following actions:

- Staff will be required to wear a cloth mask during the school day, especially when physical distancing is not possible. Students must wear face cover when physical distancing is not possible.
- To the extent possible, students will be spaced throughout the classroom to promote physical distancing.
- Teachers will limit the use of community supplies that are difficult to disinfect.
- To the extent possible, schedules will be staggered to minimize large gatherings in hallways. During such times employees and students must wear face cover.

During the first week of school these safety procedures will be taught, practiced and reinforced in our classrooms. Parent support and reinforcement of these new measures will be critical in providing the safest possible learning environments for our students.

## **Exclusion from School**

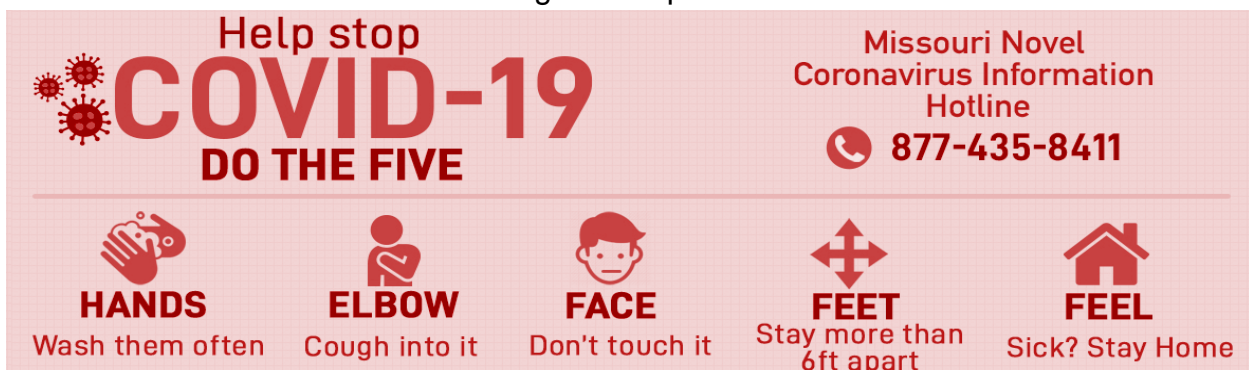
In the event of health concerns, parents are asked to enter the building with their students. Temperature checks will occur before the student is able to enter the building. Students must be fever free for 24 hours. Students with a suspected or confirmed case of Covid-19 should follow Public Health and Human Services (PHHS) guidance on when to return to school. Students who are close contacts to a confirmed case should stay home for 14 days. Students will be excluded from school if they test positive for COVID-19 or exhibit one of the following:

- A fever of 100 degrees or greater
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties
- Chills or shaking from chills
- Muscle pain

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- Headache
- Sore Throat
- New loss of taste or smell
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- New Congestion/Runny nose
- Close contact with a person with positive COVID-19 in the last 14 days

If during the school day, a student exhibits the above symptoms they will be referred to the nurse. Parents will be notified and the student will be isolated from others (under supervision) and be given a mask to wear. Strict social distancing is required. The nurse will walk the student out of the building to their parents.



### Transportation

Due to the pandemic, parents are encouraged to bring their student(s) to school, rather than have their child ride the bus. In cases where school transportation is necessary the following will be in place:

- Drivers are to wear facemasks when transporting students.
- The driver will take the student's temperature as the students board the bus.
- If the student has a 100-degree temperature or over the student will not be allowed to be transported to school. Parents will be notified to pick up their student.
- Students must have face cover.
- Students will be assigned seats on the bus in the event contact tracing is necessary.
- All buses will load students from the back to the front with siblings seated together.

### Entrance into the School Building

The district will take action to insure the safety of the learning environment for both students, staff and community. Additional cleaning staff have been retained in order to

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sanitize surfaces and assist with recess, meals, and maintain cleaning of high touch surfaces. Additional hand sanitizer stations are located by each entrance/exit area. Cleaning supplies are available in each building office.

All employees will wear masks when in the presence of students. The district has purchased at least two washable masks for each employee. Parents need to supply their student with a mask. The teachers will do their best to encourage students to wear face cover. Disposable masks are available upon request.

Doors will open at 7:45 a.m. Parents and students will have their temperature taken before entering the building. Parents may enter the buildings as long as they have had their temperature checked and are wearing a mask. Parents are not required to escort their students to the building.

If a student needs to be picked up during the day, the parent must wait outside and a staff member will escort the student out and verify identification and permission for pick up.

### **Mental Health Services**

The teachers and administration realize the time away from traditional instruction has been difficult as have the stresses that are associated with the pandemic. The school district will provide services to students based upon parent referral. The district is working closely with several agencies that may be of no cost to our families. The Family Access Center of Excellence, Burrell and the Boone County Schools Mental Health Coalition are assisting the district with services that are available to all students and potentially their families. We also offer services with our district counselors. Please reach out to the building administrators, nurses and counselors if you feel your student or family may benefit from additional services.

### **Procedures for Meals and Foodservice**

The procedures associated with foodservice will vary within each building and the needs of the students. Please refer to the building administration for specific procedures. In general, each building will maintain physical distancing between student cohort groups. Meals may be served in student's classrooms as opposed to the cafeteria.

### **Response to COVID in the School District**

The Southern Boone County School District has and will continue to work closely with the Center of Disease Control (CDC) and our local Columbia/Boone County Public Health and Human Services for compliance and guidance in the event that students and

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employees are exposed to COVID within a school district classroom, open area or school building in general.

### **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.

### **Wearing Face Cover and other Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

Some employees may be required to wear PPE when directed to do so by the district protocol or the employee's supervisor. Any person is welcome to wear a mask or PPE in the school building unless it inhibits the person's ability to perform his or her job, inhibits a student's ability to participate in the educational process or is disruptive to the educational environment.

### **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:
  - They have not had a fever for 72 hours (that is three full days of no fever without the use medicine that reduces fevers); and
  - Other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved); and
  - Ten calendar days have passed since your symptoms first appeared.
  
- **Tested:** Persons who experienced symptoms and have been tested for COVID-19 may return to school if the following three conditions are met:
  - They no longer have a fever (without the use medicine that reduces fevers); and

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- Other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved); and
- 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 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 separate from the nurse's office 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.



## **District COVID Response to Exposure**

What will happen when an employee is diagnosed positive

- The District will coordinate with the Columbia/Boone County Department of Health and Human services to trace the direct contact (DEFINE) the employee had with students and staff.
- Those who came into contact with the COVID positive person will be required to quarantine for 14 days.
- The employee will return to work after the 14 day quarantine period and a physician's note clearing them of symptoms.
- The District will research these concerns on a case by case basis and make a determination to take additional action to change the method of instruction.
- The District will close the effective areas for extensive disinfecting and sanitizing.

What will happen when a student is diagnosed positive

- In the event that a student tests positive for COVID, the District will coordinate with the Columbia/Boone County Department of Health and Human Services to trace the contact the student had with staff and other students.
- Those who came into contact with the tested positive employee will be required to quarantine for 14 days.
- The student will return to work after the 14 day quarantine period and a physician's note clearing them of symptoms.
- The District will research these concerns on a case by case basis and make a determination to take additional action to change the method of instruction.
- The District will close the effective areas for extensive disinfecting and sanitizing.

## **Academic Scenarios**

With so many uncertainties ahead of the 2020-2021 academic year the Southern Boone County R-I School District has developed the following academic methods of learning to ensure the safety of our students and employees. The different scenarios will be enacted as a result of guidance from the Columbia/Boone County Department of Health and Human Services as well as state agencies. The reduction of students attending school each day will allow for greater physical distancing to occur amongst students and

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staff, therefore reducing risk. Students will be assigned to groups based on their household. Schools will work to ensure that students in a family with different last names will attend school on the same schedule. This will allow families to plan accordingly as all their children would attend school on the same days. Additional considerations will be given to the various learning needs of all student populations. The purpose of communicating these scenarios now is to allow for advanced planning that may need to occur for our families.

**Method of Learning 1: REGULAR FIVE DAY INSEAT INSTRUCTION**

- 1. Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday**  
In-person learning for all students

**Method of Learning 2: MODIFIED WEEK: TWO GROUPS OF IN-PERSON LEARNING WITH ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF INSTRUCTION (AMI)**

- 2. Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday**  
Group A: In-Person      AMI for all      Group B: In-Person  
Group B: AMI      Group A: AMI

**Method of Learning 3: ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF LEARNING ONLY, NO IN-PERSON LEARNING**

- 3. Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday**  
AMI for all students

As of the time of this writing, the district is planning on the use of method of learning 1. If a decision is made to transition into another scenario communication will be made through the district's web page and Remind text messages.

**Athletics and Activities**

The Southern Boone County R-I School District plans to provide students the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities. While offering these opportunities, the district will prioritize the health and safety of students and staff by adhering to the CDC and Columbia/Boone County Department of Health and Human Services recommendations. We understand that as we abide by those recommendations, some if not all, of those opportunities may be limited in the extent in which they can be provided.

Additionally, the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) will outline guidelines as to how athletics and activities will be offered at district high schools and middle schools. As a district, we understand the importance of offering these opportunities to our students and will continue to make every effort to do so. However, we know there may be decisions made by local, state, or national organizations that

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may prohibit some, if not all, extracurricular activities from taking place. To the extent possible, we expect all athletics and activities that can be performed in accordance with CDC recommendations will be available for student participation. Lastly, students who are 100% in virtual instruction, will not be eligible to participate in District sponsored activities or athletics.

\*The most recent information suggests that contact sports will be allowed to begin practice with contact after June 22, 2020. This would include all sports where individuals could come in contact with other individuals (basketball, football, wrestling, cheer, dance, soccer, volleyball). It also suggests live games will be allowed to begin July 24, 2020.

The Southern Boone County R-I School District is committed to providing all co-curricular opportunities (including Scholar Bowl, Band, Choir and Theater) possible while adhering to CDC and Columbia/Boone County Department of Health and Human Services recommendations. Certain opportunities may be limited to the extent in which they can be offered due to physical distancing and gathering size recommendations. Some of the co-curricular opportunities may only be offered virtually. Offering of and participation in co-curriculars will require flexibility by students, families and sponsors which may include, but are not limited to:

- Before or after school practice in larger spaces to account for physical distancing.
- Multiple “practice times” in order to promote smaller group sizes and physical distancing.
- Students and staff wearing masks due to inability to consistently maintain physical distance.
- Adjusting performances and competitions to adhere to gathering size and physical distancing recommendations.

Local and state organizations may provide further guidance to schools on how to provide these opportunities while prioritizing student and staff safety. School officials will communicate that information upon availability.

The Southern Boone County R-I School District is committed to adhering to CDC and Columbia/Boone County Department of Health and Human Services regulations and guidance, if a student or coach/sponsor tests positive for COVID-19, the following will happen:

- We will communicate with the individuals and families and they will not return to our campuses until 72 hours have passed without fever and 10 days have

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passed since symptoms first appeared or until cleared by a doctor. Staff and trainers will communicate with families to ensure adherence to this expectation.

- We will identify staff and students considered close contact (contact for >10 minutes within a 6-foot radius). Close contacts will be asked to not to return to campus for 14 days. If at that point the individual(s) have not shown any signs or symptoms of COVID- 19, they may return to campus. If it can be traced to limited individuals or no contact was made, that team can continue to practice.
- If a student who tested positive has been in contact with multiple members of the team, it may require shutting down that team or group for a specified amount of time.
- Staff members who test positive for COVID-19 will be asked to not return until 72 hours have passed without fever, without the use of fever reducing medication, and 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared or until cleared by a doctor.

Please realize that the district encourages spectator attendance and participation in all activities, games, competitions and performances, there may be situations when there are restrictions and exclusions. The district will review recommendations from national, state and local health organizations while prioritizing the safety of students, staff and families. It is likely that limited numbers of spectators will be allowed to attend games, competitions and performances. It is also possible that some sports and activities will be able to compete and perform while others will not. Restrictions concerning these events will be determined by state and national organizations. School officials will communicate that information as it becomes available.

Please keep the following in mind additional requirements may be in place during competitions or performances. Essential personnel only will be allowed near students during games and competitions. Those individuals will maintain social distance when possible. Players on the sidelines may be required to physically distance when not in the game. Multiple events may be necessary in order to ensure proper physical distancing while performing (band, choir, orchestra, theater). Live-streaming services for events will be offered when possible.