

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



2021-2022 School Year

Concordia R-II Community:

In order to receive funds through the American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ARP ESSER) we are required to have a plan in place. Thus, we have created a Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan for the Concordia R-II School District for the 2021-22 school year as required. This plan is obviously subject to revision to reflect local conditions and circumstances.

Fortunately, our district was able to remain open for in-person education during the 2020-21 school year except for approximately 2 weeks in October and November. We have instituted several resolutions since the pandemic began to help the district remain open that are accessible on our website for review. Our intention is to provide in-person learning every school calendar day again for the 2021-22 school year. We appreciate everything that our students, staff, and community have done to help in this regard. We ask that any concerns, suggestions, or ideas be communicated directly to the building level administration and we look forward to providing the safest and most successful learning environment for our students during the 2021-22 school year.

Sincerely,

**Brent Cooper
Superintendent of Schools**

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❖ **Important district vocabulary to comprehend:**

Homeschool – Students’ curriculum and learning is the complete responsibility of the parent. The local public school is notified of the parent’s intent in writing and is no longer involved in the process of educating the student. At times, homeschool students may enroll in the public school on a part-time basis. In this case, the public school is only responsible for the curriculum and instruction for courses in which the student is enrolled.

Virtual Learning - Students learn online with a certified teacher. Students involved with virtual learning at the Concordia R-2 schools do not attend school in person. They may participate in curriculum and instruction provided through a third party company.

Distance Learning - Students learn online or through other curriculum materials provided by the Concordia R-2 District. Students are instructed through Concordia R-2 teachers. This happens during periods of long illness that is expected to keep a student out of school for greater than three days, quarantine, or should the class, school, or district need to close to students for a period of time.

❖ **Commentary regarding COVID-19 guidelines and protocols**

- The Concordia R-II School District is committed to providing a quality education to all students, while also ensuring their safety and well-being.
- Parents/guardians with questions or concerns are asked to call the Concordia R-II School District at 660-463-7235; CHS at 660-463-2246; and CES at 660-463-2261 to discuss and address those concerns with district or building administration.
- Public commentary was available during the development of this plan and is always welcome during open session of regularly scheduled school board meetings.

❖ **General Mitigation Measures for Students and Faculty/Staff**

Masks:

- Students and staff have the option to wear masks while inside all school facilities. Masks are made available at no cost to students, staff, or visitors during the school day as well as evening activities.

Physical Distancing:

- Students and staff may physical distance to the extent possible during the school day.
- Rooms may be organized and seating arranged to accommodate distancing where possible.

Hand Washing/Respiratory Etiquette:

- Students will be guided to wash hands multiple times per day with proper procedure.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided at multiple locations throughout the school.
- Cover coughs and sneezes using an elbow or a tissue when not wearing a mask. Dispose of the tissue and clean hands immediately with either soap and water or a hand sanitizer
- Wash your hands or use a hand sanitizer every time you touch your mouth or nose.

Cleaning/Sanitation Practices:

- Daily sanitizing and disinfecting will be a priority at all district facilities. Equipment has been purchased that enables the complete sanitation of all surfaces, to include classrooms (desks, tables, etc.), hallways (interior and exterior doors/doorways), lockers and locker rooms.
- Busses are also fogged/sanitized on a regular basis.

Diagnostic/Screening of Students:

- In line with policy, the district has the responsibility and right to exclude those who have symptoms of a contagious disease from attending school. Staff/students who have been identified as in home close contacts or have been positive for Covid may be asked to undergo diagnostic screening to determine if they pose a risk of transmittal.

Vaccination Assistance:

- The district has and will continue to collaborate with area health organizations to provide on-site and off-site vaccination opportunities. The public will be informed when these opportunities become available.

Ventilation/Air Quality:

- The district purchased i-Wave air filtering devices for all HVAC units in all district buildings during the 2020-21 school year.

Other Mitigation Measures:

- Students should bring personal water bottles from home, the drinking fountains may not be accessible except for the bottle filling stations. They should be labeled with the student name, and in clean, sanitary condition. Drinking fountains with bottle fillers have been installed throughout the district.
- Student activities and athletics will be conducted as usual to the extent they are permissible under local, state, and federal guidelines. These are voluntary activities where students and parents have a choice to participate or not.
- Attendance incentives for students and staff will cease. Staff and/or students who are sick need to stay home. Absences due to COVID will be excused under the attendance policy as long as parents/guardians call to notify the school office.
- Contact tracing will be conducted by appointed district staff as necessary and in an effort to limit the spread of any communicable disease. Being identified as a close contact may result in diagnostic screening for school attendance, post exposure.

❖ **Continuity of Services**

- The Concordia School District is committed to providing education for our students. Students who are not able to attend because of Covid exclusion (initiated by the school district) will be provided ongoing instruction that will be designed by district staff. Those that choose not to start the semester because of Covid related concerns (not district initiated) will be provided information about applying for MOCAP as an alternative option. Both processes will be facilitated by the building principal.

❖ **Accomodations for Students with Disabilities**

- The health and safety of all Concordia R-II students is of utmost importance. Any necessary accommodations will be provided to ensure that district plans and policies do not discriminate against students with disabilities. Please contact Jenny Greer, director of special services, if your child needs specific accommodations due to health and safety issues related to their disability. Email: jgreer@concordia.k12.mo.us or contact the office of the appropriate building.

❖ **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. Please notify the school of your student's absence and symptoms.
- Students at school who display health symptoms that could suggest COVID-19 concerns will be checked by the nurse or other office staff. If their evaluation suggests potential

for COVID-19 infection, the student will be masked (if the student does not have one) and isolated until picked up by a parent/guardian.

- Students with a temperature of 100.0 degrees or higher will be sent home per our regular policy. If the student presents no other COVID symptoms and has no known exposure, they can return after being fever free for 24 hours.
- A student excluded from the school environment due to COVID-19 concerns may return to school in accordance with guidelines provided within this plan. These guidelines are fluid and change as deemed necessary by the board of education and administration.
- Students and staff that test positive for COVID-19, regardless of vaccination or symptoms, will still be excluded from the school environment for a period of 5 days from the symptom onset, or from the day of testing if there are no symptoms per CDC recommendation. The CDC also recommends that students and staff wear a mask upon return to school for an additional 5 days.
- Close contacts of a positive case will not be excluded from school environments. If students who are close contacts develop symptoms, they will be excluded from school until they are 24 hours symptom free.
- Students/staff who are symptomatic, have tested, and are awaiting results should remain at home until the results are received.
- Each school will continue to notify parents if their child is in a class with a known positive case while at school and ask them to monitor for symptoms. Parents who wish to exclude their child from school may do so, but their child is expected to participate in distance learning during this time period.

❖ **Transportation information**

- Students will continue to be transported as necessary and seating will accommodate social distancing when possible.
- All surfaces of the busses interior will be disinfected on a regular basis.
- Students who must be sent home because of illness must be picked up by a parent/guardian unless authorized by a parent/guardian to allow them to walk, drive, or be picked up by an approved designee.

Communication Procedures

- Administration will share information with students, staff and community on an as needed basis through text, email, website, and other avenues of communication.

❖ **Understandable Language**

- This communication has been provided in the spoken language of ELL students/families.

❖ **Periodic Revision**

- This document may be revised periodically to adjust to the often-changing variables.

❖ **Use of ARP Funds**

- Revenue received through the (ARP) will be used within the guidelines ([https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/03/FINAL ARP-ESSER-FACT-SHEET.pdf](https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/03/FINAL_ARP-ESSER-FACT-SHEET.pdf)) provided by the federal government of the United States and the State of Missouri. At the time of this publication, monies have not yet been allocated and the district has until September 2023 to obligate its allocation of funds. Therefore, district administration will take time to evaluate and prioritize its needs and use these proceeds in a way that will most benefit the students and the district as a whole.

Communication procedures if a staff or student tests positive for COVID

- At that point, at home and online instruction will take place for that child(ren) through google classroom, or similar programs, where they can access assignments and watch videos of classroom instruction. This online instruction will count as attendance for the student if they view the classroom instruction and complete the assignments.
 - If the student is ill and cannot view the lessons and complete the work, attendance will not be taken and the student can make up the work on a day they feel better.
 - Chromebooks will be provided to students who need to access online instruction due to exclusion. Hot spots will be available to students who have no or limited internet access.
 - At home/ Online instruction will also be available for students who have tested positive or are an in home contact that is showing symptoms.
 - At home/Online instruction will be new material peers are learning in the classroom, not practice work as it was during the spring school closure.
- Special Education Services/504 plans
 - Parents/guardians are encouraged to reach out to case managers with any new pertinent information. Accommodations and modifications will continue as specified in plans for virtual learning.

❖ **Closing Remarks**

In closing, after the completion of a very successful summer school program this June, the district would like to thank our students, staff and community members for their part in making the 2020-21 school year a truly successful one. Moving forward, we

collectively hope that you will again entrust our staff to provide your children with a quality education while taking every reasonable step to keep them in a healthy environment for the remainder of the 2021-22 school year. We are optimistic that the (ARP ESSER) federal funding will provide great benefit to our students and district, and are currently working on a prioritized list of potential academic and facility improvements with these funds. Please don't hesitate to call or email if you have a question or would like to provide input by serving on our CSIP committee (5-year planning committee).

Sincerely,

Brent Cooper
Superintendent of Schools