

East Buchanan C-1 School District

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

December 2021

Stakeholders

Name

Role

Katie Anderson

Parent/School Nurse

Josh Barker

Parent/Principal

David Elms

Parent/Principal

Val Jones

Curriculum Director

Doug Miller

Parent/Principal

John Newell

Parent/Superintendent

Amy Shewey

Parent

Heidi Shoemaker

Director of Special Services

Dean Walkup

Parent/Board Member

Introduction

The East Buchanan C-1 School District conducted in-person instruction throughout the 2020-2021 school year. The district utilized a layered approach to mitigation and response strategies. As we approach the 2021-2022 school year, we will again be determining what actions we need to take as a district to keep students and staff healthy, while providing the essential service of education.

Below is our plan for a safe return to school. This plan has been informed and will continue to be informed by information from the Centers for Disease Control, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, the Clinton County Health Department, the St. Joseph Health Department, East Buchanan staff members, school board members, parents and community members. This plan will be amended by circumstances and guidance from our local, state, and national health authorities.

Our mitigation strategies are intended to stop the spread of disease at school; however, the best prevention is for students and staff members to stay home when not feeling well. Now, more than ever, it is critical for those who are experiencing symptoms of illness to stay home and not return to the school environment until feeling better.

Mitigation Strategies

Universal and correct wearing of mask: Decisions regarding masks will be determined by the board of education based on guidance from local, state, and federal health authorities. Information will be reviewed regularly as it becomes available and adjustments made accordingly.

Physical distancing: Students will be seated with as much distance as our classrooms allow. This distance varies by classroom and class size, but ranges between 3-6 feet. Students will be reminded through signage and by staff to maintain distance and avoid situations that have them close together for extended periods of time.

Seating charts will be utilized at all grade levels to help monitor physical distancing. Busses will utilize seating charts and students will be separated to the extent possible. We will continue to have six shuttle routes to Easton to reduce crowding on those busses.

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette: Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the building. Students will have times to wash hands and/or sanitize frequently throughout the day in all locations of the buildings. The district nurse will provide education to elementary age students on proper techniques for hand washing and respiratory etiquette. Facial tissues are available throughout the buildings and signage reminding students of proper protocols.

Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities: Our elementary facility has been upgraded with new HVAC equipment, which monitors CO2 and actively introduces fresh air to keep indoor environments safer. We will continue to have increased cleaning protocol with high-touch surfaces being cleaned throughout the day. Antibacterial cleaning supplies will be available throughout the district. Water fountains will be utilized as bottle fillers; students are encouraged to bring refillable water bottles. Busses will continue to be sanitized between routes.

Outside visitors are discouraged and changes have been made at the elementary which will allow parents to interact with office staff without going through the building. Our policy toward visitors will be reviewed and adjusted as conditions change in our community.

Contact tracing: We will keep logs of all persons in our buildings so that we can contact individuals if we determine that they came in contact with a person who was later determined to have Covid-19. We also request that any person who enters a district building who later tests positive for Covid-19 (within 14 days of being in the building) contact the school so that contact tracing can be done.

To assist with contact tracing, students will be assigned seats in classes at all grade levels, during lunch, and while on district transportation. Keeping detailed information will not only assist us in contacting those who are potentially exposed, but it will also allow us to know who was not in close proximity, allowing for the quarantining of fewer students.

Contact tracing will be done in cooperation with the appropriate local health agency (Clinton County Health Department of St. Joseph (Buchanan County) Health Department). The Board of Education will make the determination whether to exclude, “close contacts,” from school. The Board will take into consideration recommendations from the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, local health departments, and other state agencies when making this determination.

Test to Stay: The East Buchanan School District utilizes a, “Test to Stay” program, which allows students identified as close contacts to continue to attend school and participate in activities if they remain symptom free throughout the 10-day period following exposure.

Diagnostic and screening testing: Parents and guardians are asked to monitor symptoms at home and not send children to school if a fever or other illness symptoms are present. At this time, there will not be Covid testing of students at school. Students who are displaying symptoms of illness will be sent to the school nurse and evaluated. Students deemed symptomatic by our nurse will have their parents contacted and will have to go home. The nurse will inform families of options that are available for testing and appropriate next steps.

Efforts to provide vaccinations: The Clinton County Health Department has made vaccinations available to staff and students as soon as vaccinations were available for those in these groups. Currently, the Clinton County Health Department has a vaccine supply and will provide to anyone 5 or over free of charge.

Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities: Children with disabilities may face additional challenges or have needs that are not addressed in our general plan. These needs will be documented within the students Individual Education Plan (IEP). The district will take all steps necessary to follow the needs of students with disabilities as documented in their IEPs.

Not all students with disabilities will have an individualized education plan. The district's Director of Special Services will work directly with families, administrators, and staff to make accommodations for students with disabilities. Additionally, the Director of Special Services will monitor students with disabilities to ensure that the modifications are in place and being carried out with fidelity.

Continuity of Services

Interruptions of in-person learning: In the event of the school needing to shut down, or in the event of individuals or groups of students being quarantined, the district will provide continuation of learning virtually. The virtual delivery method will vary by grade level and type of course, but all virtual delivery will prioritize a two-way connection with our teachers. Instruction may be via video conference, recorded video, prepared materials, internet exploration, or any combination of available resources. The district will work with families in this situation to provide the appropriate electronic devices needed to complete the work. The district may also be able to help those without reliable internet by providing a mobile hotspot to those who qualify.

Social, emotional, and mental health needs of students and staff: The events since the beginning of the pandemic have created new and exacerbated existing mental health concerns in students and staff. One of the primary ways we address this is through creating a safe and nurturing environment that provides support for those who are facing additional struggles at this time. We also have a counselor placed in each building who can help address these concerns.

New for the 2021-2022 school year is the addition of a social worker to help respond to needs that our students are having. The social worker will be in the district two days a week and will be able to assist students and families who are facing challenging circumstances.

SRCSP Plan review: This plan will be reviewed and updated every six months at a minimum. It may be updated more frequently as determined by the need for adjustment based on new information.

If you need assistance reading this plan, please contact the superintendent's office at (816) 424-6466.