

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



BEARCATS
—ORRICK—

2022-2023 School Year

Letter to Constituents

Bearcat Family,

Since the spring of 2020, the administration at Orrick has worked to develop a re-entry plan that meets the needs of our students, staff, and community as well as the guidelines set by local, county, state agencies, and the CDC. The district has met with the Ray County Health Department and collaborated with a group of staff members, school board members, and a group of parents to ensure our plan is reasonable and easily communicated, yet expresses the significant changes to practices we are making to ensure the safety of our students and staff members.

Please know that we care deeply about the safety of our students and staff. This plan will be adapted and adjusted as frequently as needed to continue to meet area guidelines. We will also adjust our practices to ensure they are practical and as effective as needed. We understand that there are a variety of personal views on the situation at hand and many different plans being implemented by area schools. Our team feels that this plan best suits our Orrick R-XI School within Ray County.

Our goal is to focus on the well-being of our student's social, emotional, and academic needs, with an emphasis on the social and emotional where needed. We understand that COVID-19 has had many effects on our students and their families. We are hopeful that this plan will provide a little security, structure, and normality to our student's lives.

As we have all experienced, COVID-19 brought about abrupt changes in our daily practices and routines. This plan is intended to be fluid to allow for adaptations and modifications as necessary. We encourage everyone to move forward with patience and compassion, as well as open communication with the school on your concerns and feedback. We ask that any concerns, suggestions, or ideas be communicated directly to building-level administration to open the lines of communication. As a school district, we will work hard to be transparent in our communication efforts, all while abiding by confidentiality and HIPAA laws.

We look forward to working together to continue to make the 2022-2023 school year safe and successful for our students.

Sincerely,
Mr. Scott Guilkey
Superintendent of Schools

Introduction

This document contains operating guidance that aims to provide clarity and consistency in the operating strategies of the Orrick R-XI School District regarding COVID-19. It is important to note that the information contained in this document is guidance issued from the state and local levels.

There are no state or local health mandates related to K-12 school operations issued at this time.

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

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

This plan has been updated and approved on: 06/21/2021, 08/16/2021, 09/10/2021, 09/16/2021, 10/18/2021, 11/17/2021, 12/15/2021, 1/19/2022, 2/10/2022

Mid-year review was approved on 12/17/2021. This plan was also reviewed at a Salary and Welfare meeting and discussed at the school board meeting each month through February 2022 to best serve the students and staff in the Orrick R-XI School District.

Commentary regarding COVID-19 guidelines and protocols

The Orrick R-XI School District is committed to providing a quality education to all students, while also striving to ensure their safety and well-being. This plan will be reviewed at minimum every 6 months at school board meetings. Parents/guardians with questions or concerns are asked to call the Orrick R-XI School District at 816-770-3327 or 816-770-3922 to discuss and address those concerns with building administration.

The COVID-19 guidelines developed and presented below are based on the following guidelines and recommendations:

- DESE, DHSS, and the CDC have recommended layering mitigation techniques, including the use of masks when returning to school.
- State statute Section 167.191, RSMo. sets forth a standard regarding communicable disease and school attendance, this legislation states: “It is unlawful for any child to attend any of the public schools of this state while afflicted with any contagious or infectious disease, or while liable to transmit such disease after having been exposed to it.”

Proactive Strategies

The Proactive Strategies that the Orrick R-XI Schools will implement to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and best protect students, staff members, and the community include consideration of protocols in the following areas:

- Screening
- Physical Distancing
- Mask/Face Coverings (Optional)
- Hand Washing
- Cleaning & Maintenance

Screening

At this time the district will not be screening students prior to entering the school or riding district-provided transportation. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to screen children for symptoms (listed below) at home, prior to coming to school.

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Headache
- Muscle aches
- Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea
- New loss of taste or smell
- New runny nose or congestion
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Sore throat
- Close contact with a person with COVID-19 in the last 14 days:

This list is subject to change as new symptoms of COVID-19 are identified.

At-home screening helps to protect the school community from communicable diseases. As stated previously, at this time the district will not screen students prior to entering the school building or district transportation. The district will continue to evaluate students through the school nurse when it is identified that a student is displaying symptoms consistent with a communicable disease. Staff members will continue to self-screen for symptoms and are expected to stay home when showing signs of a communicable disease.

Visitors

The district may continue to limit the presence of visitors to limit the spread of infectious diseases as well as help maximize school safety. Visitors are asked to refrain from entering the building when displaying signs consistent with those of a communicable disease. A record of visitors inside the school will be kept and will include areas of the school that were visited and the time the visitor entered and exited the building.

Isolation

Per CDC guidelines individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 are recommended to isolate for a minimum of 5 days ending isolation after 5 days if fever-free and experiencing improvement in symptoms. The CDC also recommends wearing a mask after a positive test for a minimum of 10 full days.

Quarantine

The CDC recommends that individuals exposed through close contact to an individual known to have COVID-19 should quarantine for a minimum of 5 days. CDC guidance states that those current with vaccinations for COVID-19 or who have tested positive with COVID-19 in the 90 days prior to exposure do not need to quarantine.

Physical Distancing

At this time the district does not have plans to make a concerted effort to distance students beyond standard operating procedures to be expected in a PK-12 school setting.

Masks & Face Coverings

At this time there are no requirements from the state of Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services or the Ray County Health Department in regard to masking. The district is not currently implementing any requirements on face masks or coverings.

*To note, the CDC currently recommends the wearing of masks in communities with high rates of COVID-19 transmission.

PCR Testing

If the Orrick School District has tests available the school nurse will administer COVID-19 tests to students at the request of a parent/guardian, or to faculty/staff at their request.

Hand Washing

Students will have access to, and be regularly encouraged and instructed to thoroughly wash their hands throughout the school day. Additionally, students and staff are encouraged to use hand sanitizer which can help prevent a variety of infectious diseases.

Cleaning & Maintenance

The District will continue thorough cleaning efforts each evening. As in previous school years, this cleaning may include wiping surfaces with additional disinfectant products, fogging areas where suspected contaminants may have been in contact, etc.

Vaccinations

Students and staff are not required to be vaccinated for the COVID-19 virus, but have that individual option should they believe that is the best decision for them and their circumstances.

*Students are still required to receive vaccinations in accordance with the Missouri School Immunization Requirement List (this list does not include the COVID-19 vaccine and requirements pre-dated the COVID-19 pandemic)

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Any appropriate accommodation will be made for students in need of such accommodation. If a student has needs mandated by an Individual Education Plan, those needs will be met. Families should reach out to their child's building principal to discuss specific needs.

General health information for students and faculty/staff

- Parents and students, as well as staff members, are encouraged to monitor for symptoms of an infectious disease. Per state statute, students with a fever or infected with a contagious disease should not attend school until fever free for a minimum of 24 hours.
- Students at school who display health symptoms that could suggest infection of contagious disease will be checked by the nurse. If evaluation by the nurse results in symptoms consistent with a communicable disease the student will be sent home.
- Students with a temperature of 100.4 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.

Academic Success

Students' academic success is of utmost importance each day. With many children having lost academic learning time during the pandemic, each building will have additional learning opportunities available for students. Examples would include, but not be limited to: tutoring, online learning resources and scheduled time during the day to access additional resources.

Bus Transportation

School buses remain a place where physical distancing is not possible. If there is a concern with the lack of social distancing or masking, the district encourages parents to bring their child/children to school. Changes to federal transportation guidelines may further dictate additional measures.

Attendance & Building Visitors

Visitors to the buildings may be limited, and there may be precautions in place for those who are allowed access into the schools. Individuals should contact the building prior to visiting to check the current status of whether or not visitors are being allowed.

Social & Emotional Health

Student and staff social, emotional and mental health needs are frequently taken into consideration in decisions made by the district. The district employs professional school counselors at both the elementary and high school levels to support students and staff. The district also participates in the Tri-County Mental Health Coalition and has access to additional resources including social workers if the need arises.

Periodic Revision

This document may be revised periodically to best align with recommendations or guidelines on school health and safety. The document will be revised at a minimum of every six months with the four required stakeholder groups--students, parents, teachers and administrators at all levels. Others may be included.

Use of ARP Funds

Revenue received via the ARP will be used within the guidelines (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, the district is still evaluating how to best allocate the monies granted to the district. The 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.

Resources

- <https://www.rayhealth.org/?fbclid=IwAR25EZxUNjFC1bpS9MIe1EOgXjhHMiettc8CjaNjsjlOjbDrOROZxAAvgY4>
- <https://health.mo.gov/>
- <https://oa.mo.gov/personnel/state-team-member-resources>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html>

- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-covid-spreads.html>

Closing Remarks

In closing, the district would like to thank our students, staff and patrons for their part in making the 2021-22 school year a successful one. Moving forward, we are confident that we will continue to build on that success and grow in the 2022-23 school year. As a district, we will continue to strive to educate and develop our students into individuals who can make a positive impact on their community and society at large. Should you have any questions that can be addressed or clarified by the school administration, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Respectfully,

Mr. Scott Guilkey
Superintendent, Orrick R-XI School District

DISCLAIMER: All of the information provided in this communication is subject to change as continued guidance and health data are released on a local, state, and national level. We greatly appreciate your patience as we are truly doing our best to ensure the most impactful learning experience for all students in the Orrick R-XI School District.

Approved by Board of Education (updated) Month date, year