



Joplin Schools

FALL 2021

**Safe Return to In-Person Instruction
and Continuity of Service Plan (SRCSP)**

RELEASED: JULY 30, 2020
UPDATED: NOVEMBER 12, 2020
UPDATED: JUNE 22, 2021
UPDATED: AUGUST 13, 2021





INTRODUCTION



Joplin Schools is fortunate that we held school in 2020-2021 without any interruptions due to COVID-19. We want to recognize the hard work and commitment of our staff, students, families, local health agencies, and community for making that happen.

The purpose of this document, the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service Plan (SRCSP), is to define how Joplin Schools will ensure continued safe operations to maintain the health and safety of students and staff. As conditions surrounding COVID-19 are continually evolving, the SRCSP will be reviewed and revised, if necessary, every six months. The review process will include consultation with students, families, all levels of district staff, and stakeholders representing the diversity of Joplin students.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- **Updated Sanitation Guidelines (Page 3)**
- **Updated Physical Distancing Guidelines (Page 4)**
- **Updated Screening Guidelines (Page 5)**
- **Updated Masking Guidelines (Page 6)**
- **Improved Ventilation (Page 6)**
- **Updated Visitor Access to Buildings (Page 7)**
- **Updated School Activities Guidelines (Page 7)**
- **Learning During Intermittent Absences (Page 8)**
- **Contact Tracing (Page 9)**
- **COVID-19 Infections (Page 10)**



UPDATED SANITATION GUIDELINES

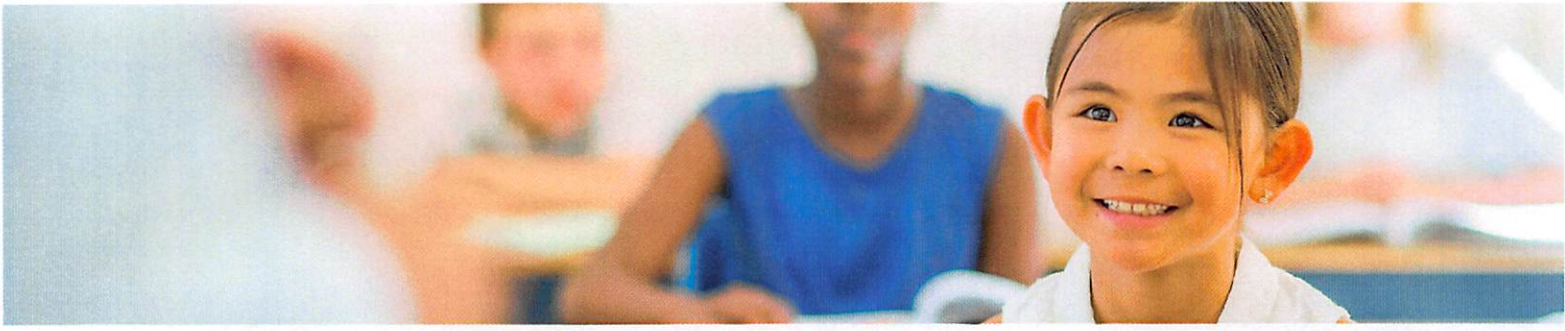
- Hand hygiene continues to be a key everyday action to combat the spread of COVID-19. Cleaning your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol is one of the most important steps to avoid getting sick.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be available at the entrance of each campus.
- Be health courteous to others:
 - Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze
 - Throw used tissues in the trash.
 - If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your elbow, not your hands.
 - Wash your hands immediately after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing.
- Students are encouraged to carry water bottles. Refillable bottle stations above fountains will be the preferred method to refill water bottles.
- Joplin Schools custodial staff will disinfect high-use touch areas throughout the day including bathrooms, water fountains, bottle fill stations, doorknobs, entrance/exit handles, handrails, walls, etc.
- After school hours, custodians will use two different EPA List N registered products for a nightly deep cleaning of all occupied areas used throughout the day.

SONG FOR A 20-SECOND SCRUB!

Song: "Happy Birthday"

"Happy birthday to you,
Happy birthday to you,
Happy birthday dear (insert name)
Happy birthday to you"
(Sing twice)





UPDATED PHYSICAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES

- The goal is to limit exposure to as few other students and staff members as possible. Staff and students must do their best to maximize physical distancing as much as possible.
- Elementary students will be in cohort groups within the classroom. These decisions will be made in the best interest of academic and social needs. When students from different cohort groups are together for learning purposes and cannot maintain physical distance, masks will be required.
- Desks and tables in classrooms will be spaced to maximize physical distancing. Non-essential furniture and other soft surfaces such as beanbags will be removed for sanitation purposes.
- Classroom seating charts will be required in classrooms and on the bus to limit exposure and for contact tracing purposes in conjunction with local health departments (if needed).
- In order to prevent students from congregating in hallways or common areas, buildings will likely only open 30 minutes before start times to ensure that students can be supervised in individual spaces as needed. Special arrangements for access into buildings outside regular school hours (such as tutoring or extra/co-curricular activities) will be arranged by staff members and supervised accordingly.
- Lunches will be served in cafeterias and students will be spaced out as best as possible to avoid close contact. Some schools have elected to continue breakfast in the classroom, while others will be returning to the cafeteria as each site determines what is most functional for its particular needs. Students may sit in cohort groups for breakfast and/or lunch if physical distancing is not possible.

UPDATED SCREENING GUIDLINES



- Parents should screen children at home before children come to school. Students with symptoms (see updated list below) should stay home and parents should consult their healthcare providers.
- School staff members should self-screen at home (see updated list below) and stay home if they are sick.
- Students may be visually inspected for signs and symptoms of illness as they enter school and/or the classroom.
- Updated screening symptoms and exposure checklist:
 - 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
- Students and staff should always follow the guidance of the local health department and their medical providers.



UPDATED MASKING GUIDELINES

Below are masking guidelines for all students and staff, regardless of vaccination status:

- Students will be asked to situationally mask during times, such as:
 - Entering the building until seated in class
 - When cohort groups are mixed and physical distance cannot be maintained
 - When transitioning between classes, as well as the end of the day when exiting the building
 - Other periods when physical distancing is a challenge
- Staff will be asked to situationally mask during times when in close contact with students and/or colleagues.
- Furthermore, based on a CDC order, masks will be worn on all school transportation by all students and staff regardless of vaccination status.
- **When both parties are masked, in the school setting, quarantining will not be required. In addition, a fully vaccinated individual will not be required to quarantine if exposed to an active case.**

IMPROVED VENTILATION

- Drivers will ensure that one rear window, one roof hatch, and the driver's window will remain open to create a continuous flow of air through the buses as weather permits.
- District-wide, we will continue to use the highest MERV-rated air filters for improved air quality.
- Further investigation of improving air quality is taking place with an assessment of the indoor air quality in each building. The assessment will allow us to weigh options to improve air quality at buildings.

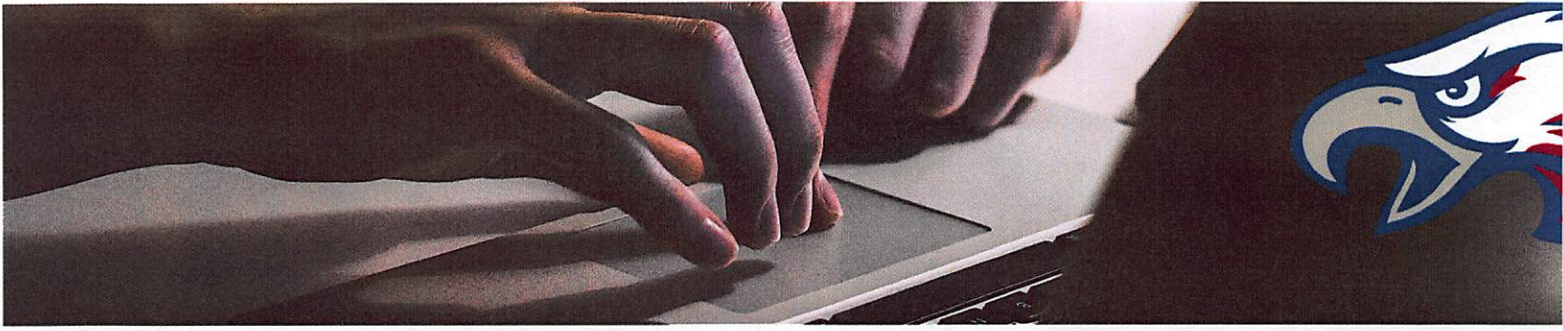


UPDATED VISITOR ACCESS TO BUILDINGS

- In order to minimize the exposure of all students and staff to others outside of the school population, access to hallways and cafeterias must be limited.
- Essential visitors will be required to enter through the main entrance and comply with Joplin Schools' safety protocols for screening and tracking guests in district buildings. Visitors will be asked to situationally mask during times when in close contact with students and/or staff.
- These restrictions will apply during the school day but may differ somewhat for evening activities, which are optional to attend.

UPDATED SCHOOL ACTIVITIES GUIDELINES

- In-school gatherings such as assemblies, rallies, dances, elementary holiday parties, etc. may be held with physical distancing and cohorts to the best extent possible. When physical distancing cannot be maintained during large school gatherings during the school day, masks will be required.
- Academics are considered a non-voluntary component of a student's education while co-curricular activity participation is voluntary. This approach will drive our planning and preparation for extra/co-curricular guidance.
- Joplin Schools will rely on the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) guidance regarding extra/co-curricular activities and competitions.



LEARNING DURING INTERMITTENT ABSENCES

- Joplin Schools understands the continued complexity of in-seat attendance during COVID-19. Therefore, for families who elect in-person instruction, the District is prepared to pivot learning environments for your child during intermittent absences related to COVID-19.
- Joplin Schools will utilize multi-tiered systems of support to provide for the academic needs of students during interruptions of in-person learning.
- School counselors, social workers, qualified mental health providers, school psychologists, nurses, teachers, and administrators will promote positive mental health by educating staff, parents, and students about symptoms of and help for mental health problems, social and emotional competency, and resiliency.
- The district will ensure a positive, safe school environment and will teach and reinforce positive behaviors and decision-making. Problem-solving teams will be used to identify struggling students early so an intervention plan can be developed and implemented. Behavior teams will be provided to teach staff how to address students' social-emotional needs. Staff and students will have access to additional community resources for addressing needs related to mental health.
- Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities will be provided through IEP and 504 plans. The IEP Form G will serve as a plan for interruptions i.e., quarantines, isolation, etc. For long-term closures, virtual learning will be used to provide specialized instruction outlined in the IEP.
- Joplin Schools will continue to provide for the nutritional needs of students during any interruptions, of in-person instruction with Grab and Go, Drive-thru meals for students as permitted under the USDA nationwide waiver for the Seamless Summer Option through School Year 2021-2022.
- Schools and districts are able to use Alternative Methods of Instruction (AMI) days to provide distance instruction (up to 36 hours) when building and district closures are determined to be necessary. This is in addition to individual student needs during quarantines/isolations.



CONTACT TRACING

WHAT IS CONTACT TRACING?

Contact tracing is used by health departments to prevent the spread of infectious disease.

In general, contact tracing involves identifying people who have an infectious disease (cases) and people who they came in contact with (contacts) and working with them to interrupt disease spread.

This includes asking people with COVID-19 to isolate and their contacts to quarantine at home.

Contact tracing is a core disease control activity. It has been used for decades to slow or stop the spread of infectious disease.

CDC guidance does not require contacts, in the school setting, to quarantine when both parties are masked. In addition, fully vaccinated individuals do not have to quarantine.

Source: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Through a collaborative process, Joplin Schools is prepared to work alongside local health departments to provide necessary information when a student or staff member test positive for COVID-19.

- Close contact: Someone who was within six feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 48 hours or two days before the infected person had symptoms or tested positive.
- If both parties were properly masked, no quarantines will be issued. Parents will still be notified if their child was a close contact but will be informed quarantine is not necessary due to proper masking.
- Fully vaccinated individuals who come in contact with an infected person will NOT require quarantine.
- Close contacts should quarantine as is recommended by the local health department.
- Principals and teachers will work closely with local health departments to identify close contacts based on seating arrangements.



COVID-19 INFECTIONS

- Students or staff who display symptoms of COVID-19 while at school will be moved to a designated sick area within the school building to minimize contact with others until they go home.
- If Joplin Schools receives official notification of a student or staff member testing positive for COVID-19, close contacts will be quickly identified. **If both parties were properly masked, no quarantines will be issued. Parents will still be notified if their child was a close contact but will be informed no quarantine is necessary due to proper masking.**
- Joplin Schools will continue to provide BinaxNow COVID-19 testing to symptomatic staff.
- Joplin Schools encourages staff to be vaccinated to ensure continued safe operations and maintain the health and safety of students and staff.
- All individuals should follow the guidance from the health department and fully cooperate to help mitigate COVID-19.
- Additionally, fully vaccinated individuals will NOT require quarantine.

