



**Columbia**  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# **2021-22 CORONAVIRUS PLAN**

**Columbia Public Schools' Safe Return to In-Person  
Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan**

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## Introduction

We believe the best opportunity for students to learn is in person with their teachers in our buildings. Columbia Public Schools will be in-person for the 2021-22 school year.

Though CPS students will be learning in-person, the global coronavirus pandemic continues to pose a level of risk for our students, staff and community and could possibly disrupt in-person learning. Our community prioritizes student and staff safety and expects a thoughtful plan for mitigation and continued learning for students.

As we continue to plan for the possibility of coronavirus disruptions to public education, the priorities we hold are:

- providing environments that are as safe as possible for students and staff
- providing high-quality education for students
- balancing our continued need to mitigate the spread of coronavirus with the importance of having students in school

Columbia Public Schools will be accessible to all students in person for the upcoming school year and may initiate virtual learning when necessary. While fewer children have become seriously ill with coronavirus, children can be infected, get sick, and spread the virus to others. Vaccine eligibility includes some school-age students who are 12 years and older. However, because children under 12 years of age are not yet eligible to be vaccinated, there is an increased risk of coronavirus transmission in school settings. The introduction of new variants, as well as increasing rates of vaccination among adults and adolescents, may also impact the epidemiology and incidence of community spread. Therefore CPS, in alignment with current scientific evidence and guidance from CDC, **strongly recommends** vaccination for those ages 12 and older, in addition to the consistent use of layered mitigation strategies to help limit the spread of coronavirus, to support in-person learning, and to protect people who are not fully vaccinated, including children, students, teachers, staff, and members of their households.

CPS will continue to work with local health providers to provide the vaccine for eligible staff and students and may host vaccination clinics at CPS buildings again this school year. Information on vaccination clinics can be found on the [CPS coronavirus website](#).

CPS encourages all families to review proper handwashing and mask-wearing expectations. [A video is available as part of the district's Parent-Community University series.](#) Additional information on handwashing can be found in the CDC: Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools: Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette

([www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html#handwashing](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html#handwashing)).

CPS will continue to encourage social distancing and avoid incentives for students or staff to go to school when they are sick. CPS also reminds families to be honest regarding keeping sick or exposed students at home and reporting confirmed or suspected coronavirus cases in their households.

This document outlines the district's plan to maintain a safe learning environment and to keep students in school as well as responses should changes in learning modes be necessary. There are many pieces of information used to inform the Board of Education. Any long-term changes in learning modes require approval by the Board of Education.

CPS will review and revise this plan if necessary on an ongoing basis and at a minimum every six months.

We look forward to welcoming all of our students back to our classrooms in August.

### Early Childhood Program: Pre-K

- Students will be assigned to attend the full-day program.
  - A waiting list will be maintained and adjustments made to class sizes based on availability.
  - Student attendance will be closely monitored.
    - CPS Early Childhood uses a 5,10,15, 20 system. At 5 unexcused absences, families receive a letter discussing the importance of attendance. At 10 unexcused absences, the school social worker visits the family to discuss how the school can help with ensuring the student attends regularly. At 15 unexcused absences, the family comes to the school for a visit with the principal before the student returns to school. At this meeting, a plan for success is created. If 20 unexcused absences are reached, the student may no longer attend and another child is chosen off the waitlist.
- In Pre-K classrooms, **every best effort will be made to maintain stable groups.**
- Large gatherings (such as all-school assemblies and school-wide celebrations) may occur with appropriate pre-approved plans. The assistant superintendent for elementary education will review the plans.
- Classroom protocols will include assigned seating and other measures to minimize contact.
- Individual school and classroom closures will be included in the protocol when individuals have positive tests for coronavirus and our buildings cannot operate safely.
- Pre-K students will have access to specials.

## **Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE)**

- Students will be assigned to an AM or PM session.
  - Class sessions will be combined, and our goal is to have no more than 16 students per session.<sup>1</sup>
  - Half of our classrooms will be used for the AM session and the other half for the PM session in order to implement the necessary cleaning protocols and maintain stable groups.
  - Teacher and supplemental staff ratios will be adjusted for the larger session size.
  - We will be unable to have peers in our classrooms at this time.
- In Pre-K classrooms, every best effort will be made to maintain stable groups (children will remain in one classroom for learning).
- Large gatherings (such as all-school assemblies and school-wide celebrations) may occur with appropriate pre-approved plans. The director of special services and chief equity officer will review the plans.
- Classroom protocols will include assigned seating and other measures to minimize contact.
- Individual school and classroom closures will be included in the protocol when individuals have positive tests for coronavirus and our buildings cannot operate safely.

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<sup>1</sup> DHH (Deaf Hard of Hearing) classes at the Discovery Center will continue with its traditional session.

## **Elementary: Kindergarten - Fifth Grade**

- Lessons will be housed in Schoology (the CPS online learning platform) and additional lessons may be accessed via Seesaw. This will allow students and teachers to easily pivot to virtual instruction in the event of a temporary classroom, school or district closure (and remain in place until reopening).
  - In the event of a temporary classroom, school or district closure students will move to a virtual learning environment with their teacher.
  - Individual students who are quarantined will learn in an asynchronous virtual learning environment with teacher check-ins.
  - Students who enroll in CPS Virtual Elementary powered by Edgenuity at the start of the year will remain in the CPS Virtual Elementary powered by Edgenuity program regardless of CPS closure.
- CPS provides bus transportation, and families indicated during the annual registration process if they needed transportation.
  - Transportation rules may temporarily revert to state minimum standards (2 miles for elementary and middle school and 3 miles for high school ([Policy EEA](#))).
  - School arrival and departure times are set. Each school will have procedures for arrival and dismissal.
- In K-5 classrooms, efforts will be made to maintain stable groups. There will be ample time for students to use the restroom and be outside with peers.
  - A stable group is an individual's personal collection of people who have been in their 3 to 6-foot perimeter (these are the people with whom they usually have interactions).
- Classroom protocols may include the requirement that students wear masks, sit in assigned seats or introduce other layers of protection to minimize contact.
- Cafeteria Activities may include additional lunch periods, assigned seating in the lunchroom, students obtaining meals from the cafeteria using additional shifts and returning to their classrooms to eat. Nutrition Services will work with principals to make the best plan for the building.
- Large gatherings (such as all-school assemblies and school-wide celebrations) may occur with appropriate pre-approved plans. The assistant superintendent of elementary education will review the plans.
  - Recess can be on the blacktop or in fields with structured games. The use of balls and some equipment (jump ropes, hula hoops, etc) may have a plan for cleaning after use. Depending on the numbers, we may have multiple zones. Playground guidance was provided for each school.
  - Students will wash their hands when returning from recess.
- **Elementary Physical Education**

- When it is possible, P.E. may be held outside the classroom.
- Activities may be reorganized to emphasize social distancing as much as possible.
- Handwashing before and after physical activity will be expected.
- **Elementary Art**
  - Students will continue to receive art instruction during the school year. Art specialists will deliver their lessons in the art room or the regularly scheduled location. Special attention will be paid to engaging the creative mind and activating each student as creator, presenter, responder, and connector through the visual arts.
- **Elementary Music**
  - Students will continue to receive music instruction during the school year. Music specialists may deliver their lessons in the music room or a regularly scheduled location. Special attention will be paid to engaging the creative mind and activating each student as creator, presenter, responder, and connector through the musical arts.
- **Elementary Media**
  - All students will continue to learn foundational technology skills during the media specials rotation (50 minutes every four days).
  - Library Media Specialists will continue to work with classroom teachers to integrate information and technology literacy skills into classroom content. Digital learning skills needed for virtual learning will be prioritized at the beginning of the school year. These skills include learning how to use mobile devices for learning, how to access digital reading resources, and how to access CPS instructional resources.
  - Students will be able to check out print and digital materials from CPS library media centers. Procedures for doing so will be shared at each CPS building.
- **Social & Emotional Support**
  - Staff will promote the 3 Rs to assist with school reentry and adjustment:  
**Routines, Relationships & Resilience.**
  - Students will have access to weekly Second Step Social-Emotional Learning Curriculum lessons provided by the classroom teacher, as well as other resiliency-building lessons provided by school counselors.
  - Students will have access to in-person school counseling services as needed, including individual brief counseling and small group counseling. Please contact your student's school counselor for support with issues impacting your student's learning.



- CPS district behavior support specialists and FACE school-based regional coordinators will partner with schools to provide consultation and direct student support.
- School counselors will be available to consult with families and teachers about student mental health and will assist with referrals to community-based mental health providers as necessary.
- The CPS School Counseling Program website provides additional mental health support for students, families and educators.
- Telehealth therapy and other student support services are available virtually through various community providers.
- **Elementary Special Services**
  - All special education students will be provided instruction relative to their IEP goals.
  - A student's case manager will work with families to ensure a student's IEP is being met.
  - Students' services will be provided in a pull-out and/or push-in model to ensure the student's IEP goals are being addressed.
  - Teachers and students in our Hearing Impaired Program will have access to transparent masks.
  - If CPS has to close a school, classroom or the district due to health concerns, students will continue to receive their services from their special education teacher.
- **Elementary EL (English Learners)**
  - Elementary EL students will receive direct support for English language development from an EL-certified teacher.
  - If CPS has to close a school or the district due to health concerns, students will continue to receive EL support online from their EL teacher.
  - In-person EL support will be provided through pull-out groups or push-in into elementary classrooms.
  - All enrolling students who meet the criteria for English Learner testing will be given the EL screening test during the enrollment process. For elementary students in EL buildings, the EL teacher will administer the test and report the results to guardians immediately after testing. For students who live in the attendance areas of Benton, Midway, or Two Mile Prairie, or who will attend Ridgeway will need to come to the EL office to complete EL testing prior to starting in-person classes. Students who are enrolling in any of these four schools can make an appointment for testing by calling 573-214-3965.
  - For more information regarding EL students, please contact the [English Learners department](#).

- **EEE Program**

This section may be used in the event of a classroom, school or district closure.

- EEE teachers will assist their students in creating a weekly learning plan that will encompass new content and assignment choices. These learning plans will involve student choice in areas such as research, readings, writings, video clips, experimentation, and both independent and/or group projects. All instruction and independent learning units will be accessed through Schoology.
- A student's weekly EEE learning plan, including synchronous Zoom meetings and online learning activities, will continue as scheduled. The online curriculum is designed to follow a predictable, consistent, and sustainable format.

- **Virtual Learning:** This model for instruction may be used in the event of a temporary classroom, school or district closure. *Note: This option differs from an individual who is in isolation or quarantine. In an individual case, the student will work asynchronously with teacher check-ins.*

- Daily instruction will be delivered via Zoom with the support of Schoology to enhance and ensure consistency and equity in learning opportunities for all of our learners. Students will be able to utilize their devices to support this model of learning. If we move from an In-Person Model to an All Virtual Learning Model, your student will stay with their in-person teacher. *Note: your student will not move to the CPS Virtual Elementary powered by Edgenuity virtual option.*
- Classes will be taught via Zoom and a fully virtual schedule will be provided so that you know when your student will need to be available for learning. *Please note that CPS administrators and teachers understand the importance of monitoring screen time; thus, the schedule for the All-Virtual Learning Model will reflect that commitment.* A detailed schedule will be provided by your student's teacher.

- **Virtual Schedules:** Each building will follow the building schedule it has in place. You will receive a schedule from your classroom teacher. Teachers are given the guidelines listed below, but they also have the autonomy to decide what is best for students in their own classroom.

- In some cases, zooms will last longer and in other cases, zooms will be shorter. Teachers are cognizant of student screen time. If you have a concern with this, please contact your student's teacher.

- Kindergarten-2nd grade zoom time is approximately 2.5 hours daily.
- 3rd-5th grade zoom time is approximately 3.5 hours daily.
- In Grades K-2, we recommend a quick movement break every 15-20 minutes and in Grades 3-5, every 20-30 minutes. We recommend that each online session is no longer than 45 minutes in total. After this time, students need to close their devices, take a break from looking at a screen, and can return for another session after a break.
- Remote learning schedules will mirror the in person building schedule, not including specials.

## **Secondary: Middle School and High School**

- Classroom protocols may include requiring students to wear masks, and if community spread warrants, the district may require all students to wear masks, sit in assigned seats, or introduce other layers of protection to minimize contact.
- CPS provides bus transportation, and families indicated during the annual registration process if they needed transportation.
  - Transportation rules may temporarily revert to state minimum standards (2 miles for elementary and middle school and 3 miles for high school ([Policy EEA](#))).
  - School arrival and departure times are set. Each school will have procedures for arrival and dismissal.
- Large gatherings may be limited. This may result in the following scenarios:
  - students reporting to a classroom upon arrival, instead of large gatherings in common areas
  - altered cafeteria procedures
  - limited attendance and/or guidelines at sporting and other events
  - concerts and performances in small groups
  - modified bus loading and unloading procedures
  - cancellation or modification of school dances, parties and assemblies
- Classroom protocols may include assigned seating and other measures to minimize the expansion of a stable grouping and aid in contact tracing.
- Cafeteria Activities may be in place to reduce the number of students accessing meals at one time. Procedures could include:
  - additional lunch shifts
  - orchestrated group releases to stand in line in food service areas
  - assigned seating for middle school students
  - expanding eating areas (students will have additional places to eat)
    - high school students will be allowed to eat off-campus to help reduce group sizes
  - Nutrition Services may package meal components for ease of selection. An optional disposable Q-tips and/or barcodes may be available to enter a student's number into the meal counting system to maintain the integrity of allergy tracking.
  - Nutrition Services' staff will use gloves and face masks during service.
  - thorough cleaning of high touch surfaces will be maintained.
- In Levels 2, 3, and 4 of the District Daily Indicator, there may be some degree of suspension or restriction of activities, including sporting events, performing arts performances, field trips, and after-school classes and clubs, as determined by the Incident Command Team in consultation with the Columbia/Boone County Health

Department. Schools will be required to complete a school event form before holding school activities.

- CTE (Career and Technical Education) Classes will be available for students
  - Limited transportation will be provided between schools.
  - When high schools are in virtual learning mode, conditions could allow for some CTE courses to meet in person. CTE students will attend in-person classes at the location where originally scheduled (CACC building, Battle High School or Hickman High School). CACC has identified the following courses as first priority for a reopening plan that could include phases. The following courses were selected based on the critical hands-on nature of the coursework and the potential to lead to certification or an industry-recognized credential:
    - Ag Mechanics & Welding
    - Advanced Ag Mechanics & Welding
    - Greenhouse Production
    - Automotive Technology 1 and 2
    - Baking & Pastry
    - Culinary 1 and 2
    - Certified Welding 1, 2, and 3
    - Construction and Contracting 1, 2, 3
    - Advanced EMS
    - Professions in Healthcare
    - Broadcast TV Internship
- **Early College Program** courses will be available for students enrolled in the District's partnership with MACC. CPS will continue to communicate with these students.
- **Secondary EL (English Learner) Services**
  - Secondary EL students will receive direct support for English language development from an EL-certified teacher.
  - If CPS has to close a school, classroom or the district due to health concerns, students will continue to receive EL support online from their EL teacher.
  - Students who meet the criteria for English Learner testing will be given the EL screening test during the enrollment process. All secondary students who are enrolling in CPS must take the screening test at the district office. Students can make an appointment for testing by calling 573-214-3965.
- **Secondary Special Services**
  - All special education students will be provided instruction according to their IEP goals. A student's case manager will work with families to ensure a student's IEP is being met.

- Students' services will be provided during the students' special education classes, in a pull-out and/or in a push-in model to ensure the student's IEP goals are being addressed.
- Teachers in our Hearing Impaired Program will have access to transparent masks.
- If CPS has to close a school, classroom or the district due to health concerns, students will continue to receive their services from their special education teacher.
- **Performing Arts (Band, Choir, Orchestra, and Theatre)**
  - Students will wear masks indoors during high aerosol-producing activities including bell covers and shields for instruments.
  - Students will use their own equipment to avoid sharing. When this is not possible, appropriate cleaning and sanitizing will take place.
  - If CPS has to close a school classroom or the district closes due to health concerns, some students will be allowed limited access to instruments or practice spaces that can not be achieved at home (e.g., percussion students accessing large percussion equipment for practice and skill advancement).
- **Visual Arts**
  - We will utilize all available digital tools and classroom resources to maximize student learning.
- **Physical Education**
  - Classes will engage in outdoor activities as much as possible.
  - Activities may be reorganized to emphasize social distancing as much as possible.
  - Handwashing before and after physical activity will be expected.
- **Library Media Services**
  - Students will have access to print and digital materials available through the CPS Library Media program.
  - Limited access to CPS media centers may be available for individual and small groups of students.
  - Safety measures may be enacted to clean and sanitize circulated materials.
- **Secondary Social & Emotional Support**
  - Staff will promote the 3 Rs to assist with school reentry and adjustment:  
**Routines, Relationships & Resilience**
  - 6th grade RTI/Advisory teachers will provide weekly Second Step Social Emotional Learning Curriculum lessons.
  - 7th and 8th grades will receive Social-Emotional Learning education through EverFi.
  - The CPS School Counseling Program website provides additional mental

health supports for students, families and educators.

- Mental health supports and resources will be regularly advertised to students and families.
- School counselors will be available to consult with families and teachers about student mental health supports and referrals.
- CPS District Behavior Support Specialists and Boone County Schools Mental Health Coalition Coordinators will partner with schools to provide consultation and direct student support.
- Telehealth therapy and other student support services will be available virtually through various community providers.
- School counselors will provide lessons and discussions which focus on building resilience and coping skills to strengthen emotional well-being through Schoology groups.
- Individual and crisis counseling will be available to all students.
- As time allows, group counseling will be available as necessary for students within a stable grouping and where social distancing guidelines can be maintained.

## Safety and Well Being

In the event there is evidence of district-wide transmission of coronavirus, or if there is wide-spread human-to-human transmission in Boone County or the City of Columbia, CPS will enter the highest level of alert, which may include access restrictions to buildings or closures, if recommended by public health authorities.

In order for CPS employees and the general public to best understand access rules, CPS may use a Daily Mode Indicator.

### CPS Daily Mode Indicator Definitions

**Traditional School:** All classes, athletics, activities and clubs will take place in school buildings. There are no restrictions on visitors and volunteers in the building.

**AMI (Alternative Methods of Instruction):** AMI refers to classes taught with alternative methods, such as online when triggered by a building, or classroom closure.

**In-School with AMI Support:** Courses will be taught with a technology integration model. Courses will be taught in the building with teachers using technology. Only students and staff may be in CPS buildings. Visitors and volunteers must receive pre-approval from the elementary or secondary assistant superintendent or the superintendent. Athletics, activities and clubs continue unless quarantined.

**Virtual Learning:** All in-person classes are taught using AMI.

Families may have chosen to enroll in Virtual Learning for the entire year. Elementary students will receive instruction online through CPS Virtual Elementary powered by Edgenuity and middle and high school students will receive instruction through one of the online options available via CPS Online, CPS Virtual Elementary powered by Edgenuity and MOCAP. CPS Virtual Elementary powered by Edgenuity and CPS Online offerings for middle and high school students are NOT impacted by temporary classroom, school or district closures.



## **CPS Daily Mode Indicator Levels 1-4**

In Levels 1-4, the District may consider implementing the following actions, if recommended.

### **Access Control**

#### **Aslin Administration Building Access**

The Aslin Building may be visited by appointment for needs that cannot be met by phone or online between the hours of 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Masks may be required or strongly encouraged. A supply of masks will be available for public use.

These changes will be in place until the situation is re-evaluated by Columbia Public Schools and the Columbia/Boone County Health Department.

- Front Desk will be staffed between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Day and evening custodial service will resume.
- The Aslin building will be divided into zones. These zones will be considered “Stable Groups.”
  - It may be requested that personnel wear masks while working outside their zone or when meeting with someone outside their zone (Stable Groups).

#### **School Building Access**

- All entrances to schools will be locked.
- Entry into schools will be restricted to staff and students. Other visitors and volunteers must receive pre-approval from the Elementary or Secondary Assistant Superintendent.
- Outside organizations may not be able to use district facilities without district-level administration approval.
- In Levels 2 - 4 of the District’s Daily Mode Indicator, any requests for in-building meetings may be considered. A meeting request form can be submitted to [degan@cpsk12.org](mailto:degan@cpsk12.org).
- If a student needs to be picked up for any reason, they will be supervised at the front door while they wait for their parent/guardian.

#### **Student Movement in the School Building**

- Principals will explore options like unidirectional hallways in schools with narrow hallways (or provide “lane lines” for bidirectional traffic in schools with wider hallways).
- Teachers will monitor hallways by standing in the doorway of their classrooms.
- Building principals will work to stagger release times to avoid large gatherings of students.

#### **Cafeteria Activities**

- **At elementary**, each school will obtain a meal from the cafeteria using additional shifts and will return to their classrooms to eat until it is deemed safe for students to eat in the cafeteria. Nutrition Services will work with principals to make the best plan for the building.

- **At secondary**, procedures will be in place to reduce the number of students accessing meals at one time. Procedures could include:
  - Additional lunch shifts
  - Orchestrated group releases to stand in line in food service areas
  - Assigned seating for middle school students; and
  - Expanding eating areas (students will have additional places to eat).
    - High school students will be allowed to eat off campus to help reduce group sizes.
  - Nutrition Services will package meal components for ease of selection. An optional disposable Q-tips and/or barcodes may be available to enter a student's number into the meal counting system to maintain the integrity of allergy tracking.
  - Nutrition Services' staff will use gloves and face masks during service.
  - Thorough cleaning of high-touch surfaces will be maintained.
- **Grab and Go meal distribution** may be implemented in the case of a school or district closure.
- In Levels 2, 3, and 4 of the District Daily Indicator, there may be some degree of suspension or restriction of activities, including sporting events, performing arts performances, field trips, and after-school classes and clubs, as determined by the Incident Command Team in consultation with the Columbia/Boone County Health Department.
  - Schools will be required to complete a school event form before holding school activities.
- CPS will continue to encourage social distancing and will avoid incentives for students or staff to go to school when they are sick (e.g., cancel perfect attendance awards).
  - In Levels 2, 3, and 4, there will be no limit on the number of excused absences.
- CPS will remind families to be honest regarding keeping sick or exposed students at home and reporting confirmed or suspected coronavirus cases in their households.

### **CPS Daily Mode Indicator Level 5**

In Level 5, when CPS has to close the school district, teachers may be able to access their classrooms, however, the default will be that the building will be closed. The District recognizes classroom access would allow teachers reliable internet and will make the decision to allow access in consultation with the Director of Nursing and Director of Safety and Security.

- All CPS building ventilation systems filters will be replaced more frequently. Additionally, every building is equipped with an ionization unit.

### **Mitigation Strategies and Screening**

**How families can help keep students healthy and safe:**

- Please review handwashing and mask-wearing instructions with your students. [A video is available as part of the district's Parent-Community University series.](#) Additional information on handwashing can be found in the CDC: Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools: Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette ([www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html#handwashing](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html#handwashing)). All students and staff should practice handwashing and respiratory etiquette (covering coughs and sneezes) to keep from getting and spreading infectious illnesses, including coronavirus.
- Students and staff who are ill will be asked to stay home and report the absence to the school attendance office or supervisor.
- Additionally, all families should continue to complete the [Morning Checklist daily](#). This self-screening outlines that you should not enter a building if, you are currently experiencing:
  - Fever (100.4 or higher) or a sense of having a fever (you don't feel well);
  - Chills, shortness of breath, cough, sore throat, headache;
  - Congestion or runny nose;
  - Nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea;
  - New loss of smell or taste, new muscle aches;
  - or if you or a close contact has been diagnosed or presumptively diagnosed with coronavirus.

You can also [download a .pdf version here](#). If your student is sick, please have the student stay home. If your student or someone in your home currently has COVID, please stay home and call your student's school for the next steps.

- Those who are identified who have potential COVID symptoms will be required to wear an appropriate mask, use hand sanitizer and go to a designated area to be picked up by family members and sent home.
  - It is required that the CPS employee will continue to wear a mask in this situation.
  - Individuals suspected of being exposed to coronavirus may be excluded from entry into the building and the student will be escorted out.

## Nursing

- The Columbia/Boone County Health Department will provide guidance on students and staff who are positive or who have had contact with people who are COVID positive.
- When a student is sent to the health room for potential symptoms of coronavirus the following protocols will be used:
  - Students and staff will be sent home and/or should remain at home if exhibiting one or more of the symptoms of coronavirus based on CDC guidelines that are not otherwise explained including:
    - Temperature of 100.4 degrees F or greater (without the use of fever-reducing medication)
    - Cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
    - Fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, sore throat
    - New loss of taste or smell
    - Nausea or vomiting, diarrhea
    - A concerning health condition that may require further medical evaluation

*Note: This list is subject to change as new information is obtained. **Nurses will continue to send students home with coronavirus-like symptoms.***

## Coronavirus Screening Guidance

Exposure	HIGH-RISK Symptoms	Moderate Risk Symptoms
To a person with COVID-19  Exception: This EXCLUDES asymptomatic students where both students are engaged in the consistent and correct use of masks and at least 3 ft from each other AND/OR asymptomatic fully vaccinated* individuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· New cough</li> <li>· Difficulty breathing</li> <li>· Loss of taste/smell</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Fever (&gt;100.4°) or chills**</li> <li>· Congestion/runny nose</li> <li>· Nausea/vomiting/diarrhea</li> <li>· Sore throat</li> <li>· Headache</li> <li>· Muscle or body aches</li> <li>· Fatigue</li> </ul>

\*An individual is considered fully vaccinated two (2) weeks after the last vaccine in the series.

\*\*Fever in adults should be considered a high-risk symptom.

### Scenario 1: What to do if a student/staff has symptoms of COVID-19?

Screening Results	Does the Student/Staff Require a COVID-19 Test?	When Can the Student/Staff Return to School?
1 Moderate risk symptom AND No COVID -19 Exposure	NO	Return to school 24 hours after fever resolution and symptom improvement OR If the provider believes an alternate diagnosis is the cause of signs and symptoms, return precautions should be specific to the diagnosis

**Scenario 2: What to do if a student/staff screens POSITIVE for COVID-19 SYMPTOMS**

Screening Results	Does the Student/Staff Require a COVID-19 Test?	When Can the Student/Staff Return to School?
<p>1 High-risk symptom OR ≥ 2 Moderate risk symptoms AND No COVID-19 Exposure</p>	<p>YES - can consult with student's provider to determine the need for a test or another possible diagnosis if moderate symptoms are present</p>	<p><u>Negative COVID-19 Test:</u> Return to school 24 hours after fever resolution and symptom improvement OR If an alternate diagnosis is the cause of signs and symptoms, return precautions should be specific to the diagnosis. If the test is obtained, a note from the provider with results is required.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Positive COVID-19 Test or NO* Test</u> Return to school at least 24 hours since the resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications AND Improvement of symptoms AND At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared</p>

\*In cases where a COVID-19 test cannot be performed in a student with COVID-19 symptoms, the decision to return to school earlier can be made by the school nurse in conjunction with the student's medical provider.

### Scenario 3: What to do if a student/staff has close contact with a person with COVID-19

Screening Results	Does the Student/Staff Require a COVID-19 Test?	When can the Student/Staff Return to School?
Close Contact with a person with COVID-19 Exception: This EXCLUDES asymptomatic students where both students are engaged in the consistent and correct use of masks and at least 3 ft from each other AND/OR asymptomatic fully vaccinated*individuals.	Yes, if symptoms develop, even when fully vaccinated	Quarantine times may vary. Please refer to CPS quarantine guidelines for 7-day or 10-day quarantine requirements. If an individual develops high risk or moderate risk symptoms during quarantine, they need to be evaluated for COVID-19

10-day quarantine- may return to school on day 11 as long as no symptoms and masked until day 14.

7-day quarantine- may return to school on day 8 as long as no symptoms, masked until day 14 AND a negative PCR test (*CPS provides rapid antigen only*) when tested on day 5-7. The negative result must be submitted to the nurse prior to return to school/activities.

## Coronavirus Isolation and Quarantine Protocols

There is a difference between isolation and quarantine.

### Isolation

If you have tested positive for coronavirus, you must isolate for 10 days. For more information about this, please see the [Columbia/Boone County Health Department website](#).

### Quarantine

Quarantine is **NOT** required for individuals who have tested positive within the last 3 months and have completed their isolation period.

Quarantine is **NOT** required for fully vaccinated individuals who have no symptoms. You are considered fully vaccinated if:

- It has been 2 weeks since your second dose in a 2-dose series, of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or
- It has been 2 weeks since your single-dose vaccine, of the Johnson & Johnson's vaccine

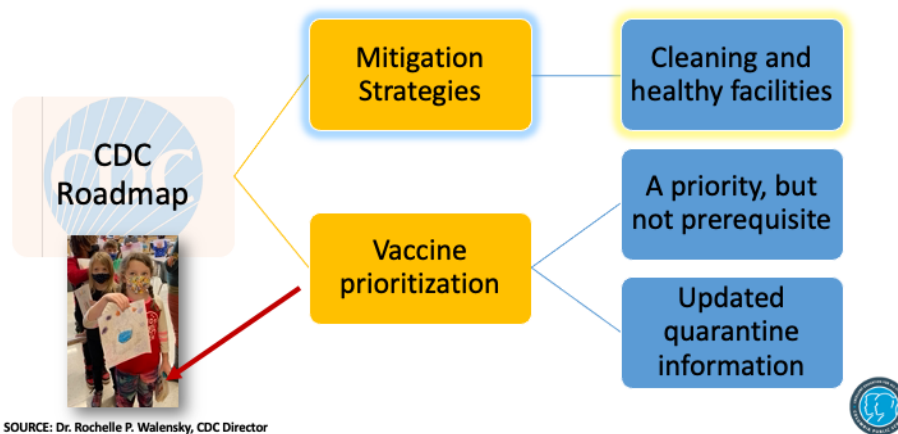
Quarantine is **NOT** required for individuals who consistently and correctly wear a mask, are 3 feet or more from a positive individual for less than 15 minutes, cumulative time, within a 24-hour period and have no symptoms.

Quarantine **IS** required for individuals who are less than 3 feet from a positive individual for more than 15 minutes, cumulative time, within a 24-hour period, with a mask.

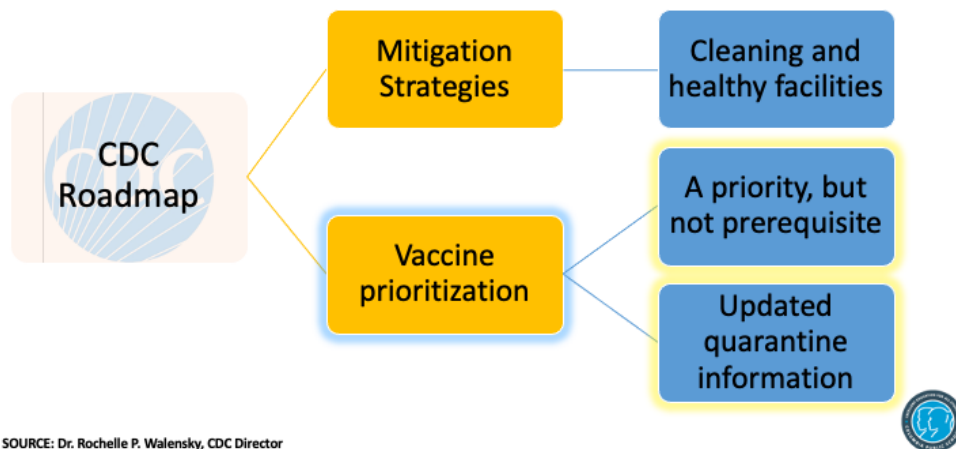
Quarantine **IS** required for individuals who are less than 6 feet from a positive individual for more than 15 minutes, cumulative time, within a 24-hour period, without a mask.

The district will continue with a 10-day quarantine if an individual is exposed to the virus or a 7-day quarantine if the individual obtains a negative PCR test ([available through local health providers](#)) between days 5 and 7 and shows no symptoms. Both the 10-day and the 7-day quarantine protocols also require an individual to wear a mask through day 14. **The negative PCR test must be submitted to the school nurse prior to returning to school.** CPS Staff must work with Human Resources to determine when they are eligible to return to work.

## Updated CDC Guidelines

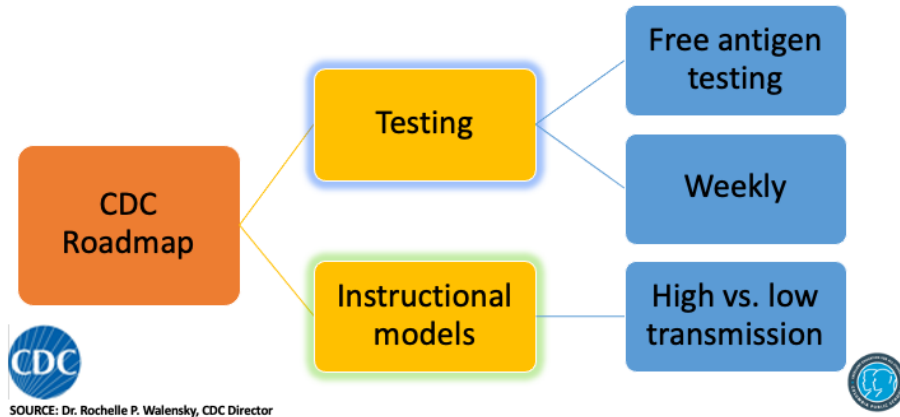


## Updated CDC Guidelines





# Updated CDC Guidelines



## Additional Mitigation Strategies

	<b><u>Handwashing</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We have placed sanitizers in every classroom and in school hallways.</li></ul>
	<b><u>Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We continue to clean and rely on cleaning checklists.</li></ul>
	<b><u>Diagnostic and Rapid Contact Tracing with Isolation and Quarantine</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The CDC urges close cooperation with the health department, something CPS has done since the beginning.</li></ul>

## Diagnostic and Screening Testing in the Event of a Suspected Case of Coronavirus

Columbia Public Schools will continue free antigen testing for students and employees by referral through Summer 2022.

### Contact Tracing

The district has established guidelines and protocols concerning notifications and contact tracing should there be a student or staff member who tests positive for coronavirus or is a close contact.

### Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities

- CPS will maintain adequate supplies of soap, paper towels, hand sanitizer, and tissues throughout each school. The Custodial Department will ensure the maintenance of these items.
- CPS will clean frequently-touched surfaces and objects (e.g., tables, water fountains, and doorknobs) with district-supplied cleaning and disinfectant products. Computer safe disinfectant methods will be used for computers and keyboards.

- CPS began installing ionization units in December 2020 and the ionization systems installation is complete at all levels. Additional information on the ionization systems in CPS buildings and the building HVAC systems is available on the [CPS Air Quality website](#).

## **Communication**

- Regular updates to the Board of Education, community members, and families will be provided, as determined by the superintendent, district cabinet administration, and/or the Incident Command Team.
- Here is a list of resources teachers and families may use to learn about CPS updates and school closures:
  - [www.cpsk12.org](http://www.cpsk12.org)
  - <https://cpsk12.org/covid>

## **Student Transportation**

CPS is providing bus transportation, and families requested service at the beginning of the year in order to effectively plan for ridership.

### **Before boarding:**

- STA will communicate to families and students information on new processes, including any requirements related to students wearing masks.
- Families are instructed not to have students attend school or take the bus if sick.
- STA bus drivers will watch for continued coughing and may request a student sit in a designated area on the bus and wear their mask. If a student refuses to wear a mask, the driver will not force the student to wear a mask.
- The STA bus driver will immediately alert the school administration about any concerns upon arrival.

### **Bus:**

- STA drivers will sanitize the rail frequently with an EPA approved disinfectant.
- STA will sanitize seats between routes with an EPA-approved disinfectant.
- The front row seats will be used at the discretion of the driver or CPS Administration.
- STA drivers and monitors will not work if they are sick.
- STA drivers and monitors may be required or strongly encouraged to wear masks.
  - Students may be required or strongly encouraged to wear masks on the bus.
- STA will assign seats for all riders.
  - Each bus' list of assigned seating will be maintained so it can be provided to the Health Department for contact tracing, if needed.
- Students within the same household (or students who are considered in each other's stable group) will be assigned seats together or in seats across from, in front of, or behind each other, as appropriate.

- STA will pay special attention to students at higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus, especially students riding special education and early childhood special education buses.
  - CPS may encourage alternative forms of transportation for these students, or prioritize social distancing for these students.
  - For any student whose disability inhibits his/her ability to safely wear a mask, the student's case manager and/or building administration will communicate with STA regarding the exception for the student to not wear a mask.

#### **Unloading:**

- Avoid congestion as the students unload buses. Stagger when buses unload to the extent possible, or if possible, create multiple points of entry for buses.

### **Student Services**

Maintaining the health and safety of our students continues to be of paramount importance. With that in mind, it is crucial we ensure student information remains up to date. In the event that a student becomes ill, we must be able to get in contact with the legal guardian or their designated alternate contact. Guardians had the opportunity to update their information via the annual registration process. If the district or school building registrar is unable to reach the family, Home School Communicators will attempt to locate families. In some instances, it may be necessary to wait until the student returns to school to determine the accurate residence information.

#### **In the event a student needs to be sent home:**

- For students who exhibit symptoms (fever, cough, etc.), as defined by the health department guidelines, and whose families are unable to be located, the alternate contact person will be called to pick up the student.
- The Home School Communicator (HSC) may be asked to transport the student home for families who are unable to pick up their student due to a lack of transportation. Both the HSC and the student will be required to wear a mask. Whenever possible, the student should ride in the back seat of the vehicle with the windows open.

### **Importance of Good Mental Health**

The importance of good mental health cannot be overstated at this time. The coronavirus pandemic is a rapidly evolving situation that is causing stress and uncertainty for many of us.

There are steps school leaders and staff can take to foster health and well-being in themselves and their school communities. Keep in mind that recovery from a crisis takes time and may not happen in a linear fashion—especially during a pandemic that does not have a defined, known end.

- Awareness, balance, and connection can help
- Set and celebrate achievable goals
- Celebrate the resilience of the great people around you who go above and beyond as they support and help others in times of crises <sup>2</sup>

Here are just a few resources from the CPS Counseling and Crisis Counselor:

**Helping students with Traumatic Separation or Traumatic Grief-Related to coronavirus**

<https://www.nctsn.org/resources/helping-children-with-traumatic-separation-or-traumatic-grief-related-to-coronavirus>

**National Association of School Psychologists - Trauma Resources**

<https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/mental-health-resources/trauma>

**Trauma-Sensitive Schools Online Professional Development**

<https://dpi.wi.gov/sspw/mental-health/trauma/modules>

**CPS Parent-Community University**

Dr. Tashel Bordere, University of Missouri Certified Thanatologist, Assistant Professor, Human Development & Family Science State Extension Specialist, Youth Development

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qbiU46zwKJY&t=18s>

## **Authority to Make Health and Safety Decisions for Students and CPS Employees**

In a pandemic, schools may be closed and/or opened by the order of the Director of the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) or his/her designee. See 19 CSR 20-20.050 Quarantine or Isolation Practices and Closing of Schools and Places of Public and Private Assembly. Due to the need for consistency throughout the state, school closures and/or openings to protect the public health and safety will be directed at the state level. The School Superintendent has the authority to close and/or open school for absenteeism due to School Closure Trigger Points, as noted above. The Board of Education establishes the academic calendar for the school district and determines any long-term district closures or changes in learning modes. ([Policy IC](#)).

In Missouri, local public health authorities (LPHA) and/or the director of the DHSS have the authority to close and/or open schools for public health and safety trigger points, as noted above.

Schools may be closed to all staff and students or to just students. If schools are closed only to students, staff members are expected to work regular schedules or use appropriate leave (unless otherwise directed by Human Resources). When schools are closed, there may be opportunities to bring back small groups of students for specific intervention or instruction on

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<sup>2</sup> Adapted from the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP)

a case-by-case basis. This decision will require district approval and must meet Health Department guidelines.

The superintendent may cancel all activities on district property by outside groups, even if some schools in the district remain open. When a school is closed, activities scheduled at that school, including use by community groups, may be canceled. Activities held at another location that involve students and staff from a closed school may cancel at the discretion of the building principal, in consultation with local health authorities and the school district's director of nursing.

The decision to close CPS Schools may be made as a means to prevent the further spread of an epidemic or in response to high student and/or staff absenteeism. The Superintendent will make district, school or classroom closure decisions in consultation with the Incident Command Team, the Columbia/Boone County Health Department, health and medical professionals and neighboring school district superintendents.

#### **Possible School Closure Trigger Points:**

- Student absenteeism
  - When it is not economically prudent to keep the school open.
- Teacher/Staff absenteeism
  - When the number of staff available to supervise and instruct students drops below what is necessary to maintain a safe learning environment.
- Confirmed case(s) of coronavirus
  - A school or classroom may be closed at the direction of the Safety and Security Director.
- To protect the public health and safety
  - When advised to close by the Governor or state and local health authorities.

The decision to close on these triggers is the school district's decision in conjunction with guidance from the Columbia/Boone County Public Health and Human Services, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, and the CDC.

#### **Masks:**

The decision to require masks for students and CPS employees may be made as a means to prevent further spread of an epidemic or in response to high student and/or staff absenteeism. You can review proper mask-wearing protocols in [this CPS Video](#). The Superintendent will make decisions about mask requirements in consultation with the Incident Command Team, the Columbia/Boone County Health Department, health and medical professionals and neighboring school district superintendents. Mask accommodation requests need to be coordinated with the student's school nurse who will coordinate with district administration.

[State Statute RSMo 171.011](#) provides as follows: “The school board of each school district in the state may make all needful rules and regulations for the organization, grading and government in the school district. The rules shall take effect when a copy of the rules, duly signed by order of the board, is deposited with the district clerk. The district clerk shall transmit forthwith a copy of the rules to the teachers employed in the schools. The rules may be amended or repealed in like manner.”

The Board has adopted Board Policy [BCD](#), Board-Superintendent Relationship, which authorizes the Superintendent to manage the District within the framework of Board policies.

Board Policy [EBB](#), Communicable Diseases, provides as follows: “Students or employees with communicable diseases that pose a risk of transmission in school or at school activities (such as, but not limited to, chickenpox, influenza and conjunctivitis) will be managed as required by law and in accordance with guidelines provided by the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) and local county or city health departments. Such management may include, but is not limited to, exclusion from school or reassignment as needed for the health and safety of students and staff.”

## Alternative Learning Environments

***Note: CPS will be learning in-person for the 2021-22 school year. For families who desire a fully virtual learning environment, we have the following available. Enrollment must be made before the start of school on August 24, 2021.***

### Elementary: Kindergarten - Fifth Grade

#### **Virtual Learning Option via CPS Virtual Elementary powered by Edgenuity**

- K-5 CPS students will have the option to enroll in CPS Virtual Elementary powered by Edgenuity, an online program taught by Edgenuity teachers.
- CPS Virtual Elementary powered by Edgenuity is an asynchronous program. Students will work at their own pace but will receive a weekly calendar of assignments and have live office hours available to them. If a student requires additional educational support, extra time may be scheduled with the instructor. While students enrolled in CPS Virtual Elementary will be considered Columbia Public Schools students, they will not be assigned to a specific elementary school and the courses will be taught by Edgenuity instructors rather than CPS teachers. The Edgenuity instructors are highly qualified, state-certified instructors and the course curriculum consists of more than 30 courses for students.
- CPS Virtual Elementary powered by Edgenuity will have options available for all students, including those who use or need special education or EL services.
- If you are interested in this virtual learning option, you can watch [the webinar recorded](#) on Monday, June 21. The passcode to watch is k7Vj@muh.

**Special Education, Section 504 and CPS Virtual Elementary powered by Edgenuity: If a student has an IEP, can they still enroll in CPS Virtual Elementary powered by Edgenuity?** Yes, all K-5 students have the following options:

- CPS Virtual Elementary powered by Edgenuity
- In-Person Learning

**If a family chooses to enroll in CPS Virtual Elementary powered by Edgenuity, how will their student receive their special education services?** Families need to contact Edgenuity for additional information.

**If a family chooses to enroll in CPS Virtual Elementary powered by Edgenuity, how will their student receive their EL services?** Families need to contact Edgenuity for additional information.

***Note: CPS will be learning in person for the 2021-22 school year. For families who desire a fully virtual learning environment, we have the following available. Enrollment must be made before the start of school on August 24, 2021.***

## **Secondary: Middle School and High School**

### **Virtual Learning Option via CPS Online, MOCAP and Edgenuity**

- Secondary students will have the option to enroll in CPS Online, MOCAP and Edgenuity. Information about virtual learning options for secondary students is available [here](#).
- Students enrolled in CPS Virtual are not affected by temporary classroom, school or district closures.
- **If you are interested in a virtual-only learning environment you must work directly with your student's counselor prior to the start of the 2021-22 school year on August 24, 2021.**



## References

- CDC guidance for Schools and Child Care Programs: Plan, Prepare, and Respond ([www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html)) as best practice recommendations..
- CDC published a guidance document outlining strategies for reducing spread of COVID-19 and maintaining school operations: CDC: Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools ([www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html))
- Community transmission and vaccination monitoring using CDC's COVID Data Tracker: CDC COVID Data Tracker: COVID-19 Integrated County View - Vaccinations (<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#vaccinations-county-view>) and CDC COVID Data Tracker: COVID-19 Integrated County View - Level of Community Transmission (<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>)
- Vaccination Promotion strategies from the CDC: Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools: Promoting Vaccination ([www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html#vaccination](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html#vaccination)) People 12 years and older are now eligible for COVID-19 vaccination. CDC encourages schools to promote COVID-19 vaccination among teachers, staff, families, and eligible students by providing information about COVID-19 vaccination, encouraging vaccine trust and confidence, and establishing supportive policies and practices that make getting vaccinated as easy and convenient as possible.
- Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools: Consistent and Correct Mask Use ([www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html#mask-use](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html#mask-use))
- CDC: Your Guide to Masks ([www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html))
- CDC: Facemasks on public transportation (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/face-masks-public-transportation.html>)
- Implementation of physical distancing when possible as noted in the CDC: Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools: Physical Distancing ([www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html#physical-distancing](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html#physical-distancing))
- CDC: Case investigation and contact tracing (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/contact-tracing/contact-tracing-plan/appendix.html#contact>)

## Acknowledgements

The Columbia Public Schools would like to thank the following entities for providing feedback and counsel on this plan:

1. Area Health Providers and Professionals in virology and epidemiology
2. Boone County Commission
3. Boone County Mental Health Coalition
4. Boone County Office of Emergency Management
5. Boone Hospital
6. Central Methodist University
7. City of Columbia
8. Columbia/Boone County Health Department: Director Stephanie Browning, Assistant Director Scott Clardy, and Dr. Ashley Milham
9. Columbia Chamber of Commerce
10. Columbia College
11. Columbia Fire Department
12. Columbia Missouri-National Education Association (CMNEA)
13. Columbia Public School Teachers, Staff, and Administrators
14. Columbia Public School Curriculum Coordinators
15. ECHO: Dr. Jen Goldman, Dr. Christelle Ilboudo, Dr. Jason Newland, Dr. Jen Schuster, Dr. Kristin Sohl and Dr. Rachel Orscheln.
16. Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)
17. Missouri School Board Association (MSBA)
18. Missouri State High School Athletic Association (MSHSAA)
19. Columbia Missouri State Teachers Association (CMSTA)
20. Moberly Area Community College (MACC)
21. Regional Economic Development, Inc. (REDI)
22. Stephens College
23. University of Missouri Hospital
24. University of Missouri - Office of Vice Chancellor for Operations