

ZALMA R-5 SCHOOL DISTRICT



Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan 2021-2022

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INTRODUCTION

With the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic challenges still facing us today, school leaders are working closely with local health officials to ensure a safe return to school. The Zalma R-V School District will follow guidance and honor requirements set forth by the CDC as well as local health officials at time when such mandates are enacted. Please note the policies set in place now will frequently be re-evaluated and modified to reflect the ever-changing health status and needs of our community and the pandemic. We are committed to providing a high-quality education to our students while prioritizing the health and safety of our entire school community.

We must limit the number of people coming in and out of our buildings to protect the health and safety of our students and staff so visitors will be subject to a COVID symptom screening. Physical distancing will be regularly encouraged throughout our school buildings, however, we cannot guarantee social distancing will take place in classrooms and common spaces. The District's goal is to minimize contact through establishing stable groupings. Students and staff may be required to wear masks at specific times throughout the day. More information can be found in the plan below.

It's important to point out, this opening-of-school plan is subject to change at any time because information regarding COVID-19 is ever-changing. Elements in the plan could change frequently. All changes will be communicated to families through email, text and social media, as well as shared on the District's website. We appreciate your patience as school leaders make decisions that are in the best interest of our school community based on the latest information made available at the time.

Plan Review

This plan may be reviewed and modified anytime a new recommendation (from the CDC, DESE, Missouri Governor, Bollinger County Health Department, and applicable state and local agencies) advises Missouri Public Schools to review, change, or adapt policies to ensure a safe learning environment. At the least, this plan will be reviewed at the conclusion of each semester and any recommended changes and updates will be communicated to the staff and school community. Public comment will be taken into consideration as the plan is revised.

Accessibility

This plan can be made available in other languages as requests are received. Also, a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA, will be provided in an alternative format accessible upon request.

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Planned 2021-2022

In-person classes will be taught in a more traditional format. However, students will begin using an online platform, Google Classroom, intermittently throughout the school day in order to prepare for a temporary school closure. If a temporary school closure occurred due to increased health and safety concerns, in-person classes would immediately transition to distance learning and remain in place until reopening.

SURVEILLANCE, SCREENING AND TRIAGE

Students and staff are asked to stay home and report the absence to the school office or supervisor if they: have tested positive for COVID-19; have been diagnosed presumptive positive for COVID-19; are awaiting COVID-19 test results; and/or exhibit one or more symptoms of COVID-19 based on CDC guidance that is not otherwise explained. These symptoms include but are not limited to: a fever of 100° or higher without fever-reducing medication; cough; shortness of breath or difficulty breathing; chills; repeated shaking with chills; muscle pain; headache; nausea/vomiting; diarrhea; sore throat; and/or new loss of taste or smell.

SIBLINGS OR OTHER STUDENTS IN THE HOUSEHOLD

If a student is excluded from school due to COVID-19 symptoms or has had a positive COVID-19 test, his/her siblings or other students living in the same household will be questioned and if they exhibit symptoms, they will also be excluded from school. If they do not exhibit symptoms, they may still be excluded from school and asked to self-quarantine.

SELF-QUARANTINE

If a student or employee has recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19 symptoms or diagnosed with COVID-19 or has recently traveled from somewhere considered to be a "hot spot" by the CDC, the District may exclude the student or employee from the school building and recommend that they self-quarantine for 14 calendar days.

Those allowed into the school buildings may be screened.

At this time, we do not plan to temperature check students and staff. If a student visits the nurse, temperature checks and additional screening may be implemented as needed.

Students will be encouraged to wear masks/face coverings in the following areas / situations:

Secondary students in grades 7-12 will be encouraged to wear face masks, but not required.

Elementary students in grades K-6 are allowed to wear facemasks, however, we will not require them to be worn. Elementary students will remain with their homeroom/class only during the majority of the time at school.

Students wishing to wear a mask will be required to bring one from home. Physical distancing protocols will include classroom spacing, distancing encouraged at higher volume times such as hallway passing and lunch/breakfast.

Mask wearing is encouraged when riding a bus.

Seating chart records in classrooms and on school buses will be kept to help with contact tracing.

Staff who have received the Covid-19 vaccination will not be required to wear face masks *at this time*. Staff who are not vaccinated WILL be required to wear a face mask.

Pre-approved visitors will be required to be screened using the district-approved screening form. (answer screening questions, possible temp checks)

Students and staff who are identified as having COVID-19 symptoms will be instructed to wear an appropriate mask, use hand sanitizer, and go to a designated safe waiting area to be picked up by families and sent home.

Students and/or staff suspected of being exposed to COVID-19 may be excluded from entry into the building.

Staff assisting with COVID-19 symptoms/screening will be supplied with appropriate PPE.

COVID testing can be obtained through the Bollinger County Health Department, many physician offices, and pharmacies throughout the area.

Eligible staff and students will be offered vaccinations through local health departments (as available). Pharmacies will also be a venue in which to receive the vaccination.

SCREENING FOR SYMPTOMS

Employee Self-screening

To help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and reduce the potential risk of exposure to our employees, we will be requiring employees to self-screen daily and report any symptoms such as fever, respiratory symptoms, or other symptoms that include chills, fever, muscle pain, new loss of taste or smell, vomiting, diarrhea, sore throat.

COVID-19 Related symptoms:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Loss of taste or smell
- Diarrhea
- Feeling feverish or a measured temperature equal to or greater than 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
- Known close contact with a person who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19

All screening information will be kept confidential by the Administrative Team and the district nurse.

Parent/Student Self-screening

To help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and reduce the potential risk of exposure, we ask that parents complete a daily self-screening which includes a temperature reading and answering a set of questions related to COVID-19 symptoms.

Parents should ask the following questions:

- a. Have you or your child had a fever in the last 3 days?
- b. Have you or your child been experiencing any respiratory symptoms?
- c. Do you or your child have any symptoms such as chills, fever, muscle pain, new loss of taste or smell, vomiting, diarrhea, sore throat?

COVID-19 Related symptoms:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain/headache
- Sore throat
- Loss of taste or smell
- Diarrhea
- Feeling feverish or a measured temperature equal to or greater than 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
- Known close contact with a person who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19

All screening information will be kept confidential by the Administrative Team and the district nurse.

Student and Employee Screening

Students and employees will be excluded from school if they test positive for COVID-19 or may be excluded if they exhibit one or more of the symptoms of COVID-19 based on CDC guidance that is not otherwise explained:

- A fever of 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit or greater
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain

- Headache
- Sore throat
- Loss of taste or smell

GUIDANCE IF SUSPECTED CASE OF COVID-19

While we all hope to avoid exposure to illness from COVID-19, we need to be prepared for that possibility. If you or someone you've been in contact with has been exposed to the virus, our first concern is for your health and safety and for the health and safety of those around you. In this rapidly changing situation, healthcare providers should have the most up-to-date information from the CDC. Students and staff must stay home if sick. All members of our Zalma families are asked follow the above guidelines to screen for symptoms of COVID-19, and must stay home if ill. In the event of a suspected case of COVID-19, the following protocols will be followed:

SCENARIO:

An employee or student doesn't feel well and visits the school nurse. The nurse determines symptoms may be COVID related. In this situation, the employee or student will be temporarily separated from others in a safe waiting area.

Employee

The employee and/or school nurse will notify the building principal / direct supervisor.

The employee will contact their primary health care provider and the provider will arrange for testing.

If the employee tests positive for COVID, the provider that ordered the test will call the employee with the positive result.

The Health Department will also contact the employee and conduct a risk assessment (contact tracing).

The Health Department will ask the employee about all close contacts the employee had from the 48 hours prior to symptoms up to and including the day the employee began isolation measures.

They will direct the individual and any other person at possible risk of being infected with what to do.

Return to work will be communicated by the Superintendent of Schools to the employee.

Student

The school nurse will contact the parent/guardian. When the parent/guardian arrives, the nurse will encourage the parent/guardian to have the student tested. The nurse will offer to assist the parent/guardian with making phone calls to the healthcare provider.

The nurse will also notify the building administrator and Superintendent to discuss next steps.

The healthcare provider will arrange for the student to be tested. If the student tests positive for COVID, the healthcare provider will contact the parent/guardian.

The Health Department will then contact the parent/guardian and conduct a risk assessment (contact tracing).

The parent/guardian will be asked about any close contacts the student may have had from the 48 hours prior to symptoms up to and including the day the student began isolation measures.

They will direct the parent/guardian on what the student and any other person at possible risk of being infected with what to do.

Re-admittance to school will be communicated by the building administrator to the parent/guardian.

Physical Distancing:

Physical distancing is an effective way to prevent potential infection. Zalma R-5 employees, students, parents, and visitors to the buildings should practice social distancing for as long as the CDC and Missouri Governor recommends.

Student Arrival

School shall widely advertise the precise time each school will be open to receive students. In the past, some children arrived at school in the mornings before staff members were scheduled to arrive. From a safety standpoint, this practice has always been problematic; however, the current situation magnifies it, making it a threat to both safety and health. Parents should drop their children off at school only

after the widely publicized time that staff members will be present and prepared to receive students in their classrooms.

Bus Transportation Mitigation Strategies

Students riding the bus will not be required to wear a facemask.

Each bus will have a roster of eligible student riders (passenger manifest) and document the assigned seats for contact tracing. At morning routes, rider attendance will be documented on the manifest before unloading at school.

Bus drivers will not work if they are sick.

Bus drivers will wear masks/face shields if not fully vaccinated.

If a student has transportation written into their IEP plan, the IEP will be followed.

Each rider shall have an assigned seat. Same households may be required to sit in the same seat or in close proximity to each other.

Staggered seating will be utilized if not at full capacity.

Every effort will be made to avoid congestion as students load and unload buses.

Anyone with underlying medical, developmental, sensory or behavioral health issues that may preclude wearing a mask should consider face shields as an option.

Strategies for Mitigation During the School Day:

In grades K-12, every best effort will be made to maintain stable groups. Classroom protocols will include assigned seating and other measures to minimize contact.

Breakfast/Lunch Periods

Parents are not permitted to drop off food at any district facility.

Students will report directly to classrooms upon arrival to school.

Breakfast will be served in the classroom.

Lunch will be served in the classrooms or cafeteria at altered times.

Assigning seating during meals may be utilized to enable contact tracing should the need arise.

Special School Events

Large gatherings (such as all-school assemblies and school-wide celebrations) will occur only when physical distancing can occur. Classroom events/activities will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to see if visitors or guests can be allowed. (It will depend things such as the availability of physical space and the ability to track/screen visitors.)

Handwashing

Throughout the day, we will encourage hand washing, and we will also supply hand sanitizer in every classroom. Students and staff members must wash hands or use hand sanitizer before and after meals and recess.

Water Fountains

All staff should have their own water bottle.

Students should bring their own water bottle.

Water bottles must not be shared.

Water fountains will not be utilized.

Water bottle filling stations will be used.

Playgrounds

Recess will occur, weather permitting. Students must practice good hand hygiene by washing their hands before going out to play and immediately upon returning inside the school building. The elementary principal will establish a schedule that limits how many classes are on the playground at one time.

Students will be encouraged to wear masks/coverings in the following areas and situations:

All students (PK-12) during transportation on buses.

Students in grades K-12 are encouraged to wear them in hallways and common areas. (Students will be kept with their stable group during these transitions to the extent possible.)

All students may be encouraged to wear masks during intermittent periods in classrooms throughout the day depending on the activity and proximity to others (i.e. small group instruction).

Students who choose to wear a mask need to bring their own. A limited supply of disposable masks are available, if forgotten. Students with medical / special needs may be exempt from this requirement.

Anyone with underlying medical, developmental, sensory or behavioral health issues that may preclude wearing a mask should consider face shields as an option.

Student Dismissal

Student dismissal will be staggered to eliminate bottlenecks at the exit points that impact social distancing

Visitors

Those allowed into the school buildings may be screened. Please refer to the Surveillance, Screening and Triage section of this document for additional information.

Special and Elective Classes-Library/Art/Physical Education

Activities in these classes will be modified to reduce the amount of shared equipment. Teachers will utilize activities that limit close contact with other students. Space will be increased between students when possible.

Social Emotional Wellbeing of Students and Staff

The district counselor will provide support for teachers and parents. The counselor will work with students individually or in small groups to address any wellbeing needs. The counselor will allow for individuals to give feedback on how to support student needs.

General Cleaning Procedures

Buildings will be thoroughly cleaned at least once a day. Restrooms will be disinfected mid-morning, around noon, mid-afternoon and after student dismissal.

Other frequently-touched common surfaces will be cleaned throughout the day.

Playgrounds will be disinfected on a scheduled basis.

Teachers will have a spray bottle of disinfectant to wipe down desks and tables before and after meals.

Traditional water fountains will be disabled. Students will be expected to bring a water bottle with them to school.

Facilities Cleaning:

The safety of our employees and students are our first priority. Upon reopening, our schools will be completely cleaned and disinfected and we will continue to adhere to all necessary safety precautions. The goal is to establish a sanitary baseline before the site opens. The site should be 100% disinfected prior to anyone returning to work.

Deep Cleaning and Disinfecting Protocol:

Deep cleaning is triggered when an active employee or student is identified as positive for COVID19 based on testing.

INSTRUCTIONAL FORMATS

Instructional formats will be implemented according to COVID phases guidelines found at the end of this document.

Traditional instruction will take place while practicing social distancing guidelines as possible. Blended learning will be introduced and practiced in the beginning of the school year to prepare for the possibility of distance learning. The school was required to set a plan for Alternative Methods of Instruction (AMI) and (AMI-X) and submit to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). AMI refers to instructional methods during a brief shut down, such as 2-3 days. AMI-X refers to instructional methods provided during a longer closure such as, 10 to 14 days. AMI/AMI-X include independent practice and application of previously taught concepts via:

App or web-based software to teach/reinforce concepts

Distance Learning

Assigned reading, study or activity to introduce new concepts

Educational packets

On AMI/AMI-X days, the school will use the following types of materials and assignments to effectively facilitate teaching and support learning for the benefit of the students:

Electronic/web-based Textbooks
Library/classroom library books
Packets/worksheets Manipulatives
Learning games
Teacher created materials

Blended learning is an approach to learning that combines face-to-face and online learning experiences. Ideally, each (both online and off) will complement the other by using its particular strength. During such times of AMI/AMI-X, synchronous learning and asynchronous learning may take place.

Synchronous Learning - Whenever possible, learning will be synchronous (pronounced "sing-kruh-nus"). This means learning for each class will occur at the same time each day, whether the student is participating in "in class" learning or "at home" learning.

- Each school and teacher will have set times for instruction. Students and teachers will participate through Google classroom. Students are expected to be on-line unless there is a prior arrangement with the teacher.
- Students and teachers can expect live discussions, streamed lessons, pre-recorded lessons, independent activities, software program assignments, collaborative on-line assignments, etc.
- Students are expected to meet Technology Standards at appropriate grade levels. Technology access should not be a limitation as each school will work with each family to ensure that students can participate in synchronous learning as much as possible.

All lessons will provide:

- Learning targets to explain the learning expectation of the lesson. (What am I supposed to learn?)
- Success criteria to explain how the learner will demonstrate learning. (How will I know I learned what I was supposed to learn and to the targeted level of proficiency?)
- Clear performance expectations for the student as to what they are expected to do in order to learn and understand. All lessons may provide:

- New material and new learning expectations.
- Review material and the opportunity to revisit and re-teach learning targets.
- Extension or remediation as needed.
- Intervention learning where students will be provided modified or different performance expectations.
- Individualized assignments with learning targets, success criteria and performance expectations.

2021-2022 Return to School Instructional Plans

In order to provide consistent communication and keep our employees and students safe, the district has developed two instructional plans for the 2020-2021 school year depending on the status of COVID-19:

1. TRADITIONAL (relatively normal with social distancing)

Enhanced general disinfecting measures

All employees report to work

Employees will perform self-check of COVID symptoms

Limited visitors- screening

All employees will follow detailed guidelines in district's reopening plan for suspected cases

Large student and staff gatherings will be avoided when unable to physically distance

Normal administration of education to students

Students will be encouraged to wear masks/shields on school buses and other high-traffic locations where physical distancing is not possible

Provide time for frequent hand-washing and use of hand sanitizer

Limit number of people allowed in large group areas: libraries, staff workrooms, cafeterias

Perfect attendance awards and incentives will be eliminated

2. Blended Learning (AMI/AMI-X Plan with social distancing)

Enhanced General Disinfection Measures

All employees report to work

Employees will self-assess for COVID symptoms

Reduce the number of visitors to school buildings

All employees will follow detailed guidelines in district's reopening plan for suspected cases

Large student and staff gatherings will be avoided

Teachers will instruct students with online and face-to-face instruction

Provide time for frequent hand-washing and use of hand sanitizer

Limit number of people allowed in large group areas: libraries, staff workrooms, cafeterias

Perfect attendance awards and incentives will be eliminated

COMMUNICATION METHODS

To stay updated on the most up-to-date information:

1. Teachers, students, and parents need to check their email often.
2. Visit our district website www.zalma.k12.mo.us
3. Follow our social media platforms.
4. Notifications from school app (upcoming)
5. Parents/Guardians need to make sure that the district has current contact information including phone number and email address.

SCHOOL OPERATIONAL PHASES IN ACCORDANCE WITH PRESENCE LEVELS OF COVID

To keep the school district operating as possible, these phases attempt to recognize the level of COVID present, then adjust safety measures by adding further layers of division and protection as COVID's level of presence increases.

PHASE ONE: *With No COVID Present or Nearby (School as normal as possible)*

SCENARIO: *No cases in school district or neighboring districts.*

Goal:

Make school as traditional as possible, but with manageable preventative measures in place.

Encourage masks for those who ride the bus to/from school.

Recommendation of additional hand sanitizer stations.

Recommendation of bottle fountains.

Recommendation of sensors on sinks, toilets, and towels.

Drop attendance incentives while actively encouraging parents to check temps before students leave their homes.

Encourage masks during passing, transition times and commons areas where social distancing procedures cannot be enforced.

Minimize hallway traffic when possible.

Add lunch shifts or staggered lunch shifts.

PHASE TWO: *With COVID Nearby* *(Setting the stage for first case)*

SCENARIO: *Cases are identified in neighboring school districts or immediate school district thus setting the stage for further preventative measures aimed at making isolation and tracing easier within your district if there is a case found. Isolation and COVID Tracing allows ACTION Measures to be more specific.*

Goal: Recognizing that school may not be as traditional as we would like, but the goal shifts to school open by providing stronger preventative measures.

What are those added measures, according to conversations and meetings thus far?

Masks required to ride buses.

Temps may be taken on campus.

Eliminate transitions and keep any possible cases in your school isolated.

Self-contained classrooms may be implemented.

The schedule shifts its focus to core subjects.

Some classes are modified completely in how they are taught (such as PE).

Sports likely reduced to limited spectators depending on proximity and relationship with neighboring schools. It is better to be able to play the games than having no games at all.

PHASE THREE: With COVID Now in Your District
(Isolating/Tracing/Cleaning/Continuing)

SCENARIO: A case or cases are identified on a school campus thus setting the stage for action measures that are hopefully more precise than school closure due to Preventative Measures Level 2 being in place.

Goal: Isolation and tracing in efforts to keep school open with confidence about safety.

What are actions in level one if isolation was successfully provided by previous measures?

Student or students are identified.

School is shut down for deep cleaning immediately (one or two days depending on circumstances).

If preventative measures seemingly isolated that student to a homeroom and/or bus, the school may choose to quarantine that class and bus roster for 14 days and resume school for the rest of the students after the deep cleaning, significantly modifying schedules.

Masks required on buses.

Temperatures will be taken daily upon arrival.

Sports and extracurricular events postponed for one week and allowed to continue without spectators if no new cases present themselves.

PHASE 4: Multiple Cases of COVID (AMI-X (3 days) aimed at keeping at least two days of traditional instruction, collection, and check-in.)

SCENARIO: Multiple cases were identified on your school campus.

Goal: To further prevent spread, further division and protection is allowed for by using AMI, RTI, mixed with traditional schooling methods.

Student or students are identified. School is shut down for deep cleaning immediately.

If preventative measures seemingly isolated that student to a homeroom and/or bus, the school may choose to quarantine that class and bus roster for 14 days and resume school for the rest of the students after deep cleaning and offering educational alternatives for those who opt out of coming to school out of fear or anxiety.

Sports and extracurricular events postponed for 14 days.

PHASE 5: Significantly Continued Presence of COVID

AMI-X Plan with 14 days of distance learning. Situation will be reassessed to determine future plans.

Scenario: A case or cases were identified on your school campus for a second or third time. You have gone through all preventative phases and action phases, but the virus spreads enough for a local decision to be made to limit contact further. Note: It is likely that, by this time, the state will have closed schools and the only method will be AMI without ratio learning.

Goal: To be predominantly AMI-X for 14 days for distance learning and constantly reassessing the return of students; follow AMI-X plan.