Iron County C-4

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

SRCSP Introductory Information

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic forced school districts across the nation to shut their doors in the Spring of 2020. The Iron County C-4 School District closed as a precaution due to COVID-19 in March of 2020 and remained closed for the rest of the school year. We did successfully start and complete the 2020-21 school year with no interruptions to the calendar due to COVID-19.

The Iron County C-4 School District is committed to providing a high quality education for all students while prioritizing the health of our entire school community. We recognized the need for families to have options to determine the best learning environment for their student(s) and did offer an online option in 2020-21. Additionally, school leaders understood the importance of implementing online learning in every classroom so students were more prepared to transition from face-to-face instruction to virtual learning should schools be forced to close again.

For the 2021-22 school year, all students **will be enrolled** for face-to-face instruction and the District will only provide an online option as needed. Also, visitors will be allowed but the District does ask that precautions are taken and masks are encouraged. Should the recommendations from health officials change, restrictions could change as well. Social 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 consistent groupings when possible. Students will have interactions with the same group of students each day to the best of our ability. As we learned in the 2020-21 school year, contact tracing in the event of a positive COVID-19 case is much simpler with consistent groupings.

It's important to point out, this plan is fluid because information regarding COVID-19 is ever changing. Elements in the plan could change frequently. Periodic six month review by a panel of stakeholders including students, teachers, administration, and parents will review this plan to make any necessary changes to address additional or changing needs. All changes will be communicated to families through email, text, social media, and shared on the District's website. We appreciate your patience as school leaders make decisions that are in the best interest of our school and community based on the latest information made available at the time.
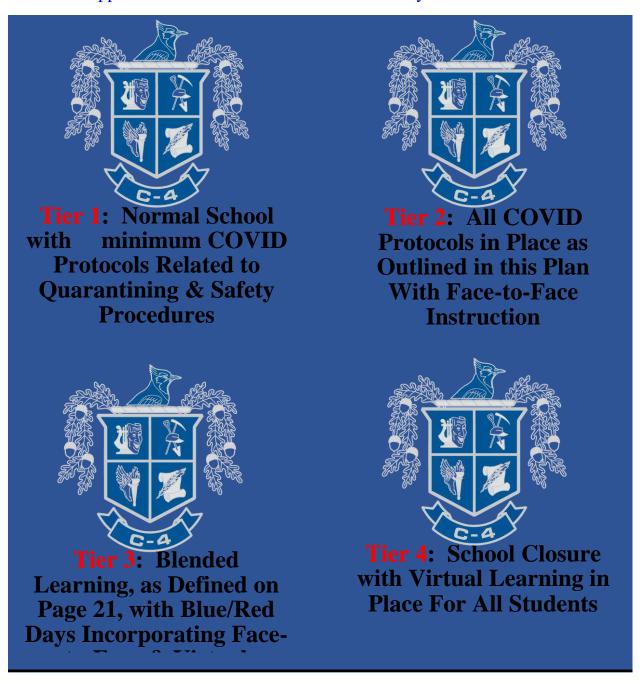

**Stakeholders can contact the District office if information is needed in a different language.

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Tiers of Operation

Iron County C-4 will be using a tiered system for determining school closures and how instruction is delivered based on the current conditions related to COVID-19. **At this time, the District will begin the year in Tier 1**. Please understand a tier could be skipped based on current conditions and safety recommendations.

Tier 1: Normal School with minimum COVID Protocols Related to Quarantining & Safety Procedures

Tier 2: All COVID Protocols in Place as Outlined in this Plan With Face-to-Face Instruction

Tier 3: Blended Learning, as Defined on Page 21, with Blue/Red Days Incorporating Face-

Tier 4: School Closure with Virtual Learning in Place For All Students

Early Childhood Program (Pre-K)

Students are assigned to an AM or PM session.

- Target class sizes will be 12-15 students per session.

- Necessary cleaning protocols may be implemented between the AM and PM sessions.

- Student attendance will be closely monitored.

- In Pre-K classrooms, every best effort will be made to maintain stable groups.

- Large gatherings may occur at the discretion of the administration.

- Classroom protocols may include assigned seating and other measures to minimize contact.

- Program leaders will make reasonable best efforts to minimize risk.

- Individual school closures may occur as directed by the Superintendent for health and safety reasons. Please refer to the Iron County C-4 section (page 21) of this document for more information.

Elementary (Viburnum Elementary School)

- All students in K-5 will be expected to attend face-to-face.

- In-person classes will be taught in the traditional format. However, students will continue using an online platform, such as Google Classroom, intermittently in order to prepare for a temporary school closure. Students will become accustomed to working on the District virtual platform. If a temporary school closure occurs due to increased health and safety concerns, classes would immediately transition to virtual learning and remain in place until reopening.

    ➢ Temporary school closures may occur by building as directed by the Superintendent for health and safety reasons. Please refer to the Iron County C-4 Closures section of this document for more information.
    ➢ Once again, students will be transferred to virtual learning with their teacher in the event of a school closure.

- K-5 grading practices will remain the same as the previous school year. Students will continue receiving grades even if a school closure occurs.

- In grades K-5, every best effort will be made to maintain consistent groupings.
    ➢ Consistent groupings may be maintained at breakfast and lunch.
    ➢ Large gatherings will be allowed with masks encouraged.
    ➢ Classroom protocols may include assigned seating and other measures to minimize contact.

➢ Elementary Special Education 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 that the IEP is being met.
    ➢ The student's services will be provided in a pull-out and/or push-in model to ensure the student's IEP goals are being addressed.
    ➢ If Iron County C-4 closes a school or the District due to health and safety concerns, students will continue to receive their services from their special education teacher per Form G of the IEP.
    ➢ The District will provide counseling and mental health services for students and staff. Please contact your building's Counseling Office for more information.

➢ Elementary Section 504 Services

- ➢ Section 504 plans will continue to be implemented. If needed, the 504 team may reconvene to adjust accommodations and modifications.

- ➢ Elementary EL (English Learner) Services
  - ➢ EL students will receive direct support from their EL teacher.
  - ➢ If Iron County C-4 closes a school or the District due to health and safety concerns, students will continue to receive their services from their EL teacher.
  - ➢ The student's services will be provided in a pull-out and/or push-in model to ensure the student's goals are being addressed.
  - ➢ Stakeholders can contact the District office if information is needed in a different language.

- ● Physical Education
  - ➢ Classes will engage in outdoor activities as much as possible.
  - ➢ Social distancing will be managed as much as possible and activities may be used to limit close contact with others.
  - ➢ Students may be provided their own equipment for class when possible and equipment will be disinfected regularly.
  - ➢ Handwashing before and after physical activity will be encouraged.

Secondary Education (Viburnum Junior High & High School)

- All students in grades 6-12 will be expected to attend face-to-face.

- In-person classes will be taught in the traditional format. However, students will begin using an online platform, such as 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, classes would immediately transition to virtual learning and remain in place until reopening. Students will become accustomed to working with the District virtual platforms.

  - ➢ Temporary school closures may occur by building as directed by the Superintendent for health and safety reasons. Please refer to the Iron C4 School Closures section of this document for more information.
  - ➢ Once again, students will be transferred to virtual learning with their teacher in the event of a school closure.

- 6-12 grading practices will remain the same as the previous school year. Students will continue receiving grades even if a school closure occurs.

- In grades 6-12, every best effort will be made to maintain consistent groupings.
  - ➢ Consistent groupings may be maintained at breakfast and lunch.
  - ➢ Large gatherings will be allowed with masks encouraged.
  - ➢ Classroom protocols may include assigned seating and other measures to minimize contact.

- Secondary Special Education 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 that the IEP is being met.
  - ➢ The student's services will be provided in a pull-out and/or push-in model to ensure the student's IEP goals are being addressed.
  - ➢ If Iron County C-4 closes a school or the District due to health and safety concerns, students will continue to receive their services from their special education teacher per Form G of the IEP.
  - ➢ The District will provide counseling and mental health services for students and staff. Please contact your building's Counseling Office for more information.

- Secondary Section 504 Services

- ➢ Section 504 plans will continue to be implemented. If needed, the 504 team may reconvene to adjust accommodations and modifications.

- Secondary EL (English Learner) Services
  - ➢ EL students will receive direct support from their EL teacher.
  - ➢ If Iron County C-4 closes a school or the District due to health and safety concerns, students will continue to receive their services from their EL teacher.
  - ➢ The student's services will be provided in a pull-out and/or push-in model to ensure the student's goals are being addressed.
  - ➢ Stakeholders can contact the District office if information is needed in different language.

- Performing Arts
  - ➢ Classes may be organized to encourage social distancing. This may potentially include alterations to traditional class expectations.
  - ➢ Students should use their own equipment and avoid sharing. When this is not possible, appropriate cleaning and sanitizing should take place. Teachers should demonstrate proper hand washing and cleaning of tools, equipment, and media so that students can properly clean shared items when appropriate.

- Visual Arts
  - ➢ Classes may be organized to emphasize social distancing.
  - ➢ Students should use their own equipment to avoid sharing. When this is not possible, appropriate cleaning and sanitizing will take place. Teachers should demonstrate proper hand washing and cleaning of tools, equipment, and media so that students can properly clean shared items when appropriate.

- Physical Education
  - ➢ Classes will engage in outdoor activities as much as possible.
  - ➢ Social distancing will be managed as much as possible and activities may be used which limit close contact with others.
  - ➢ Students may be provided their own equipment for class when possible and equipment will be disinfected regularly.
  - ➢ Handwashing before and after physical activity will be encouraged.
  - ➢ Locker room procedures may be updated to provide appropriate social distancing.

- Library Media Services
  - ➢ Access to Central library media centers will be available. Social distancing will be encouraged when possible.
  - ➢ Safety measures may be enacted to clean and sanitize circulated materials.

Screening/Safety Procedures

- 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 or provide a negative COVID-19 test after quarantining for 5 days with no symptoms in order to return at that time.

- Self-Quarantine
  - ➢ If a student or employee has recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19 symptoms, been 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.

➢ An option is available for a return, after day 7, upon testing negative after day 5, or after day 10 if not testing. Masks must be worn and social distancing practiced until the 14-day quarantine period has expired. This option naturally focuses on no symptoms being present at any time after the initial exposure.
➢ Those entering into the school buildings may be screened.
➢ At this time, it is not planned to temperature check students and staff each day upon entrance to school, unless the essential worker provision is being implemented with specific staff. If a student visits the nurse, temperature checks and additional screening may be implemented as needed.
➢ Students and staff may be asked screening questions each day prior to arrival at school, if deemed necessary. Individuals at risk may be redirected for additional screening.
● Those who are identified as having COVID-19 symptoms will be instructed to wear an appropriate mask, use hand sanitizer, and go to a designated area to be picked up by families and sent home.
➢ Individuals suspected of being exposed to COVID-19 may be excluded from entry into the building and the student will be escorted out.
➢ Staff assisting with COVID-19 symptoms/screening will be supplied with appropriate PPE.

School Nurse Procedures

● Iron County C-4 Nursing staff providing health care will be provided with appropriate PPE.

● Iron County C-4 nurse regularly maintains a log of health room visits. The name and phone number/address of all persons seen with fever and new cough will be recorded. Due to student privacy, these records are not public. However, information may be shared with the Health Department as appropriate.

● The Iron County Health Department will continue to provide guidance on students and staff who have had contact with people who are suspected of a COVID-19 positive.

General Cleaning Procedures

● Buildings and buses will be thoroughly cleaned as normal, including the use of foggers.

● Bathrooms will be disinfected. Specific machines are on each campus for this purpose.

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

● Teachers, upon request, will have a spray bottle of disinfectant to wipe down desks and tables throughout the day.

- Traditional water fountains may be used. The District has installed water bottle filling stations in the buildings. Students will be expected to bring a water bottle with them to school or use the traditional water fountains. Bottled water will not be provided.

- Technology devices such as computers and Chromebooks that are used by multiple students and/or employees will be disinfected regularly.

Suspected Case of Covid-19

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.
- The employee or student will be temporarily separated from others.

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 provide the employee with the result.
- The Health Department will also contact the employee and conduct a risk assessment (contact tracing) with assistance from the school. If the employee resides in a county other than Iron, then both county health departments may be involved.
- The Health Department/school personnel 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 building administrator/supervisor/school nurse to the employee. This will be approved, and in conjunction with, the county health department(s) involved.

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.

- 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 with the school (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.
- Remittance to school will be communicated by the building administrator or the school nurse to the parent/guardian.

Student Transportation

Bus transportation will be provided. Due to the difficulty of social distancing on buses, any parent who can provide transportation may well want to do so. Students may have assigned seats on the bus.

- ➢ Students are asked to not load/ride the bus 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

- ➢ Bus drivers will watch for continued coughing or other symptoms and may request a student sit in a designated area on the bus.
    - ▪ The bus driver will immediately alert the school administration upon arrival.

- ➢ The seats will be sanitized consistently.

- ➢ The front row seats will be used at the discretion of the driver and administration.

- ➢ Bus drivers will not work if they are sick.

- ➢ Masks are encouraged for bus drivers and students.

- ➢ If a student has transportation written into their IEP plan, the IEP team will make the most appropriate decision for those students.

- ➢ **Loading/Unloading**
    - ➢ Avoiding congestion when loading and unloading buses is recommended.

    - ➢ Again, students may have assigned seats.

- ➢ Same households may be required to sit in the same row or in close proximity to each other.

- ➢ Students should remain in their seat facing forward and should refrain from touching others.

<u>Staff Procedures</u>

Daily Self-Check

- 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;
  - ➢ 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;
    - ▪ sore throat; and/or
    - ▪ new loss of taste or smell.

- Employees should not come to work under any circumstances if they are sick and should leave work immediately if they start to feel ill.

- Self-Quarantine
  - ➢ If an 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 employee from the school building and recommend that they self-quarantine for 14 calendar days.
  - ➢ An option is available for a return, after day 7, upon testing negative after day 5, or after day 10 if not testing. Masks must be worn and social distancing practiced until the 14-day quarantine period has expired. This option naturally focuses on no symptoms being present at any time after the initial exposure.

Masks

- Masks are encouraged and at the discretion of staff. Face shields will be available for staff.

- Food service workers are encouraged to wear masks in the serving area.

Social Distancing

- Iron County C-4 will continue to monitor health department recommendations regarding social distancing.

- Refrain from congregating in public spaces like restrooms, break rooms/kitchens, or hallways.

Additional Cleaning Guidelines

- Additional hand sanitizer stations have been put in place in all buildings/hallways.

- Cleaning hands and disinfecting frequently touched items/surfaces is highly encouraged.
  - ➢ This may include after coughing or sneezing, eating and handling food, or touching things in "common" areas of the building.

- Cleaning supplies will be available for use in classrooms to assist in maintaining good health etiquette.

Vaccinations

- Similar to SY 2020-21, the District may choose to partner with local pharmacies or health officials to offer, on a voluntary basis, vaccinations on-site.

General Guidelines/Information

- Visitors are encouraged to wear masks and practice social distancing when in buildings.

- To support the work of our custodial staff and their efforts to disinfect and maintain a safe building for the students and staff, we will have the following guidelines for school access after the school day and during the weekends:

  ➢ We will still allow facility rentals on a case-by-case basis.
  ➢ School administration must approve all after school events and groups will have to adhere to the social distancing and gathering recommendations at the time of the event. To begin the year, the District will not have any in place.
  ➢ We have reminders posted at entryways not to enter the school if experiencing signs of illness.

- In order for a student to participate in extracurricular activities, he/she must meet all Missouri State High School Activity Association and District guidelines for participation.

Blended Instruction

- If the District transitions into Tier 3, teachers will deliver a blended instructional program, with students receiving in-person instruction, alternating with virtual instruction.
    - ➢ For example, students in Group A would receive in-person instruction on Tuesday and Thursday. Students in Group B would receive in-person instruction on Wednesday and Friday.

- The teacher will assign curriculum related lessons and activities via Google Classroom.

- Teachers will track completion of assignments on a weekly basis and provide feedback to students.

- Virtual instruction and assignments will cover the same standards as in-person instruction/assignments.

- Virtual assignments will be required and graded as assigned.

- Assessments will be administered in-person to every extent possible.

- Hotspots are available on each campus parking lot for students without internet access at home. The possibility exists to add additional hotspots around the community if needed.

- Training will be provided to all students on how to access assignments and virtual instruction. In addition, tutorials will be posted on our school website for parents to access as needed.

- The District will work with all parents that need additional assistance with virtual instruction.

- Breakfast and lunch will be available for pick up on the days a student is not in school due to Blended Learning. Locations on all meals would be announced at a later date.

Iron County C-4 School Closures

The decision to close Iron County C-4 School District may be made as a means to prevent further spread of an epidemic, or in response to high student and/or staff absenteeism. The Superintendent will make individual school or District closure decisions in consultation with the Board of Education, District Administrative Team, and the Iron County Health Department. Current local, state, and federal guidelines may also impact school closure decisions.

Possible School Closure Trigger Points:

- Student absenteeism - when it is not economically prudent to keep the school(s) open;

- Staff absenteeism - when the number of staff available to supervise and instruct students drop below what is necessary to maintain a safe learning environment;

- To protect the public health and safety as advised by local, state, or federal officials.

If schools close, instruction will transition to virtual/at-home learning for all students. Students will be given grades during virtual/at-home learning. Teachers will report to their buildings on a normal school schedule or as deemed by administration.