

Fairfax R-III School District
2021-2022
Safe Return to In-Person Instruction
and Continuity of Services Plan
(SRCSP)

Updated 12/17/21

This plan is available in other languages upon request. Please contact (660) 686-1010 for accommodations.

DRAFT

This plan is in draft form and will be subject to change based on the most current, reliable, information and recommendations. If you have questions, concerns, or suggestions, please contact the Superintendent's Office at (660) 686-1010.

Mitigation and Prevention Strategy Quick Reference

Mitigation Strategy	Fairfax R-III Implementation
Universal and correct wearing of masks	Masks are optional in the school setting until required by a vote of the Fairfax R-III Board of Education.
Physical Distancing	Physical distancing is optional in the school setting until required by a vote of the Fairfax R-III Board of Education.
Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette	Taught and reinforced
Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including ventilation	Increased cleaning for high-touch surfaces.
Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments	Contact tracing by the local public health authority (LPHA) for non-school settings. No contact tracing will take place for school settings unless required by a vote of the Fairfax R-III Board of Education.
Diagnostic and screening testing	Conducted by local hospital
Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible.	Staff and students may be vaccinated if they desire.
Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies.	Accommodations as necessary or as mandated by IEP.
Athletic participation	A positive Covid test will exclude a student from play until he/she completes the MSHSAA return to play protocol.

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A note on supporting data:

The district has used data from state officials, Atchison County DHSS, the CDC, and the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to create this plan.

A note on the creation of this plan:

The district created this plan with feedback from local health officials, parents, community members, staff and students. At minimum, a review of this plan will be conducted every six months and changes will be made as needed.

Introduction:

As our community has dealt with the onset and disruption of the Covid-19 pandemic, many have gone through at least some stages of the grief cycle. Denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and finally acceptance have all had an opportunity to show their faces within our own psyches. In this ever-changing landscape, it is difficult to know what information to trust, maintain a sense of purpose, and find a way to cope with what seems to have become a tug-of-war between appropriate action and over/under reaction.

While the ultimate purpose of any educational system is to prepare students for life once they leave that system, there are multiple building blocks that must be considered to achieve that goal. One of those building blocks is safety. It is the goal and of the Fairfax R-III School District to provide a safe learning environment for all our students and staff. However, it is not our goal to establish a learning environment that is free of risk. A life that is risk-free is impossible to achieve and even before Covid-19 we operated with risk each school day. Some risk is good, some risk we tolerate because we know it is beyond our control, and many risks we work diligently to reduce.

This plan is designed to allow us to work diligently to reduce risk. We know that no single factor will remove the risk associated with Covid-19 in the public school arena. We know that the struggle with the virus is ongoing, difficult to predict, and quickly changing. At the time of this plan's creation, we also know, based on the most reliable data we can collect, that children are the least likely to manifest severe symptoms or transmit the virus.

If these statements about the virus are true, then why not start school as if nothing is happening? In response, we understand two things: The first is that our community is greater than just our student population and the second is the necessity to ensure a safe, but not risk free, learning environment. We want to provide as much safety as possible for our students in case the situation surrounding the virus changes. We want to be prepared if the evolving data surrounding the virus begins to point toward a higher risk to students for whom we care so deeply. We also want the larger community to know that we can be relied upon to be good stewards of their trust.

In this plan you will find strategies designed to prevent the spread of Covid-19 in the daily operation of our school district. You will also get a glimpse into a larger picture of how our school influences and is influenced by the close community of Atchison County. While we do not dream of listing strategies that are individually 100% effective, we do feel that the steps we have outlined create an interwoven system of precautions that, when diligently applied, will minimize risk and allow us to care for our students, staff, and larger community.

We are here to do our part.

Jeremy Burright Ed.D.
Superintendent
Fairfax R-III School District

Organization of the Covid-19 Plan:

When possible this plan has been organized into risk levels. Experience has taught us that, while effective for preventing the spread of the virus, a complete closure of onsite learning is not best for the long-term needs of our students. This plan is organized to present a response to legitimate risk that is proportionate and appropriate.

Alternate Methods of Instruction

Also referred to as “distance learning”, this DESE-Approved plan allows a district to assign alternate learning tasks to students when a district must be closed for Covid-19 or inclement weather. When students complete these tasks, the district can be forgiven up to 36 hours of lost attendance time. This plan will be used by Fairfax R-III School District if a closure due to Covid-19 or other emergency must occur and can be found on the district website.

Communication Methods:

Information regarding the district’s response to the Covid-19 risk will be communicated through the following methods and will originate from district administration:

- Remind Text.
- Textcaster.
- Updates on school website.
- Local radio stations as with inclement weather.

Information regarding distance learning tasks during the implementation of the Alternate Methods of Instruction plan will originate with the building principal and classroom teachers. Communication may include, but will not be limited to:

- Remind Text
- Email to the student
- Phone calls when needed
- In-person sessions with safety protocols
- Whole class or individual online meetings
- Pre-recorded instructional videos

Alternating Scheduling:

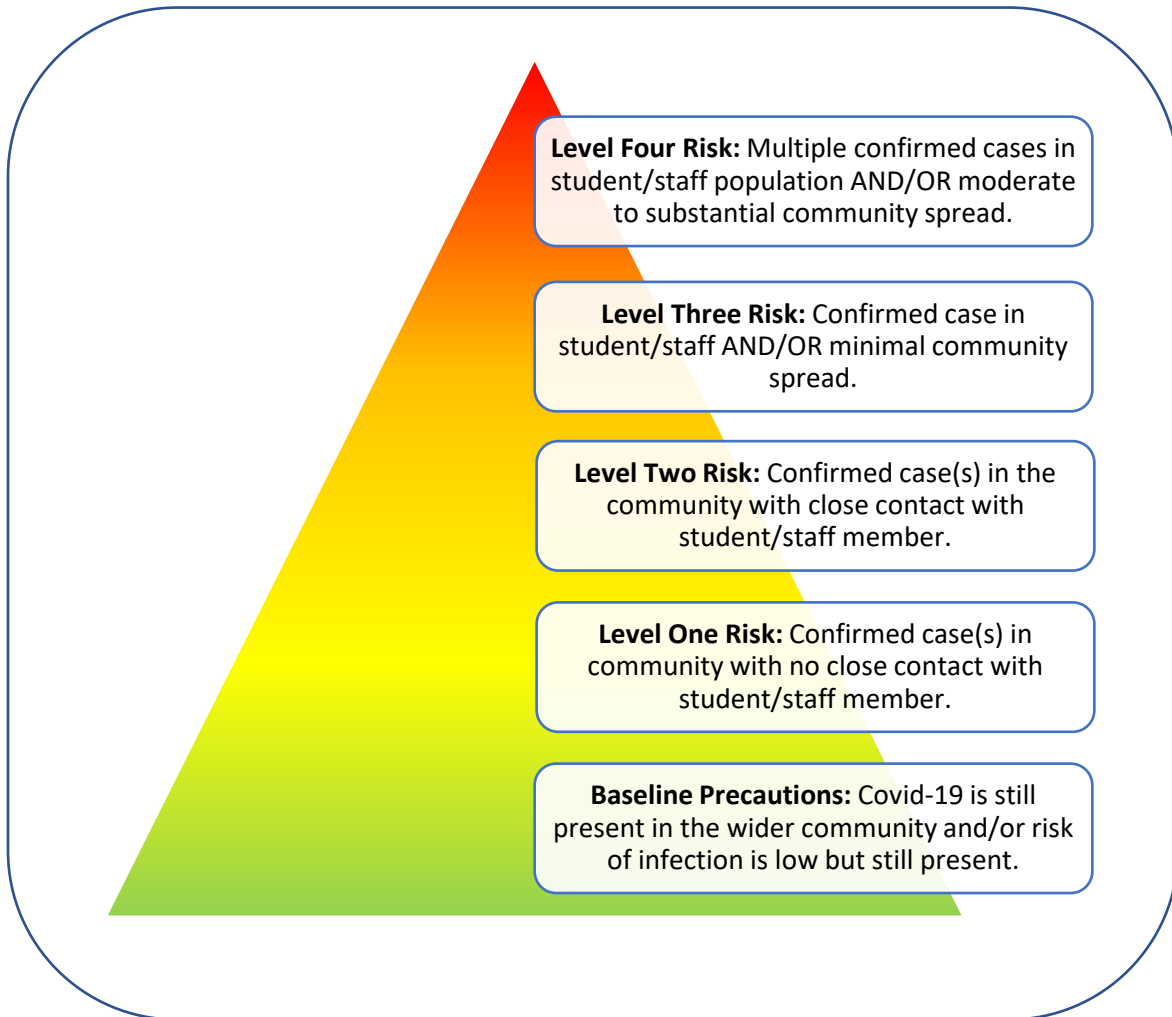
While this plan attempts to allow for all contingencies, it is possible that the district will have to explore methods not defined in this plan in order to ensure safety for students and delivery of instruction. It is the intent of the district to have all students attend school each day. However, it is possible that with a level three or higher risk that an alternating student schedule will be implemented instead of closing school completely. An alternating schedule will be structured similar to the following model:

- Students will attend on an A/B day schedule and attend alternating Fridays.
- Half of the Fairfax students will attend on “A” days and alternating Fridays while the other half attend on “B” days and alternating Fridays.
- Students not in attendance onsite will have distance learning tasks to complete in lieu of in-class instruction.

It is also possible that an individual class or group of students may be placed online during a significant quarantine of students or staff.

Risk Assessment and Response

The following pyramid presents categories of risk to the school environment and how the district will most likely respond. As the risk to a student or staff-member in the classroom increases, so will the level of prevention.



All risk levels are contingent upon the number of positive cases and close contact. Close contact is defined by the CDC as within six feet of an infected individual for more than 15 minutes. Additionally, it is the goal of the district to facilitate social distancing where possible and substitute for social distancing when not possible. The district is always in regular consultation with Atchison County DHSS.

Precautions:

REGULAR OPERATION OF THE DISTRICT, WITHOUT ADDITIONAL SAFETY PRECAUTIONS, WILL BE IN PLACE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. PLEASE KEEP STUDENTS HOME IF THEY ARE ILL.

If designated by school officials, students and staff will be asked to participate in the following preventative measures as required for each day school is in session. These preventative measures will be used until such a time that the district, in consultation with DHSS and state authorities, determines that a higher or lower level of precaution is necessary. These precautions will begin, as needed, upon notification by district administration, for all students, staff, families, and community members who come into contact with the district facilities.

Family Support: At all times

If a district is to be successful, it is essential for families to support school efforts whether they be academic or directed at other services. This plan is no different and families play a key role in controlling the spread of the virus in the school setting. Families are asked to keep sick students away from the school setting in order to help us maintain a safe and healthy learning environment. Specifically, students exhibiting a temperature of 100 degrees or more will not be allowed to attend class. If a student shows symptoms at any time during the school day families may be contacted so the sick child can be picked up and given supervision at home by family members.

Attendance: At all times

While the district understands the deep-felt concern many have regarding the start of school, the district is taking significant steps to ensure a safe learning environment is created for students and staff. It is due to our ability to implement safety measures and consultation with local health officials that we will be implementing normal attendance policies for students and staff unless they are placed on mandatory quarantine.

Attendance-Students: At all times

Student absences due to mandatory quarantine will be accommodated as long as students are able to complete coursework and online tasks. According to our current attendance policy, excessive student absences can be reviewed by committee and can be forgiven for severe health issues or extenuating circumstances. It is likely absences due to mandatory quarantine will be forgiven if appropriate evidence is supplied.

Attendance-Staff: At all times

Staff participating in mandated quarantine will be placed on administrative leave and will suffer no loss in leave time or pay pending their completion of professional responsibilities. If a staff member becomes too ill to perform their expected duties, sick and personal leave will need to be used to offset a loss in pay.

The following precautions will be in place only after notification by school administration:

Student Arrival: Starting the school day

Bus Transportation: students will be required to wear masks on the bus and will be screened prior to entering school facilities. Students will also be assigned seats to create physical distancing.

Screening: When announced by administration, all persons entering the district buildings will be screened for fever and the following items linked to Covid-19 spread:

- Chills
- New cough
- Shortness of breath
- New sore throat
- New muscle aches
- New headache
- New loss of smell or taste

Any student exhibiting a fever of 100 degrees or more upon arriving at school, or any time throughout the school day, will not be allowed to attend class and will be sent home. Students exhibiting any combination of other symptoms may also be sent home depending on severity or combination of symptoms.

Breakfast-Elementary: As announced

Students will go to their classrooms to check in. Students eating breakfast will be allowed to go to the cafeteria for breakfast. Other students will either stay in their classroom or go to outside recess.

Breakfast-High School: As announced

Students eating breakfast will be allowed to go to the cafeteria for breakfast. Other students will go to the old or new gym depending on where they are assigned

Instructional Time: The classroom setting

Classroom-Elementary: As announced

- Whole-class, daily attendance.
- Masks will be required when another substitute for social distancing cannot be provided. This includes but is not limited to small group work, transitions between classrooms, and one-to-one work with a teacher. CDC guidelines state that masks are not required when students are 6 ft. apart, in PE, at recess, in band, choir or music, and if a student has a severe asthma or breathing problems. For other exemptions contact administration.
- Spacing of student desks to allow physical distancing.
- No sharing of personal materials, resources, or technology.
- Essential class items may be shared with frequent cleaning.

- Students will wash hands during transitions to and from the classroom.
- Desks will be cleaned by students, teachers, and custodial staff 3x daily.
- Students will be assigned personal Chromebooks.
- Classroom doors should remain open to reduce touch-surface transmission.
- Physical contact such as high fives and handshakes should be eliminated while baseline or more restrictive precautions are in place.

Classroom-High School: As announced

- Whole-class, daily attendance.
- Masks will be required when another substitute for social distancing cannot be provided. This includes but is not limited to small group work, transitions between classrooms, and one-to-one work with a teacher. CDC guidelines state that masks are not required when students are 6 ft. apart, in PE, at recess, in band, choir or music, and if a student has a severe asthma or breathing problems. For other exemptions contact administration.
- No sharing of personal materials, resources, or technology.
- Essential class items may be shared with frequent cleaning.
- Students will wash hands whenever able.
- Desks and tables will be cleaned by students and classroom staff at the end of each hour.
- Students will be assigned personal Chromebooks and asked to take Chromebooks to each class and home with them.
- Partitions will be used on tables in classrooms where physical distancing is not possible.
- Classroom doors should remain open to reduce touch-surface transmission.
- Physical contact such as high fives and handshakes should be eliminated while baseline or more restrictive precautions are in place.

Specials and Recess-Elementary: As announced

Each elementary class will attend specials independent of other classes while baseline or more restrictive precautions are in place. Likewise numbers of students attending recess simultaneously may be reduced through scheduling.

Lunch-All Grades: As announced

Four lunch shifts will be utilized in order to accommodate social distancing in the lunch room and provide adequate time for lunch. While spaces of six feet may not be available in the lunchroom, students will be spaced as much as possible. Kitchen staff will be required to wear masks or face shields when in close proximity to each other and while serving food.

- 10:45- 11:25 (First Shift) Grades PK, K, 1, 2
- 11:25-11:55 (Second Shift) Grades 10, 11, 12
- 11:45-12:15 (Third Shift) Grades 3, 4, 5, 6
- 12:15-12:45 (Fourth Shift) Grades 7, 8, 9

Staff hours:

Because of additional student supervision, teacher hours will be changed to 7:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. This time change reflects additional morning supervision.

Athletics: As announced

Students who test positive for Covid 19 are ineligible for athletic participation until he/she completes the MSHSAA return to play protocol.

At the time of this plan's creation, individual school districts maintained control of how athletics programs will be managed during a time of COVID-19 precautions. We will share information as it becomes available. Student participants, families, and other community members should be prepared for any of the following to occur:

- Spectator screening including temp checks and screening questions.
- Limited spectator attendance.
- Requirement for spectators to wear masks.
- Quarantining of athletes who come into contact with an infected player from their own or another school's team.
- Cancellation of games due to low player numbers or school closures.

Spectator limitations: As announced

At this time, the Fairfax R-III School District is requiring the following precautions for spectators:

- ALL Players (home and visitors) are limited to four guests per event. This will be managed through the distribution of tickets. Tickets will be required for entrance.
- Fans are expected to physically distance and/or sit in family groups.
- Fans are expected to wear masks when not physically distanced or in family groups.
- No student sections.
- No visiting cheerleaders.
- Observe a six foot space around team benches.
- Fans are asked to stay only for the game in which their player is participating.
- Additional limitations may be imposed for the Fairfax Tournament.

Risk Levels and Response:

While levels of risk will most likely remain consistent, steps taken during each level may vary based on need. Steps listed below are the most likely interventions to be used during each risk level.

Level One Risk:

Confirmed case(s) in community who has had no close contact with student/staff member. Possible responses include:

- Baseline precautions in place.
- Consultation with healthcare officials.
- Monitor situation for impact on school and length of risk.
- School will remain open and school related services will continue.
- School related events will most likely continue.

Level Two Risk:

Confirmed case in community who has had close contact with student/staff member. Possible responses include:

- Baseline precautions in place.
- Consultation with healthcare officials.
- Monitor situation for impact on school and length of risk.
- School will remain open and school related services will continue.
- School related events will most likely continue.
- Accommodate absenteeism of staff and students due to mandated quarantine.

Level Three Risk:

Confirmed case in student or staff AND/OR minimal community spread. Possible responses include:

- Consultation with healthcare officials.
- Monitor situation for impact on school and length of risk.
- The district may engage in district wide short-term closure for disinfecting and to clearly determine risk. Baseline precautions in place.
- The district may place a class or small group of students on AMI for delivery of instruction.
- The district may activate AMI for a short term, placing all district students on distance learning for delivery of instruction.
- Possible use of an alternate schedule for students to increase physical distancing.
- Accommodate absenteeism of staff and students due to mandated quarantine.

Level Four Risk:

Multiple confirmed cases in students or staff AND/OR moderate/substantial community spread. Closure may be mandated by outside agencies. Possible responses include:

- Consultation with healthcare officials.
- Monitor situation for impact on school and length of risk.
- Extended closure of school based on consultation/mandates for cleaning and safety.
- The district will activate AMI, placing all district students on distance learning for delivery of instruction.
- Accommodate absenteeism of staff and students due to mandated quarantine.
- If possible continue food service through delivery and pickup.

Level Three and Four Closure:

Decision to close:

The decision to close is made by the superintendent, designee, or state official after consulting with area health care providers and/or need has been established.

Length of Closure:

The amount of time the district will be closed due to Covid-19 will be based on risk and any mandates from the state or local governments. A level three closure will most likely last only one to three days while a level four closure may last significantly longer.

Building Access:

All staff may have normal access to all areas of the building but should not congregate in any area or in any way that might contribute to contagion. Community members, non-emergency services, and students may enter and exit for specific, short-term tasks. No one should congregate in the facilities in any area or in any way that might contribute to contagion. All personnel should implement physical distancing or wear masks when entering the building.

Due to limited building access, no screening will be done during closure.

Regular Education Services:

Coursework will be handled according to the district's AMI plan.

Special Education Services:

Special education services will be modified for distance learning and governed through a student's IEP.

Certified Teaching Staff:

Teaching staff will be paid regular wages and are expected to check in with students and families as defined by the AMI plan and administrative recommendations. Teaching staff may be asked to keep office hours and regular hours of contact. Working schedules for teachers will be determined through collaboration with the building principal.

Paraprofessionals, lunch staff, secretaries, nurse and bus driver

These positions will work a modified schedule and duties for full time pay.

Bookkeeper, maintenance, and superintendent

These positions will work a regular schedule for regular pay.

Building principal

Will be onsite as needed and will be responsible for supervising online instruction.

Student Meals

The district will offer lunches through delivery and pickup services as long as possible and as long as risk to students and staff can be minimized.

Student Activities

Depending on the situation, events may be canceled until school reopens. Cancellation will depend on results of contact tracing and actual infection.

Additional Details:

Any additional details regarding closure will be communicated through normal channels. These may involve alternating attendance days or special events not otherwise covered in the plan.

Record of Community Consultation:

Date of Consultation	Type of Consultation	Reviewers
6/17/21	Board Meeting	Fairfax R-III School Board
December 2021	Phone consultation/ survey/email	See Plan Review Committee List
May 19, 2022	Phone consultation/ survey/email	See Plan Review Committee List

Plan Review Committee:

Members of the Board of Education:

- Jon Graves-President, district parent
- Samantha O’Riley-Member, district parent
- Mike Lewis-Vice President, community member
- Brett Johnson-Member, district parent
- Miles Smith-Member, district parent
- Josh Oswald-Member, district parent
- Theresa Larson-Member, district parent

Community Members

- Kris Umbarger-Parent
- Julie Livengood-Director of ACMO DHSS
- Tabatha Wintz-Parent
- Ryan Kingery-Fairfax, Mo Mayor, parent

School Staff:

- Jennifer Blakeman-Elementary
- Kristine Price-Specials/electives
- Marisa Hedlund-Counseling
- Jonnie Kemerling-Secondary
- Dustin Barnes-Principal
- Jeremy Burright-Superintendent