



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

Board Approved: June 14, 2021

Board Reviewed & Approved 6/13/22

SRCSP Introductory Information

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic forced school districts across the nation to shut their doors in the Spring of 2020. The Central R-III 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 Central 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. Whether face-to-face or upon closing and transitioning to virtual learning, counselors and the District school-based service worker are available for any social, emotional, or mental health needs of students or staff.

For the 2021-22 school year, all students **will be enrolled** for face-to-face instruction and the District will not directly be providing an online option. 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. All changes will be communicated to families through email, text, social media, and shared on the District's website under "Must See Stuff". 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. This plan will be reviewed/revised at a minimum of every six months and will use information from all stakeholders in the District, including staff, students, parents, and community members. The information will be received through committee meetings, surveys, and/or during open sessions at Board of Education meetings.

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Tiers of Operation

Central R-III 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 be 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 Isolation & Safety Procedures



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



Tier 3: School Closure with Virtual Learning in Place For All Students

Early Childhood Programs (ECSE)

Students are assigned to an AM or PM session.

- Target class sizes will be 12 or less students per session.
- Cleaning protocols will be implemented between the AM and PM sessions.
- Student attendance will be closely monitored.
- In ECSE classrooms, every best effort will be made to maintain stable groups.
- Large gatherings may occur at the discretion of 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 Central School Closures section (page 21) of this document for more information.

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 Central School Closures section (page 20) of this document for more information.

Elementary (Central and West Elementary)

- 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 Central 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.
- 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 Central 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.
- 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 Central 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.

- 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 (Central Middle and 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 Central 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 Central 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.
- 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 Central 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.
- 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 be excluded from school. If they do not exhibit symptoms, the modified COVID-19 guidelines or the test-to-stay options are available as outlined on pages 19-20 of this document.

- Self-Isolation
 - 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-isolate for 10 calendar days.
 - Options are available to stay in school as long as symptom free. Masks must be worn and social distancing practiced until a 10-day period from the last exposure has expired. Again, this option naturally focuses on no symptoms being present at any time after the initial exposure. Test-to-stay options are also available (pages 19-20).
 - 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

- Central Nursing staff providing health care will be provided with appropriate PPE.
- Central nurses regularly maintain 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 Center for Disease Control 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. The test can also be conducted by school nurses.
- If the employee tests positive for COVID, the provider that ordered the test will provide the employee with the result.
- A school nurse will request the employee to conduct a risk assessment with assistance from the school.
- 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 building administrator/supervisor/school nurse to the employee. **Staff may return to work 5 days after testing positive for COVID-19, fever free, and wear a mask for 5 additional days after the return, per CDC recommendations.**

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. **Central R-III can conduct antigen testing with signed permission of the parent/guardian.**
- The nurse will also notify the building administrator.
- The healthcare provider or school nurse will arrange for the student to be tested.
- The school will conduct a risk assessment (contact tracing) with the parent/student.
- 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. **Students may return to school 5 days after testing positive for COVID-19, fever free, and wear a mask for 5 additional days after the return, per CDC recommendations.**

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.
- *Per Federal regulations, masks must be worn on school buses. Schools do not have discretion regarding this Federal order.*
- 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.

Staff Procedures

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-Isolation
 - 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-isolate for 10 calendar days.
 - Options are available to stay in school as long as symptom free. Masks must be worn and social distancing practiced until a 10-day period has expired. Again, this option naturally focuses on no symptoms being present at any time after the exposure. Test-to-stay options are also available (pages 19-20).

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

- Central will continue to monitor CDC 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.
- Weather permitting, windows may remain open to allow for improved ventilation.

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, the following guidelines will be in place for school access after the school day and during the weekends:
 - Facility rentals will still be allowed 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. At this time, the District will not have any gathering recommendations in place.
 - Reminders are 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.

Central R-III Modified COVID-19 Guidelines

Central R-III is also providing the test-to-stay option for students and test-to-play for extracurricular activities. Students and staff will be able to receive COVID tests free of charge, as needed, provided by the school. *A permission form must be signed by the parent.* This option is dependent upon the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) being able to supply the District with BinaxNOW or a similar antigen test. If supply becomes limited, the District reserves the right to test only symptomatic staff and/or students.

Test to Stay: Stay in school and participate in extracurricular activities. Students, teachers, and staff identified as close contacts can continue to attend school and participate in extracurricular activities, if the following test to stay criteria are met:

- The final decision regarding the inclusion in Test-to-Stay is at the discretion of the District based on findings of the case investigation and test availability.
- Does not develop symptoms of COVID-19 throughout a 10-day period past the last date of exposure to the case.
- Wears a mask consistently and correctly in school at all times 10 days past the last date of exposure to the case, other than when eating or drinking. When these individuals cannot be masked (i.e., when eating or drinking) they should maintain 3-6 feet of distance from other individuals to the extent feasible.
- Receive a minimum of three rapid antigen tests (e.g., BinaxNOW) during the first seven days after exposure per the following:
 - Test One: Upon identification as a close contact (unless already participating in a screening testing program); AND
 - Tests Two and Three: A minimum of two additional rapid antigen tests, preferably on two non-consecutive school days within the first seven days after exposure. For example: contact identified as a close contact on day 2 would be tested on day 2 (Wednesday); day 4 (Friday) and day 7 (Monday); AND
 - The testing is conducted upon entry to school and negative results received prior to return to the K-12 setting.

For participation in extracurricular activities, daily testing is recommended, though at a minimum, an additional rapid antigen test is to be taken on the day of participation throughout the duration of the 10-day period after exposure. The testing should be completed and a negative result received prior to participation in the event. This includes testing on days when the event occurs during weekends, holidays, or other days when schools are not in session (see additional guidance below regarding testing and participation in extracurricular activities). If tests are limited in supply, students will be allowed to participate as long as they are symptom free and continue to closely monitor for symptoms.

- Receive negative test results from COVID-19 testing conducted throughout a period of 10 days after the last exposure.
- Active monitoring of persons participating in test-to-stay for symptoms is conducted by the school throughout a 10-day period after the last exposure, and persons should self-isolate at home if symptoms develop.

Guidelines as of March 2, 2022, While in Tier 1

- Students and staff are asked to isolate upon receiving a positive COVID-19 test and report the test result to the nurse of their respective building.
- If a student or staff member returns on Day 6 after testing positive for COVID, the nurse will recommend a mask be worn through Day 10.
- A student or staff member may provide a negative test result on Day 6 and masking will not be recommended.
- A student or staff member deemed a close contact will monitor for symptoms. Masking will not be recommended.
- In-home close contacts are asked to report the in-home contact to the nurse of their respective building and closely monitor for symptoms. Masking will not be recommended.
- Masks are no longer required on buses as of February 28, 2022.
- COVID case and quarantine totals will still be provided on the District website at www.centralr3.org.

Central R-III School Closures

The decision to close Central R-III 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 and the District Administrative team. Current 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 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.