

Otterville RVI School District



COVID-19 Guidelines and Protocols

2021-2022 School Year Re-Entry

The guidelines and protocols outlined in this document are subject to revision as needed to reflect local, state, and federal guidance should an outbreak reoccur.

Guidelines and protocols may also be revised as appropriate to reflect the needs of local conditions.

Commentary regarding COVID-19 guidelines and protocols

- The Otterville RVI School District is committed to providing a quality education to all students, while also ensuring their safety and well-being.
- The COVID-19 guidelines developed and presented below follow all applicable local, state, and federal guidelines, to the greatest extent feasible, and incorporate many best practices advocated by school associations and groups.
- Parents/guardians with questions or concerns are asked to call the Otterville RVI School District at 660-366-4391 to discuss and address those concerns.

If you need or know someone who needs this plan translated or read to them, please contact Cindy Beltz at 660-366-4391

Mitigating Strategy Policies

The Otterville RVI School District was able to continue in-person instruction for the entire 2020-2021 school year, largely due to the mitigating strategies set forth in the board approved Re-Entry Plan titled *COVID-19 Guidelines & Protocols - 2020-2021 School Year Re-Entry*, many of the protocols will continue in the 2021-2022 school year:

- Mask wearing for staff and students is optional.
- Physical distancing and use of cohorts will be incorporated into classes, to the extent possible.
- Handwashing and respiratory etiquette will be taught and/or reinforced.
- Daily sanitizing and disinfecting will be a priority at all district facilities.
- The school will assist with contact tracing in collaboration with the local health department.
- Parents will be asked to appropriately screen their child to assess wellness before sending their child to school.
- Vaccination clinics were offered to staff members in the 2020-2021 school year. Additional vaccination clinics could be offered in the 2021-2022 school year if there is a need.
- Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies will be determined, as needed.
- **Drinking fountains will not be used, except for the bottle filling capabilities.**
 - **Students should bring personal water bottles from home.** They should be labeled with the student name, and in clean, sanitary condition.
- Social distancing will be observed to the extent possible by all faculty, staff and students.

- Student activities and athletics will be conducted as usual to the extent they are permissible under local, state, and federal guidelines. MSHSAA guidelines for masks/face coverings apply for both play, practice and transportation. **In seat learning is a condition for eligibility.**
- Attendance incentives for students will cease. Staff and/or students who are sick need to stay home.

Understanding and recognizing COVID-19

- Faculty and staff will be trained to recognize symptoms that may be associated with COVID-19. Training will include, but will not be limited to, online modules provided by the Missouri United School Insurance Council. The CDC lists the following as possible symptoms of COVID-19
 - Fever or chills
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Headache
 - Sore throat
 - Newly emerged loss of taste or smell
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea

General health information for students and faculty/staff

- Parents and students, as well as staff members, are encouraged to self-screen for potential COVID-19 symptoms before coming to school. Anyone with symptoms of illness should stay home.
- Students at school who display health symptoms that could suggest COVID-19 concerns will be checked by the nurse's aid. If evaluation by the nurse aid suggests potential for COVID-19 infection, the student will be masked (if the student does not have one) until picked up by a parent/guardian.
- Students with a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher will be sent home
- The Cooper County Health Office will be contacted for each person/child who shows symptoms for directives.
- A student excluded from the school environment due to COVID-19 concerns may return to school in accordance with guidelines provided by the

Cooper County Health Department. Please understand that guidelines may change over time. At the time of this publication, the guidelines are as follows:

- Students/staff with symptoms, but not tested for COVID-19 may return if the the following conditions are met:
 - No fever for 24 hours or more **without use of medicine** that reduces fever and showing significant improvement for 7 days after the onset of symptoms.
- Students/staff with symptoms, but tested negative for COVID-19, may return if the following conditions are met:
 - No fever for 24 hours **without use of medicine** that reduces fever and showing significant improvement of symptoms
 - The student/staff member has received 2 negative COVID-19 tests in a row, with at least 24 hours between tests
- Students/staff that have tested positive for COVID-19 may return if the following conditions are met:
 - 10 days have passed without symptoms
 - Student/staff member has received 2 negative COVID-19 tests in a row, with at least 24 hours between tests
 - Released and given written approval to return by a healthcare provider
- Other scenarios regarding student health will be handled according to guidance from and consultation with the Cooper County Health Center.

Transportation information

- Parents/guardians are welcome to drop off students at school instead of using bus service. Drop-off and pick-up systems will be organized to ensure social distancing to the greatest extent possible. The school will only be open during posted hours. Early drop-offs will not be permitted. Drop offs will be completed with a drive through method. Parents will not walk students into the building.
- Students riding the bus from the same household will be required to sit together.
- Buses will be sanitized after each route.
- Hand sanitizer will be available on school buses
- **Drivers and students will use personal protective equipment (PPE), such as masks or shields**

Arrival at school

- K-6 students will go directly to classrooms or breakfast on arrival.

- 7-12 students may go through the breakfast line using appropriate social distancing. Students will be required to spread out in the cafeteria in an attempt to maintain social distancing.
- 7-12 students will report directly to their first hour class after finishing breakfast. Students will not be allowed to congregate in hallways or other areas.
- Parents/visitors will be permitted to visit the school office, but will not have access to any other areas in the building.

During the school day

- K-6 students will remain with their class and in designated areas during recess. Classes will not co-mingle during recess, where feasible.
- Technology devices will be assigned to students on a 1:1 basis during the school day.
- Sharing of supplies (art, other) will be minimized and/or eliminated.
- Equipment used by more than one student will be sanitized between uses.

At lunch

- Lunch shifts will be staggered as possible to minimize the number of students gathered.
- All lunches will be plated or boxed. Self-serve options will not be available.
- Students will sit with their classes.
- All tables will be cleaned and disinfected thoroughly between uses.

Other information

- Attendance policies will be adjusted in order to remove any incentive for students to attend school while sick. The school district will not be providing attendance awards and/or incentives

MOCAP and Virtual Instruction

The Missouri Course Access and Virtual School Program (MOCAP) has developed a catalog of virtual online courses for students. Students will be able to take an entire course from any Internet-connected computer, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. LAUNCH and West Central Co-Op are the School District's preferred providers. Additional information may be found at <https://mocap.mo.gov/>. If you require a virtual option, we will refer you to MOCAP at this time.

LAUNCH is a 100% virtual instruction program through a partnership with Springfield Public Schools. The West Central Co-Op is also a 100% virtual program through Morgan County R-I Schools. In these virtual education options, Missouri Learning

Standards are taught by Missouri teachers. Our school district is able to monitor your student's progress in their courses.

To begin the process for virtual instruction through MOCAP:

- Complete the "VIRTUAL COURSES: Request to Enroll in Virtual contact Chad Harter at 660-366-4391
- If you need assistance, please contact your student's principal and/or counselor. A conference will be requested in order to ensure your student is enrolled in the appropriate courses. This can be done in-person, or via phone conference, or via zoom conference.

It is important to note that virtual education enrollment is for the entire semester.

Withdrawing before the semester is complete and returning to on-site education is not an option.

Enrollment deadlines for each semester are as follows:

Semester 1: apply by August 15

Semester 2: apply by December 1

Guidelines and protocols considered but NOT ADOPTED

- Temperature screenings
 - Many young people are asymptomatic and may not run a fever with COVID-19. Temperature screenings are not considered determinate and are not advised by the local health department.
- Plastic shields placed on tables/desks
 - Hygiene, especially with younger students, is a major concern.
 - Behavior issues (throwing items over the shield, etc.) are a concern.
 - A "jail-like" message/environment in the classroom is a concern.
- Staggered hallway passing times for JH and HS students
 - Changing classes already requires co-mingling of students. Different passing times would provide minimal benefit.
- Students attending school on alternate days, alternate times, staggered school start times.
 - Creates significant hardship for families, especially those with younger children, and those who are economically disadvantaged.
 - Limited benefit is gained if students still co-mingle in junior high/high school classes, at activities, athletics, or in social occasions.
 - Many of our current class sizes are already fairly small.

- Limiting buses to one student per seat, or limiting students to every other seat
 - The rural nature of the school district makes it necessary for many bus routes to be quite long. It is very difficult to run a second route, or double routes, when bus routes are 45 minutes or longer.
 - This protocol reduces bus capacity by 50% or more and the district is unable to provide the buses and drivers necessary to implement.
- Placing/constructing clear plastic shields between bus drivers and students
 - These modifications are not permitted under federal bus standards.