

# Appleton City R-2 Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan 2021-2022 District Re-Entry Plan



**Appleton City R-2 August 11, 2021 Re-Entry Plan  
Board Approved August 11, 2021**

Appleton City R-2 School District is excited to see students return to the buildings on August 24th, 2021. We have experienced first-hand that in-person access to school is the best approach for students to be educated, have equitable and effective access to educational opportunities, access necessary support and nutrition, as well as engage in activities which promote social and emotional wellness. We would like families to feel comfortable and confident in sending all children back to in-person learning and we are prepared to keep our schools safe. The Appleton City R-2 School District plans to operate with full in-person schooling for the 2021-2022 school year. To keep our students, faculty, staff and patrons safe, we will deploy layers of mitigation strategies (mask-wearing, social distancing, hand-washing) as required or needed, depending upon COVID-19 circumstances as we return this year.

The District's primary objective for the 2021-2022 school year is to resume normal school operations. The District reaffirms its commitment to continue to ensure high-quality, in-person instruction for our students during the 2021-2022 school year.

Procedures may or can be modified at any time. It is impossible to plan for every scenario and situation. ACR2 works with the St. Clair County Health Department, Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Governor's Office, and Center for Disease Control. Please continue to have a plan for the possibility of school closure or in the event of a quarantine. There are many things that we cannot predict and plan for. A one-size-fits-all solution is not possible. Blanket policies and procedures do not take into consideration an individual's needs, concerns, challenges, and situation. This plan attempts to give students and families the best choices for their situation. There must be a balance between what is doable, what is reasonable, and what is in the best interest of not only students but also staff, the community, families, and the district.

ACR2 will make every effort to minimize contact to COVID-19 and other communicable diseases; however, attending school will inherently introduce a greater risk of exposure. A communicable disease is any pathogen identified by public health authorities as highly contagious and constitutes a threat. The district will implement the following safety measures. If a health agency such as St. Clair County or the State of Missouri require additional or stricter measures, ACR2 will enforce those plans. As an example, ACR2 does not require students or staff to wear masks but St. Clair County does, we would enforce mandatory masks to be worn.

**The Communicable Disease Response Team is empowered by the Appleton City R-2 Board of Education to exercise any and all options included in this plan.**

### **Safety and Protocols for Face-Face School**

- ❖ Enhanced Safety Procedures for all Buildings - (not all encompassing)
  - Training for all custodial staff and staff members specific to COVID-19 will be completed
  - Scheduled continuous training for custodial staff when available for updated procedures and best practices for cleaning and disinfecting
  - Higher emphasis and levels of disinfection on high touch surface areas
  - Products that are CDC certified to kill COVID-19 and other communicable diseases will be used
  - Social distancing will be in place where appropriate.
  - Classroom desks will be spread out using as much room as possible.
  - Students will be spread out anytime they are in line, in the halls or areas where gathering could be an issue.
  - Students in grades K through 12 may be required to wear masks when social distancing of 3 feet is not possible and other COVID barriers are not available. Masking must meet district appropriate apparel requirements. Exceptions made for masking requirements with a medical physician excused diagnosis (see green, yellow, and red sections for more information). Masking on buses is required by federal law.
  - Large gatherings will not occur.
  - Students will have assigned seats in any area they are seated.
  - Parents/visitors will not be allowed in the building during school hours. If a parent needs to pick up or drop off a child or deliver supplies, they will need to call the appropriate school office and a staff member will meet them at the door.
  - **Students will need a water bottle** to fill at the water bottle filling station. Bottles will need to be taken home regularly to be cleaned.
  - Hand sanitizing stations will be available in every classroom.
  - Students will report directly to their classroom each day.
  - Students sharing equipment will be limited and eliminated if possible.
  - Options for food service may include eating in classrooms, socially distancing in the cafeteria, or a combination of both.

Sanitation/Cleaning for all levels will be done more frequently and with appropriate disinfectants. Hot spots such as water fountains (push button will not be used, only use is the bottle filling station), doorknobs, light switches, lockers, sinks and faucet handles will be cleaned as often as

possible. We must minimize the use of shared equipment and sanitize these types of equipment often. Buses will be sprayed before bus trips and after bus trips. Sanitation is everyone's responsibility this school year. Social distancing and the secondary concerns that will result from this are everyone's responsibility.

**In the absence of guidance and directives from the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, the district may adopt recommendations from the Center for Disease Control, and guidance from local health care professionals and local, state, and national government authorities.**

### **Operating Level Descriptions**

**\*The current operating level status will be updated on the building Facebook pages and on the District website.**

#### **GREEN - No district cases, No large spike in county cases**

- Students will notice very little difference than school in the past.
- We will use symptom screening. Students and staff are to stay at home with a temperature of 100 degrees or greater OR two or more COVID-19 symptoms.
- We will emphasize additional hand washing, hand sanitizer upon entering and exiting a space, spacing in the classroom will strive to be a minimum of 3 ft. apart and facing forward as much as space allows.
- Breakfast and lunch will be held in the classrooms or other locations to socially distance as needed. Doors will not open until 7:30 and buses will not dismiss students until 7:30. Students will go straight to their class/homeroom.
- Students must wash hands frequently for 20 seconds with soap and water.
- Students will be asked to bring their own school supplies with a container brought from home to keep them separate from others as much as possible.
- Teachers will have a container for used and unused items and students must place used items in the correct container. We will not have shared supplies.
- Students will be required to have assigned seating everywhere.
- Quarantining of athletes and teams related to sports activities, coaching staff will advise using their own best judgement, game films, or recorded practices.
- We will encourage parents to bring their children or to drive/walk to school as weather permits. Buses will be loaded from the back to the front and unloaded from the front to the back. The bus driver may have family units sit together. All buses will have assigned seating.
- Outdoor spaces and open windows on the buses will be used whenever possible for learning, eating, bus riding and for PE and recess.
- Any visitor who needs to go past the office will be screened for illness. We will limit visitor contact with students and staff. Visitors will sign in to offices. Visitors are required to wear masks.
- School buses will keep an open seat on all buses.
- Parents will not be able to walk their child to classrooms or have lunch with them.

#### **YELLOW - Investigation of possible cases in district/Large spike in county with community spread**

- Some teachers will come to the classroom rather than the class going to the teacher when possible.
- Students who show symptoms at school will be asked to wear a mask until they are picked up.
- Outdoor spaces will be used whenever possible for learning, eating, and for PE and recess

- Masking may be required for staff and/or students.
- When the number of students testing positive or quarantined reaches 8%, the district may require the use of masks when students are on the move (i.e. hallways, lunch lines, etc.).

### **RED-Cases in district/large community/county spread**

- The school will utilize local, state, and CDC guidance to determine the level of quarantine appropriate.
- When the number of students testing positive or quarantined reaches 10%, **masking of staff and students will be mandatory. Masking will last for 2 weeks or until the number of students testing positive or quarantined reaches 5% or less.**
- We will continue learning through our Alternative Methods of Instruction (AMI) Plan. This will include a blend of virtual learning, Zoom, Google Classroom or FB for online lessons and learning packets. Teachers will be available to provide assistance at school for face to face by appointment, by phone and on-line. We have enough devices for every student (K -12). If the teacher believes the course needs to be taught by packets or we cannot provide you with a device, we can send lessons on thumb drives which will be delivered with meals weekly.
- Special needs students will need to have their AMI Plan implemented as decided upon by the IEP team.
- Meals will be provided by Grab and Go to distribution locations or bus delivery.

### **Grades**

If school is moved to a virtual or packet format in the event of a building or district closure, all student work will be graded and used to determine passing to the next grade K-8 or credit to be given in the high school. Proof of learning will be required for student's grades just like in a face-to-face setting. Special needs students will have their Alternative Learning Method implemented by the IEP team. Teachers and staff members will be available to provide assistance at school by appointment, phone, email, and/or Google Classroom.

### **Parents and Families**

It is very important that you communicate with the district. As we look at the below symptoms some of them may be due things not related to Covid. Informing the district of regular allergy flair ups, asthma, or other symptoms will help the appropriate County Health Department determine if your child can remain in school. Symptoms of Covid have been given to local school districts. We will be sending students home if they have two of these symptoms:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Muscle aches
- Close contact with a person with COVID-19 in the last 14 days
- New loss of taste or smell
- New runny nose or congestion
- Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea

The following statement is guidance from The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS): Students with symptoms should not attend school and parents should consult their healthcare provider and follow CDC/DHSS

considerations regarding their return to school. For students who are diagnosed with COVID-19, either by a laboratory test or based on their symptoms, return to school is permissible when the student is at least 10 days from symptom onset, has had three days with no fever and has improving symptoms. Return to school for children with an alternate diagnosis is at the discretion of their healthcare provider and/or the school nurse. Children with a known close contact with COVID-19 (or an adult with symptoms compatible with COVID-19) should stay home for 14 days from their last contact and until return to school is approved by the local health department in accordance with the CDC/DHSS guidance.

### Parent Mitigation Strategies

- Supply your student with a small hand sanitizer and a mask; buildings will have sanitizer.
- Remind students about social distancing practices.
- At drop off, keep students in your vehicle until the building doors open.
- Reinforce proper hand washing practices.
- Discuss coughing/sneezing into sleeves or elbows and not hands and immediate hand washing afterwards.

### Screening Process and Protocols for Symptomatic Students and Staff

- Students should be screened at home before coming to school
- Staff should conduct self-screening before leaving home each morning
- Please ask yourself and your student the following questions every morning before school:
  - Do you or your student feel sick today?
    - Do you or the student have a temperature/fever over 100.0?
    - Do you or the student have a consistent cough?
    - Do you or the student have shortness of breath?
    - Do you or your student feel sick today? Has your student been considered to be in close contact (15 cumulative minutes of contact with less than 3 feet of separation) to anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19.
  - If the answer to any of these questions is yes, students and staff should be kept home until free of symptoms without assistance of fever-reducing medications for 72 hours. If a student or staff member is considered to have a close contact with a person testing positive for COVID-19, that student/staff member should follow the guidance provided by CDC regarding self-isolation (typically 14 days from last contact). Fully vaccinated individuals do not have self-isolate unless symptoms develop.
  - If a student is deemed to be symptomatic, a family member will be asked to pick up the student within 30 minutes of notification.
  - Students will be in a safe space to limit contact with other individuals until picked up.
  - School health professionals will provide guidance if students need to be seen by their medical professional for further examination.

- When a family member arrives at school to pick up the student, please do not enter the building.
- Staff will walk the student outside to meet the family member picking them up.
- Students who experience a fever with one or more of the above listed symptoms will be allowed to return to school after being fever/symptom free for three days if seen and cleared by a medical professional, or 10 days since signs and symptoms appeared.

If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19:

- The county health center(s) in which the positive case(s) reside will be notified.
- County health center(s) or their designated individual(s) will conduct contact tracing to identify possible exposure to others.
- The district Communicable Disease Response Team will manage the response according to District Policy EBB which states “When students or employees with communicable diseases that pose a risk of transmission in school or at school activities (such as, but not limited to, chicken pox, influenza and conjunctivitis) are identified, such students or employees will be managed as required by law and the district will take into consideration guidance and recommendations from local, state, and federal authorities. Such management may include, but is not limited to, exclusion for school or reassignment as needed for health and safety of students and staff. The final management decision will be made by the district’s communicable disease response team, which will consist of the superintendent, the building principals, the district nurse, and a Board member. The Board delegates the authority to make these management decisions to the communicable disease response team and, to that end, will fully support any such decision made by the majority of available members of the communicable disease response team.”
- A notification will be posted either on our district website, our school Facebook pages, or through School Messenger.
- Staff will perform a deep targeted clean and disinfection of exposed areas.
- If a classroom or building must shut down, ACR2 will seek guidance from local & state health departments, as well as recommendations of the CDC to form a reopening and re-entry plan for that classroom and/or building.

Students returning to school from COVID-19 like symptoms\*

- Persons with symptoms
  - At least 3 days without any symptoms, without fever-reducing medication, and clearance from a medical physician **or at** least 10 days since symptoms first appeared or (per DESE), or:
  - No symptoms **and** 1 negative COVID-19 test.
- Persons with a prior positive test but without current symptoms may return:
  - At least 14 days since the onset of symptoms and has had three days with no fever and has improving symptoms, and shall be required to wear a mask for a minimum of 20 days.

\*Children or staff members with a known close contact with COVID-19 (or an adult with symptoms compatible with COVID-19) should stay home for 14 days from their last contact and until return to school is approved by the local health department in accordance with the CDC guidance. Vaccinated individuals do not have to quarantine unless symptoms develop. The CDC recommends that fully vaccinated individuals who have had a known exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 to be tested 3-5 days after exposure, and to wear a mask in public indoor settings for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result.

Vaccinated Students and/or Staff:

Fully vaccinated people who were in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 but do NOT have COVID-19 symptoms do not need to quarantine. Updated CDC guidance has added a recommendation that fully vaccinated individuals who have had a known exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 to be tested 3-5 days after exposure, and to wear a mask in public indoor settings for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result. When district operating levels require masking for staff and students, vaccinated individuals must still mask.

**Topics of Interest:**

Universal and correct wearing of masks -- The District will continue to seek guidance from the Centers for Disease Control, Missouri DHSS, and local, state, and national entities. As guidance regarding contact tracing and quarantines is updated, the District will be in a position to establish the mask protocol for the 2021-22 school year. We will continue to prepare students, transportation staff and parents/guardians for the federal requirement that masks be worn on school buses. (See Executive Order 13998).

Physical distancing (if necessary) – Students and desks in classrooms will be spaced apart to the extent possible, with a goal of at least 3 feet when possible when/if necessary.

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette – Good hand hygiene, consistent with CDC guidance, will be encouraged for all students and staff. Hand sanitizer will be provided in classrooms and common areas.

Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities – Custodial staff follow a daily cleaning protocol in all classrooms and school buildings, including frequent disinfection of high-touch surfaces, including handrails, doorknobs, sinks and water fountains.

Contact tracing, isolation and quarantine – All known positive cases of COVID-19 among ACR2 students and staff are reported to the appropriate county health department. Positive individuals are not allowed to attend school or participate in activities until released from isolation. In accordance with the health department’s current protocols, contact tracing is performed by District staff. A meeting of the Communicable Disease Response Team will be held to determine appropriate actions.

Diagnostic and screening testing – The District offered COVID-19 testing for students and staff starting in November 2020.

Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and eligible students –ACR2 will work with County Health Departments and hospitals Efforts to provide vaccination opportunities to eligible staff members and students

Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities – The District will continue to provide accommodations as necessary or as mandated by a student’s IEP.

Continuity of Services - The District tended to students’ social, emotional, and mental health needs during the 2020-21 school year by teaching positive coping skills and referring students to counseling as necessary. Technology resources such as Google Classroom were utilized to provide continuity of learning during quarantines. Many teachers provided links for quarantined students to participate in classroom instruction, and students were able to access lessons and assignments via their grade-level learning management system. The District provided weekly meal pick-up and delivery for virtual students and students on quarantine. All of these same supports and services will continue for the 2021-22 school year.

Periodic Revision – The District will periodically review and revise, if necessary, its plan no less than every six months. Revisions will be made in consideration of current pandemic conditions and in collaboration with the CDC and other health organizations. The Communicable Disease Response Team convened in 2020 to work on re-opening plans will reconvene as necessary to consider revisions.

## **Resources**

Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education COVID-19 website  
<https://dese.mo.gov/communications/coronavirus-covid-19-information>

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services COVID-19 website  
<https://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/communicable/novel-coronavirus/>

Centers for Disease Control COVID-19 website <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

Students returning to school after COVID-19 like symptoms from the CDC  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/disposition-in-home-patients.html>