



Independence School District

# Return to School 2020-2021

as of October 20, 2020

This plan is intended to serve as guidance for Independence School District Fall 2020 school reentry. At all times, the ISD will follow the current Jackson County phasing guidelines. The ISD has put measures in place to minimize the risk, however anytime we are in a public setting, we increase our risk of exposure.

The global COVID-19 pandemic has introduced a new level of risk for in-person instruction and in-person gatherings. Our schools are designed to educate students through social, face-to-face interactions, in relatively close spaces and in large groups. We have heard from our community and access to school is important. We also know our community prioritizes student and staff safety, and expects a thoughtful re-entry plan. As we plan for a school year likely to be continuously impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the priorities we hold are:

- Providing environments that are as safe as possible for students and staff;
- Providing equitable, guaranteed, and viable education. Therefore, Independence School District learning will be accessible to all students through a choice model. Students and families have been provided the choice to engage in their education in an online format or in-person (in a more traditional model).

Our priority is the safety and well-being of students and staff, so we have implemented many policies to try to protect those in our schools and on our buses. These policies reflect the tireless work by our team of administrators, educators and health professionals who have contributed to this reentry plan. Thank you for partnering with us to ensure the safety and well-being of our ISD community!

*This plan is likely to change as more information becomes available and as we continue to follow the latest guidance of public health officials. We will notify you when we update our plans.*

*Last update: October 20, 2020*



# Table of Contents

Return to School Plans .....	3	Disinfecting Protocols .....	10
Safety Precautions .....	4	Early Education & Early Childhood Special Education .....	10
Face Coverings .....	4	Special Education .....	11
Bus Procedures .....	5	Kids' Safari .....	12
School Arrival .....	5	Activities and Athletics .....	12-13
School Visitors & Kindergarten/Early Education Parent Entry ..	6	Specials and Performance Electives .....	14
Meals .....	6	ELL .....	14
School Day (K-12) .....	6-7	IMPACT .....	14
Recess .....	7	ISD Virtual Learning .....	15
Students/Staff With Illness and/or COVID Testing .....	7	In-Person School FAQ .....	16-17
Precautionary Room, PPE and Nursing .....	8	Public Use of Facilities .....	17
Dismissal .....	8	CDC COVID-19 Information .....	18
Illness Protocol for Returning to School/Work ..	8	Symptoms of COVID-19 .....	18
Communicating Positive COVID-19 Cases .....	9	CDC Recommendations for Precautions .....	19
Travel and Quarantine .....	9	Situational Guidance .....	20-24



# Independence School District RETURN TO SCHOOL PLANS 2020-2021

The Independence School District has developed three plans for the delivery of instruction for the 2020-2021 school year. In the event that our schools are directed to reduce capacity due to COVID-19, we would transition to Plan B or Plan C.

## A IN-PERSON OR VIRTUAL LEARNING

Students attend school either in-person or virtually five days a week as selected during registration for the 2020-2021 school year.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
In-Person OR Virtual	In-Person OR Virtual	In-Person OR Virtual	In-Person OR Virtual	In-Person OR Virtual

## B HYBRID

Under the Hybrid Plan, high school and middle school students transition to an A/B schedule, alternating weeks of on-site and virtual instruction to reduce school capacity. Students will receive virtual instruction during the weeks that students are not on-site. Elementary students will continue regularly scheduled in-person learning. With 25% of elementary students selecting ISD Virtual Learning, social distancing can be maintained without the need to modify elementary school in-person schedules. Early Education will continue in-person under the Hybrid Plan as social distancing requirements can be met.

WEEK 1

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
HS & MS Group A: In-person HS & MS Group B: Virtual	HS & MS Group A: In-person HS & MS Group B: Virtual	HS & MS Group A: In-person HS & MS Group B: Virtual	HS & MS Group A: In-person HS & MS Group B: Virtual	HS & MS Group A: In-person HS & MS Group B: Virtual
Group A: Last names beginning with A-K • Group B: Last names beginning with L-Z Elementary students will continue regularly scheduled in-person learning five days a week.				

WEEK 2

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
HS & MS Group A: Virtual HS & MS Group B: In-person	HS & MS Group A: Virtual HS & MS Group B: In-person	HS & MS Group A: Virtual HS & MS Group B: In-person	HS & MS Group A: Virtual HS & MS Group B: In-person	HS & MS Group A: Virtual HS & MS Group B: In-person
Group A: Last names beginning with A-K • Group B: Last names beginning with L-Z Elementary students will continue regularly scheduled in-person learning five days a week.				

## C VIRTUAL

Under this plan, students would transition to fully virtual learning using Canvas with no students attending in-person instruction, activities or athletics.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
All Students Virtual Learning	All Students Virtual Learning	All Students Virtual Learning	All Students Virtual Learning	All Students Virtual Learning

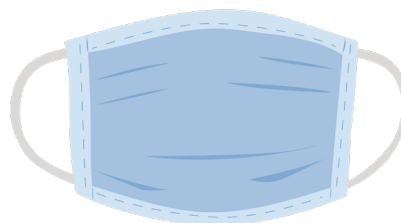
## 2020-2021 School Year Safety Precautions

On the first day of school and throughout the first week, these new safety procedures will be taught and practiced in all of our classrooms. Parental support and reinforcement of these new measures will be critical in providing the safest possible environment for students.

### Face Coverings

Masking has proven to be an effective way to decrease the spread of COVID-19. Universal masking may decrease the number of children placed in quarantine based on the local health department's definition of exposure. Anyone entering ISD buildings is required to wear a face covering.

- Masks should be worn at all times EXCEPT during: eating; drinking; active outdoor recess; or indoor/outdoor physical education. Physical distancing of 6 feet must be maintained for each of these activities.
- Wearing a face shield in addition to proper mask wearing can be considered, but is not a substitute for a mask.
- In pre-school and daycare settings, children 2 years of age and older can safely wear masks. Masks should be required in these settings, but "mask breaks" may need to be considered. Mask breaks can include time outside or where a child is physically distanced from others. Masks will never be worn while sleeping. During naptime, children will be physically distanced.
- Exceptions may be considered for young children (e.g., preschool) where masking may be difficult due to inappropriate mask hygiene (e.g., frequently touching mask and/or pulling the mask down so it does not cover the mouth and nose), or in children with difficulty with speech or language.
- Other exceptions may include students with special healthcare and educational needs and those who are unable to take off a mask by themselves. Parents seeking support or exceptions, should work with the school nurse.
- Masks with exhalation valves are not recommended as they can promote the spread of infection.
- Cloth face coverings should be washed daily and when soiled.
- Additional masks are available for students and staff if a mask is forgotten or becomes soiled and/or wet.
- Staff and students will be reminded regularly and as needed about proper mask wearing, including hand hygiene before putting mask on and taking it off, avoidance of touching mask, and ensuring mask covers mouth and nose.



## Bus Procedures

- Students, bus drivers and attendants are required to wear face coverings.
- Please be aware that drivers who wear glasses may pull their face covering down slightly while driving if glasses are fogging up. Face coverings will be properly worn at all times students are entering and exiting buses but may be adjusted slightly for driving safety while everyone is seated.
- Students should line up 6 feet apart at bus stops.
- Parents are required to provide face coverings for students riding the bus. Face coverings should be worn at all times on the bus. Face coverings can be cloth or disposable.
- All students boarding the bus will be required to use hand sanitizer upon entering the bus. Hand sanitizer is available on all buses.
- Students will have assigned seats on the bus.
- Students who do not follow all safety protocols will have bus privileges revoked. This is to ensure the safety and security of all students.
- Upon arrival at the school site, students will remain seated until they are dismissed by the attendant/bus driver to ensure proper social distancing.

## School Arrival

- Bus riders will enter at designated school site entrances.
- Car riders will be dropped off at a designated school site entrance.
- Students will line up 6 feet apart to allow students to complete a non-touch infrared temperature scan.
- If a student has an elevated temperature with the infrared scan, an oral temperature will be taken. Please be aware that no air conditioning in cars or homes may result in an elevated temperature with an infrared scan. Do not be alarmed if this is the case. The oral temperature will provide the most accurate temperature to determine if a student or staff member has a fever.
- If the oral temperature is 100 or above, the student will be escorted to a precautionary room. Parents will be contacted to pick up their student for further evaluation from their healthcare provider. Students and staff will be excluded from school if they test positive for COVID-19 or exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 based on CDC guidance that is not otherwise explained. Symptoms of COVID-19 that would require exclusion include a fever of 100 or greater and/or two of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, loss of taste or smell. Students and staff will follow the illness protocol for future return to school (see Illness Protocol for Returning to School below).
- Students will report directly to classrooms upon arrival and will not congregate in common areas. Students will stay to the right of the hallway as they move directly to their classroom.

## School Visitors & Kindergarten/Early Education Parent Entry

- Visitors are not allowed.
- Exceptions will be made for new kindergarten students on the first day of school and Early Education drop-off and pick-up. One parent/guardian per student may enter with their student and pass a non-touch infrared temperature scan. Jackson County requires anyone entering public buildings to wear a face covering.

## Meals

- If and when possible, students may eat lunch in the cafeteria or other large space. Students will only eat in the cafeteria or other large space if social distancing is possible with more than 6 feet between students.
- When social distancing is not possible in the cafeteria or other large spaces, meals will be delivered to and eaten in classrooms.
- Student desks will be cleaned before and after meals when meals are eaten in classrooms.
- Visitors will not be admitted for lunch.
- Students can bring their lunch. Students should bring their lunch in disposable bags/containers when possible.
- Water fountains will not be used. Students should bring a filled water bottle from home. Water bottle refilling stations will be open.
- Before meals, students should carefully remove and store their face covering in a clean sealable paper bag or breathable container, as provided by their teacher. Face coverings should only be removed for meals.

## School Day (K-12)

- Schools will make reasonable best efforts to minimize risk, however, attending schools in-person will introduce a greater risk of exposure.
- Classroom protocols will include assigned seating. Students will be seated in individual desks and/or socially distanced when possible.
- Classrooms have hand sanitizing stations. Students and staff will utilize hand sanitizer each time they enter the classroom.
- Students will be taught and reminded of proper hand washing and cough and sneeze etiquette.
- Assemblies and other large group gatherings will not take place.
- Door handles and other high touch surfaces will be disinfected throughout the day by Facilities team members.
- Staff will eliminate communal school supplies where feasible. Shared manipulatives will be sanitized following each use.
- Elementary students will remain with their homeroom teacher throughout the school day.
- Students will remain physically distant within the classroom and in hallways as much as possible.
- If a child is quarantined for any reason and they are attending in-person school, they will transition to ISD Virtual Learning until they are able to return to school.

- If you would like to transition your student from in-person learning to ISD Virtual Learning at any point during the school year, please notify your child's school directly.
- If you would like to transition your student from virtual learning to in-person learning at any point during the school year, please notify your child's school directly. Please be aware that classroom and building capacity as well as social distancing protocols may limit numbers. Each request will be considered based upon class and school availability. Please contact your child's school directly with this request.

## Recess

- Recess will be staggered so students have plenty of space.
- All students returning from recess will wash and/or sanitize their hands and return to their class.
- Face coverings are not required (but are optional) when kids are participating in activities where it may not be safe to wear a face covering (during vigorous activity, recess, sports, PE classes).
- Students who opt to remove their face covering during recess (or PE class), should carefully remove and store their face covering in a clean sealable paper bag or breathable container, as provided by their teacher.

## Students/Staff With Illness and/or COVID Testing

- The nurse will meet students/staff at the door of the clinic with temporal thermometer checks. If the student/staff member has no fever or symptoms of COVID-19 (based on verbal assessment of the reason for the clinic visit), the student/staff proceeds into the clinic as usual.
- If any students or staff present signs or symptoms of COVID-19 such as fever (100 degrees or greater), or two of the following: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, sore throat, chills, muscle pain, loss of taste or smell, the student or staff member would be provided a disposable face covering they will be required to wear and will go to a Precautionary Room (see Precautionary Room below). The school nurse will immediately notify parent/guardian for pick-up. The student will remain in isolation until their parent/guardian arrives. Parents must pick up their student, or arrange for the pick-up of their student, within 30 minutes of notification. Precautionary rooms will be utilized to keep all students and staff safe from illness. The Precautionary Room door will remain open so that the nurse and/or designated staff member can monitor the student. The nurse or designated staff member will wear proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to include goggles or face shield, disposable face covering and gloves. Parents/guardians are advised to contact the student's doctor to discuss symptoms and risk factors.
- All students and staff living in the same household with the person presenting with COVID-19 symptoms will also be sent home.
- If you or someone in your household is being tested for COVID-19, you and any other siblings/parents/students/staff living in that household will also be quarantined until a negative test result is received.
- The Health Services Director will be contacted regarding any students and staff sent home for illness. The school will follow next steps as directed by the Jackson County Health Department, which may include quarantine measures.

## Precautionary Room, PPE and Nursing

- Each school has an identified Precautionary Room that will be utilized for students and staff exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19.
- The Precautionary Room door will remain open so that the nurse can monitor the student.
- If the nurse cannot monitor the room, a designated staff member will be assigned to do so. The nurse or designated staff member will wear proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to include goggles or face shield, disposable mask and gloves.
- The nurse will then call a parent/guardian to pick up the student. The nurse will ask the parent/guardian about recent travel of student and/or household members and recent exposure to a confirmed or presumed positive case of COVID-19. The nurse will perform a risk evaluation.
- The nurse will advise the parent/guardian to contact the student's doctor to discuss symptoms and risk factors.
- If there are concerns for exposure, the nurse will call the Jackson County Health Department.

## Dismissal

- Face coverings are required for all ISD staff and students at all times on buses and in school buildings.
- Staff will walk students to after-school programs to ensure distancing. Students will pass a non-touch infrared temperature scan before proceeding to the program.
- Teachers will walk car riders and walkers to the designated exit to ensure social distancing.
- Students riding the bus will pass a non-touch infrared temperature scan before proceeding to the bus.
- Students will use hand sanitizer upon entering the bus.
- Students will have assigned seats on the bus.

## Illness Protocol for Returning to School/Work

You can find situational guidance for students/staff returning to school/work below and/or on pages 20-24 or this document:

[Guidelines for Student/Staff Member Presenting with Illness and Returning to School/Work](#)

[Guidelines for Student/Staff Member Exposed to Positive COVID-19 Case](#)

[Guidelines for Student/Staff Member Exposed to COVID-19 Symptoms in their Household](#)

[Guidelines for Student/Staff Member Testing Positive for COVID-19](#)

[Guidelines for Student/Staff with Household Member Testing for COVID-19](#)



## Communicating Positive COVID-19 Cases

If a student tests positive for COVID-19, the school will notify the families of:

- parent/guardian of students in the same classroom/cohort
- parent/guardian of students on the same bus
- parent/guardian of students in the same clubs/teams
- staff members in that program/school building
- The Jackson County Health Department and ISD will perform contact tracing and provide instruction to individuals who may have had extended close contact with the COVID-positive student. The ISD maintains contact logs in each of our buildings for contact tracing purposes to use in the event of potential COVID-19 exposure.

The COVID-positive student is able to return to school when they satisfy the [ISD Illness and Return to Work/School Guidelines](#).

If a school employee tests positive for COVID-19, the school will notify:

- parent/guardian of any student(s) that may have been in close contact with the COVID-positive employee
- all employees in the school
- The Jackson County Health Department and ISD will perform contact tracing and provide instruction to individuals who may have had extended close contact with the COVID-positive employee. The ISD maintains contact logs in each of our buildings for contact tracing purposes to use in the event of potential COVID-19 exposure.

The COVID-positive employee is able to return to school when they satisfy the [ISD Illness and Return to Work/School Guidelines](#)

## Travel and Quarantine

Staff and students traveling on a cruise ship or out of the country will not be allowed to return to school for 14 days upon their return. This applies to all ISD staff and students. Travel should be reported to the building principal. Questions can be directed to ISD Director of Health Services Lori Halsey at [lori\\_halsey@idschools.org](mailto:lori_halsey@idschools.org). You may return to school after car travel and/or air travel if you are symptom free. According to the CDC, COVID-19 cases have been reported in all 50 states, and the situation is constantly changing. Because travel increases your chances of getting infected and spreading COVID-19, the CDC recommends avoiding travel to protect yourself and others from getting sick. Upon your return, be alert for symptoms. Watch for fever, cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms of COVID-19. If you experience any of these symptoms, stay home and report to your doctor.

## Disinfecting Protocols

- Door handles and other high touch surfaces will be disinfected throughout the day by Facilities team members.
- Restrooms will be cleaned and disinfected regularly throughout each school day.
- Locker rooms will be disinfected, and commonly touched surfaces in locker rooms will be cleaned throughout the day.
- Commonly touched surfaces in large spaces (gyms, fine arts rooms, etc. ) will be avoided by students when possible. Those surfaces, equipment and/or objects will be disinfected before and after use when avoidance is not possible.
- Playgrounds and high-touch surfaces made of plastic or metal, such as grab bars and railings, will be cleaned routinely.
- Custodial staff will disinfect all commonly touched surfaces. End of day will include cleaning and sanitizing of restrooms, teacher desks, student desks, door-knobs, handrails and front office work spaces.

## Early Education & Early Childhood Special Education

- Early Education staff members will wear face coverings.
- One parent/guardian per student may enter with their student and pass a non-touch infrared temperature scan. Jackson County requires anyone entering public buildings to wear a face covering.
- Children who are younger than two years old should never wear face coverings due to the risk of suffocation.
- According to the Jackson County Health Department, children who are two, three, or four years old, with the assistance and close supervision of an adult, are recommended to wear a face covering in public.
- Every child, parent and staff member will have a temporal temperature taken upon arrival.
- If a student, parent or staff member has an elevated temperature with the infrared scan, an oral temperature will be taken. Please be aware that no air conditioning in cars or homes may result in an elevated temperature with an infrared scan. Do not be alarmed if this is the case. The oral temperature will provide the most accurate temperature to determine if a student or staff member has a fever. If the oral temperature is 100 or above for the student and/or parent, both student and parent would need to return home. If the oral temperature is above 100, the staff member would also need to return home.
- Students will be taught and reminded of proper hand washing and cough and sneeze etiquette.
- Assemblies and other large group gatherings will not take place.
- Staff will eliminate communal school supplies where feasible. Shared items will be disinfected following each use.

## Special Education

### **Special Education In-Person**

The District's Special Education Program will provide accommodations/modifications, adaptations and assistive technology support for students with disabilities according to Individualized Education Plans (IEP). Special education students attending school in-person will be provided instruction relative to their IEP goals. A student's case manager will work with families to ensure a student's IEP is being met. If you have questions regarding the implementation of the IEP contact your student's IEP Case Manager at his/her neighborhood school building when school resumes.

### **Section 504 In-Person**

The District will provide accommodations/modifications, adaptations and assistive technology support according to a student's 504 plan. A student's 504 plan will be implemented as written for in-person attendance. If you have questions regarding the implementation of your student's 504 plan, contact your student's neighborhood school building counselor when school resumes.

### **Special Education Virtual**

The District's Virtual Education Program will provide accommodations/modifications, adaptations and assistive technology support for students with disabilities according to Individualized Education Plans (IEP). The student's neighborhood school building is responsible for the development of the IEP and conducting evaluations. The student's neighborhood school building is responsible for providing special education services, as defined by the student's IEP. IEP teams will convene to determine services for a virtual setting. Special education services may be offered virtually (asynchronous) or in-person during the regular school day or a combination of both. Parents who opt for ISD Virtual Learning will be required to provide their own transportation to access in-person special education services. If you have questions regarding the implementation of your student's IEP, contact your student's IEP Case Manager at his/her neighborhood school building when school resumes.

### **Section 504 Virtual**

The District's Virtual Education Program will provide accommodations/modifications, adaptations and assistive technology support according to the student's 504 plan. The student's neighborhood school building is responsible for the development of the 504 plan and conducting evaluations as outlined in section 504. If you have questions regarding the implementation of the 504 accommodations/modifications, course adaptations or assistive technology needs, contact your student's neighborhood school building counselor when school resumes.

## Kids' Safari

- Kids' Safari staff members will wear face coverings.
- One parent/guardian per student may enter with their student and pass a temporal thermometer check. Jackson County requires anyone entering public buildings to wear a face covering.
- Every child, parent and staff member will have a temporal temperature taken upon arrival.
- If a student, parent or staff member has an elevated temperature with the temporal check, an oral temperature will be taken. Please be aware that no air conditioning in cars or homes may result in an elevated temperature with a temporal check. Do not be alarmed if this is the case. The oral temperature will provide the most accurate temperature to determine if a student or staff member has a fever. If the oral temperature is 100 or above for the student and/or parent, both student and parent would need to return home. If the oral temperature is above 100, the staff member would also need to return home.
- Students will be taught and reminded of proper hand washing and cough and sneeze etiquette.
- Staff will eliminate communal school supplies where feasible.

## Activities and Athletics

### **Extracurricular Activities (including athletics, cheer, dance and marching band):**

The ISD plans to provide students the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities. While offering these opportunities, the district will prioritize the health and safety of students and staff by adhering to the CDC and Jackson County Health Department recommendations. Additionally, the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) may further outline guidelines as to how athletics and activities will be offered at district high schools and middle schools. As a district, we understand the importance of offering these opportunities to our students and will continue to make every effort to do so. However, we know there may be decisions made by local, state, or national organizations that may prohibit some, if not all, extracurricular activities from taking place. To the extent possible, we expect all athletics and activities that can be performed in accordance with CDC and JCHD recommendations will be available for student participation. The most recent information suggests that contact sports will continue to be allowed. This would include all sports where individuals could come in contact with other individuals (basketball, football, wrestling, cheer, dance, soccer, volleyball). It also suggests live games will be allowed to begin. Students enrolled in ISD Virtual Learning are not eligible to participate in ISD activities and athletics.

## **Co-Curricular Activities (including Speech and Debate, Scholar Bowl, Band, Choir, Orchestra, Theater, Pro-Start and Yearbook):**

The ISD is committed to providing all co-curricular opportunities possible while adhering to CDC and JCHD recommendations. Please keep in mind that students enrolled in ISD Virtual Learning are not eligible to participate in ISD activities and athletics. Certain opportunities may be limited to the extent in which they can be offered due to physical distancing and gathering size recommendations. Some co-curricular opportunities may only be offered virtually. Offering of and participation in co-curriculars will require flexibility by students, families and sponsors which may include, but are not limited to:

- Before or after school practice in larger spaces to account for physical distancing.
- Multiple “practice times” in order to promote smaller group sizes and physical distancing.
- Students and staff wearing face coverings due to inability to consistently maintain physical distance.
- Adjusting performances and competitions to adhere to gathering size and physical distancing recommendations. Local and state organizations may provide further guidance to schools on how to provide these opportunities while prioritizing student and staff safety. School officials will communicate that information closer to the time of performances and competitions.

## **Precautions to Minimize Risk**

- Pending further guidance from state and local health officials, to the extent possible, the ISD will adhere to the most current recommendations concerning physical distancing, gathering size and personal protective equipment (PPE) for students and staff at the time of the extracurricular opportunity.
- Students will complete a temperature check daily prior to participation in all after-school activities and athletics.
- Commonly touched surfaces will be avoided when possible. Those surfaces and/or objects will be disinfected before and after use when avoidance is not possible.
- Locker rooms will be disinfected, and commonly touched surfaces in locker rooms will be cleaned throughout the day.
- Be aware and disclose any potential contact with individuals who tested positive for COVID-19 or have exhibited symptoms of COVID-19.
- Wash and sanitize hands often.
- Do not touch face, eyes and mouth as much as possible.
- Practice physical distancing regularly.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or elbow when coughing or sneezing.
- Maintain a list of people you’ve been in contact with daily.
- Staff will disinfect the venue and all equipment (weights, balls, jump ropes, etc.) prior to and after activity each day.
- Students should bring their own water bottles. Water fountains will be closed. Water bottle refilling stations will be open.
- Staff will modify drills and activities to limit or reduce potential violations of physical distancing guidelines including high fives, huddles, team meetings, etc.
- Staff/coaches will avoid using whistles when possible to reduce droplet spread.

## Specials and Performance Electives

The Independence School District is committed to providing all curricular opportunities possible while adhering to the recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Jackson County Health Department. Pending further guidance from state and local health officials, to the extent possible, the ISD will adhere to the most current recommendations concerning physical distancing, gathering size and personal protective equipment (PPE) for students and staff at the time of the curricular opportunity.

To the extent possible, the district expects all classroom activities to be performed while adhering to CDC and Jackson County recommendations, including but not limited to:

- Weather permitting, students may go outside for all physical education and/or chorale classroom activities.
- A larger space will be considered to accommodate for physical distancing if designated classrooms are too small to allow for appropriate student numbers and/or spacing.
- Commonly touched surfaces and equipment will be avoided when possible. Those surfaces and/or objects will be disinfected before and after use when avoidance is not possible.
- Upon the return of library books, each book will go through a quarantine hold of at least 72 hours prior to recirculation.
- Clear guidelines will be established for students to follow when entering and exiting all classrooms.

## ELL

ELL will be offered in-person during the regular school day. Students enrolled in the ELL program may elect to attend in-person as normal on their regularly assigned days even if enrolled in ISD Virtual Learning. Parents who opt for ISD Virtual Learning will be required to provide transportation for in-person ELL.

## IMPACT

IMPACT will be offered in-person during the regular school day. Students enrolled in the IMPACT program may elect to attend in-person as normal on their regularly assigned days even if enrolled in ISD Virtual Learning. Parents who opt for ISD Virtual Learning will be required to provide transportation for in-person IMPACT.

## ISD Virtual Learning

Each family was offered the option during registration to choose either in-person or virtual learning for ISD elementary, middle and high school. The ISD Virtual Learning platform, Canvas, is used by school districts K-12 and higher learning across the country. Canvas includes a daily live teaching component by ISD teachers, attendance and grading expectations for credit.

- Students will have access to the courses they had already requested for the 2020-2021 school year, provided those classes can be taught in an online environment and there are enough students enrolled in the class to support having the class.
- Courses are most-often developed by ISD teachers and taught by ISD teachers. In some situations, self-paced options might provide alternative curricula.
- ISD Virtual Learning courses will mirror the in-person versions; with the same curriculum, pacing, and assessments.
- ISD Virtual Learning students will take assessments in-person at their neighborhood school. Parents who opt for ISD Virtual Learning will be required to provide transportation for in-person assessments.
- Students who choose ISD Virtual Learning will continue to be affiliated with their assigned school building and will continue to receive communications from that school.
- If students select ISD Virtual, they are not eligible to participate in ISD activities and athletics.
- If you would like to transition your student from virtual learning to in-person learning at any point during the school year, please notify your child's school directly. Please be aware that classroom and building capacity as well as social distancing protocols may limit numbers. Each request will be considered based upon class and school availability. Please contact your child's school directly with this request.



## In-Person School FAQ

### **My child takes medication and I'm required to give it to the nurse. How do I bring medicine to school?**

Please continue to do what you have done in the past and have the current prescriptions or documentation from the doctor of the current order. Please arrange a time to meet with the school nurse. Please wear a face covering when you meet with the school staff. Someone will meet you outside the building to get the medication and documentation if necessary.

### **How do I pick my student up early from school?**

Please call when you arrive at school and let the office know that you need your child to be checked out early. If necessary, a staff member will escort your child to your car and ask that you sign him/her out for the day.

### **The school day has already started and my child is late. Should I walk him/her into the office?**

Yes, it is acceptable to walk your child into the office and check him or her in. We do ask that you wear a face covering, pass a temperature scan upon entering the building and maintain physical distancing protocols. However, if you do not feel comfortable walking your child into the building, please call the office and a staff member will come to your car and bring your child into the office.

### **Can I attend school parties or have lunch with my child?**

Unfortunately, to limit the number of adults in the building/classroom, we will temporarily discontinue allowing parent volunteers at school parties. We will also temporarily discontinue parents eating lunch with their children during the school day. We look forward to returning to our normal procedures in the future.

### **I have an IEP/504/parent meeting, can I come to the building to attend?**

In Return to School Plan A (five days of in-person learning unless enrolled in ISD Virtual Learning), IEP meetings will be held on campus unless parents request another format (by phone or virtually). Face coverings will be required. District screening protocols and physical distancing measures will be followed. IEP team members who travel between buildings can participate virtually if the parent is in agreement. In Return to School Plan B and Plan C, the preference is to conduct virtual meetings whenever possible.



**Will we still be able to hold monthly PTA meetings?**

Yes, however we strongly encourage virtual meetings for the time being. If an in-person meeting is conducted on school property, PTA meetings will limit the number of adults gathering and require that face coverings be worn and physical distancing guidelines be followed.

**Will my child's class go on field trips or have guest speakers?**

Teachers will work to provide rich experiences through virtual field trips and online guest speakers.

**What will the Inspire Friends program look like for the 2020-2021 school year?**

Unfortunately, the Inspire Friends program will be on hold during the COVID-19 pandemic. We will begin this program again as soon as we are able to do so safely.

**How will volunteer coaches be impacted?**

Volunteer coaches will be permitted re-entry into our schools for the purpose of coaching children participating in these activities. Safety procedures put in place by the district, CDC and local health department will be followed by volunteer coaches at all times. These would include handwashing/sanitizing upon entering the building, the use of a face covering, physical distancing guidelines, etc.

## Public Use of Facilities

In addition to the safety and security measures performed daily at each of our buildings, every effort will be made to limit unnecessary exposure to students and staff during school hours. The following protocols will be in place in each of the schools:

- Only employees and approved volunteers required for student instruction or services will be allowed in the building during school hours. This includes all essential staff, parents/guardians (when necessary), and district personnel.
- Parents/guardians should contact the school prior to visiting if they do not have a scheduled appointment.
- There will not be any public use of school facilities until further notice.



## CDC COVID-19 Information

COVID-19 is mostly spread by respiratory droplets released when people talk, cough or sneeze. It is thought that the virus may spread to hands from a contaminated surface and then to the nose or mouth, causing infection. Therefore, personal prevention practices (such as handwashing, staying home when sick) and environmental cleaning and disinfection are important principles that are covered in this document. We can take a number of actions to help lower the risk of exposure to and spread of COVID-19 during school sessions and activities (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], 2020).

According to the CDC, one of the actions that can be taken to help lower the risk of exposure is the use of face coverings. Face coverings may be challenging for some students to wear. Face coverings should be worn by staff and students and are most essential in times when physical distancing is difficult. Individuals will be reminded not to touch the face covering and to wash their hands frequently. Information will be provided to staff, students, and students' families on proper use, removal, and washing of cloth face coverings (CDC, 2020).

## Symptoms of COVID-19

According to the CDC, people with COVID-19 have reported a wide range of symptoms – from mild symptoms to severe illness. Children have similar symptoms to adults and generally have mild illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus.

People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fever
- Chills
- Muscle pain
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell

This list is not all-inclusive. Other less common symptoms have been reported, including gastrointestinal symptoms like nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea (CDC, 2020).

## CDC Recommendations for Precautions

### Face Coverings

Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face covering when you are around others. You could spread COVID-19 to others even if you do not feel sick. Everyone should wear a face covering when they have to go out in public, for example to the grocery store or to pick up other necessities. Face coverings should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance. The face covering is meant to protect other people in case you are infected. Do not use a face covering meant for a healthcare worker.

### Physical Distancing

Avoid close contact by putting an appropriate distance between yourself and others. Remember that some people without symptoms may be able to spread the virus. Keeping an appropriate distance from others is especially important for people who are at higher risk of getting very sick.

### Hand Washing

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.



Independence School District  
**HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS**  
**STUDENTS/STAFF PRESENTING WITH ILLNESS**  
**AND RETURNING TO SCHOOL**

If a student or staff member exhibits one of the following:

- Fever of 100 degrees or higher **OR**
- Two or more of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, chills, muscle pain, sore throat or loss of taste or smell,

the individual should stay home and follow the protocols listed below to safely return to school.

Is the student or staff member being tested for COVID-19?

**YES**



The student/staff member should not return to school while awaiting COVID-19 test results.

COVID-19 Test Results

**Positive**



Student/staff member should not return to school until they have worked with the school nurse. The nurse can approve students/staff to return if:

- 10 days\* have passed since the first symptom appeared **AND**
- Student/staff member is fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication. Symptoms should also be improving.

**Negative**



Student/staff member may return to school upon working with the school nurse at their building.

**NO**



Student/staff member should not return to school until they have worked with the school nurse. The nurse can approve students/staff to return if:

- 10 days have passed since the first symptom appeared **AND**
- Student/staff member is fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication. Symptoms should also be improving **OR**
- Student/staff member has a doctor confirmed explanation of symptoms.

\*Individuals who are hospitalized for COVID-19 and/or are severely immunocompromised may warrant an isolation period of up to 20 days after their first symptom appeared.

Independence School District  
**HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS  
FOR STUDENTS/STAFF EXPOSED TO A COVID-19 CASE**

If a student/staff member is exposed to a positive case of COVID-19, the student/staff member should remain home for assessment and should consider testing.

**Is the student/staff member exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19?**  
(fever, cough, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, chills, muscle pain, sore throat or loss of taste or smell)

**YES**

**NO**

**Is the student/staff member being tested for COVID-19?**

**YES**

**NO**

Student/staff member should not return to school while awaiting COVID-19 test results.

**COVID-19 Test Results**

**Positive**

**Negative**

Student/staff member should not return to school until they have worked with the school nurse.

The nurse can approve students/staff to return if:

- 10 days\* have passed since the first symptom appeared **AND**
- Student/staff member is fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication. Symptoms should also be improving.

Students/staff members who exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 and test negative should follow the same guidelines as a positive case before returning to school.

Student/staff member should not return to school for 14 days from last exposure.\*\* If contact continues throughout the isolation period of the positive COVID-19 case, the student/staff member should not return until 14 days after the positive case is off isolation **AND** upon working with the school nurse.

Student/staff member should not return to school until they have worked with the school nurse. The nurse can approve students/staff to return if:

- 10 days have passed since the first symptom appeared **AND**
- Student/staff member is fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication. Symptoms should also be improving.

**\*Individuals who are hospitalized for COVID-19 and/or are severely immunocompromised may warrant an isolation period of up to 20 days after their first symptom appeared.**

**\*\*Exposure is considered being within six feet of an individual with COVID-19 for 15 minutes or longer.**



# Independence School District HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS FOR STUDENTS/STAFF EXPOSED TO SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 WITHIN THEIR HOUSEHOLD

**If a student or staff member lives in the same household as someone with one of the following:**

- Fever of 100 degrees or higher **OR**
- Two or more of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, chills, muscle pain, sore throat or loss of taste or smell,

**the student/staff member should not return to school/work until they have worked with the school nurse. The nurse can approve students/staff to return if:**

- 14 days have passed since the first symptom appeared in the household member **OR**
- The household member has a doctor confirmed explanation of symptoms **OR**
- The household member tests negative for COVID-19.

**If a student/staff member develops any symptoms of COVID-19 during the 14 day quarantine, the student/staff member should continue to stay home and follow the protocols listed below to safely return to school.**

**Is the student/staff member being tested for COVID-19?**

**YES**  
↓

The student/staff member should not return to school while awaiting COVID-19 test results.

**COVID-19 Test Results**

**Positive**  
↓

Student/staff member should not return to school until they have worked with the school nurse. The nurse can approve students/staff to return if:

- 10 days\* have passed since the first symptom appeared **AND**
- Student/staff member is fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication. Symptoms should also be improving.

**Negative**

**NO**  
↓

Student/staff member should not return to school until they have worked with the school nurse. The nurse can approve students/staff to return if:

- 10 days have passed since the first symptom appeared **AND**
- Student/staff member is fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication. Symptoms should also be improving **OR**
- Student/staff member has a doctor confirmed explanation of symptoms.

Student/staff member may return to school upon working with the school nurse at their building.

**\*Individuals who are hospitalized for COVID-19 and/or are severely immunocompromised may warrant an isolation period of up to 20 days after their first symptom appeared.**

Independence School District  
**HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS**  
**STUDENTS/STAFF WITH HOUSEHOLD MEMBER**  
**TESTING FOR COVID-19**

Student/staff member should not return to school/work if a member of their household is awaiting COVID-19 test results.

**COVID-19 Test Results for Member of the Same Household**

**Positive**



If a student/staff member is exposed to a positive case of COVID-19, the student/staff member should remain home for assessment and should consider testing.



**Negative**



Student/staff member may return to school upon working with the school nurse at their building.

**Is the student/staff member exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19?  
(fever, cough, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, chills, muscle pain,  
sore throat or loss of taste or smell)**

**YES**



Student/staff member should not return to school until they have worked with the school nurse. The nurse can approve students/staff to return if:

- 10 days\* have passed since the first symptom appeared AND
- Student/staff member is fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication. Symptoms should also be improving.

Students/staff members who exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 and test negative should follow the same guidelines as a positive case before returning to school/work.

**NO**



Student/staff member should not return to school for 14 days from last exposure.\*\* If contact continues throughout the isolation period of the positive COVID-19 case, the student/staff member should not return until 14 days after the positive case is off isolation AND upon working with the school nurse.

\*Individuals who are hospitalized for COVID-19 and/or are severely immunocompromised may warrant an isolation period of up to 20 days after their first symptom appeared.

Independence School District  
HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS:  
**STUDENTS/STAFF RETURNING TO SCHOOL/WORK  
AFTER TESTING POSITIVE FOR COVID-19**

Student/staff members who test positive for COVID-19 should not return to school/work until they have worked with the school nurse. The nurse can approve students/staff to return if:

**SECTION A - SYMPTOMATIC**

**10**

10 days have passed since the first symptom appeared. Symptoms include fever of 100 degrees or higher, cough, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, chills, muscle pain, sore throat or loss of taste or smell. (\*Individuals who are hospitalized for COVID-19 and/or are severely immunocompromised may warrant an isolation period of up to 20 days after their first symptom appeared.)

**+**  
**AND**

**24**

Student/staff member is fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication. Symptoms should also be improving.

**SECTION B - ASYMPTOMATIC**



If the student/staff member who tests positive for COVID-19 did not exhibit any symptoms (asymptomatic), the student/staff member should not return for 10 days after the test was conducted and working with the school nurse. If symptoms develop anytime within the 10 day window, please follow the guidance outlined in **Section A**.

Visit [www.isdschools.org](http://www.isdschools.org) for Independence School District additional health and safety protocols.

