



Health & Safety Protocols

School Day, Early Education, K-12 and Kids Safari Safety Protocols and Mitigation Strategies

- Schools will make reasonable best efforts to minimize risk, however, attending schools in-person will introduce a greater risk of exposure.
- Classrooms have hand-sanitizing stations. Students and staff are encouraged to use hand sanitizer.
- Students will be reminded of proper hand washing techniques and cough and sneeze etiquette.
- Door handles and other high touch surfaces will be disinfected throughout the day by Facilities team members.

Face Coverings

- Masks are optional for all students, staff and visitors in all ISD buildings.

Bus Procedures

- Hand sanitizer is available on all buses.
- Students will have assigned seats on the bus.

School Arrival

- 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.

Students/Staff Presenting with Illness at School/Work

- 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, they will be sent to the school nurse. The school nurse will immediately notify the parent/guardian. COVID-19 testing will be available in all schools if parents wish to test their students. If they test positive, they will be provided a medical mask and escorted to the Precautionary room. 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 a disposable face covering and gloves. Parents/guardians are advised to contact the student's doctor to discuss symptoms and risk factors.
- The Health Services Director will be contacted regarding any positive cases of COVID-19.

Illness Protocol for Returning to School/Work

If a student or staff member presents 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 should not return to school/work until they speak with the school nurse. The nurse can approve students/staff to return if:

- 5 days have passed since the first symptom appeared **OR**
- The student/staff member tests negative for COVID-19
- The student/staff member should be fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications. Symptoms should also be improving.
- **OR** student has a doctor confirmed explanation of symptoms

Students/Staff Testing Positive for COVID

If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, the student or staff member should not return to school/work until they speak with the school nurse. The nurse can approve students/staff to return if:

- 5 days have passed since the first symptom appeared **AND**
- The student/staff member should also be fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications. Symptoms should also be improving and the student/staff member should continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days

If the student/staff member is asymptomatic when they test positive and develops symptoms during the isolation period, they should exclude themselves from school/work for five days from the onset of symptoms, and be fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication. All symptoms should also be improving before returning to school/work.

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

Exposures

If a student or staff member is exposed to a positive case of COVID-19 in their home and develop symptoms such as fever (100 degrees or greater), cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, sore throat, chills, muscle pain, loss of taste or smell, the student or staff member should not return to school/work until they speak with the school nurse. The nurse can approve students/staff to return if:

- 5 days have passed since the first symptom appeared **AND**
- The student/staff member should be fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications. Symptoms should also be improving.

If a student or staff member is exposed to a positive case of COVID-19 outside of their home, the student/staff member does not have to be excluded unless symptoms develop.

It is recommended that you test for COVID-19 following an exposure. The Independence School District continues to offer free COVID-19 testing for both symptomatic and asymptomatic staff and students at each school and the ISD Employee Clinic. Please contact your building nurse to schedule an appointment.

Vaccinations

According to the CDC, an individual is considered fully vaccinated for COVID-19 two weeks after receiving all doses in the primary series and all boosters recommended for that individual, when eligible.

Close Contact

According to the CDC, anyone within six feet of an individual testing positive for COVID-19 for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period is considered a close contact of that positive case.

Travel and Exclusions

Upon returning, be alert for symptoms. Watch for fever, cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms of COVID-19 and report any symptoms to your doctor as well as your supervisor. Students/staff should not report to school/work if symptoms develop.

Disinfecting Protocols and Ventilation

- 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.
- Ventilation improvements will include upgrading equipment that will increase the number of fresh air exchanges in our schools and instructional spaces.

Educational Supports and Continuity of Services

The Independence School District uses Canvas and Fuel Ed for Virtual Learning Resources for secondary students. These resources help organize learning by connecting the digital materials that teachers and students use in one easy place. Canvas connects teachers and students through online courses that will include a daily live teaching component, attendance and grading expectations for credit. School counselors, psychologists and Family School Liaisons will be available to provide support as needed. The District will continue to utilize Trauma Sensitive Schools to identify and support the social-emotional and mental health needs of students. The District will use Lifeworks to provide for the social, emotional and mental health needs of staff.

ISD Building Coaches will model and support teachers to increase instructional skills and fidelity of curriculum implementation by modeling lessons, co-teaching, observing and providing feedback, supporting lesson plan development and curriculum navigation and assisting with student data analysis to help teachers meet the instructional needs of students.

The ISD literacy model, teacher professional development and supporting resources will develop the understanding of how word recognition and language comprehension work together to establish skilled readers and writers who have strong reading comprehension and writing skills. Administrators, Instructional Coaches, Building Coaches and teachers will receive training and resources that support the Science of Reading.

The ISD math instructional model and resources will support effective mathematics teaching practices and allow students to engage in standards for mathematical practices by establishing mathematics goals to focus learning, implement tasks that promote reasoning and problem solving, build procedural fluency from conceptual understanding, use and connect mathematical representations, elicit and use evidence of student thinking, support productive struggle in learning mathematics and facilitate meaningful mathematical discourse.

Thirty learning coaches and 9 classroom paras will support elementary classrooms across the district focusing on literacy and math development. This will allow classroom teachers to provide small group instruction to students to mitigate learning loss. The ISD has added 26 instructional positions to provide additional support and reduce class sizes.

The ISD will evaluate the performance of all sub-groups on State Assessments. This information along with interim data will be used to identify the most impacted students within the district.

Special Education

The District's Special Education Program will provide specialized instruction, accommodations/modifications, adaptations and assistive technology support for students with disabilities according to a student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

504

The District will provide accommodations/modifications, adaptations and assistive technology support according to a student's 504 plan.

English Language (EL)

EL will be offered in-person during the regular school day. Students enrolled in the EL 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 EL.

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.

Activities and Athletics

The ISD is committed to providing all activity and athletic opportunities possible while adhering to local, state and national entities. Please keep in mind that students enrolled in ISD Virtual Learning are not eligible to participate in ISD activities and athletics.

Precautions to Minimize Risk

- Wash and sanitize hands often.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or elbow when coughing or sneezing.
- 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.

Specials and Performance Electives

The Independence School District is committed to providing all curricular opportunities possible while adhering to local, state and national entities.

COVID-19 Testing and Vaccinations for Staff and Students

The Independence School District continues to offer COVID-19 testing for staff and students at each school and the ISD Employee Clinic. The ISD began offering COVID-19 testing to staff and students in November of 2020 and will continue this service into the 2022-2023 school year and until further notice.

The Independence School District began offering vaccination clinics in our schools for staff the first week the state of Missouri added the tier to allow us to offer that service. The ISD began offering vaccinations for students 12 and older in our schools in the spring of 2021, vaccinations for students 5 and older in the fall of 2022, vaccinations for those 6 months and older in the summer of

2022, and will continue offering vaccinations for staff and students into the 2022-2023 school year and until further notice.

Periodic Revision

The Independence School District will review and revise this document no less than every six months, with the input and consultation of stakeholders. This document is available to the ISD community on the District website, accessible in multiple languages.