

Jennings School District 2021-2022 COVID-19 Reopening of Schools Facts and Questions



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RETURN TO SCHOOL GUIDANCE

Addendum for 2021-22 Academic School Year

As we prepare for another school year during pandemic conditions, a series of recommendations have been developed to assist school districts in creating plans for the upcoming school year. These recommendations are science-based and represent best practices as of July 29, 2021. School districts may choose to implement plans differently based on local Board and leadership decisions, current community transmission and vaccination rates, operational considerations for their school or district, and guidelines established by local government authorities.

Jennings School District Return-to-School Guidance

The purpose of this plan is to provide guidelines for returning to school following federal, state and local recommendations. These guidelines have been carefully considered to address and promote the safety, health and welfare of our school community. COVID-19 mandates and recommendations are ever-changing. As additional information is shared by our local and state health departments and national regulatory agencies our community's practices will change. We will continue to revisit our plan every 3-6 months and as the needs of the community changes.

In order to reduce the spread and or exposure to COVID-19 reopening requires us to move forward together using the recommended best practices. Maintaining safe daily habits will aid in reducing the spread and or exposure to COVID-19.

Our Practices to Keep us safe and Prevent Transmission

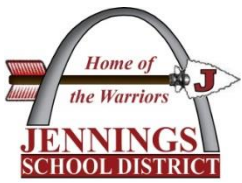
- Social distancing (specifically, staying 3 feet away from others when you must go into a shared space).
- Frequently washing hands or use of alcohol-based hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available.
- Cloth face coverings must be worn daily.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Stay home if you are sick
- Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces and objects.

Screening Staff

- All staff will be required to complete a self-assessment of symptoms within 10 minutes of reporting to work each day.

Screening Procedures/Students

- If a student is sick, he or she should stay home.
- Families should notify the school of absence if they will not be sending their student to school due to concerns over COVID-19.
- Daily temperature checks will be done prior to entering all district buildings. Any student with a temperature of 100° F or higher will be placed in the isolation room. Families will immediately be called to pick them up.
- Families must develop a plan in the event their student gets sick at school to pick up the student and provide up-to-date emergency contact numbers.



- Any student with a temperature of 100°F and above or with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 will be asked not to attend school. Students should not return until they have been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications or a note from a healthcare provider indicating that the student may return to school.

Face Masks or Face Shields

- Cloth mask or face shields must be worn. Please note that a mask **must** be worn with a face shield. A face shield cannot be worn alone.
- Face coverings may be removed when using the restroom or eating as long as physical distancing is maintained.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

The best way to keep children safe in school is to implement a layered mitigation strategy that uses multiple prevention and mitigation practices together to minimize the possibility of transmission.

- Strongly encourage vaccination for all eligible staff and students. Vaccination is a critical tool in keeping a school community safe, but also has direct benefits to vaccinated individuals and their families.
- Implement the use of face coverings while indoors (consistent and correct use of a properly fitting face covering) for all students and staff regardless of vaccination status.
- Implement physical distancing of at least 3 feet. If possible, a distance of at least 6 feet may offer additional protection from transmission and should be considered when other mitigation strategies cannot be utilized (e.g., removing face coverings while eating).
- Maintain seating charts in classrooms, buses and the cafeteria to facilitate contact tracing if an exposure occurs.
- Remind all staff and families to stay home if experiencing any symptoms (even if vaccinated).
- Do not implement policies or practices (e.g., perfect attendance awards) that discourage students staff from staying home while ill.
- Health screenings (in-person, online or self-screenings) for students and staff to ensure symptomatic people are not attending school/work.
- Follow your jurisdiction's requirements for isolation of cases and the identification and quarantine of close contacts.
- Strongly recommend that close contacts get tested for COVID 5 to 7 days after exposure or upon onset of symptoms.
- Individuals (including fully vaccinated) who are exposed but not required to quarantine may also consider testing 5 to 7 days after an exposure.
- Anyone (including fully vaccinated individuals) who is exposed but not required to quarantine and develops any symptoms should immediately return home and seek testing.
- Consider screening testing for staff and students, in accordance with Table 1 in the latest CDC guidance.
- Encourage hand hygiene breaks and provide students with the supplies needed for good hand hygiene.
- Continue to perform contact tracing to determine close contacts of any individual who has a positive test for COVID-19 within 48 hours of being present in a school building.



- Fully cooperate with your local health department regarding contact tracing, investigations and quarantine.
- Schools considering reducing mitigation strategies should be prepared to have an increased work load related to performing contact tracing and will likely have an increased number of students and staff who will need to quarantine after an exposure.
- Continue to track data for your school including cases and transmissions occurring in the school environment. Be prepared to adjust mitigation strategies to respond to school-level transmission events.
- Ensure proper ventilation in classrooms and other school spaces. Refer to CDC's guidance on Ventilation in Schools and Childcare Programs for additional information.
- Practice routine cleaning and disinfection.
- Consider the level of community transmission when making and implementing plans. If your county is in the "red" or "orange" levels of community transmission, consider implementing more layers of mitigation practices.

MODIFIED QUARANTINE

A modified quarantine process applies to students at public and private K-12 schools who are exposed to COVID-19 in classroom settings. Modified quarantine is restricted to exposures occurring in classroom settings because mitigation practices can be assured and the evidence demonstrates these settings to be relatively lower risk.

The modified quarantine practice allows certain close contacts who have been exposed to COVID-19 while in school to continue essential activities (e.g., in-person classroom learning) during their quarantine period, as long as:

- The close contact is completely asymptomatic.
- The nature of the exposure does not prohibit modified quarantine.
- Certain pre-conditions are met.

Outside of essential activities, the close contact must remain quarantined inside their home for the full quarantine period.

The implementation of a modified quarantine for K-12 students does not change:

- The determination of who is considered a close contact to a case of COVID-19.
- The standard quarantine practices (described here) for people other than K-12 students or for K-12 students whose exposures do not qualify for modified quarantine.

The implementation of a modified quarantine for K-12 does change:

- The ability for certain K-12 students who are close contacts to an individual with COVID-19 and who meet a set of pre-conditions to continue to attend in-person classroom learning during their quarantine period.

Criteria for Modified Quarantine

In order for modified quarantine to apply to a particular student or situation, all criteria specified below must be met:

1. Modified quarantine only applies to close contacts who are under 18 years old or current K-12 students who are over 18 years. Modified quarantine does not apply in any situation of potential transmission to an adult (except a student as described in the previous sentence); irrespective of whether the case was a child or an adult.



2. Modified quarantine does not apply when the case exhibits significant respiratory symptoms. If a close contact is exposed to a case who is exhibiting respiratory symptoms, the close contact is not allowed to participate in a modified quarantine.
3. The school environment has significant mitigation strategies in place. These strategies include:
 - A requirement for everyone to properly wear face coverings (in accordance with the County's Health Advisory).
 - Classrooms designed to limit spread and maximize physical distancing (e.g., at least 3 feet separating all people, although 6 or more feet is preferable).
 - Screening for COVID-19 and immediate isolation of anyone with possible COVID-19 symptoms.
 - Increased hand hygiene activities.
4. Face coverings must have been worn properly by the case and the contact at all times while in the classroom.

See the current School Guidance for situations (e.g., lunch) when face coverings are unable to be worn. In certain situations, if other mitigation practices are in effect, modified quarantine may still be allowed. Face shields are not an acceptable alternative.

5. Modified quarantine may be revoked when classroom transmission has occurred or is suspected. The initial situation of the exposure, as well as the extent of secondary transmission, determine whether modified quarantine can be implemented and when it needs to be revoked.
6. Modified quarantine only pertains to exposures in the educational environment at a school.

Exposures outside of the normal school day, including sports or extracurricular activities, are not eligible for modified quarantine because these exposures do not have the same degree of assurance for mitigation practices.

7. Modified quarantine will be suspended in facilities that are experiencing multiple clusters of disease resulting from school-based transmission. The Lead Nurse will notify the Department of Public Health (DPH) of likely in-school transmission and will consult with DPH to determine if suspension of modified quarantine is warranted.

Parameters of a Modified Quarantine

Individuals who are close contacts to a case of COVID-19 in a school setting will be identified according to the guidance established. For all close contacts who meet the criteria listed above, modified quarantine may be used.

During the period in which a student would be in quarantine, the following must occur:

- Outside of regular school day educational activities, the student must quarantine at home for the duration of the quarantine period. The student may not participate in any school-based or non-school-based sports or activities.
- The goal of modified quarantine is to allow students to continue their classroom learning without disruption when it is safe to do so. Although sports and extracurricular activities promote physical and socio-emotional growth, safely maintaining consistent classroom learning is essential to one's cognitive and academic development.



- A face covering must be worn properly at all times, except while eating or drinking.
- When the face covering is removed for eating and drinking, the student must be a minimum of 3 feet (but ideally at least 6 feet) from all others.
- Students are not allowed to participate in any activity in which a face covering cannot be worn (e.g., swimming) or when the risk of transmission is elevated (e.g., band and choir).
- When possible, cohort students undergoing modified quarantine for lunch or snack.
- The school must monitor for symptoms daily.
- A COVID-19 test (preferably a PCR test) is strongly encouraged between 5-7 days from the most recent exposure.

If the student develops any symptoms of COVID-19, they should immediately be isolated from others and excluded from school. The student should isolate at home and be tested for COVID-19. The student should remain at home for a minimum of 10 days unless a negative test result (collected while the patient was symptomatic) is provided. In the event that a student develops symptoms but the family refuses a COVID-19 test, the decision on whether to revoke the modified quarantine is up to the judgment of the Lead Nurse.

Instruction

We are prepared to meet in person the academic and social emotional learning needs of all our students in a safe and healthy school environment. We understand that some students may have experienced some gaps in their learning while receiving virtual schooling as well as some emotional challenges due to limited social interaction with their peers. Therefore, we are committed to developing both students’ academic and emotional well-being. Please know if we have to resume to virtual learning at any given time in the 2021-2022 school year, we have acquired new experiences to inform our approach to provide a smooth effective and efficient transition back to virtual learning.

Enrollment Options	Elementary	Middle	High School
In-Person School begins August 23, 2021.	All students will attend in person school. Virtual learning will be made available as an option upon request. Returning students have been assigned to their new classroom teachers and will receive that information when	Students will attend school in person. Virtual learning will be made available as an option upon request. An individualized course schedule is created to meet the student’s needs.	Students will attend school in person. Virtual learning will be made available as an option upon request. An individualized course schedule is created to meet the student’s needs and credit requirements. All course work utilizes a Blended Learning Framework. Parents of new students must contact the school’s registrar to enroll their child. Enrollment starts on August 2. Instructional Design

	<p>they return to their school. Parents of new students must contact the school's secretary to enroll their child. Enrollment starts on August 2.</p> <p>Instructional Design All course work will utilize our revised grade level curriculum pacing guides and a Blended Learning Framework. Teachers will provide whole group, small group, intervention, accelerated, and individualized instruction tailored to students' needs. Formative and summative assessments will be administered to monitor student progress.</p> <p>Special Education Students who qualify for special education services based on their individualized education program (IEP) will continue to receive services</p>	<p>All course work utilizes a Blended Learning Framework. Parents of new students must contact the school's registrar to enroll their child. Enrollment starts on August 2.</p> <p>Instructional Design All course work will utilize our revised grade level curriculum pacing guides. Teachers will provide whole group, small group, intervention, accelerated, and individualized instruction tailored to students' needs. Formative and summative assessments will be administered to monitor student progress.</p> <p>Special Education Students who qualify for special education services based on their individualized education program (IEP) will continue to receive services through the preferred</p>	<p>All course work will utilize our revised grade level curriculum pacing guides. Teachers will provide whole group, small group, intervention, accelerated, and individualized instruction tailored to students' needs. Formative and summative assessments will be administered to monitor student progress.</p> <p>Special Education Students who qualify for special education services based on their individualized education program (IEP) will continue to receive services through the preferred instructional format stated in their IEP Plan. Depending on a student's IEP needs, it may be difficult for school staff to both follow social distancing protocols and meet the goals established to serve the student educationally. Staff will work with families to ensure that student IEP needs are addressed while maintaining safety for all.</p> <p>Extracurricular and Athletic Activities Before and After-School activities and sports will resume keeping in mind all provisions to maintain a safe and healthy environment indoors and outdoors for our students and staff.</p>
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	<p>through the preferred instructional format stated in their IEP Plan. Depending on a student's IEP needs, it may be difficult for school staff to both follow social distancing protocols and meet the goals established to serve the student educationally. Staff will work with families to ensure that student IEP needs are addressed while maintaining safety for all.</p> <p>Early Childhood Education Schools and teachers must balance concerns about the virus along with developmental considerations. To mitigate risk, the following strategies are recommended: > Classes will remain together in their classroom, as much as possible, to minimize crossover among children and adults within the school. The size of the cohort may vary.</p>	<p>instructional format stated in their IEP Plan. Depending on a student's IEP needs, it may be difficult for school staff to both follow social distancing protocols and meet the goals established to serve the student educationally. Staff will work with families to ensure that student IEP needs are addressed while maintaining safety for all.</p> <p>Extracurricular and Athletic Activities Before and After-School activities and sports will resume keeping in mind all provisions to maintain a safe and healthy environment indoors and outdoors for our students and staff.</p>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Teachers will primarily stay in one classroom with one group of children. > The use of shared classroom supplies, centers, and sensory tables will be discontinued. > Handwashing will occur throughout the day. Families are asked to review proper personal hygiene techniques with their children daily. > Classroom staff will clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces throughout the day (e.g., bathrooms, door handles, light switches, and chairs) > Area rugs will be removed from classrooms. > At rest time, cots will be spaced out at least 6 feet. > Less furniture in the classroom will allow students to be spaced out. > Group learning will still occur, yet children will be separated as much as possible. > Toys will be sanitized 		
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	<p>throughout the day after use. Cloth toys and hard-to-clean toys will be removed from the classroom.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Education and play will be more individualized and with smaller groups. Social engagement will be encouraged through physically distanced activities, even on the playground. > Children will be provided individual cubbies/storage space for personal items. > Parents/guardians and visitors will not have access to classrooms. > Modified drop-off/pick-up procedures will be communicated to families. Families should designate the same parent/guardian or individual to drop off and pick up the child every day, if possible. <p>Extracurricular and Athletic Activities Before and After-School activities and sports will resume keeping</p>		
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	in mind all provisions to maintain a safe and healthy environment indoors and outdoors for our students and staff.		
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Reopening of Schools FAQ

- Will visitors and parents be allowed in the schools or inside buildings?
 - All visitors will be limited. Early Childhood (PreK) and Kindergarten parents may request to escort their child to the front door or partly to class for the 1st week of in-person school. Permission for such requests may be granted by the principal and superintendent.
 - All adults who enter any Jennings School District building must complete the [JSD Employee, Visitor/Volunteer, and Student COVID-19 Self-Screening Form](#) and may still be screened by a staff member for contact tracing purposes.

- When does the Jennings School District (JSD) 2021-22 school year start?
 - August 23, 2021 is the first day of school for Jennings School District.

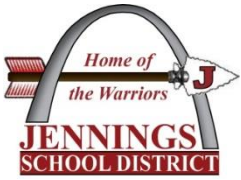
- Which JSD students will get to come to school in-person and how often?
 - All JSD students PreK to grade 12 will be in person five days a week from 8 am - 3 pm.
- What plan does JSD have for resuming school during COVID-19 pandemic?
 - [See the JSD 2021-2022 Essential Actions for COVID-19 Safety and Wellbeing](#)

- What about Early Childhood in general?
 - All special education classes, including early childhood, will meet in person 5 days a week.

- Will students eat food (breakfast, lunch, snacks) in the classroom?
 - Elementary students may eat in their classrooms, primarily, as well as the cafeteria in small groups with principal permission or directive with 3 feet distancing.
 - Secondary school students will eat in the cafeteria and the schedule, times, cafeteria sizes, and number of tables will allow for 3 feet or 15 sq. ft of social/physical distancing.

- Will activities with spectators (band concerts, football games) be allowed to occur?
 - At this time, sporting events may occur. More information is forthcoming.

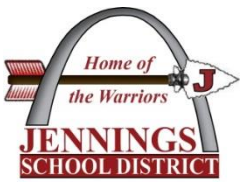
- How are sports and activities allowed to happen?



- In collaboration with the health department, sports and activities were allowed to continue. The focus is being able to contact trace if someone would test positive.
- How will you ensure students with symptoms are tested for COVID-19?
 - First, we are asking parents to not send your child to school if they have COVID-19 symptoms. If symptoms occur at school, the student will be referred to the nurse. Students will then be sent home and will not be able to return to school until a negative test result has been received.
 - Secondly, in partnership with Washington University the district will offer free COVID testing on Tuesdays from 2-4 pm at Jennings Senior High School [Free COVID Testing](#).
- Is the virtual learning and JSD Virtual Academy different from MOCAP?
 - Yes, however, the district is providing a virtual program taught by Jennings School District teachers on an as needed basis.
 - MOCAP is the State of Missouri's virtual program.
- Will students' temperatures be taken at the door?
 - Yes, in most cases students' temperatures are taken at the door for awareness purposes.
 - COVID-19 symptoms will be checked at school upon arrival randomly and regularly.
 - Parents will need to Self-Screen prior to students entering the bus or school building using the link: [JSD Employee, Volunteer, and Student COVID-19 Self-Screener](#).
 - Teachers should also conduct COVID-19 Screening of students daily upon arrival to the first classes of the day.
- Will adults' temperatures be taken at the door?
 - Yes, adults' temperatures will be taken at the door.
 - All adults will need to Self-Screen prior to entering the school building using the link: [JSD Employee, Volunteer, and Student COVID-19 Self-Screener](#).
- What if my student is required to be tested due to having symptoms and has not been exposed to a positive case and I chose not to get them tested?
 - Per the Health Department, the student will be required to stay home for 14 calendar days and until there are no symptoms for 3 consecutive days.
- What if my student is required to be tested due to being exposed to a positive case and I chose not to get them tested?
 - All students, regardless if they get tested or not, who were within 6 feet of a positive case for longer than 15 minutes will be required to stay home for 10-14 calendar days and until there are no symptoms for 3 consecutive days.
- Will students have recess?



- Yes, recess will still occur.
- What about students going on vacation?
 - We advise students, staff, and parents to not travel to high transmission/risk areas.
 - If students would travel to high transmission/risk areas, they should self-monitor for symptoms.
- Are students/staff going to be required to wear masks?
 - Staff will be required to wear a face covering.
 - Students and staff are required to wear face coverings when directed. Such directives will come from the superintendent, district and building administrators, and health professionals. Students should bring their own face coverings.
 - The school district will provide masks for staff and may provide masks for students if needed.
- How will IEPs be implemented on virtual instruction?
 - That would be determined by the teacher and the IEP team.
- How will we determine when a positive case occurs at school?
 - We expect adults and students to communicate with the school and the school will be communicating with the St. Louis County Health Department.
 - Jennings School District has over 20 staff with a Contact Tracing certification to support the St. Louis County Health Department and region with tracing and tracking cases in the Jennings School District.
- What is the plan for updating handwashing stations?
 - The district is reviewing options to determine the safest way for students to wash and dry their hands.
- How will students get their schedules?
 - Schedules will be mailed and emailed to students and families.
 - Schedules will be made available through SISK12 for grades 7-12.
- Will parents be able to walk their children to class in the mornings for drop off?
 - Parent drop off will only be allowed for PreK and kindergarten students. Grades 1-6 will require special permission by the building principal.
 - Buildings will adhere to the drop off and pick up procedures
- Will students be able to share necessary classroom supplies, such as tools, kitchen utensils, sewing machines, art supplies, etc.?
 - Individual supplies will be provided.



- Sanitation supplies will be available in all classrooms to sanitize in between each use.
- How is JSD assuring all students will have access to devices and/or internet?
 - If school is shutting down for all students to be educated through virtual learning, teachers will need to know who does not have access to the internet and work with those students to develop a plan to help them get access or the assignment to the student and provide feedback on that assignment.
 - Students who chose to have school virtually will be required to find internet access. Parents can seek support from Jennings School District partners for broadband services at reduced rates and for free for a limited period of time.
 - The district or Friends of Jennings Foundation will support families with extreme needs with internet access and may provide it through the St. Louis County Library and other means for a period of time.
- Will there be a special place for students who have COVID-19 symptoms that are developed at school?
 - Yes, each building will have a designated COVID-19 or CARE room.
- How will drills (fire, tornado, etc.) work with social/physical distancing?
 - Annual safety drills will continue and remain as short as possible with appropriate social and physical distancing.
 - Students may be required to stay with their class to allow for contact tracing and drills will remain as short as possible.
- What protocols will visitors need to go through?
 - Visitors will have limited to no access to the building at times and will be expected to only go to the main office. IEP meetings will be scheduled by the case managers and it will be determined if those are in person or virtual at that time.
- What measures can you put in place during the passing period to protect students and staff?
 - The district is limiting the number of students moving in the halls and for passing periods using staggering periods, and contained elementary classes.
- Will there be a class size restriction?
 - There will not be a class size restriction beyond what is required to meet the space requirement.
- Will the school doors still open at 7:00 a.m.?
 - Yes. Space will only be available for about 40 students who are available before 7:45 am for approved or extreme purposes only.
 - Students are expected to arrive by 7:45 am.



- Will Chromebooks still be issued to those in virtual classes?
 - Yes. The district has a one to one ratio of Chromebooks to students. Each student will receive a Chromebook.
 - A \$25 technology fee is required per student or \$40 for a family with more than one child in the Jennings School District.

- If a student tests positive for COVID-19, will all in that classroom be required to quarantine for 10-14 days?
 - Students and staff that were within 3 feet for longer than 15 minutes will be required to quarantine for 10-14 days if they are not vaccinated and have 3 continuous days symptom-free regardless if they are tested and receive a negative result. If the staff member or student is vaccinated, they do not need to quarantine unless they are having symptoms.

- Will social/physical distancing measures (3ft) be observed in classrooms?
 - Yes, as much as possible.

- What is the plan if a child's classroom teacher or other staff member were to get COVID-19?
 - The district would provide a substitute teacher or assign another teacher to work while the teacher was out.
 - If this is not possible, then virtual learning may be used as needed.

- You indicated schools/the district will close if "x" number of students test positive in one day. Who is doing this testing?
 - These tests are being done by the health department, hospitals, doctors office, and the Jennings School-Based Health Clinics.

- Did anyone who was in summer school (student or teacher) test positive for COVID-19?
 - At this time, we have not been notified of any positive cases/test from anyone who attended in person or virtual summer school sessions.

- Does the school have access to tests that are quick and accurate?
 - The school does not have the COVID-19 test on site. All tests must be done at another location.
 - Note: COVID-19 saliva test are being made available at the Junior and Senior High

- Will there still be parent-teacher conferences?
 - Yes, first semester in October and second semester in March 2022.
 - A decision has yet to be made about the parent-teacher conferences that occurs second semester in March.



- If a parent decides to independently homeschool their child, would re-entering the school system at a safer time be difficult?
 - No. The enrollment procedure will remain the same as it is today.
- Will doctors notes be required to be faxed in?
 - There is no change to how doctors' notes are sent into school.
- Will the school install water bottle refill stations instead of drinking fountains?
 - There will be some water bottle refill stations in the high school.
 - Drinking fountains may be used as water bottle refilling stations only.
 - There may be a limited number of water bottle refilling stations.
- Will Band and Choir be made available for student participation?
 - Yes