

McCord Public School



Return to Learn Information

**Reviewed June 2023 for
2023/2024 school year**

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This plan was developed through collaboration with students, teachers, parents, administrators, support staff, board members, community leaders, and public health officials. Public input was considered and utilized in the development of this plan. A COVID-19 School Reopening Task Force gathered to provide insight into concerns about bringing children and staff back to school sites in light of the ever changing COVID-19 conditions. To develop the best practices for our reopening, model plans were consulted from national education organizations, multiple health and safety organizations, as well as other public school districts.

The creation of this plan is based on two guiding principles:

1. Limit exposure where possible: Some suggestions provided by other plans are not reasonable for our specific conditions due to space, human behaviors, or budget constraints.
2. Learning must remain constant: Building on the experiences of distance learning during the school closure last spring, McCord Public School is ready to deliver instruction to students. We know disruption during a public health crisis like COVID-19 may be very likely. Although we can expect disruption during the school year, consistent lesson delivery from teacher to student will remain strong either through a more traditional face-to-face method or through non-traditional learning at home. Google Classroom or other methods of instruction may be the learning management system for Pre-K through grade 6. We have listened to parent requests for a streamlined nontraditional learning environment, and teachers have been preparing with new content and accountability.

According to the Center for Disease Control

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 hand-washing, staying home when sick) and environmental cleaning and disinfection are important principles that are covered in this guide. Fortunately, there are a number of actions school staff can take to help lower the risk of exposure to and the spread of COVID-19 during school sessions and activities (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], 2020).

Symptoms of COVID-19

People with COVID-19 have reported having a wide range of symptoms – from mild symptoms to severe illness. Children have similar symptoms to adults and generally experience 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 or chills
- Fatigue
- Muscle pain or body aches
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell
- Congestion or runny nose

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

Universal Precautions Recommended by the CDC

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.

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.

Masks and Face Shields

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

Cover Coughs and Sneezes

If you are in a private setting and do not have your cloth face covering, remember to always cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow. Throw used tissues in the trash. Immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

Clean and Disinfect

Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces throughout the day.

School Operations

Masks and Face Coverings

- Masks will not be required on campus at this time, but may be used by staff and students.
- Students using cloth face coverings should be able to wash them in the evenings.
- **McCord Public School will monitor the changing conditions of COVID-19, and our policy concerning masks may change under the advice of the state department of education and state health officials.**

Although masks will not be required at this time, CDC guidelines provide scientific reasons why wearing masks can help limit the spread of the virus.

- COVID-19 spreads mainly from person to person through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. Studies and evidence on infection control report that these droplets usually travel around 6 feet (about two arm lengths)

Transportation:

1. Bus windows may be left open for airflow when weather permits.
2. Bus riders may have assigned seats.
3. Guidelines may change as conditions warrant.
4. Drivers may wear masks.

Campus Screenings

Staff /Student:

1. Staff may self-screen when entering the school buildings.
2. Teachers may have thermometers available in their classrooms to monitor temperatures throughout the day.
3. Locations will be established to house students who may have symptoms or a temperature of 100.4 degrees or greater.
 - a. If a student's temperature registers 100.4 the student may be placed in a designated area. Parents will be contacted.
 - b. Cleaning will occur upon the exit of the quarantined student/staff.
4. Parents will be notified if the student is symptomatic and schedule a pick-up time and location.

Visitors:

1. Visitors should immediately report to the school office when arriving at school.
2. A list of questions may be posted and asked upon entrance at the office to assure visitors are asymptomatic.
3. Patrons are asked not to visit if they have any symptoms of Covid-19.

Child Nutrition:

1. Breakfast/lunch procedures may adhere to social distancing if applicable.
2. All leftover food will be disposed of.
3. All desks and tables will be sanitized after each lunch period.

Classroom Procedures:

1. Procedures may be adopted in each building for classroom sanitization, including musical instruments and playground toys.
2. Classroom doors may be left open.
3. Procedures may be adopted at each building to limit the number of students present in the hallways.
4. Promote good hygiene practices and hand washing.
5. Sanitization stations may be located in each classroom.
6. We may limit sharing of supplies. Please provide individual supplies for your students.

Recess:

- Recess will occur for each grade.
- Playground equipment may be sanitized as needed.

Physical Education and Extracurricular Activities:

1. Guidelines for participation will be determined by the teacher and superintendent.
2. Sanitization of all equipment may be done on a daily basis.
3. Event guidelines will be determined by the current recommendations of the Health Department and CDC.

Site Use By Outside Entities / Visitor and Volunteer Protocols:

- If the situation warrants, facilities could be closed for outside use.

Facility Cleaning and Sanitization:

1. Each building may have a checklist and a timeline of completion for daily sanitization practices.
2. Sanitization stations may be set up at the entrance of each facility and in the common areas.
3. Necessary equipment may be provided at each facility for proper cleaning and student safety:
 - a. approved disinfectant
 - b. Hand sanitizer/disinfectant wipes
 - c. Water bottle fillers will be used and water will be allowed to students in their personal containers.

--We will continue the Before School (7:30-7:45 am) and After-School Care Program as normal until 5:30 pm.

Wellness

Health Concerning COVID-19

If a staff member or student tests positive:

1. If a staff member or student is confirmed as a positive case of COVID the site shall immediately inform the Superintendent.
2. The building/classroom shall be deep cleaned.
3. McCord Public School, along with health officials, will determine if school closure is warranted and what additional measures the school must take to contain exposure.

Return to School Criteria:

1. McCord School will follow the most recent CDC and Kay/Osage County Health Department guidelines.

Vaccinations

1. Vaccine information will be made available as it is relayed to us. We may have health providers offer these vaccinations at various times throughout the year and we will encourage healthy choices for our families.

Academics and Growth

Enrollment:

Students may enroll at the designated times for enrollment for each grade level.

Calendar:

The school calendar is subject to change.

Any revisions to the school calendar will be published on our district website at:
www.mccordschool.net

Reopening School Instructional Choices

Our district is extremely grateful to have the opportunity to serve you and your children as their educational institution. We are excited to start back into a new school year, but first, we want to clarify what our district plans to do to support all students in a safe and healthy manner as they attain their education. Our district is not offering a virtual/distance option for the 2022-2023 school year. We will offer a temporary educational program for students who are ill or are on mandatory quarantine.

Traditional School

Offered to students PK- 6th grades that will be on campus attending school at McCord Public School facilities. Students would attend as usual with the precautions to limit exposure to the COVID-19 virus. If a student becomes ill, he/she will follow the lesson plans of their teacher using alternate means determined by the teacher including sending work home or posting lessons to an online learning platform such as Google Classroom. Learning would take place off-campus, but students would have the opportunity to follow the due dates and timing of all students in their regular classes.

Training for Staff and Students:

1. Staff needs:
 - a. Training on Google Classroom (PK-6)
2. Student needs:
 - a. District-wide on-site student training:
 - i. Email
 - ii. Proper care and use of tech device
 - iii. Learning platforms

Response to Disease Levels:

Level 1: We anticipate operating at this level throughout the school year.

- No/Few positive cases of COVID-19 on campus
- School is fully open with COVID-19 well-being protocols in place.

McCord Public School Staff want to inform our parents and community that we believe strongly that the best choice and most academically effective choice for students is in a classroom setting with our teachers. This is especially true in the lower elementary grades as students are learning foundational skills.

Level 2: The increased threat of COVID-19

- A nontraditional model may be implemented if the following occur:
 - The threat has increased due to confirmed or suspected cases on campus
 - McCord school officials determine that a reduced capacity of traditional learning days is needed beyond what is possible with increased community spread.
- Students will transition to a nontraditional model determined by the classroom teacher.

Level 3: Distance/Virtual learning for all students due to the increased threat of COVID-19 and/or mandated closure.

- 100% distance/virtual learning platform will be implemented if:
 - Health or government officials direct schools to close in order to mitigate COVID-19 transmission.
 - McCord school officials determine that closure is needed.

Technology Plan:

1. District-owned technology may be available
 - a. Devices may be provided to students in need.
2. Instructional Technology
 - a. Google Classroom, Study Island, Renaissance-Accelerated Reader, STAR, IXL