



Forsyth R-III Schools

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

On December 7, 2021, Forsyth R-III Schools, and all schools across Missouri, received notification from the State Attorney General, requiring changes in procedures including quarantine, mandates and health orders. Changes have been made in our Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan to accommodate this information.

General Guidelines

The following guidelines will be in place for Forsyth R-III Schools as we begin the 2021-2022 school year. As we transition back to normal procedures, we will continue to communicate with parents and patrons of any changes in procedures that may take place. These measures may be updated or changed as new information becomes available. These guidelines will be followed to the extent possible to maintain student, staff and community safety. Decisions will be made in coordination with the Taney County Health Department. Protocols have been put in place taking into consideration the guidance of the CDC, DESE, and MSBA. Up to date levels of operation will be maintained on our school web page. This plan was created with public input and will be reevaluated every six months. **Due to updated guidance, our protocols have changed.**

Exclusion From School Guidelines

Students and/or staff who have been identified as testing positive for Covid-19 will be excluded from school for 5 days from the onset of symptoms.

Students and/or staff who have been identified as a close contact to someone who has tested positive for Covid-19 will be recommended to exclude themselves from school. This will be a recommendation, not a requirement.

Student/Staff Covid-19 Testing

Covid-19 testing is available to any student or staff who wish to access it here at school however it is not a requirement at any point.

Goal

Our goal is to keep students and staff healthy and provide a safe, in-person learning environment to the best of our ability. This effort will require cooperation among our students, staff, and families.

Forsyth R-III Schools is committed to maintaining fully seated in-person learning. We believe that students learn best when they are receiving face to face instruction and learning experiences. Each of our protocols are put in place to give every student the opportunity to obtain the entire educational experience they deserve.

Vaccination Information

Fully vaccinated students or staff who are in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 but do not have COVID-19 symptoms do not need to be excluded from school or be tested. If a fully vaccinated student or staff who is a close contact, exhibits symptoms then they would be recommended but not required to exclude themselves from school as a close contact.

Non-vaccinated students or staff who are in close contact with someone who has Covid-19 will be recommended but not required to exclude themselves from school.

Level 1: Face to Face Learning (Green Level)

- School operations will be as normal as possible
- Social distancing will be encouraged at all times and students will be instructed on appropriate hygiene practices and protocols.
- Facial coverings will be **recommended for all students grades PK-12 and all Forsyth staff. Facial coverings are still recommended for anyone who has been vaccinated for COVID-19.** Facial coverings will be provided for all students and staff if they choose. Students and staff may use a facial covering of their own.
- Facial coverings will be recommended at any time a student cannot achieve social distance. Facial coverings are not required when normal school procedures are taking place and students and staff can maintain social distance. For example: We recommend that students wear masks during hallway travel and transition time but when in the classroom and can social distance.
- Face shields will not be acceptable as facial coverings to meet CDC quarantine guidelines.
- Hand washing/hand sanitizer will be available and frequently encouraged.

Level 1:	Face to Face Learning Guidelines
Student Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students who have been identified as testing positive for Covid-19 will be excluded from school for 5 days from onset of symptoms.• All students and staff recommended to wear a facial covering at school.• Any student or staff may wear a facial covering if they so choose.• Disposable facial coverings will be available for students upon request.• Students will be monitored for COVID-19 symptoms. If found to have a temperature above 100 degrees, student will promptly be sent home per policy as with any illness. If students exhibit COVID-19 symptoms the student will be sent to the nurse's office for evaluation. If a student's symptoms are determined to possibly be COVID-19 related, the parents will be contacted.

<p>Student Social and Emotional Health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students who are vaccinated are exempt from exclusion from school if they are a close contact. ● Following an illness, students may be allowed back at school with one of the following: symptom free for <u>24 hours</u> or a doctor's note to return to school. ● Staff will be trained on healthy hygiene practices so they can teach these to students. ● Ensure handwashing strategies include washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Strongly encourage hand washing during all the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ After going to the bathroom. ○ After playing outside. ○ Before eating. ○ After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. ● If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. ● Remind students to not touch their eyes, nose or mouth. ● Remind students to not share cups, eating utensils, food or drinks with others. ● Personal water bottles are encouraged. ● Each student and staff will be provided one water bottle. Bottle fill stations will be available. ● Students will be active in sanitizing their work and play areas/equipment to help disinfect throughout the day. ● Workspaces will be sanitized routinely. ● Activate the Forsyth crisis management teams within the building to address psychological and emotional concerns in conjunction with the local mental health services, including post-traumatic stress syndrome counseling (MSCA guidance)
<p>Staff Health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staff will be monitored for COVID-19 symptoms. If found to have a temperature above 100 degrees, staff will promptly be sent home as with any illness. If staff exhibit COVID-19 symptoms the staff will be sent to the nurse's office for evaluation. ● Vaccinated staff members will be exempt from exclusion from school if they are identified as a close contact unless they are ill based on current policy. ● Staff may be allowed back to work with one of the following: symptom free for <u>24 hours</u> or a doctor's note to return to school. ● The workspace will be disinfected. ● All employees will routinely wash their hands for at least 20 seconds.

Building Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Custodial department is implementing a specified sanitation plan using approved cleaning products across the district. • Custodial Department will ensure adequate supplies (e.g., soap, paper towels, hand sanitizer, tissue) to support healthy hygiene practices throughout each facility. • Individuals encouraged to sanitize hands upon entry and exit of all buildings. Hand sanitizing stations will be available to do so. • Routinely clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that are frequently touched periodically throughout the day. Items to consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Doorknobs ○ Light switches ○ Classroom sink handles ○ Countertops ○ Lockers ○ Playground equipment • Clean with effective cleaners that are typically used for those cleaning surfaces. Use all cleaning products according to the directions on the label. • Increase airflow and ventilation as weather allows. (Open windows, use air conditioning where available, etc.) Encourage use of outdoor learning spaces. • Post signs encouraging good hand and respiratory hygiene practices.
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bus drivers have been properly trained in COVID-19 safety measures.
Physical Distancing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For students who do not ride the bus, parents are expected to drop off their child at the parent drop off locations. • Parents may come to the office for late student check in or to check their student out. • Classrooms will be organized to allow for physical distancing. • We will have two health stations available if isolation is needed.
Attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance will be reviewed to monitor absenteeism patterns among both students and staff to assess District health. • Students and staff are encouraged to stay home when sick • Students will be monitored for COVID-19 symptoms. If a temp of above 100 degrees is found, student will promptly be sent home.

Action Plan if Confirmed Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Monitor exposure, absenteeism, and symptoms within classroom/building to determine further action. ● Identify student exposure in relation to direct contact with others and facility exposure for targeted cleaning. ● Perform targeted cleaning and disinfection of frequently touched hard, non-porous surfaces, such as counters, appliance surfaces, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, drinking fountains, phones, technology, and any other surfaces that are visibly necessary.
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If extenuating circumstances arise, there is potential for our District to implement level 2 (blended learning) or level 3 (at home learning) learning plans. Additional information will be provided if necessary.

Level 2: Blended Learning (Orange Level)

- Classes may take place online for one or more days due to a rapid increase in number of local cases and/or higher than normal absence rates due to COVID-19 or other illness impacting student or staff attendance.
- If classes take place online we will follow the Emergency Alternative Methods of Instruction Plan
- Restrictions on school activities may be in place
- Capacity and attendance limits may be established for events or school activities

Level 3: At-Home Learning (Red Level)

- All classes are online and will follow the district’s Emergency Alternative Methods of Instruction plan
- Classwork done independently and required for grades/credit
- School buildings may be closed and only designated staff can enter
- All activities may be canceled or rescheduled



Forsyth R-III School District

Facial Covering Protocols

Our primary goal is to provide a safe and healthy environment for our students, staff and community. Our efforts have been defined based on recommendations of state and local health departments and the CDC. Guidance will evolve as new information and recommendations become available.

- A facial covering is considered a device that covers the nose and mouth. A disposable mask, a cloth mask, or gator are all considered appropriate facial coverings. Any facial coverings worn should only depict school appropriate content.
- When students are properly masked it assists in protecting students and staff from quarantine.
- Disposable masks will be provided upon request for both students and staff members.
- The district will re-evaluate our facial covering protocol monthly.

These protocols may change at any time under the guidance of our local health department and/or CDC recommendations.



Forsyth R-III School District

Return to Learn

Forsyth Schools is committed to providing a safe and healthy learning environment for our students, staff and community. The information in this plan is based on recommendations from state and local health departments as well as the CDC. **Forsyth Schools is committed to remaining in fully seated in-person learning.**

FACIAL COVERINGS & HYGIENE

- All Forsyth staff and students are **recommended** to wear a facial covering in areas where social distancing cannot be maintained. However, they are NOT required when at recess, P.E., consuming food/beverage, **or anytime that students are ABLE TO PROPERLY SOCIAL DISTANCE.**
- Hand sanitizer is readily available throughout all school buildings. All students and staff will be encouraged to sanitize when they enter and before they leave each day.
- Students and staff will be allotted time to frequently wash their hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water.

TRANSPORTATION

- Normal transportation protocols are now in place.
- All students are encouraged to take advantage of district provided transportation.

HEALTH PROTOCOLS

- Health services staff will evaluate any student or staff member showing symptoms of COVID-19.
- Students/staff will only be allowed to return to school **if they are fever free for 24 hours, or with a doctor's note.**
- **Students or staff who are fully vaccinated are exempt from exclusion from school unless they are ill based on current policy.**

SOCIAL DISTANCING

- Desks will be arranged in a way that allows for the most social distancing possible in the space provided.
- Outdoor spaces will be utilized when possible.





Forsyth R-III School District Mitigation Strategies

Mitigation Strategy	Example Responses
Universal and correct wearing of masks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masks recommended for all students and staff
Physical distancing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent with CDC guidelines • Distancing procedures in place within buildings • Barriers, routing, and minimum distancing
Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent with CDC • Taught and reinforced • Sanitizer and tissue provided
Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent with CDC • Modified classroom layouts • Increased cleaning for high-touch surfaces • Bottle fill stations installed and water bottles provided for students and staff
Contact tracing in combination with exclusion from school, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent with CDC • Contact tracing by LEA
Diagnostic and screening testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home screening by parents and staff • Home testing provided • Testing available at TCHD or clinic
Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner with TCHD for vaccination opportunities for staff and students • Share information on vaccination clinics with staff and students
Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accommodations as necessary or as mandated by IEP and/or 504

Ensuring Interventions Meet Student's Needs

Teachers, staff, and administrators will monitor and observe students (as well as colleagues) for possible social, emotional, or mental needs and refer to the counselor and/or health office as needed.

The counseling and/or health office will utilize supplemental resources such as Burrell Health and Jordan Valley Health Clinic as needed.

Parents and families are encouraged to monitor and observe at home (especially during any interruptions of in-person instruction) for social, emotional, and mental health needs and contact the appropriate building counseling and/or health office as needed.