Jefferson R-VII School District
COVID-19 Re-Entry Guidelines and Protocols

2020-2021 School Year

**The guidelines and protocols outlined in this document are subject to revision as needed to reflect local, state, and federal guidance.**

Current Version – 7/15/2020
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The Jefferson R-VII School District is offering the following guidelines regarding the return to school, which is scheduled to begin on August 24, 2020.

This document is based on our local leadership decisions, which have been derived from guidelines established by local government and health authorities, based upon current factors and information.

This is a “working document” and is subject to change as new information is obtained and regulations evolve at the local, state and regional levels.

It is important to note that while the District will make every effort to provide a safe and healthy environment for our students and staff, there are inherent risks with participation in group activities during this time. Therefore, the District cannot guarantee that your child will not be exposed to the virus or those who may have been affected. School safety for staff and students will continue to be priority of the District in these ever-changing times.

According to the Center for Disease Control, as of June 22, 2020 – 5.2% of all United States cases involved youth from ages 0-17 years of age.

As of July 13, 2020, in Jefferson County, Missouri, there were 44 total cases in the 0-19 years of age bracket (or 5.7% of all cases in Jefferson County), which equates to 4.41 cases per 10,000 residents ages 0-19. There were zero reported COVID-19 hospitalizations in the 0-19-year age group. Zero COVID-19 fatalities have been reported in the 0-19-year age group.

Commentary Regarding COVID-19 Guidelines and Protocols
- The COVID-19 guidelines developed and presented below follow all applicable local, state, and federal guidelines and incorporate many best practices advocated by school associations and groups.
- The Jefferson R-VII School District is committed to providing a quality education to all students, while ensuring their safety and well-being.
- Parents/guardians with questions or concerns are asked to contact their building administrator.
- Protocols in this document will be evaluated at the end of each quarter and adjusted based on current guidelines and best practices.

General Information for Students and Staff
- Students and staff will wash / sanitize hands each time upon entering the building.
- Students and staff will participate in temperature checks on an as-needed basis as determined by District Administration.
- Students and staff will be guided to wash hands multiple times (3-4) per day.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided at multiple locations throughout buildings.
- Students and staff are highly encouraged to wear protective masks when within 6 feet of others or as directed by Administration / Staff. There will be situations where staff will be required to wear protective masks (food service, buses, nurse’s office, passing in hallways, etc.)
All masks must meet school dress code guidelines.
- Masks must be in clean, sanitary condition.
- Students may not share masks or provide masks to other students at school.

Drinking fountains will be disabled, except for those with bottle-filling capabilities.
- A water bottle will be made available to students and may be refilled throughout the day if they do not have their own water bottle.
- Students may bring personal water bottles from home, but bottles must be plastic or metal, and in a clean, sanitary condition.

Social distancing will be observed to the extent possible by all staff and students.
- Student activities and athletics will be conducted as usual to the extent they are permissible under local, state, and federal guidance.
- Students with diagnosed medical conditions who are susceptible to the effects of COVID-19 will be provided opportunities for distance learning and other accommodations as appropriate and practicable.
- Staff with diagnosed medical conditions who are susceptible to COVID-19 will be provided accommodations as appropriate and practicable.

Symptoms of COVID-19
- People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported, ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. The following are examples of symptoms:
  - Fever or chills
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - Fatigue
  - Muscle or body aches
  - Headache
  - New loss of taste or smell
  - Sore throat
  - Congestion or runny nose
  - Nausea or vomiting
  - Diarrhea

This list does not include all possible symptoms and will be updated as more is learned about COVID-19.

Spread of COVID-19
- There is still a lot of research on COVID-19 and how it is being transmitted. The following are examples of how it is spread:
  - Through the air by coughing and sneezing
  - Close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands
  - Touching an object or surface with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose or eyes
  - In rare cases, contact with feces

Daily Screening Guidance for Students
We have a culture of working or going to school when one is sick. We must work towards changing that culture and encourage everyone to stay home when they are feeling ill. Attendance will not be counted against any student related to COVID-19.

The Department of Health and Senior Services and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education advise districts not to implement screen procedures that would force bottlenecks at building entry points, “creating unnecessary situations where students cannot maintain adequate physical distance from one another.”
Therefore, all families are required to self-assess their daily health situation prior to getting on the bus, attending school, or attending/participating in other extracurricular event in order to determine if they are ill or are at risk of exposing others to COVID-19. To assist families with this daily health screening, a magnet with the daily checklist, as shown in the box below, will be provided to each district family.

If students answer yes to any of the following questions to the right, they should NOT come to school that day. Absences should be reported by calling your child’s building attendance number listed below.

Individuals are advised to contact a healthcare provider if they exhibit symptoms or answered YES to any screening question(s) as well as contact the Jefferson County Health Department.

District staff will also be watching for signs and symptoms of illness as students enter the building and classrooms.

To Report A Student Absent From School:
Plattin Nurse 725-1176
Telegraph Nurse 933-6939
Danby Nurse 933-6956
Jefferson Nurse 933-6909

Before sending your child to school or practice, don’t forget to ask the questions below:

a. Do you have a temperature higher than 100.4°F Fahrenheit? (*Jefferson R-VII protocol for temperatures is 100.0.)
b. Do you have a household member or have you been in close contact with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past two weeks?
c. Do you have symptoms of lower respiratory illness such as a new or worsening cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing?
d. Have you experienced any chills or repeated shaking with chills?
e. Have you experienced any muscle pain or headache (different than normal exercise-induced pain, your seasonal allergies, or other diagnosed condition)?
f. Have you experienced any sore throat (different than your seasonal allergies or other diagnosed condition)?
g. Have you experienced any recent loss of taste or smell?
h. Have you experienced any recent diarrhea or vomiting?

If the answer is “YES” to any question, you must stay home and contact your doctor, if needed.
Guidelines for Student and Staff School Attendance

- Students and staff with symptoms of illness should stay home.
- Students at school who display health symptoms that could suggest COVID-19 concerns will be checked by the nurse. If evaluation by the nurse suggests potential for COVID-19 infection, the student will be quarantined until they are able to be picked up by a parent/guardian.
- Students with a temperature of 100.0 degrees or higher will be sent home.
  
  We understand that the COVID-19 temperature guideline is 100.4; however, Jefferson R-VII School District protocols are to not allow anyone with a temperature at or above 100.0 to be at school.
- A student excluded from the school environment due to COVID-19 concerns may return to school in accordance with guidelines provided by the health department. Please understand that guidelines may change over time. At the time of this publication, the guidelines are as follows:
  - Students with symptoms and were not tested for COVID-19 may return if the following conditions are met:
    - At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and,
    - At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared
  - Students with symptoms that were tested for COVID-19 and the test was negative, may return if the following conditions are met:
    - Resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and
    - Improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) and
    - Negative results of an FDA Emergency Use Authorized COVID-19 molecular assay for detection of SARS-CoV-2 RNA from at least two consecutive respiratory specimens collected ≥24 hours apart (total of two negative specimens)
  - Students who have tested positive for COVID-19 may return if the following conditions are met:
    - 14 days have passed without symptoms.
    - Negative results of an FDA Emergency Use Authorized COVID-19 molecular assay for detection of SARS-CoV-2 RNA from at least two consecutive respiratory specimens collected ≥24 hours apart (total of two negative specimens)
    - Released and given written approval to return by a healthcare provider.
  - Other scenarios regarding student health will be handled according to guidance and consultation from the Jefferson County Health Department.

Transportation Information

- Parents/guardians are encouraged to drop students off at school. Drop-off and pick-up systems will be organized to ensure social distancing to the greatest extent possible.
- Students riding the bus from the same household will sit together.
- Buses will be sanitized after each trip.
- Bus routes will be designed to keep buses running at ⅔ or less capacity. Second loads and other revisions of usual practice may be necessary.
- Running buses at ⅔ capacity will result in delays and will require understanding, cooperation, and accommodation from all parties. Parents/guardians may help this situation by dropping students off at school whenever possible.
- Hand sanitizer / wipes will be available on school buses.
Drivers will be encouraged to use personal protective equipment (PPE), such as shields or masks, during loading/unloading times and throughout routes.

**Arrival at School / Breakfast**
- Kids Korner will be located at Telegraph. They will practice social distancing as much as possible and will then be transported safely to each building.
- K-5 students who are not eating breakfast will go directly to classrooms upon arrival.
- Breakfast will be picked up by teachers and taken back to classrooms for Preschool students.
- Breakfast will be served in the cafeteria for students in grades K-5; students will exercise social distancing while eating at the tables. Drinks, silverware and needed condiments will be placed on their trays for students.
- Students in grades 6-8 will stagger breakfast times for a “grab-n-go” style breakfast eating in the cafeteria area. 6th grade students will start, followed by 7th and 8th.
- Students in grades 9-12 will be served breakfast as normal in the cafeteria; students eating will exercise social distancing. Only students eating breakfast will be allowed in cafeteria area.
- Food service staff will wear protective equipment while serving food to staff and students.
- Students in grades 6-12 will report directly to classrooms after finishing breakfast (or upon entering the building if choosing not to eat breakfast at school). Students will not be allowed to congregate in hallways or other areas.

**During the School Day**
- K-5 students will participate in recess in designated areas. Equipment will be sanitized various times during the course of the week.
- Sharing of student supplies will be minimized and/or eliminated. Students may be asked to bring personal supplies (ex. art boxes with supplies, etc.).
- Equipment used by more than one student will be sanitized between uses.
- Building Administration will determine if students will be dressing out for physical education. Each teacher will provide the expectations for their course. Appropriate footwear for activities will be required for all physical education courses.
- No field trips, assemblies, dances or visitors will be allowed at this time. This will be re-evaluated at the end of each quarter.
- Volunteers who have completed the background check process and obtained prior permission from Building Administration will be checked into the building using our newly adopted Raptor system.
- Parents/guardians dropping off items for students will leave said items in the foyer area; items will then be delivered to students from the office.
- Parents/guardians picking up a student during the school day will wait for their student in the foyer.

**At Lunch**
- Lunch shifts will be staggered as much as possible to minimize the number of students gathered.
- Food service staff will wear protective equipment while serving food to staff and students.
- Individual packets of condiments will be used.
- Trays will be filled by food service staff and handed directly to staff and students in Grades K-5. Students in Grades 6-12 will select from pre-packaged food.
- Preschool students will eat in an assigned classroom in the preschool wing. Assigned staff will deliver food from the cafeteria to the designated area.
● Students in Grades K-5 will eat lunch with their grade level. Drinks, silverware and condiments will be placed on the trays for students. Students will exercise social distancing while eating.
● Students in Grades 6-8 will eat in shifts with their grade level. Hot items will be placed on student trays, cold items will be available in closed containers for students to select. Drinks, silverware and condiments will be placed on trays for students. Students will exercise social distancing while eating.
● High school students will be assigned to one of four lunch shifts. Students will exercise social distancing while going through the food line. There will be multiple stations set up with different types of pre-made “grab-n-go” food choices. Disposable pre-wrapped silverware will be used. Condiments will be included with food item(s) selected. Students will exercise social distancing while eating in specific areas.
● All tables will be cleaned thoroughly between uses.

Extracurricular Activities
● Sanitize entire facility before event.
● Sanitize “high touch” areas throughout the event.
  ○ Door handles, handrails, ticket counters, concession stand, trash receptacles, water fountains, restrooms, scores table, etc.
● Clean and sanitize everything after each event.
● Provide hand sanitizers at all entrances/exits and throughout the facility.
● Sanitize balls / equipment during the game.
  ○ Have a rotation of balls to avoid delays in the game.

Guidelines and Protocols Considered but Not Adopted
● Temperature screenings
  ○ Many young people are asymptomatic and may not run a fever with COVID-19. Temperature screenings are not considered determinate and not advised by the local health department.
● Plastic shields placed on tables/desks
  ○ Hygiene, especially with younger students, is a major concern.
  ○ Behavior issues (throwing items over the shield, etc.) are a concern.
● Staggered hallway passing times for JH and HS students
  ○ Changing classes already requires co-mingling of students. Different passing times would provide minimal benefit.
● Students attending school on alternate days, alternate times, staggered school start times.
  ○ Creates significant hardship for families, especially those with younger children, or who are economically disadvantaged.
  ○ Limited benefit is gained if students still co-mingle at activities, athletics or social occasions.
● Limiting buses to one student per seat, or limiting students to every other seat
  ○ The rural nature of the school district makes it necessary for many bus routes to be quite long. It is very difficult to run second loads or double routes when bus routes are already 45 minutes or longer.
  ○ This protocol reduces bus capacity by 50% or more; the district is unable to provide the buses and drivers necessary to implement.
● Placing/constructing clear plastic shields between bus drivers and students
These modifications are not advised by National Transportation Advisory Board and are not permitted under federal bus standards.

**Scenarios**

It is impossible to provide answers to different scenarios because each situation can be different due to the individual circumstances.

However, here are a few examples:

**If one has come into contact with someone who has tested positive, the following procedures will have to occur in order to return to school:**

1. If one has tested positive for the virus, a “Release from Isolation” letter from the Health Department will need to be presented stating that one has been cleared to return to school. The school does not have the authority to approve one’s return to school.
2. If one has been within a 6-foot space for at least a 15-minute duration from someone who has tested positive, and has been placed under quarantine from the local health department, then a “Release from Isolation” letter from the Jefferson County Health Department will need to be presented stating that the person exposed has been cleared to return to school. The school does not have the authority to approve one’s return to school.
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