

**SOUTH NODAWAY R-IV
SCHOOL DISTRICT**



**Safe Return to In-Person Instruction
& Continuity of Services Plan
June 2021**

***Updated Dec 21**

Introduction

The South Nodaway R-IV School District held instruction as normal as possible during the 2020-21 school year, and will continue to offer in-building learning during the 2021-22 school year and beyond. This plan serves as a reminder of our mitigation policies that may be implemented if cases and/or quarantine numbers rise during the school year. This plan is a requirement of accepting and utilizing ESSER III funding provided by the federal government through the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Communication with the Nodaway County Health Department, local physicians, staff, students, and community members will continue to ensure the South Nodaway R-IV School District is able to provide quality educational opportunities for our students and families. The following mitigation strategies will be followed during the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school years. These strategies are created in conjunction with the most current Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance, but will be based on what is affecting our community and our county in determining protocols for our district. Parents are encouraged to continue monitoring for symptoms in determining when their child should refrain from attending school.

Mitigation Measures

Universal and correct wearing of masks: Masks will not be required to be worn in-building or at school events, unless deemed necessary and communicated by South Nodaway R-IV Administration and Board of Education. Masks will be required on buses to comply with the federal mandate. Masks are allowed and are expected to be worn correctly at any time, and disposable masks are available from the school offices. The school district will continue to keep abreast and take consideration of current CDC guidelines.

Physical distancing: Our smaller class sizes, number of Elementary and JH/HS classrooms, and extra classrooms, allow for physical distance when appropriate and possible. Our buses will continue to use layered mitigation strategies including seating charts and masking (per federal mandate). Due to our smaller bus routes, rarely is there a substantial number of students on a route at one time, allowing for appropriate physical distance. Students (grades 3 & above) will eat lunch in the classrooms with their homeroom teachers. The school district will continue to keep abreast and take consideration of current CDC guidelines.

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette: Hand sanitizer will continue to be available, both in the dispensers attached to the wall throughout the building, as well as in individual bottles available in classrooms and high traffic areas. Elementary classrooms will continue to introduce and reinforce proper handwashing techniques. On both ends of the building, multiple

opportunities for students to wash their hands daily are provided. Posters in bathrooms remind students and staff of the importance of hand washing. In addition, tissues are provided in all classrooms and office areas for respiratory needs. The school district will continue to keep abreast and take consideration of current CDC guidelines.

Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities: In efforts to keep our district healthy, we encourage limited outside visitors during the school day. Items can be dropped off in the foyer without the need to enter the main building. Our school district will continue with increased cleaning strategies, including having staff and students wipe down desks, tables, and objects that are touched with a high-frequency (i.e. door knobs). Disinfectant wipes have been and will continue to be purchased and utilized, as well as disinfectant spray and electrostatic sprayers. Buses will continue to be disinfected after morning and afternoon routes. When possible, windows and other ventilation options will be utilized. Students are encouraged to bring water bottles to fill during the school day and for events. There are three bottle filler stations on each end of the building. The school district will continue to keep abreast and take consideration of current CDC guidelines.

Contact tracing: Contact tracing will continue to be utilized following guidelines established by the Nodaway County Health Department, DHSS and the CDC. Information provided will be distributed, as it becomes available, to students and parents so everyone is aware of updated and current guidelines. The Nodaway County Health Department will help determine whether individuals have been vaccinated. The school district will continue to keep abreast and take consideration of current CDC guidelines.

Diagnostic and screening testing: Families will be asked to continue to monitor student health symptoms at home, and are asked to not send kids to school if COVID symptoms are present. Currently there will not be a daily screening protocol implemented in the school building. However, teachers will send students to the nurse's office for temperature monitoring along with a symptoms checklist to question students who are not feeling well (See Appendix C).

Should a child become sick at school and show signs of potential COVID symptoms, they will be asked to wear a mask and move to the transition room until they visit with the nurse and a family member can arrive. COVID testing will be available at the direction of the Nodaway County Health Department and Mosaic Hospital. The school district will continue to keep abreast and take consideration of current CDC guidelines.

Efforts to provide vaccinations: The Nodaway County Health Department has provided a large amount of free vaccination events available to educators beginning in March 2021. At this point, eligible members of the school community are encouraged to get vaccinated if they feel it serves

their best interest. The school district will continue to keep abreast and take consideration of current CDC guidelines.

Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities: Accommodations for children with disabilities are documented in an Individual Education Plan (IEP) or 504 plan. The modifications or accommodations are legally required, and will be followed by the school district. The district will work directly with parents of students with disabilities to ensure their needs are met and appropriate accommodations are in place to support learning. The school district will continue to keep abreast and take consideration of current CDC guidelines.

Application of “Essential Worker Protocol” to students: The latest CDC guidance emphasizes that because students benefit from in-person learning, safely returning to in-person instruction is a priority. The South Nodaway School District considers in-person instruction to be an essential component of education and believes that best practices necessitate that opportunity for our students and their families whenever possible. The district also considers the safety of our students, staff and stakeholders to be of the utmost importance and will continue to utilize the aforementioned strategies and the potential exclusion from school for those who have are or are liable to transmit COVID -19 in the school setting.

In addition to the current options outlined in the DESE guidance the district will implement the following: **Students and families of those deemed close contacts will be given the option to stay at home and receive equitable services or to remain at school, symptom watch and wear a mask for ten calendar days in addition to the various mitigation measures outlined above.**

Students that are household contacts will be asked to stay at home for ten days and then wear a mask and symptom watch for ten days upon returning to school in alignment. The school district will continue to keep abreast and take consideration of current CDC guidelines.

Continuity of Services

Interruptions of in-person learning: If it is determined in consultation with the Nodaway County Health Department that our building needs to be closed, South Nodaway R-IV will continue to offer distance/virtual learning opportunities to our students through a wide variety of platforms. This may also be available to students in lengthy quarantine situations. Students and staff will utilize electronic devices to conduct class through a variety of methods, including Zoom, Google Classroom, and See Saw. Other online learning outlets may also be incorporated, including Study Island and IXL. In addition, packets, worksheets, textbooks, and library books may also be sent home and utilized to support learning. Teachers will check-in with students through their online platforms (Google Classroom or See Saw) 2-3 times a week. Junior High

and High School students will meet weekly with their teacher through Zoom or Google Meets and utilize Google Classroom.. Attendance and participation will be expected in these classes, and students will be required to complete assignments.

The district frequently gathers information to determine whether students have the appropriate devices, and internet access necessary, to access distanced/virtual learning from home. We have enough chromebooks in our district for every student to check-out a device if warranted. Those families without internet access should communicate with the South Nodaway R-IV School District to make arrangements. For those families who lack internet services, we have several hotspots that can be loaned to provide internet services.. We also will allow students to utilize our building during times of closure, in specific areas of the building with appropriate physical distancing. It is also possible for students to access the internet from our outdoor wi-fi options available on both sides of our building.

Packets will be available to be picked-up by a family member, scanned and emailed to the family, or provided through an online platform (Google Classroom/See Saw). In necessary circumstances, packets may also be delivered to a residence. Once students return to school, they are expected to bring back the finished work so that it can be graded and utilized for attendance purposes.

Social, emotional, and mental health needs of students and staff:

The disruption to the lives of staff and students during the COVID-19 pandemic has made education more challenging. Since we have provided in-building learning during the past school year, and will continue to during the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school years, students and staff are aware of opportunities to visit with counselors, social workers or other staff members to offer support and encouragement. Counseling sessions are always available for students in a one-on-one setting, both in our building, and also virtually if necessary.

We will continue to utilize our At-Risk procedures and protocols to determine if there are students and/or families who are experiencing difficult situations. While it is impossible to determine the need for the upcoming school years, we will continue to support all students and staff through a wide variety of situations.

SRCSP Plan review:

The SRCSP Plan will be reviewed by the administrative team and committee as necessary to discuss any needed updates/revisions to the plan. As this plan is a working document, all stakeholders understand that this plan may need to be modified/revised more frequently depending on outside factors and guidelines from local health agencies.

If the reader or someone you know needs this document translated or read to them please contact Dustin Skoglund at 660-652-3221.