



## **Cowgill R-VI Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan**

The purpose of this plan is to guarantee continued and safe school operations that best serve all students and staff through full in-person instruction.

Information included in Cowgill R-VI Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan (SRCSP) aligns to guidance from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). This plan will be updated at minimum every six months or as practices and recommendations change throughout the school year.

*Updated June 20, 2023*

# Overview

Cowgill R-VI School District learned many lessons while navigating the pandemic. Effective communication and collaboration with all stakeholders proved essential. This will remain a priority as we begin a new school year. Cowgill R-VI School District is fully prepared for any scenario that may arise. While the world around us changes and evolves, it is imperative for the school district to learn and grow, preparing students to be successful and resilient regardless of the opportunities and challenges brought to our community by COVID-19.

Throughout the 2022-2023 school year, a task force of students, parents, educators, classified staff members, representatives from teachers' unions, medical professionals and community agencies with whom we work met periodically to determine procedures that will best serve all students and staff. The end result entails a combination of mitigation strategies, continual monitoring of district data and ongoing partnership with local health partners to support in-person Collaborative review with stakeholders happens on an *ongoing basis, at minimum* every six months or as practices and recommendations change throughout the school year.

Cowgill R-VI School District is thankful for the support of our community. A unified effort is critically important. District leaders stand ready to work in partnership with all families for a successful academic year!

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Additional information, updates and resources are available online at [cowgillr6.com](http://cowgillr6.com).

# Mitigation Strategies

Cowgill R-VI School District's COVID-19 mitigation strategies follow guidance from the Caldwell County Health Department (CCPHC), Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) and Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). Clear and consistent implementation of recommended mitigation strategies will support in-person instruction. Cowgill R-VI School District will continue to collaborate with our local health departments and monitor data, particularly at individual school sites.

## **CLEANING & HYGIENE**

Cowgill R-VI School District Custodial employees have developed clear procedures for extensive cleaning throughout the day and each evening. High-touch surfaces have been identified and ventilation systems reviewed to support healthy environments. Regular handwashing and the covering of coughs and sneezes will continue to be taught and reinforced to students. Hand sanitizer will be available throughout each site.

## **MASKS**

Cowgill R-VI School District has consistently followed the ordinances requiring masks that are recommended by the Caldwell County Health Departments. As of this date masks are no longer required and are optional unless otherwise dictated.

## **PHYSICAL DISTANCING**

Physical distancing of students and staff is no longer required. Distancing of students and staff may continue to the extent possible, if a situation dictates it.

## **SYMPTOM MONITORING**

We ask that all members of our community self-monitor for symptoms, such as new cough, headache, congestion, fever and/or sore throat. If you feel sick, it is important to stay home from school. Individuals are then encouraged to contact their healthcare provider for further advice.

# COVID-19 Case Protocols

The goal of Cowgill R-VI School District COVID-19 protocols is to minimize the risk of COVID-19 in our school site. The district works in close partnership with the Caldwell County Health Department and the Missouri Health Department.

Students or staff who test positive for COVID-19 should follow the guidance of their medical provider and inform their school or supervisor.

## Partnerships

Health department partners may provide expert guidance to those who have tested positive or may have been exposed to a positive case. Caldwell County Health Department will provide support to staff and families in accessing diagnostic testing through widely available community resources.

Caldwell County Health Department:

<https://caldwellcountyhealth.com/>

Missouri Health Department: <https://health.mo.gov/>

# **Additional Considerations**

## **VACCINATION OPPORTUNITIES**

The Cowgill R-VI School District's goal is to ensure that vaccination against COVID-19 is convenient and accessible for those staff members and families who would like to take advantage of the opportunity.

We will continue to provide opportunities for vaccination to students and staff, including resources for students ages five years or older. Vaccination status is not a condition for employment or access to activities and athletics.

## **ACCOMMODATIONS**

Accommodations will be provided to students as necessary or mandated by their Individual Education Plan (IEP).

Stakeholders representing the interests of children with disabilities, English learners, children experiencing homelessness, children and youth in foster care, migratory students, children who are incarcerated and other underserved populations will monitor implementation of the plan to determine need for additional accommodations and/or revisions.

This plan has been made available in the home languages of the students served by the Cowgill R-VI School District.

## **CONTINUITY OF SERVICES**

These updates to procedure will continue throughout the school year. In the event we see an increased number of positive cases in our community, Cowgill R-VI School District will re-evaluate our district health and safety protocols in conjunction with the health department.

# References

- Caldwell County Health Department
- Missouri DESE & DHSS School Reopening & Operating Guidance

For questions, comments or concerns regarding this collaboratively developed plan for the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services, please contact the Cowgill R-VI School District at 660.255.4415.

Additional information and updates are available at <https://cowgillr6.com/>

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