

Branson Public Schools

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan (SRCSP) 2022-23

Overview

Branson Public Schools has taken steps to provide a safe, secure, in-person learning environment to protect the health, wellness, and safety of students and staff. This guide will be updated with new information as it becomes available. Please see the information below for a set of general guidelines and expectations.

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| SRCSP Development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Development of the initial re-entry plan for the 2020-2021 school year included participation and feedback from a variety of stakeholders. Teachers, principals, administrators, and community representatives contributed to the plan to safely re-open schools. ● Branson Public Schools has and will continue to consult with the Taney County Health Department for public health updates. ● Regular updates on the plan are provided to the Board of Education, and opportunities for public comment are offered at every school board meeting. ● This SRCSP includes consideration of all feedback obtained through processes implemented during the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years. Branson Public Schools will move forward during the 2022-2023 school year by building upon successful strategies and lessons learned. ● The SRCSP was presented to the Board of Education on June 24, 2021. The initial draft was available for public comment starting on June 16, 2021. ● The SRCSP plan was revised and approved by the Board of Education on December 16, 2021. ● The SRCSP plan was revised and approved by the Board of Education on January 20, 2022. ● The SRCSP plan was revised and approved by the Board of Education March 10, 2022. ● The SRCSP plan was reviewed by the Board of Education on August 18, 2022. ● The SRCSP plan was reviewed by the Board of Education on March 9, 2023. ● Branson Public Schools will review this plan at least every six months and make modifications deemed necessary to ensure that it best meets the needs of students, parents, employees, and the community. |
| Continuity of Services | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Board has the authority to set rules and set forth a standard regarding communicable diseases: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Revised Missouri statute 167.191 sets forth a standard regarding communicable disease and school attendance: "It is unlawful for any child to attend any of the public schools of this state while afflicted with any contagious or infectious disease, or while liable to transmit such disease after having been exposed to it." ○ Revised Missouri statute 171.011 provides authority for local public school boards to establish the framework for governance through rules and regulations. ● Branson Public Schools has been providing in-person instruction five days a week since the start of the 2020-2021 school year and has no current plans to deviate from in-person learning. ● The Board of Education will establish new rules when the district reaches a 10% positive case threshold per |

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| | <p>building for masking and excluding students from school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Branson Public Schools is positioned to provide quality instruction in the event of interruption of in-person instruction through its online learning management system, Canvas. Through Canvas, students and families can access curriculum and communicate with instructors. |
| Online Learning | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Branson Public Schools partners with LAUNCH, a state-approved vendor, to provide online learning. LAUNCH is a non-profit organization which offers over 180 courses to students in grades K-12. These classes are aligned to Missouri state standards and are taught by Missouri teachers. • Students must be seated for a minimum of two seated classes (one core class and one elective class) to be eligible for Branson High School co-curricular and extracurricular activities. • Students must apply and be accepted into online learning. To apply, visit the Branson Public Schools Virtual Website: https://bit.ly/BransonVirtualWebsite |
| Social/Emotional Health | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Branson Public Schools provides a wide variety of programs and resources to support the social, emotional, and mental health of students. By collaborating with Burrell Behavioral Health, the district can refer students for on-site counseling and other mental health services. Counselors at each school provide other supports and are accessible to families via email or through direct personal contact. • Branson Public Schools connects staff with available social/emotional/mental health support resources. |
| Cleaning Mitigation Strategies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents should perform a daily health check on their student(s). Parents should keep student(s) at home if they have COVID-19 symptoms (fever of 100°F or greater, cough, shortness of breath) or are generally not feeling well. • The District will clean infected spaces using proven practices (examples: ventilation/Electrostatic Disinfection/UV lamp treatment) for designated time. • COVID and EPA-approved products will be used to clean and disinfect frequently touched hard, non-porous surfaces such as counters, tabletops, stair rails, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, drinking fountains, and any other surfaces that are visibly necessary. • Hand sanitizer dispensers are available throughout the building. • Students and families will be provided with best hygiene practices to use during the school day and at home. • Staff will teach proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette (coughing into the elbow, covering sneeze with tissue, etc.). |
| Transportation Mitigation Strategies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to CDC Order, the mask mandate was removed as of February 25, 2022. • No bus passes to alternate locations will be allowed. |
| Building-Level Mitigation Strategies | <p>Health Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students showing symptoms of COVID-19 will be monitored in a protected area by the school nurse before |

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| | <p>being sent home.</p> <p>Nutrition Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PreK-12 breakfast will be served via grab-and-go stations strategically located throughout the building. ● PreK-12 lunch schedules will be staggered to allow for social distancing. ● Students will use hand sanitizer and/or wash hands before breakfast and lunch. <p>Technology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PreK-12 students will be issued a Chromebook and charger to access instructional resources. ● Portable internet “hotspots” will be available to check out for those who meet established criteria. ● Students and staff will be trained to properly clean Chromebooks to ensure the safety of everyone. <p>Passing Periods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Passing periods will be limited by schedule, and students will be monitored by staff while walking in hallways. ● Movement throughout buildings will be limited or reduced. <p>Recess</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Handwashing/sanitizer will be required upon re-entry to the building. |
| <p>Classroom Mitigation Strategies</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students will be encouraged to maintain social distancing while in school and will be taught appropriate hygiene/COVID practices: COVID-19 Do the 5! ● Multiple social distancing strategies will be implemented based on feasibility of the unique space and needs of each school. ● Personal water bottles will be encouraged, and water bottle fill stations have been installed in all schools. ● Class sizes will, in most cases, be smaller than usual based on feasibility and the square footage of the classroom space. ● Appropriate measures will be taken for cleaning Chromebooks. ● Teachers will be trained to observe students for illness prior to starting class and will refer students to the nurse, if needed. ● Teachers will make appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies. |
| <p>Action Plan if Confirmed Positive Case</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Once the district is aware of a positive case, administration or designee will contact the family of the student. ● Anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 should isolate at home and away from others for at least FIVE DAYS after testing positive. Isolation can only end once symptoms have resolved, which may take longer than the five-day minimum. Once isolation has ended, it is recommended a mask should be worn around others for at least five days when returning to school. ● To return to school, anyone with a positive COVID-19 test needs to contact their school nurse via phone or email to discuss their return plan. |

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| <p>Action Plan if Close Contact</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● For anyone determined to be in close contact with a positive case, administration or designees will contact the family of the student and provide the family with three options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Option 1: Vaccination To Stay - If fully vaccinated, individuals may stay in school without interruption. ○ Option 2: Exclude - Exclude from school for 5 days from the most recent interaction with a positive case. Once exclusion has ended, it is recommended a mask be worn around others for at least five days when returning to school. ○ Option 3: Health Check - Close contact individuals monitor daily symptoms at home. School nurses will monitor individuals considered to be close contacts, and it is recommended the student wear a mask for 10 days. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ If the close contact individual begins to show COVID-related symptoms while at school, the school nurse will conduct a health assessment. If it is determined the student needs to go home, the parent will be contacted. The close contact individual may return to school with a release note from the student's health provider, when symptom-free for 24 hours and improving, or by producing documentation of a negative test from a clinic (not a home test). |
| <p>Diagnostic and Screening / Vaccination Information</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students, staff, and community members interested in having a COVID-19 test, scheduling a vaccine appointment, or learning more information about the COVID-19 vaccine should contact their health provider or any of the community agencies assisting in the vaccination process. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Taney County Health Department ○ Jordan Valley Community Health Center ○ Cox Health |