

Community Announcement:

The Silex R-I School District, in partnership with the Missouri and Lincoln County Department of Public Health, has developed guidance to support our school and community in determining our plan for reopening school. The Silex School District Plan provides actionable steps that are advisable before students and employees return to school buildings, along with guidance that is applicable throughout the 2020-2021 school year. This approach is built upon the guidance and recommendations of health officials; it is strongly aligned to the reopening guidelines that have been provided by our state and federal leaders; and is designed to prioritize the health and safety of students and teachers as we open our school buildings and deliver instruction for the 2020-2021 school year. The Silex R-I Plan focuses heavily on the health and physical requirements necessary for reopening school buildings. The Missouri Department of Education will continue to provide guidance and recommendations to districts and schools on navigating the academic, social, and emotional effects of the Covid pandemic on students and employees.

We understand that students and parents may have reservations about returning full time in August, therefore, the Silex R-I School District will offer both virtual learning options and in person learning for grades K-12. If a student chooses the virtual learning option, please understand that this will be a comprehensive program that will be consistent with those of the in-person classroom. If you believe this is an option for your child, please contact their principal.

Prevention

- Teach and reinforce good hygiene measures such as handwashing, covering coughs, and face coverings
- Provide hand soap and hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol in all classrooms, and high traffic areas.
- Post signs and posters in the hallways and entryways regarding Covid-19 information, preventative measures, and how to stop the spread.
- Clean/disinfect frequently touched surfaces at least daily and shared objects after each use
- Allow students and staff to bring hand sanitizer and face masks/coverings to use from home
- All faculty and staff along with students in grades 4-12 will be required to wear masks
- Take steps to ensure all water systems and features are safe
- Ensure ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible, as long as this does not pose a safety or health risk to students or staff
- Conduct deep cleaning of schools prior to students/staff returning; schedule periodic cleanings during weekends or school holidays/breaks
- Signs posted for no more than 4 people in the restroom at a time.
- Providing students water bottles

On the Bus

- Providing hand sanitizer for students and bus drivers with sanitizer stations when students arrive and exit the bus
- Bus drivers and students in grades 4-12 will be required to wear face masks/coverings
- Limiting field trips (to areas of limited/low transmission)
- Inspecting buses prior to students returning and as part of a regular rotation
- Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces on the bus at least daily
- Airing out buses when not in use
- Assign students seating. Families will be seated together.
- Students will only be transported to homes and daycares

Entering the school building

Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such as:

- All faculty and staff along with students in grades 4-12 will be required to wear masks
- Provide hand sanitizer for students and staff
- Limit gatherings of students and staff
- Post signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread and COVID-19 symptoms, including preventative measures of staying home when sick and using good hygiene.
- Establish a protocol for students/staff who feel ill/experience symptoms when they come to school
- Establish a protocol for visitors: calling the front office before entering, screening visitors, requesting use of face coverings/masks, etc.
- No visitors will be allowed in the school building other than the office
- American Health Care Association COVID-19 [Screening Checklist for Visitors](#)

Serving meals

Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such as:

- Providing hand sanitizer for students and staff
- Students and staff in grades 4-12 will be required to wear masks when not eating or drinking
- Conducting cleaning of cafeterias and high-touch surfaces throughout the school day
- Use disposable plates, utensils, etc.

Transitioning students within the building

Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such as:

- All faculty and staff along with students in grades 4-12 will be required to wear masks when transitioning outside of the classroom
- Conducting cleaning of hallways and high-touch surfaces throughout the school day
- Designating areas of the hallway, such as lanes to walk to keep students separated

Large group gatherings

Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such as:

- Providing hand sanitizer for students and staff
- All faculty and staff along with students in grades 4-12 will be required to wear masks
- Limiting unnecessary congregations of students and staff
- Follow Missouri Activities Association guidelines for sporting events and practices

In the classroom

Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such as:

- Providing hand sanitizer for students and staff
- Having assigned seats for all students
- Conducting cleaning of classrooms and high-touch surfaces each day
- Limiting physical interaction through partner or group work
- Surveying families' interest in continuing online learning to reduce number of students requiring in person instruction
- Address learning loss:
 - Help students catch up/get ahead through the Launch Virtual Program
 - Provide extended learning opportunities through before/after school programs
- Prepare for potential future virtual learning by increasing current blended learning for grades 2-12
- Develop a digital learning plan by integrating virtual learning practices and requiring a certain number of online assignments for each grading period or class in grades 2-12

Guidelines for staff or student who becomes ill

- School administrators, school nurses, and other healthcare providers will identify an isolation room or area to separate anyone who exhibits Covid-like symptoms.
- School nurses and other healthcare providers should use Standard and Transmission-Based Precautions when caring for sick people. See: [What Healthcare Personnel Should Know About Caring for Patients with Confirmed or Possible COVID19 Infection](#)
- Establish procedures for safely transporting anyone who is sick home or to a healthcare facility.
- Notify local health officials, staff, and families immediately of a possible case while maintaining confidentiality consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other applicable federal and state privacy laws.
- Close off areas used by a sick person and do not use before cleaning and disinfection.
- Advise sick staff members and children not to return until they have met state and local criteria to discontinue home isolation
- Students and staff with a positive test will not be allowed in the building for 14 days or a negative test has been administered.

Parental Guidelines:

- We cannot stress enough, if your child is sick, or showing any type of symptoms, please keep home. **Any student with a temperature above 100.4, or is showing any symptoms of CoVid-19, will be sent home immediately. Daily screening for students by parents is mandatory.** Symptoms to look for are: Fever or chills, cough, headache , muscle aches, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea, new loss of taste or smell, new runny nose or congestion, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, sore throat, or close contact with a person with COVID-19 in the last 14 days. If your child is exhibiting any of those aforementioned symptoms, please keep them home.
- We are recommending that you transport your child to school.
- No visitors inside the building before or during, or after the school day.