

August 16, 2023



**POPLAR BLUFF**  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Continuity of Services - 2023-2024**

**A response plan for the  
PB-RI School District**

## **Introduction:**

Schools in our community were impacted in an unprecedented way by the emergence of the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2), the causative agent of COVID-19. The profound negative impact of the loss of in-person schooling on the well-being of children has been well documented, and it is in this environment we are preparing to return to school for the 2023-2024 school year.

## **Screening:**

All staff, parents, and caregivers of students should screen for symptoms at home before coming to school, per the following checklist:

- 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

This list is subject to change as new symptoms of COVID-19 are identified. The district will work with healthcare partners to provide updated information as it becomes available. Parents should assess their children for fever daily. Students and staff with symptoms should not attend school, consult their healthcare provider, and follow CDC considerations regarding their return to school.

## **On-site Screening for students:**

Protocols have been developed by district nursing staff to screen students, as needed, who self-refer or are referred for symptoms. The district will not, at this time, engage in mass screenings as they create unsafe traffic bottlenecks at entry points into the facilities. If a student or staff member has symptoms of illness and is sent home by the nurse, they will need to remain home until they are 24 hours free without using fever-reducing medication.

## **Face Coverings - PPE:**

Face coverings may serve as an important strategy to reduce transmission of the novel coronavirus, primarily by reducing the spread of infection from the wearer to those around. The Poplar Bluff R-I School District will operate in compliance with directives from the CDC.

### **If an individual tests positive for COVID-19:**

For students and/or staff diagnosed with COVID-19, either by laboratory test or home test, the following guidelines will be followed:

- You can return to school when your symptoms are improving overall for at least 24 hours.
- You must be fever free for at least 24 hours without using fever-reducing medications such as Tylenol or Ibuprofen before returning.
- It is recommended, but not required, that you wear a mask for the next 5 days following your return if you are still exhibiting symptoms.

Return to school for children with an alternate diagnosis is at the discretion of their healthcare provider and/or the school nurse. Students should not attend school if they feel sick. At-home screening reinforces that decision and reminds families how important that choice is, as it helps to protect other students, school staff members, and communities as a whole. Performing a daily screening before a student leaves for school also reduces the likelihood that a student will have to be isolated at school and sent home after experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.

### **Vaccinations**

Poplar Bluff Public Schools will work to limit restrictions and increase accessibility to COVID-19 vaccinations.

- The district will provide vaccine information and a list to employees on where to get vaccinated, including how to sign up and locations where walk-ins are accepted.
- The district will work with providers to hold in-house vaccination events.
- Parents will be provided with information on locations, signup protocols, and walk-in locations of vaccination sites to assist them if they decide to vaccinate their children in consultation with their health care providers.
- Employees unable to get vaccinated after the school day or during district-organized events will be allowed, in coordination with the building administrator, a time during the workday to go to a scheduled vaccine appointment or visit a walk-in vaccine site.

### **Reasonable accommodation to ensure continuity of services**

Poplar Bluff Public School District has developed a plan to allocate a portion of the APR ESSER III grant to support the expansion of students' academic and social/emotional needs. The district

will address gaps in the curriculum, provide online learning opportunities, and increase summer learning opportunities, including remediation and enrichment programs. The district will increase social/emotional and behavioral support, including professional development of staff, and identify resources necessary for support. The district will identify additional opportunities within and after the school day to increase student exposure time and support the differentiation of instruction to address learning loss and accelerate grade-level instruction. In addition, the district will make accommodations for all students with disabilities as necessary or as mandated by an IEP.

### **Communication and Public Participation**

In cooperation with community leaders and key stakeholders, the Poplar Bluff Public School District developed the Continuity of Services Plan that was shared and approved by the locally elected school board for the current school year. The initial plan and updates to the plan were presented to the school community at large at the Board of Education meetings, where public comments are accepted. The plan has remained on the Board agenda monthly and has been revised as needed to respond to the needs of the district and community. In addition, the plan is posted on the district website and is available for comment.

Parents and the community were kept informed of the initial plan and are informed of updates and changes to protocols by posting information on the district's website, newsletters, articles in the local newspaper, radio interviews, the district newspaper, and speaking at local community events and service organizations.

### **Remote Learning Option:**

As a corollary to the flexibility in our continuity of services plan, the district may provide a comprehensive remote learning option upon parent request through an approved MOCAP provider, in accordance with applicable state statute.

### **Social-Emotional Support -**

The Poplar Bluff R-I School District will work with students and employees to identify and service the needs of those requiring social-emotional support as a result of Covid-19.

### **Plan Review:**

This plan will be reviewed by relevant stakeholders at least once per semester during the school year.

**Additional Languages:**

Copies of this plan in additional language will be provided upon request. Please call 573-785-7751 and speak to Mrs. Carla Thompson, or email her at [carlathompson@pb.k12.mo.us](mailto:carlathompson@pb.k12.mo.us)

**Overview:**

The Poplar Bluff R-I School District has taken steps to prepare for the health, wellness, and safety of all students and staff as we prepare for the 2023-2024 school year. The information listed below outlines the general guidelines and expectations for each location/service. Decisions will be made in coordination with local and state guidelines.

**Transportation****Plan A:** Seated School Instruction with Health Precautions

- Buses will run with normal capacity
- Buses will be cleaned, and sanitized
- Bus drivers have been properly trained in COVID safety measures
- Hand Sanitizer will be available on all buses
- It is recommended that parents transport students to school in personal vehicles

**Plan B:** Remote Learning - AMI

- Transportation would not be needed during Plan C with online instruction

**Arrival/Dismissal**

**Plan A:** Seated School Instruction with Health Precautions

- Arrival/Departure locations will be provided with physical distancing protocols when attainable
- Procedures will vary between buildings based upon the respective need/age of the students

**Plan B:** Remote Learning - AMI

- Students will not be on campus during Plan B

**Breakfast & Lunch**

**Plan A:** Seated School Instruction with Health Precautions

- All tables and chairs will be disinfected
- Students will be seated with spacing, based upon available space in the respective cafeteria

**Plan B:** Remote Learning - AMI

- Students will not be on campus during Plan C

**Classroom**

**Plan A: Seated School Instruction with Health Precautions**

- Students will be observed for illness before starting class and referred to a nurse if necessary
- Appropriate measures will be taken for cleaning
- Time will be built into the day for frequent handwashing
- Cloth or fabric furnishings have been removed from classrooms
- Additional spacing will be provided in classrooms where available
- Multiple sanitizing stations have been placed throughout the schools
- Students will be encouraged to maintain distance from each other in the school and taught appropriate hygiene/COVID practices
- Personal water bottles are encouraged

**Plan B: Remote Learning - AMI**

- Students will participate in online virtual instruction or will be provided offline apps and activities during remote learning.

**Playgrounds**

**Plan A: Seated School Instruction with Health Precautions**

- Hand washing/sanitizing upon re-entry to the building

**Plan B: Remote Learning - AMI**

- Students will not be on campus during remote learning.

**Cleaning/Hygiene**



**Plan A: Seated School Instruction with Health Precautions**

- Cleaning with approved products to 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 will be available at most exterior doors
- Personal water bottles will be encouraged
- Instruction on respiratory etiquette and instructional posters on respiratory etiquette, and hand hygiene will be posted in buildings.

**Plan B: Remote Learning - AMI**

- All buildings, classrooms, and offices will be sanitized and cleaned

**Health Services**

**Plan A: Seated School Instruction with Health Precautions**

- School nurses will provide health and safety training/materials to faculty and staff
- Encourage parents to screen students at home prior to sending to school
- Enhanced health and safety protocols are in place to determine when faculty and staff may return to work after an illness
- Comprehensive procedures are in place for isolation of impacted individuals, tracking of illnesses, and returning to school after an illness

**PlanB: Remote Learning - AMI**

- Nurses and counselors are available online and by phone during school hours for support and guidance.

**Visitors**

**Plan A:** Seated School Instruction with Health Precautions

- Guests will be allowed into district facilities in compliance with current policy.

**Plan B:** Remote Learning - AMI

- Buildings are closed to outside visitors and guests.