

Cassville R-IV School District



Return to Learn Plan Guidelines and Information August 2021

This plan may continue to be modified as more data and information is learned.

Version: August 12, 2021



LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Wildcat Families,

Cassville R-IV School District is eagerly anticipating the return of all students on Tuesday August 24, 2021. In preparation for the start of the school year, we have been fully dedicated to planning efforts to ensure another safe and successful year. We have heard from our community via survey and are aware that access to school is important to you. We also know our community prioritizes student and staff safety and expects a thoughtful and appropriate Return to Learn Plan for this school year.

We continue to closely monitor conditions around the pandemic, review information from our public health authorities, elicit input from the community, and collaborate together with our local educational partners. With the most recent school guidance released from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Barry County Health Department, the school district has developed updates to the Return to Learn Plan for the 2021-2022 school year.

This phased prevention approach emphasizes the implementation of layered strategies, as well as the regular monitoring of community transmission which will ultimately determine the level of prevention used at Cassville R-IV Schools. At this time, we will begin the 2021-2022 school year in [Engagement Level 2](#) which includes seated in-person instruction with technology support. We will continue to adjust accordingly depending on community spread.

Based on current pandemic conditions and guidance from the Barry County Health Department, we are asking our school community to:

- Return to in-person learning, including regularly scheduled extracurricular programs.
- Per the [CDC Order](#), face coverings are required on all public transportation including school buses.
- The CDC and the Barry County Health Department recommend being vaccinated, if eligible and so advised.
- The CDC and the Barry County Health Department recommend universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status. Masks are not a requirement at this time. The requirements for face coverings could change if guidance from governmental or public health authorities change.
- Respond to the “mask” optional choices of others in a professional and respectful manner.
- Stay home if you have signs of any infectious illness and see a doctor as soon as possible.
- With universal masking in place, students should maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance as much as possible within classroom and school settings.
- Follow all other important layers of prevention that Cassville R-IV will recommend, such as hand washing and respiratory etiquette, contact tracing, quarantine and isolation protocols, enhanced cleaning and disinfection procedures, as well as the use of cohorting.



The Cassville R-IV phased prevention approach is meant to supplement, not replace any federal, state, or local health and safety laws, rules, and regulations with which schools must comply. The implementation of this guidance will be done in collaboration with regulatory agencies, state and local public health departments, and in compliance with any state and local policies and practices.

[RETURN TO LEARN PLAN](#)

We must stay vigilant as we keep our learning community safe, healthy, and prepared for another successful school year. We hope that you share our excitement and enthusiasm as we begin the academic year on August 24th. Our administrative team will be available for questions or concerns that may arise. Thank you for your continued partnership in helping us keep our schools and children safe and healthy as we navigate yet another new school year.

On behalf of our Board of Education, teachers, staff, and administration, please allow us your continued understanding, patience, and grace. Our commitment is to provide the safest environment to protect every staff member, student, and family.

Sincerely,



Merlyn Johnson
Cassville R-IV Superintendent



Cassville R-IV School District Return to Learn Plan

This plan was created in collaboration with other area school districts incorporating input from medical professionals, the CDC, and the Barry County Health Department. This plan may continue to be modified as more data and information is learned.

It is important to note that while the District will make every effort to provide a safe and healthy environment for our students and staff, there are inherent risks with participation in group activities. Therefore, the District is unable to guarantee that students will be free from exposure to various forms of illness, including COVID-19. Despite these risks, school safety for staff and students will continue to be a top priority of the District. The COVID-19 guidelines developed in this plan follow all applicable local, state, and federal guidelines and incorporate many best practices advocated by school associations and groups. The Cassville R-IV School District is committed to providing a quality education to all students, while ensuring their safety and well-being. Parents/guardians with questions or concerns are asked to contact their building administrator.

CDC and Barry County Health Department Guidance

- According to the CDC, vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. Promoting vaccination for eligible students and staff members can help schools safely return to in-person learning, as well as extracurricular activities and sports.
- Per the [CDC Order](#), face coverings are required on all public transportation including school buses.
- The CDC and the Barry County Health Department recommend individuals 12 years and older to consider being vaccinated, if eligible and so advised.
- The CDC and the Barry County Health Department recommend universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to PK-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status. Masks are not a requirement at this time. The requirements for face coverings could change if guidance from governmental or public health authorities change.
- Stay home if you have signs of any infectious illness and see a doctor as soon as possible.
- With universal masking in place, students should maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance as much as possible within classroom and school settings.
- Follow quarantining and isolation protocols.



Cassville R-IV Guidelines and Protocols

- The District will begin the 2021-2022 school year in [Engagement Level 2](#) which includes seated in-person instruction with technology support. This plan also includes regularly scheduled extracurricular programs.
- Student masking will be the choice of the parent/student.
- All staff will be encouraged to wear a mask, but not required.
- All staff will be encouraged to practice physical distancing.
- Respond to the “mask” optional choices of others in a professional and respectful manner.
- Follow all other important layers of prevention that Cassville R-IV will recommend, such as social distancing (at least 6 feet), hand washing and respiratory etiquette, contact tracing, enhanced cleaning and disinfection procedures, as well as the use of cohorting.

Masking / Personal Protective Equipment

- The CDC and the Barry County Health Department recommend universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status. Masks are not a requirement at this time. The requirements for face coverings could change to wear a mask during the academic day. if guidance from governmental or public health authorities change.
- The District will have a limited supply of masks that will be offered to anyone who wishes
- All mask/face coverings must comply with the District dress code requirements. They must be free of any wording or advertisements that could cause a substantial disruption to the educational environment.
- A mask will be required for any student/staff at the health office when exhibiting COVID-type symptoms, as determined by the school nurse.
- The District may consider mask requirements based on unmanageable exclusion/positivity rates of the student/staff population as recommended by the Barry County Health Department.

Transportation

- Per the [CDC Order](#), face coverings are required on all public transportation including school buses.
- Students will be separated on the bus where feasible, but social distancing cannot be guaranteed.
- Bus drivers have been properly trained in COVID safety measures.
- Parents are encouraged to pick up/ drop off their students if possible to decrease the number of students on the school bus.
- Seating charts will be utilized for contact tracing.



Meals

- Breakfast will be grab-and-go style in all buildings to begin the school year.
- Lunch will be served in the cafeteria with limited movement. Lunch may return to the classroom setting based on student/staff positivity rates.
- Hand washing/hand sanitizer will be available before and after lunch.

Classrooms

- Students will be encouraged to maintain a minimum of 6 feet from each other in the school setting. Appropriate hygiene practices will be reinforced by all staff.
- Personal water bottles will be encouraged. The District has installed water bottle filling stations to help reduce the use of water fountains.
- There will be time during the day for frequent hand washing and sanitizing.
- Students and staff will be observed for illness prior to starting class or the school day. Those experiencing symptoms will be referred to the nurse.
- Seating charts will be utilized for contact tracing.

Cleaning/Hygiene Handwashing

- Regular disinfecting will occur with COVID-19 and EPA-approved products.
- Hand sanitizer dispensers have been installed throughout the buildings and at exterior doors.
- School water fountains will be turned off, however, bottle filling stations will be provided.
- Hand washing will be frequently promoted as well as hand sanitizing usage.
- Additional equipment and cleaning procedures will be used across the District.

Visitors

- Visitors will first contact the school/office to determine whether an onsite visit is necessary.
- Visitors will check-in at the front office of each school building.
- Masks may be required for all visitors depending on the recommendation of the Barry County Health Department.

Volunteers

- The use of volunteers will be significantly limited while COVID-19 is present in the community.
- If permitted to be in District facilities, volunteers will follow all CDC and health department recommendations.
- All volunteers will be pre-approved through building offices and deemed essential.



Health Services (Nurse's Office)

- School nurses will keep students and staff informed of COVID-19 safety best practices.
- If you have medication for your child, please schedule a time with the school nurse to drop it off.
- Parents and students are expected to self-screen at home prior to students entering the building.
- Students or staff demonstrating symptoms will be referred for physician evaluation. Prior to returning to school, consult a school nurse or provide documentation from a physician.
- Procedures on how many days students/staff must be quarantined will follow guidance from the CDC and the Barry County Health Department.

Accommodations & Special Services

- Special education teachers and therapists will continue to provide services for students with IEPs at their building sites. Safety protocols will be followed and put into place for staff and students. If screenings and diagnostic testing cannot be accomplished in-person, virtual options will be reviewed.
- Parents/Guardians are encouraged to communicate with their child's special education case manager before school begins to discuss specific student needs/concerns along with safety protocols put in place for all students.
- Parents/guardians of students in grades 1-12 who indicate via the District registration that they are considering an online option will be contacted by special services personnel to discuss specific programming to address their child's unique needs.
- All services will continue to be provided to students either in-person or virtually when possible as outlined on Form G in the IEP.
- Cassville R-IV School District will provide all necessary accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies outlined in this plan. Counseling and mental health services are available for students and staff. You may contact your child's building counselor for more information.

Continuity of Services

- If the Cassville R-IV School District is required to move into Engagement Level 3 (Remote Learning), the District will pivot into an online learning environment. Devices will be sent home with students in grades 1-12. All daily learning will be teacher-driven to prevent learning regression. Learning will move forward with normal grading practices in place during this time.



Virtual Learning

- Both virtual and in-person learning will be available during the 2021-2022 school year. Parents/Guardians are asked to make a decision on what will be best for their families.
- An application process is required. After the application is submitted, your child's building principal/counselor will make contact with you to discuss your virtual choice.
- Any student who is unable to achieve success in their virtual coursework will be required to return to in-person instruction.
- The Cassville R-IV School District will provide support for students without internet connectivity.

Symptomatic Students and Employees

The following information is based on current guidance from national, state, and local health officials.

- Symptomatic students who become ill while at school will be treated in a triage area that is isolated from others and asked to wear a mask until being sent home. Employees with symptoms from the list below will be sent home. Students and employees will follow the Return to Learn guidelines as outlined in this plan. The following symptoms indicate a possible illness that may decrease a person's ability to function productively, but also may put them at risk for spreading illness to others. Please visit the CDC website for a complete list of expected symptoms.
- Temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher.
- Sore Throat
- New, uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing or speaking (For those with chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their normal cough).
- Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain.
- New onset of severe headaches (especially with fever).
- Loss of taste or smell.

Anyone exhibiting any one or more of these symptoms should remain home until:

- Symptoms improve.
- Fever free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications.
- Upon returning to school, students and staff may be screened by the building nurse to verify recovery.



Confirmed COVID Case Action Plan

- The District will follow the direction of the Barry County Health Department and communicate with the public based on health department recommendations and guidelines on who can be notified based on direct contact with others and facility exposure.
- All COVID-19 exposure notifications will come from the Barry County Health Department. The District will not conduct districtwide notifications for positive or presumptive positive cases unless a child or staff member needs to be notified of the potential exposure to that positive case. The only exception to this procedure would be in the case of a community or school wide event where contact tracing could not happen. The District has a legal obligation not to violate HIPPA guidelines and will follow the notification guidance of the Barry County Health Department.

Contact Tracing / Quarantines

- District related contact tracing information will be shared with the Barry County Health Department. The final decision on quarantine status, including exemptions for vaccinated individuals, lies with the Barry County Health Department.
- As a “mask-optional” District, close contacts (regardless of masking status) within the Cassville R-IV School District will not qualify for the modified quarantine guidelines approved by Governor Parson last November.
- Fully vaccinated individuals are exempt from quarantine under current CDC guidelines.

School Closures

- The District will consider school closures based upon the recommendation of the Barry County Health Department and/or state guidelines.
- The District will consider school closures based on the exclusion/positivity rates of the student/staff population.
- It is important to note that should a closure, change of school schedule, and/or exposure to COVID-19 take place, the District will use various methods of communication to contact families.

Additional Information

- DESE will no longer offer AMI-X days for the 2021-2022 school year.
- Cassville R-IV will no longer offer COVID relief days to staff
- Onsite COVID testing will be provided for willing staff and students as long as tests are provided by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).



Communication

- Regular updates to the Board of Education, community members, and parents/guardians will be provided as determined by school administration.
- It is imperative that schools have up-to-date contact information. Teachers will share valuable information as well as provide feedback to students when necessary. Please make sure all of your contact information is up-to-date with your child's respective office.
- Families and community members may access the following for district updates regarding COVID-19 and its effects on:
 - District website link: [District Updates Regarding COVID-19](#)
 - District text alerts: https://cassville.k12.mo.us/vnews/display.v?page=vlist_signup
 - Download district app: Search Cassville R-IV in your app store
 - Follow the district social media pages on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter
 - School Messenger (Automated phone message system)

Return to Learn Updates

- Please note: The information in this document is subject to change based on further guidance received by the District. The District will consistently review the following factors in determining the current Engagement Level.
- Current District/County positivity rates.
- Guidance from the local health department, DESE, as well as other appropriate government agencies.
- Please contact Cassville R-IV School District Central Office if a translation of this document is needed.
- This plan will be updated as new information is learned.
- This plan is required to be reviewed once every six months by stakeholders. Stakeholders may include students, parents, administrators, teachers, nurses, and board members. This plan will be reviewed during monthly meetings held by the Board of Education.
- The Return to Learn Plan was last updated on August 12, 2021.

Update 10/21/21

- The District encourages vaccinations for all eligible educators, other staff, and students. Information about local vaccination clinics are constantly provided by the head nurse. For more information, you may contact Bobbi Blankenship at bblankenship@cassville.k12.mo.us
- The District will follow the 10/08/21 DHSS and DESE updates to the [Missouri School COVID-19 Operating Guidance document](#). The section regarding guidance for assessing exposures and recommendations regarding quarantine of close contacts includes the following key updates/additions:
 - **Option 4 – Test to Stay:** This option enables a close contact to continue activities during the quarantine period through participation in frequent testing. The Test to Stay Option provides LEAs an additional option to consider for persons who do not



meet current options for staying in school following an exposure to COVID-19 in the K-12 setting.

- The District is able to provide tests for students of willing parents and staff as long as the DESE provided testing kits are available.
- The District design is based around the 10 day quarantine practice with a negative test result after 5 days to return after day 7.
- The following DHSS/DESE [graphic](#) and [flowchart](#) resources describe the recommended scenario-based options for quarantine as outlined in the updated guidance document, including the Test to Stay Option.



Engagement Level Indicators

Cassville R-IV School District will use Engagement Level Indicators to define health and safety restrictions to provide guidelines for students, staff, parents, and community stakeholders. With guidance from the Barry County Health Department, Cassville School District will adjust Engagement Level restrictions to promote wellness or respond to wide-spread transmission of COVID-19. Staff, parents, students, and community are asked to assist with wellness efforts.

Normal Operations

TRADITIONAL SCHOOL

All classes will take place in school buildings. Staff and students will maintain normal routines and school safety/security procedures. Parents, visitors, and guests follow all normal school security protocols.

ENGAGEMENT LEVEL 1

No Community Spread--Seated School with Health Precautions

All classes will take place in school buildings. Extra cleaning and safety protocols for staff and students will be followed. Staff and students will be encouraged to follow physical and personal responsibility wellness expectations. Restrictions on parents and visitors in the building.

ENGAGEMENT LEVEL 2

Minimal to Moderate Community Spread--Seated School Instruction with Technology Support

Staff and students will access buildings and classrooms. Learning will be provided with a technology integration model. Options for seated and remote learning courses will align and be taught in the building with teachers. Current wellness protocols for staff and students will be followed. Visitors will be allowed in buildings under special circumstances.

ENGAGEMENT LEVEL 3

Substantial Community Spread--Remote Learning

Students will receive instruction by teachers using remote learning from home and complete assignments by accessing virtual class platforms. All buildings will be closed to students and public.

SAFETY PRIORITIES

- ✓ Increased Cleaning
- ✓ Sanitation
- ✓ Wellness Screening
- ✓ Personal Responsibility
- ✓ Physical Distancing
- ✓ Personal Protective Equipment
- ✓ Limited Visitor Access
- ✓ Remote Learning Options
- ✓ Procedures for Exposure

Movement from Level 1 up to Level 2:

- Spread of COVID-19
- COVID-19 within school
- Guidance from health department

Movement from Level 2 up to Level 3:

- Increasing spread of COVID-19
- Multiple cases in school
- Guidance from health department
- Insufficient staff to support learning



Social-Emotional & Mental Health

The importance of good mental health cannot be understated at this time. The COVID-19 pandemic is an evolving situation that is causing stress and uncertainty for many of us.

There are steps school leaders and staff can take to foster health and well-being in themselves and their school communities. Keep in mind that recovery from a crisis takes time and may not happen in a linear fashion-especially during a pandemic that does not have a defined, known end.

- Awareness, balance, and connection can help;
- Set and celebrate achievable goals;
- Celebrate the resilience of the great people around you who go above and beyond as they support and help others in times of crises.



Questions & Answers

We understand that during this unusual time, many of our students are faced with additional stress and/or anxiety. As always, Cassville R-IV wants to partner with families to support students in the best way possible. Counselors are available and can help with local resources.

How will the social/emotional health of my child be addressed when classroom instruction resumes?

- Professional development will be provided for building staff regarding typical childhood reactions to stress and trauma.
- Counselors and social workers will collaborate with teachers on classroom activities to address student mental health upon return to school.
- Cassville R-IV will collaborate with mental health partners on best practices.
- Teachers will provide classroom lessons on school expectations and structure around health, safety and physical distancing practices to help students re-adjust to a full school schedule.

What type of services are available for my students through the school?

- As always, our school counselors are wonderful outlets for kids when they are feeling stressed or overwhelmed with school or life in general.
- Out of district health services provider information is available when students or families are in need of resources which may otherwise be unavailable to them. This includes, but is not limited to school and hygiene supplies, clothes, food, and mental health services.
- Cassville R-IV partners with the Clark Center to promote mental health.



Student Transportation



Due to COVID-19 social distancing recommendations, it is highly recommended that parents who can transport their student to/from school, do so to help minimize the number of students riding the bus and allow for minimized contact. Cassville R-IV School District will communicate to parents and students information on new processes. They will instruct parents to not allow students to attend a school or take the bus if sick.

Modifications to bus loading and unloading procedures will be made, hand sanitizer will be available to students for loading and unloading from the bus. Students will be assigned seats to limit exposure and buses will be loaded from the back to the front to minimize student contact and interaction. *Students will only be able to ride the bus they are assigned to, except in true cases of emergency.*

Bus Procedures:

- Bus Drivers and students will be required to wear facemasks/facial coverings.
- Students are highly encouraged to practice physical distancing while waiting for the bus at their designated bus stop.
- Bus drivers will watch for continued coughing and may request a student sit in a designated area on the bus and offer the student a mask.
- The bus driver will immediately alert the school administration upon arrival.
- Drivers will sanitize the rail frequently with an EPA approved disinfectant
- Drivers will sanitize seats between use with an EPA approved disinfectant.
- The front row seats will be used at the discretion of the driver and/or Administration.
- Bus drivers will not work if they are sick.
- Drivers will assign seats for all riders to assist the Health Department for contact tracing.
- Students within the same household (or students who are considered in each other's stable group) may be assigned seats together or in seats across from, in front of, or behind each other.
- If a child refuses to wear a mask, the driver will not force the child to wear a mask.



Questions and Answers Regarding Activities and Athletics

Cassville R-IV plans to provide students the opportunity to participate in most extracurricular activities. While offering these opportunities, the district will prioritize the health and safety of students and staff by adhering to the Barry County Health Department recommendations. We understand that as we abide by those recommendations, some, if not all, of those opportunities may be limited in the extent to which they can be provided.

When competitions/games begin, will spectators be allowed?

- Cassville R-IV will follow the Barry County Health Department guidance on occupancy as outlined in the Barry County Recovery Plan. Attendance will likely be limited. Events will be broadcast, when possible, through the Talon Broadcast Network.

What is the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) and the Big 8 Conference planning?

- MSHSAA and the Big 8 Conference Executive Committee may further outline guidelines on how athletics and activities will be offered at district high schools and middle schools. As a district, we understand the importance of offering these opportunities to our students and will continue to make every effort to do so. However, we know there may be decisions made by local, state, or national organizations that may prohibit some if not all extracurricular activities from taking place. We expect all athletics and activities that can be performed in accordance with the BCHD recommendations to be available for student participation.

What can parents/guardians do to help?

- Moving forward, this will be a collaborative effort and safety is our priority. All coaches and students must, prior to reporting to any district site, self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms and exposure. Should they have any current symptoms of COVID-19 or if they come into close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19, they must stay at home and contact the BCHD for guidance. They should also report this situation to their assigned coach or sponsor.



Instructional and Learning Overview

Protocols for all buildings

- Schools will make reasonable best efforts to minimize risk
- In classrooms, every best effort will be made to maintain cohort groups.
 - A cohort group is an individual's personal collection of people who have been in their 3-ft perimeter (these are the people who they usually interact with).
 - Classroom protocols will include assigned seating and other measures to minimize contact.
- Large gatherings will be limited. This may result in:
 - Students reporting to a classroom upon arrival, instead of large gatherings
 - Altered cafeteria procedures
 - Limited attendance and/or guidelines at sporting or other events
 - Concerts and performances in small groups
 - Modified bus loading and unloading procedures
 - Cancellation or modification of celebrations, meetings, gatherings, or assemblies

Elementary-Primary and Intermediate

Early Childhood & Pre-K

- Students will be selected to attend our half-day program.
 - Class sizes will not exceed 18 students in a classroom, initially.
 - A waiting list will be maintained and adjustments made to class sizes based on health department guidelines and recommendations.
 - Student attendance will be closely monitored. Students failing to maintain consistent attendance will be contacted.

Kindergarten (K) - Fifth (5th) Grade

- In the event of a "Wellness Break" students' education will continue online through the use of Google Classroom and/or Seesaw. Students who do not have access to wifi will be eligible to access lessons through the use of an "offline" component.
- It is imperative the school has up-to-date contact information. Teachers will share valuable information as well as provide feedback to students during this virtual learning experience.
- K-5 grading practices will follow the same format as previous years.
- Students will continue having recess.
- K-5 students will have access to PE, Art, Music, Media, Special Education, EL, Title, and intervention, regardless of in-person or online education.

ELL (English Learner) Services

- Elementary ELL students will receive direct support for English language development from their ELL teacher.
- If Cassville R-IV School District closes due to health concerns, students will continue to receive ELL support remote from their ELL teacher.



High School and Middle School

- In-person classes will mirror the teacher's remote platform. In the event of school closure (OR any student/teacher absence), instruction will transition to remote learning immediately.
- For the 2021-22 school year, it is possible teacher assignments could be changed based on enrollment.
- In order to maintain adequate transportation records, emergency requests to ride an alternate bus must be submitted to the office no later than 2:00 p.m.
- 6-12 students will retain a "normal" schedule, but interactions outside the classroom may be limited.
 - Middle School/High School students will remain in groups of about 25-50 peers (band class will be an exception).
 - The school will make an effort, when possible, to assign seats so students are sitting with the same peers.

VoTech/CTE (Career and Technical Education) Classes will be available for students.

- Some CTE courses require an in-person lab, and those labs will be made available to students.
- Limited access and transportation may be provided between Cassville R-IV buildings
- Transportation to Scott Regional Technology Center in Monett will be provided

Performing Arts (Band, Choir, Speech, Debate, and Drama)

- Classes may be reorganized to emphasize social/physical distancing. This will potentially include alterations to traditional class expectations.
- We will utilize all available digital tools and classroom resources for group rehearsals where social distancing is achievable.
- Students will use their own equipment to avoid sharing. When this is not possible, appropriate cleaning and sanitizing will take place.
- If Cassville R-IV has to close a school or the district closes due to health concerns, students may be allowed limited access to instruments or practice spaces that cannot be achieved at home.

Visual Arts

- Visual art classes within the Fine Arts Department will continue with enrolled students. Appropriate accommodations will be implemented.
- Classes may be reorganized to emphasize social distancing.
- We will utilize all available digital tools and classroom resources to maximize student learning.
- Students will use their own equipment to avoid sharing. When this is not possible appropriate cleaning and sanitizing will take place. Teachers will demonstrate proper hand washing and cleaning of tools, equipment, and media so students can properly clean shared items when appropriate. Students will follow teacher demonstrations and expectations.



Library Media Services

- All students will have access to print and digital materials available through the Cassville R-IV Library Media program.
- All students will be instructionally supported by Middle School/High School media specialists both online and in-person.
- Access to Cassville R-IV media centers may be limited to individual and small groups of students. Social distancing guidelines will be encouraged.
- Safety measures will be enacted to clean and sanitize circulated materials.

Remote and School to Home Learning Option

In the event one or more students or teachers are unable to attend in person

- Students will be expected to complete all coursework through the designated remote learning platform.
- Remote courses will mirror the in-person versions; same curriculum, pacing, and assessments.
- Courses are most-often developed by Cassville R-IV teachers and taught by Cassville R-IV teachers. In some situations, self-paced options might provide alternative curricula.
- 6-12 students will be given feedback through the A-F (traditional) grading system.
- Students accessing remote learning should have adequate internet access. Alternative options for students that do not have adequate internet access will be provided.
- When a student is able or released to return to in-person learning, the student is expected to return to the physical classroom setting

LAUNCH/EDGENUITY

- Students have the option to enroll in an alternative virtual learning environment (LAUNCH/Edgenuity). The enrollment process for this option can be found at www.FueledByLaunch.com. If a student chooses to enroll in this virtual learning platform, the student must make this request prior to the fifth academic day of the semester.
- Students would commit to this mode through the end of the first semester. They will have the opportunity to transition back to in-person learning for the start of the second semester in January or elect to continue with LAUNCH/Edgenuity.
- If students select LAUNCH/Edgenuity, they are still eligible for MSHSAA Sports and Activities, if they meet the enrollment and credit requirements (MSHSAA By-Law 2.3.4.b)



Special Education and Section 504

PK-12th Grade

Level 1: Traditional School/Seated School with Health Precautions: Students identified in need of special education services or accommodations (Section 504) will be provided accommodations and services according to their current plan.

Level 2: In-School Instruction with Technology Support: Students will be provided services and accommodations according to their plan with appropriate safety measures in place. Social distancing will be managed by grade level and area of service.

Level 3: Online with Alternative Methods of Instruction: Learning through remote learning programming or distance services not located on campus. Services and accommodations will be provided in accordance with the students IEP or Section 504. Special Education Teachers and/or Case Managers will be the contact person for provision of services. Related service providers will work in conjunction with teachers and parents to provide appropriate services.



Pandemic Period/Response Activities (school closed)

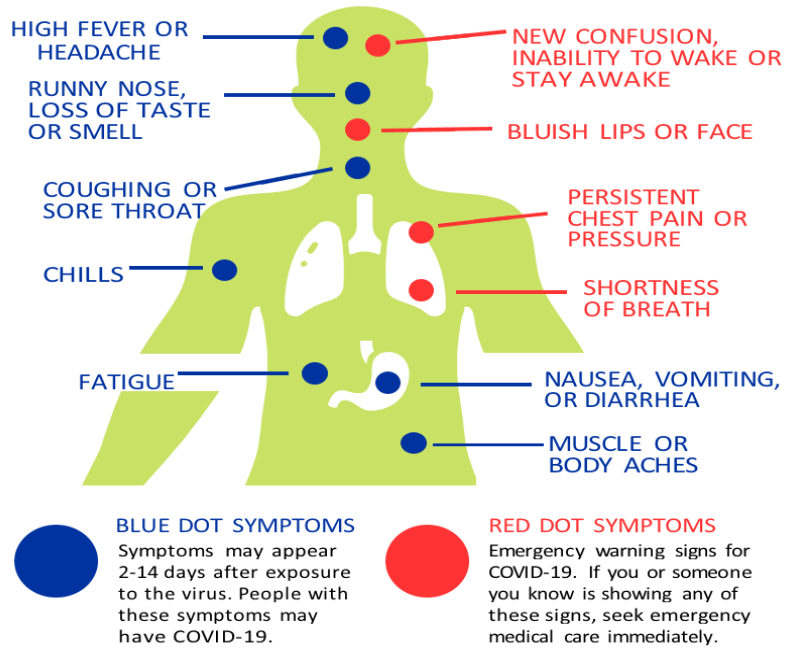
The decision to close Cassville R-IV Schools may be made as a means to prevent further spread of an epidemic, or in response to high student and/or staff absenteeism. The Superintendent will make school closure decisions in consultation with the Barry County Health Department and neighboring school district superintendents. Current CDC recommendations will help guide closure decisions.

Possible School Closure Trigger Points:

- Student absenteeism
 - When it is not economically prudent to keep the school open.
- Teacher/Staff absenteeism
 - When the number of staff available to supervise and instruct students drops below what is necessary to maintain a safe learning environment.
- Confirmed case(s) of COVID-19.
- To protect public health and safety
 - When advised to close by the Governor or state and local health authorities.
- The Superintendent may cancel all activities on district property by outside groups, even if some schools in the district remain open. When a school is closed, activities scheduled at that school, including use by community groups, may be canceled. Activities held at another location that involve students and staff from a closed school may cancel at the discretion of the building principal, in consultation with local health authorities and the school district's director of nursing.
- Schools may be closed to all staff and students, or just students. If schools are closed only to students, staff members are expected to work regular schedules or use appropriate leave (unless otherwise directed by Administration).

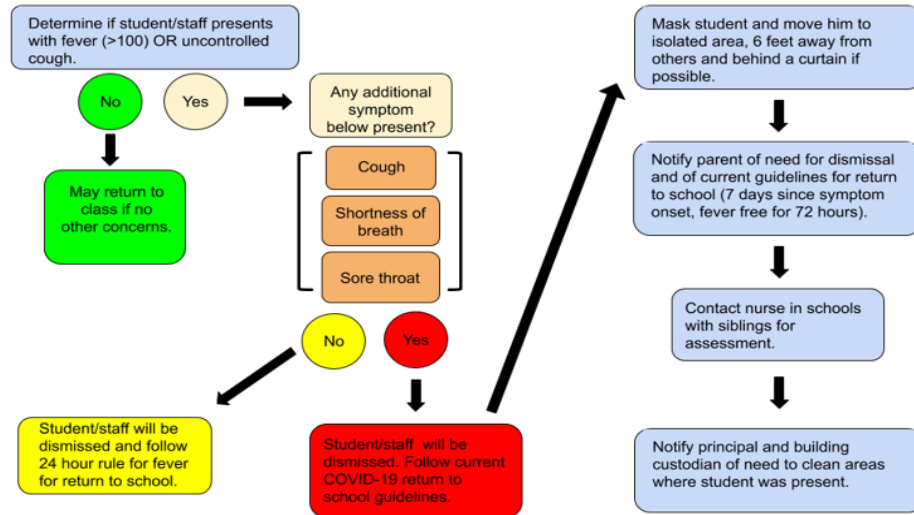


STAFF & STUDENT SCREENING MEASURES



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

In the event that a student or staff member is feeling unwell, they will visit the nurse's office on campus and the following protocols will be followed:






Personal Protective Equipment

Physical and social distancing will be encouraged throughout the school day.


WHEN TO WEAR A FACE COVERING



ASK YOURSELF:
Can I maintain a safe distance from others?

YEP 


 

Facial coverings are not necessary, but staff and students can choose to wear them if they choose.

NOPE 

Students/Staff are encouraged to wear a mask or face covering in any instance where physical/social distance cannot be maintained.

 **Student:**
required to wear a mask while riding the bus.

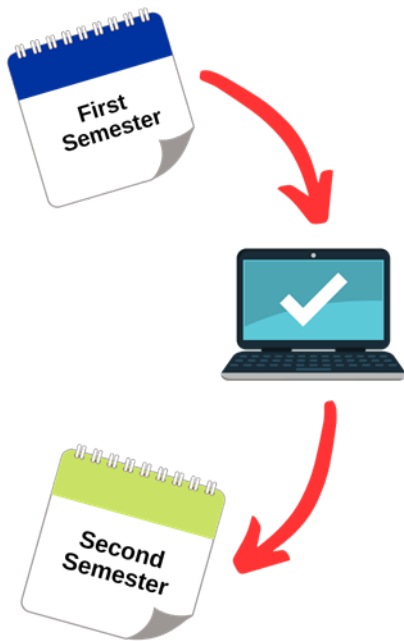
The use of masks or face coverings will be encouraged when physical distancing cannot be achieved.

- Due to possible medical related concerns, we understand that not all staff and students will be able to wear masks for long periods of time. Exceptions can be evaluated with building administrators and school nursing staff.
- Existing student and staff dress codes will apply to face coverings that are worn.
- Cassville R-IV will reference CDC guidance and recommendations on face coverings.
- Parents should discuss the importance of social distancing with their students prior to the start of school. It will be difficult to ensure students maintain distance, but it is necessary for staff and students to understand the importance of doing so to prevent exposure.



Remote Learning

Families who do not feel comfortable sending their students to receive in-seat instruction may apply to participate in remote learning via Launch, an online education platform.



- Students approved for remote learning will have a 14 calendar day window to transfer back to in-seat instruction if so desired. Otherwise, they must remain in the Launch program for the duration of the semester for which they were approved.
 - Students approved for remote learning for the first semester of the 2021-22 school year can return to in-seat enrollment for the second semester if so desired, or may remain remote for the duration of the school year.
 - If a student is not successful with Launch, they may not be approved for the future semesters.
 - Upon approval for remote learning, additional scheduling logistics will be arranged directly with the student's school staff.
-
- Grades from Launch courses will be transferred to Cassville R-IV Schools and will factor into the student's GPA.
 - Students approved for remote learning will be issued a technology device by Launch.
 - Students approved for remote learning can participate in extracurricular activities as long as they meet MSHSAA requirements.
 - Middle and high school students approved for remote learning may choose a hybrid of online and in-seat courses if so desired.
 - To help us secure student materials and plan for a successful student-experience, we are asking that all remote course requests be made no later than August 16, 2021.

Note: The fall 2021 enrollment period takes place before many Cassville R-IV Schools staff are back on site. Because of this, parents may not hear from the school staff until sometime the week of August 9.



WHAT IS LAUNCH?

Launch has a rigorous K-12 curriculum that is aligned with the Missouri Learning Standards, is currently used by over 270 districts across the State of Missouri, and is staffed by certified educators who live and work in partner districts.

MORE ABOUT LAUNCH



Learn more about Launch at fueledbylaunch.com

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Launch's full-time virtual offerings include:

- 6 hours of daily teacher-supported virtual programming
- 25:1 student-teacher ratio
- Full-time teacher support
- Daily workbook activities
- Personalized learning, including individualized support, can be accessed
- ELA, Math, Science & Social Studies instruction
- 5 Related Arts courses (1 hour of each per week): Physical Education, Music, Art, Coding, & Information Literacy

See the Course Catalog for elementary, middle, and high school at fueledbylaunch.com/courses/

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Launch's virtual offerings include:

- Courses in all core content areas
- Multiple world language offerings
- Engaging exploratories
- Live teacher tutoring available

HIGH SCHOOL

Launch's virtual offerings include:

- Complete, Comprehensive Core Content Offerings
- AP, Honors and dual credit opportunities
- Expansive credit recovery opportunities
- Live teacher tutoring available



Resources

[DHSS & DESE School Reopening Guidance](#)

[Barry County Health Department](#)

[Missouri COVID-19 Cases and Deaths](#)

[Helping Children with Traumatic Separation or Traumatic Grief Related to Covid-19](#)

[Trauma Sensitive Schools Online Professional Development](#)

National Traumatic Event Hotline
1-800-273-8255 press “1”



Please contact Cassville R-IV School District Central Office if a translation of this document is needed.



Mitigation Strategies	Current Response
Mask wearing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Masks promoted
Social Distancing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Consistent with CDC ● Cohorts when possible ● Distanced when possible
Handwashing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Consistent with CDC ● Taught and reinforced ● Signage promoting
Cleaning and maintaining facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Consistent with CDC ● Increase cleaning with high-touched surfaces
Contact tracing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Consistent with CDC ● Following guidance from local health department
Screening and testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Onsite testing available
Effort to provide vaccination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sponsored staff vaccination onsite ● Discussion of student onsite vaccination
Appropriate Accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety safety policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All accommodations mandated by Individual Education Plans are followed

