

# Mark Twain R-VIII School District

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



2023-2024 School Year

(Revised on June 28, 2023)

The guidelines and protocols outlined in this document are subject to revision as needed to reflect local, state, and federal guidance.

Guidelines and protocols may also be revised as appropriate to reflect the needs of local conditions.

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## 1. Overview

The Mark Twain School District's number one priority is the safety of our students and staff. The district also understands the importance of providing seated instruction so our students can learn and socialize with their peers and teachers.

The Mark Twain School worked diligently through the 2020-2021 school year to provide in-person instruction to our students with minimal interruption. We built off of that success and returned to a normal classroom and building experience for all students, parents, staff members, and community members during the 2021-2022 school year. The Mark Twain School will continue with normal classroom and building activity for the 2023-2024 school year.

The content in this document was based off the input from teachers, students, parents, and the Board of Education. Updates to this document will be made as additional guidance is provided. Please refer to this document often to stay informed about the most current guidelines and protocols our district will be following. Parents/guardians with questions or concerns are asked to call the Mark Twain R-VIII Office at 417-785-4323.

The Mark Twain R-VIII District will provide a copy of the SRCSP in other languages including orally upon request. Requests should be made to the District Office at 37707 US Hwy 160, Rueter, MO 65744.

## 2. Masks

The use of face masks for staff members and students will be optional for the 2023-2024 school year.

## 3. Physical Distancing

The Mark Twain School will continue to use physical distancing strategies in classrooms and during breakfast and lunch. Grades PK-4<sup>th</sup> will eat breakfast and lunch separately from grades 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>.

#### 4. Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette

Students will be taught proper handwashing and will be given additional times throughout the day to wash hands. Students and staff will also be taught and encouraged to cough and sneeze into elbow then wash and sanitize afterwards. Hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms as well as several locations throughout the building. Students will also be encouraged to bring water bottles to utilize bottle filling stations instead of the water fountains.

#### 5. Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities

The Mark Twain School will continue to provide additional cleaning of classrooms and facilities. The entire school building will be disinfected at the end of each day and high usage areas will be disinfected during the school day as well.

#### 6. Contact Tracing

All contact tracing will be handled by designated school personnel. It will be recommended but not required that all students and staff who are determined to be close contacts to quarantine in accordance with CDC guidelines.

#### 7. Diagnostic and Screening Testing

The Mark Twain School will not conduct any diagnostic screening or testing. All testing for any illness or sickness will be conducted by the local health departments, physicians, or clinics outside of the school setting.

## 8. Vaccinations

The Mark Twain School will continue to keep staff members informed of vaccination opportunities throughout the area.

## 9. Appropriate Accommodations for Children with Disabilities

The Mark Twain School will provide appropriate accommodations as necessary or as mandated by a student Individualized Educational Plan (IEP).

## 10. Social, Emotional, and Mental Health

Teachers, staff, administration will monitor and observe students for possible social, emotional, or mental needs and refer to the counselor or office as needed. The school will utilize Burrell Health as a resource as needed. Parents and families are encouraged to monitor and observe at home, especially during any interruptions to in-person instruction, for social, emotional, and mental health needs.

## 11. Review and Revision

The Mark Twain R-VIII School District will review and revise, if necessary, the SRCSP every six months. The district will consider input from students, families, administrators (including special education administration), and the Board of Education. Current guidelines from the CDC will also be considered.

## 12. Instructional Transition Levels

**Level 1:** All classes will take place in school building. School activities will be as normal as possible. Extra cleaning and safety protocols for staff and students will be followed. Physical distancing will be used when possible. Masks will be optional in all situations for students and staff. Parents, visitors, and volunteers in the building would need to go through normal check-in procedures. (COVID Related exclusion less than 5%; Community positivity rates will be considered as well)

**Level 2:** All classes will take place in school building. School activities will be as normal as possible. Extra cleaning and safety protocols for staff and students will be followed. Physical distancing will be used when possible. Masks will be recommended for students and staff where social distancing is not possible. There are restrictions on parents, visitors, and volunteers in the building. (COVID Related exclusion between 5% - 10%; Community positivity rates will be considered as well)

**Level 3:** Courses will be taught with a combination of seated and remote instruction as allowable. Masks will be recommended for students and staff in all buildings. All entrances to school will be locked and restricted to staff and students. Visitors must receive pre-approval.

**Level 4:** All staff will be on campus (unless directed otherwise). All students will be off campus and receive instruction online using Google classroom. Teachers will use tools such as email, Zoom, Class Dojo and Remind to communicate with students and parents.