

Kirksville R-III School District
Return to Learn Frequently Asked Questions
(will be frequently updated)

Helpful Links

[DESE Guidance on Reopening Schools](#)
[General District Protocols](#)
[Kirksville Area Technical Center](#)
[Kirksville High School](#)
[William Matthew Middle School](#)
[Ray Miller Elementary](#)
[Kirksville Primary School](#)
[Early Childhood Learning Center](#)
[Special Education and 504](#)
[KVR-III Return to Learn Guide](#)
[KVR-III Online Academy Parent and Student Expectations and Commitments](#)
[School Decision-Making Tool for Parents, Caregivers, and Guardians](#)
[2020-2021 Kirksville R-III K-12 Enrollment Form](#)
[General District Protocols](#)

Our plan for the 2020-21 school year is to deliver as many in-person instructional days as we can safely provide, while reinforcing our learning environments with additional health and safety measures. We also know that addressing the global pandemic requires a flexible response to evolving guidance. Parents should expect that the district may need to pivot between instructional models as the fall semester progresses in order to adhere to evolving guidance. **We hope this document provides some quick answers for you. Please be sure to visit the district/building links for more specific information.**

What are the instructional options for the 2020-21 school year?

[KVR-III Return to Learn Guide](#)

When do I need to make a decision by? You will have until August 7th to submit your choice.

How will parents declare what instructional option they plan to enroll their child in? [2020-2021 Kirksville R-III K-12 Enrollment Form](#)

Can families switch from in-person to the KVR-III Academy or vice versa any time they want? Due to the delivery of instruction, switching formats will be difficult and we are asking families to commit to a learning format for a quarter (K-5) or semester (6-12). If there are extenuating circumstances, please communicate first with your child's principal.

What level is Kirksville R-III opening at? As of July 31st, 2020 data supports a return at Level 1. But this is subject to change depending upon further virus spread.

If I choose the KVR-III Academy, can I rent a chromebook? Yes, based on need and availability.

If the school moves to Level 3, will resources such as Chromebooks be provided for online learning? Yes, based on need and availability.

Will students and staff be required to wear masks? Face coverings are an important strategy to reduce transmission of the novel coronavirus, primarily by reducing the spread of infection from the wearer to those around. Information regarding mask types is provided to schools via the CDC website: [Guidance for K-12 School Administrators on the Use of Cloth Face Coverings in Schools](#)

All school staff members will wear masks, face coverings and/or clear face shields at Levels 1 and 2. All students in Ray Miller Elementary, William Matthew Middle School, Kirksville High School, and Kirksville Area Technical Center are required to wear masks, face coverings and/or clear face shields at Levels 1 and 2 when social distancing is not possible.

Current guidance allows exceptions for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, children younger than five and persons with a specific medical condition or disability that prevents wearing a face covering.

[Mask Requirement](#)

Will the School District be providing masks? We encourage families to provide masks that properly fit their child; masks may be provided by schools as necessary. There may be situations where the district permits staff members to use face shields during instruction if social distancing can be maintained.

Can a family opt out of their child's mask-wearing? Students will be required to wear masks on buses, in hallways, during close-group activities and other times when social distancing is not possible. Current guidance allows exceptions for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, children younger than five and persons with a specific medical condition or disability that prevents wearing a face covering.

How does Level 3 online learning for Fall 2020 differ from the Spring 2020 remote learning? Online learning will focus on new learning as well as the continued connections with teachers. Students and families should plan for more rigorous expectations of engagement through instruction, work completion, project work that mirrors our in-person instruction more closely, assessment and accountability.

Students will access learning and assignments through the Seesaw (K-2) or Google Classroom (3-12) platform in the event of a building or district-wide closure scenario.

What triggers a pivot point between the different levels of in-person learning?

[Instructional Level Pivot Plan](#)

Kirksville R-III plans will primarily rely on Adair County Health Department direction but will also utilize guidance from the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, as well as local government officials. We will continue to partner with public health officials to navigate evolving scenarios and will base our instructional models based on Adair County Health Department mandates.

In what situations would the School District communicate about a student/staff member testing positive for COVID-19? The district will work with the Adair County Health Department on a case by case basis. The health department may instruct us to contact specific individuals who have been determined to be a “close contact” of a person confirmed to have COVID-19 or inform larger groups of risk of exposure. Close contact is defined as proximity less than 6 feet for 15 minutes or more. HIPPA privacy laws limit what districts can share about those who test positive for COVID-19, and it’s important to remember that the protocols the health department instructs us to implement may or may not include a mass notification to a classroom, school building or the district.

How will students receive learning if they are confirmed as COVID-19 positive or as a close contact of a COVID-19 positive individual and quarantined?

The district will follow normal absence protocols to deliver coursework and acknowledge sick days for our students who are learning in-person.

Can KVR-III Academy students participate in extracurricular activities and/or sports in-person? To help align our District practices with the changes caused by COVID, District Administration will recommend to the Board that they consider a waiver to current practice. Specifically, all Kirksville high school and middle school students that enroll, either full time or part time, in District sponsored programs be allowed to participate in school athletics and other extracurricular activities for the 2020-21 school year.

In a hybrid scenario (Level 2 6th-12th), what are the expectations for the days students are not in school? If we transition to a hybrid schedule, students will be expected to participate fully in course work and engage with expectations regarding work completion, grades and daily attendance on the days they are not in school.

What safety protocols will be in place during arrival and dismissal?

School personnel may opt to increase the number of entrances used during arrival and dismissal. This may result in a change of plans for the parent pick-up lines. These decisions will be made on a school by school basis, and principals will communicate these plans with families prior to the start of school in August.

What will be the procedures for lunch? In order to decrease the number of students in the cafeteria at one time, some students will eat in classrooms based on a rotating schedule. Cleaning procedures will be put in place. We hope we can loosen these guidelines as the year progresses. We will monitor this and make changes as we can.

Birthday Treats: We will plan for alternate ways to celebrate birthdays instead of treats.

What will classrooms look like? Classrooms will look very similar; however, seating arrangements will be spaced apart as much as possible. Teachers use a seating chart as necessary. Teachers may also go outdoors for instruction during limited parts of the day as possible.

What will be the procedures for recess? We understand how important recess time is for all children. There will still be many opportunities to be outside with peers. Classes will remain in their cohorts. Multiple locations will be utilized to provide daily physical activity. There will be protocols put in place during outside time. These protocols will include cleaning processes and expectations. Individual buildings will communicate changes to parents.

Will Elementary students move to different rooms for PE, Art, Music, etc.?

Building specific plans have been created. PE will be outside when possible.

Will gifted services still be available if my child enrolls in the KVR-III Academy?

Yes, students may attend in-person for gifted services.

How will the district deliver special education services? [Special Education and 504](#)

Will my child be in one classroom all day?

At the Elementary level, It is our intent to keep students in a stable group as much as possible while at school. Elementary teachers are very experienced at ensuring kids have ways to move, they will take students outside for lessons, and they will be very mindful of ensuring our kids have the best experience in a not so traditional way to begin school. There are plans for bathrooms, hallways, etc.

At the secondary level, students will change classes throughout the day. Cleaning procedures will be put in place.

Will parents and visitors be allowed in the buildings? At the beginning of the year, we will not allow parents and visitors into the buildings. We want to be very proactive in

ensuring a tight system of tracing as we return. We will continue to monitor and should the environment and/or recommendations from our health partners change, we will loosen restrictions. Individual building orientations and/or parent teacher conferences may be exceptions to this precaution.

Will students receiving services be pulled from the classroom to receive services? At this time, we plan to either pull students out for instruction, or teachers will join classrooms to ensure students receive appropriate services.

Will social distancing happen in all settings? We will do our best to maintain social distancing when students are not within their stable groups (i.e. walking in hallways, sitting in lines, etc). Inside classrooms, we know it will be difficult to keep students 6 feet away from one another, just as it will be difficult for teachers to support students from 6 feet away. We will do our very best to maintain as much distance as is possible in the building. Parents must understand that sending students to in-person school will mean a risk in terms of our ability to guarantee social distancing at all times. Buildings have specific plans on how they will teach physical distancing expectations.

What if we want to change from in-person to the KVR-III Academy later in the fall in the middle of the school year? You will work with your building administrator and/or counselor.

How quickly can we switch to the KVR-III Academy from in-person if we feel that it is unsafe or situations change for us? You will work with your building administrator and/or counselor.

If the district and/or a building pivots to Level 3 (online district-wide), do students who started in-person then transfer to Mizzou Academy (K-5) or Edgenuity (6-12)? No. Students who begin in-person learning will shift to an online platform with their classroom teacher. Students will access learning and assignments through the Seesaw (K-2) or Google Classroom (3-12) platform in the event of a building or district-wide closure scenario.

Will we be able to meet the teachers before school starts? We know how important this is. Buildings are working on “meet the teacher” options.

How will K-12 schools screen students for COVID-19? All possible precautions for absolute safety will be taken by all school personnel and we ask that parents do the same. Just as parents should keep their child at home if they are ill, adults who are ill must stay home. As of July 23, 2020 the CDE “Does not recommend universal symptom screenings (screening all students grades K-12) be conducted by schools.”

[Screening K-12 Students for Symptoms of COVID-19: Limitations and Considerations](#)

Daily self or parent scan: Any student or staff member with a fever of 100.4 degrees or greater or symptoms of possible COVID-19 virus infection should not be present in school. Return to school will not be allowed until the individual is fever-free without fever reducing medication for 24 hours. Parents/students and staff should perform a home self-scan each morning for the following possible **COVID-19 symptoms**:

Cough

Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

Sudden fatigue

Chills

Repeated shaking with chills

Muscle pain

Headache

Sore throat

Loss of taste or smell

Diarrhea

Close contact with a person with COVID-19 in the last 14 days

This list is subject to change as new symptoms of COVID-19 are identified.

A guide to help you make decisions and seek appropriate medical care:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html>

School personnel will always remain vigilant by observing students and themselves for signs of the virus. Students will be visually inspected for signs and symptoms of illness as they enter the school and/or classroom. **Temperature checks may be administered at individual buildings/offices.** It is important to note, however, that temperature screenings are of low sensitivity and performing those checks in-person at school has the potential to create lines/groups of students. Students with symptoms should not attend school and parents should consult their healthcare provider and follow CDC considerations regarding their return to school.

For students who are diagnosed with COVID-19, either by a laboratory test or based on their symptoms, return to school is permissible when the student is at least 10 days from symptom onset, has had three days with no fever and has improving symptoms.

Children with a known close contact with COVID-19 (or an adult with symptoms compatible with COVID-19) should stay home for 14 days from their last contact and until return to school is approved by the local health department in accordance with the CDC guidance.

We want to remind families how important home screening is, as it helps to further protect other students, school staff members, and communities as a whole. Performing a daily screening before a student arrives at school also reduces the likelihood that a student will have to be isolated at school and sent home after experiencing COVID-19

symptoms.

What protocols will be implemented if a student or staff member experiences symptoms during the school day? Per health department guidance, any student displaying COVID-19 symptoms will have their temperature taken by nursing staff, and moved into a supervised and isolated health area until parents or designated emergency contacts are able to arrive and take the child home. The district does not determine whether a student has COVID-19, or who may have been exposed to the virus. Any employee who experiences these symptoms during the course of a school day will also be immediately sent home. Parents and employees will be expected to contact their medical provider and/or the Adair County Health Department, and will not return to school until all guidance is followed.

How will transportation look? While bus transportation is available, due to COVID-19 physical/social distancing recommendations, it is highly recommended that parents consider providing transportation for their own children. School bus transportation may not readily allow for physical distancing. However, strategies to reduce contact on buses and risk of infection will include:

- **Face masks will be required.**
- Screening of COVID-19 symptoms at home prior to getting on the bus.
- Encouraging hand hygiene upon boarding the bus.
- Assigning students to seats so contacts are stable.
- Seating siblings together.
- Loading the bus from back to front.
- Having windows open when safe and weather-permitting.
- Bus drivers and bus aides will use personal protective equipment, such as face masks and face shields and/or eye protection, as long as these do not impair driving.
- Busses will be frequently sanitized.

Will my student participate in district-wide/state assessments? Yes. Students will participate in assessments. Some assessments will need to be taken on campus.

What precautions are being taken for band and choir? Plans are being developed. We will communicate the plans as soon as possible.