

2023

Return to Learn

(Updated, January 12, 2023)



Thayer R-II School District
COVID-19 Operating Plan

Thayer R-II School District COVID-19 Operating Plan

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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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To comply with federal regulations, school districts must post a "Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan." Details are listed in the document following this message. Parts of this Plan will look similar to the re-entry plan distributed last year before school started and at the height of COVID-19. This document will be housed on our Districts webpage and updated as changes occur. A copy may also be requested at any time by calling the superintendent's office at (417) 264-4600. This Plan focuses on mitigation strategies and continued services should we find ourselves closing the school doors for a while.

These policies and protocols must be examined and revised every six months with input from community members.

If you need or know of someone who needs this Plan read or translated to them, please contact:

Mrs. Betty Shrable
Director of Special Services
PH: (417) 264-4600
Email: bshrable@thayer.k12.mo.us

Definitions

Enrollment Options

Seated, in-person instruction is defined as instruction provided on campus each school day by Thayer teachers.

Online/AMI (36-hour) learning is defined as instruction by Thayer teachers taking place online for seated students due to a school-wide COVID-related closure.

- **"Close contact"** refers to someone within six feet of an infected person for at least fifteen minutes.
- **Face Covering** is a cloth material that covers the nose and mouth. It can be secured to the head with ties or straps or wrapped around the lower face.
- **Symptomatic** COVID-19 case is defined as a case that has developed signs and symptoms compatible with COVID-19 virus infection.
- **Asymptomatic** is defined as a laboratory-confirmed case of a person infected with COVID-19 who does not develop symptoms.
- **Cohorting** is a term for a strategy that schools may use to limit contact between students and staff. These strategies work by keeping groups of students – and sometimes staff – together over a predetermined period of time.
- **"Social distancing"** or **"physical distancing"** refers to no less than six feet of separation.

The Thayer R-II School District is taking action to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus and will make reasonable best efforts to minimize risk. The Thayer R-II School District continued in-person instruction for the entire 2021-2022 school year, primarily due to the mitigating

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strategies outlined in the board-approved Re-Entry Plan for the school year. Many of the protocols have changed for the 2022-2023 school year. Thayer Schools will be following guidelines set forth by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS), and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).

Schools provide students with safe, supportive learning environments, enabling parents, guardians, and caregivers to work. The unique and critical role that schools play makes them a priority for opening and remaining open, allowing the students to receive both academic instruction and support as well as critical services. Recognizing the importance of providing safe, in-person learning, the Thayer R-II School District will begin seated in-person education on August 25, 2022. Moreover, while seated, in-person education is the preferred method of instruction for most students; students with underlying medically documented health issues may require a virtual education option. These students and parents will contact the District and meet with administrators to determine their child's best educational Plan. We want to find a way to accommodate all students, especially those with disabilities who may not speak up for themselves.

Thayer R-II COVID-19 OPERATING PLAN OVERVIEW:

The Thayer R-II School District will operate on a tiered level of protocols based on city, county, and state guidelines. It will consider the percentage of the site population testing positive for COVID-19 relative to the environment of the school building. Therefore, protocols may evolve and change as new information and guidance are received. The tiered level of protocols will be referred to as:

GREEN
Level Definition: Campus opens with protocols in place to mitigate the spread of coronavirus
Criteria: Minimal community spread of COVID-19 in Oregon County

YELLOW
Level Definition: Campus open with higher protocols in place to mitigate the spread of coronavirus Face coverings are recommended
Criteria: Minimal to moderate community spread of COVID-19 in Oregon County

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ORANGE

Level Definition:

Campus and/or school building(s) closed for a period of time with online learning in place and a higher level of protocols in place for building(s) still open to help mitigate the spread of coronavirus

Or

All buildings are still open with a higher level of protocols in place to help mitigate the spread of coronavirus

***Face covering usage is recommended**

Criteria: Substantial, controlled transmission of COVID-19 in Oregon County

*If it is determined that a school should be closed, families will be informed of the time frame, and students will have access to AMI/online learning content during that time.

RED

Level Definition:

Campus closed for an extended period of time with AMI/online learning in place

Criteria: Substantial, uncontrolled transmission of COVID-19 in Oregon County

*If it is determined that a school should be closed, families will be informed of the time frame, and students will have access to AMI/online learning content during that time.

The Thayer R-II School District recognizes that each building has unique needs based on student ages, building layouts, and other factors. Therefore, specific operating plans will vary for each building.

Daily operation level will be communicated through the District's regular communication channels.

Southern Missouri Community Health Clinic (SMCHC) On Campus

The Thayer R-II students and staff are fortunate to have an onsite medical clinic available for their medical needs. As a result, staff may receive Corvid vaccinations at their convenience, and students of age can receive their vaccinations with a parent or guardian's permission or presence. The clinic is located on the second floor of Thayer Elementary school. Hours are 8:00-noon on Mondays and Wednesdays. No appointment is necessary.

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Academic Options

The Thayer R-II School District values the health, safety, and well-being of all students, staff, and parents.

- Thayer R-II teachers provide Seated, in-person instruction on campus each school day.
 - Learning happens at school with teacher supervision in place.
 - Implementation of additional health protocols, guidelines, and safeguards.
 - Student absences are handled with a combination of online and paper assignments.
 - Recommended option for students and families without high-risk health concerns

Continuity of Services

If students are required to quarantine or isolate, instruction will be provided via electronic methods, paper-pencil packets, or a combination of both. Teachers will provide students with information on office hours for student instruction and feedback opportunities via phone, email, text message, Remind, Google classroom, etc., to ensure learning is not interrupted. Teachers have received training and will continue to receive training on meeting students' and staff's social, emotional, and mental health needs during interruptions of in-person instruction and the regular school year.

Staff and Student Screenings

Parents and caregivers should screen children for symptoms at home before coming to school. Students with symptoms should not attend school, and parents should consult their healthcare provider and follow CDC considerations regarding their return to school. Symptoms include:

- fever or chills (fever of 100 degrees or more)
 - Individuals must be fever free without fever-reducing medication for 24 hours
- cough
- headache, muscle, or body aches
- nausea
- vomiting or diarrhea
- new loss of taste or smell
- new runny nose or congestion
- shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- fatigue
- sore throat
-

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- Teachers and staff will monitor and observe students and refer them to the nurse's office as needed.
- School staff members should self-screen at home, following the same protocol for families screening students at home.
- Individuals with an alternate diagnosis may return at the discretion of their healthcare provider and the school nurse.

Procedures for Exposures

- Individuals are no longer contact traced from exposure to COVID-19.

Thayer R-II School District Health Protocol (Last updated 01/6/2023)

The school community needs to work together to prevent the introduction and spread of COVID-19 in the school environment and the community while still providing a quality education program.

State statute allows public school districts to exclude students with a contagious disease such as COVID-19 or who are liable to transmit the disease after exposure. See 167.191, RSMo. In addition, the local health department has the authority to exclude students from school and may order students and others to isolate or quarantine. 19 CSR 20-20.05. Thayer School District will work closely with the Oregon County health department when such cases arise.

- **Exclusion from School**

Students and employees who test positive are recommended to quarantine for five days from the beginning of the first symptoms they experience, not from the positive test date.

Students and employees that exhibit two or more of the symptoms of COVID-19 based on CDC Guidance are recommended to be tested for Covid-19; see below:

- a) A fever of 100.0° F or greater
- b) Cough
- c) Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- d) Fatigue
- e) Muscle pain or body aches
- f) Headache
- g) Sore throat
- h) New loss of taste or smell
- i) Congestion or runny nose
- j) Nausea/vomiting
- k) Diarrhea

(This list is subject to change as the CDC provides updates)

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➤ **Screening**

Thayer R-II School District may implement screening protocols for anyone entering our buildings, i.e., taking temperatures, asking questions, or examining people who appear healthy and asymptomatic. The current CDC guidelines do not require screening all students or employees for COVID-19 before entering a school building. However, schools are strongly encouraged to communicate information to parents and employees about the symptoms of COVID-19 and recommend they self-screen before coming to school.

➤ **Temperature-Based Screening**

Thayer R-II School District acknowledges the concerns using temperature checks for screening purposes is controversial. Many people with COVID-19 are asymptomatic or never have a fever. These efforts will not eliminate the risk in the building and may give a false sense of security to those entering the building.

➤ **Medical Inquiries**

Given the nature of the pandemic, Thayer R-II School District may make additional medical inquiries of staff and students than they otherwise would have. Please note that federal law typically limits the type of medical inquiries made. Given the nature of the pandemic, federal agencies have given more leeway in this circumstance. If a parent tells the Thayer School District that a student is ill, we may ask the parent whether the student exhibits any symptoms of COVID-19. If an employee calls in sick or appears sick, the District may inquire whether the employee is experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms. The District will randomly take the temperature of students, employees, and visitors to school property or in situations where there is reason to believe that the person may be ill. If someone is sneezing or coughing, they may be asked to be evaluated by the school nurse, even if they are not exhibiting signs of COVID-19. If a person is ill, the District may make additional inquiries and exclude the person from school property.

➤ **Wearing Masks and other Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

Employees and students can choose to wear a mask or PPE at any time. Masks or PPE's may be recommended at different levels of protocol.

➤ **Return to School After Exclusion**

Once a student or employee is excluded from the school environment, they may return if they satisfy the recommendations of the CDC. Currently, those guidelines are

- 1. Tested – Persons who experienced symptoms and have been tested for COVID-19 may return to school five days after the onset of the first symptoms and they have not

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had a fever for at least 24 hours (that is a full day of no fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers).

➤ **Siblings or Other Students in the Household**

If a student is excluded from school due to having a positive COVID-19 test, their siblings or other students living in the same household may continue attending school as long as they are not experiencing symptoms.

➤ **Response to Exclusion from School or Self-Quarantine**

As soon as the District becomes aware of a student or employee who may have COVID-19 or has been excluded from school or recommended self-quarantine, the custodial staff will be informed that additional cleaning and disinfecting protocols can be implemented. If the school is not open when a notification occurs, the custodial staff may wait 24 hours or as long as possible before disinfecting and instead may block off the area so that others do not have contact. However, if that is not possible or the school is in session, the cleaning will occur immediately.

➤ **Separation While in School**

Each school building will have a designated location where students or employees will wait to be evaluated or for pickup. Therefore, social distancing and the wearing of appropriate PPE are recommended.

➤ **Confirmed Case of COVID-19 in the School Building**

When confirmation that a person infected with COVID-19 is in a school building, the District will immediately contact the local health department. The District will work with the local health department to assess the likelihood of exposure to employees and students in the building, the number of cases in the community, and other factors determining readiness for re-entry.

In the event the school building is closed, activities may be canceled or rescheduled. This may include extra-curricular activities, after-school programs, and field trips. Parents/students and employees will be encouraged to stay home until the District or the health department provides more information.

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Assessment Plan and Calendars

The Educators will take the following steps in response to a school closure to determine student readiness for learning.

1. Depending on the closure length, upon re-entry, teachers will administer, within a couple of weeks, the iReady assessment to capture student understanding of standards in ELA and MA. (Grades k – 6) Junior high and high school students will have individual class pre-assessments to determine levels of knowledge.
2. According to their revised pacing guide, teachers will begin instruction determined through grade-level/content collaboration when students return from an extended closure.
Depending on the break length, formatives will be given to determine if students mastered priority standards during the AMI time.
3. Results of the iReady assessments and the formatives will be used to determine and adjust pacing guides for instruction and assessment for the remainder of the year.
Teams will use priority standards to determine how pacing should flow through the rest of the year.
Some units of study will have to be adjusted to reinforce prior standards that were taught during AMI.
In collaboration with building administrators, each team will create an adjusted list of standards students must master before the end of the school year.
4. Student intervention work, summer school recommendations, and retention decisions will be based on student mastery of the priority standards.
Teams must submit to the building principal flexible grouping and intervention plans for students based on mastery of standards, progress monitoring, and supplemental instruction when needed.
Depending on the length of AMI, teachers must work with the following grade level in vertical collaboration around students' past performance.
Grade level and departmental teams will determine how instruction and assessment needs to be adjusted based on iReady and pre-assessments at the beginning of a school year.
5. The district office will determine any adjustments to the large-scale assessment calendar according to the length of time in AMI, state waivers, or common sense.
6. Based on state waivers, student records will be marked with waiver codes for not taking grade-level assessments.

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Alternative Methods of Instruction - AMI - Plan

The Thayer School District will use Alternative Methods of Instruction during the 2022-23 school year. The Alternative Method of Instruction (AMI) plan can be used for up to thirty-six (36) hours of school lost or canceled due to exceptional or emergency circumstances during a school year which shall include, but not be limited to, inclement weather, a utility outage, or an outbreak of a contagious disease. The Alternative Method of Instruction, provided for in a DESE-approved plan, can be used for reimbursable hours during the school year pursuant to 171.033.5, RsMO. The virtual education through AMI will meet 162.1250, RsMO.

- **AMI**
 - The District office will announce an AMI day through district communication channels
 - AMI days will be packet form and virtual for Pre-K - 12
 - Learning during AMI days will be connected to the Thayer R-II School priority standards for each grade level or content area
 - Student work will be figured into the student's overall achievement in the classroom

- **Devices**
 - Students will use Google Classroom and or packets
 - Teachers may utilize Seesaw/Remind/email as the communication tool for students and parents
 - Teachers may use Google Classroom/Zoom/flash drives

- **Communication**
 - Parents and guardians will fill out a needs assessment survey regarding student and family access to technology at the beginning of the school year, with registration
 - Teachers will communicate with students and parents regarding AMI expectations for students and virtual tools at the beginning of the school year
 - Teachers will communicate to families how students can be supported during an AMI rollout
 - AMI days will be communicated through District communication channels
 - District buildings may be closed to activities and athletics during AMI days

Attendance

- To assess district health, attendance will be reviewed to monitor student and staff absenteeism patterns. Absences forgiven for COVID-19 are not waived by DESE this year.
- Students must provide a physician's note indicating a positive COVID-19 test for the optional Homebound or AMI Attendance status. Home COVID-19 test kits will not be accepted.
- Students and staff are encouraged to stay home when sick, but attendance will be counted against their overall days.
- Students will be monitored for COVID-19 symptoms daily. For example, suppose a temperature of above 100 degrees is found. In that case, students will immediately be given a second temperature check (oral), and if the temperature is still above 100 degrees, they will promptly be sent home.
- Students will be isolated until their parent/guardian picks them up.

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Increased Cleaning and Sanitation

- Handwashing and infection prevention instruction will be required and taught to staff and students.
- Using Kleenex, respiratory etiquette will be taught, e.g., coughing into the elbow.
- Frequent handwashing will be implemented throughout the day.
- Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the campus.
- Cleaning with COVID-19 and district-approved products will target the cleaning and sanitation of frequently touched surfaces.
 - The appropriate district personnel has received professional training in cleaning and sanitizing procedures.
- Playgrounds, restrooms, and other common areas will be routinely cleaned.
- Buses will be disinfected daily.

Social Distancing in Thayer Schools

Thayer R-II Schools may take the following measures to increase social distancing while maintaining face-to-face instruction. There are some circumstances where these measures may be limited to educate students best. Applicable social distancing may be situational.

The CDC defines social distancing (also known as physical distancing) as "keeping space between yourself and other people outside your home."

Please note the protocols listed below may evolve as more information is obtained about COVID-19 from state and federal agencies.

Implement alternatives to meet the educational needs of all students

- Provide in-person instruction to elementary and increase distance learning opportunities for higher grade levels.
- Offer in-person and virtual instruction. If school is shut down, students who do not have adequate resources may still access instruction through AMI

Review course sizes, structure, and classrooms

- To the most significant degree possible, keep students in cohorts that minimize widespread contact.
- Sanitize classrooms with an Electrostatic Disinfectant Sprayer while students are out of the room for breaks or between classes.
- Reorganize physical education, choir, band, and other large classes to allow for smaller classes, social distancing, or other precautions.
- Revise assemblies, library time, and the technology lab to allow for social distancing.
- Increase space between students during in-person instruction.
- Move classes outdoors as it works best instructionally.
- Rearrange desks to increase space between students.
- Minimize students traveling to different buildings to receive services.
- Only allow staff who are required for instruction in the classrooms.

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- Limit students sharing instructional items, including art supplies or other educational tools.

Review nutrition services procedures

- Minimize self-served food items.
- Minimize the use of communal containers.
- Place gear such as sneeze guards in the cafeteria.
- Ask students to eat with classmates in the lunchroom to minimize exposure to other classes.
- Serve high-risk students separately from other students.
- Prohibit or limit food-sharing activities.

Take measures to decrease students congregating in one location

- Stagger times students are in the cafeteria or have students eat in the classroom.
- Stagger times classes are released.
- Require students to stay in an assigned section of the schoolyard or playground without mingling with other classes.
- Schedule restroom breaks to avoid overcrowding.
- Rearrange furniture to avoid clustering in common areas.
- In locations where students line up, encourage appropriate social distancing.

Adopt hygiene measures

- Require hand washing or hand sanitizer use when anyone comes to school and frequently throughout the day.
- Place hand hygiene stations at the entrances of the building.
- Separate personal items into cubbies or baskets that are not shared with other students.
- Encourage all people to wash hands after blowing noses, coughing or sneezing, or when in contact with bodily fluids.
- Encourage classes and employees to create hand signals to replace shaking hands, hugging, or giving high-fives.
- Disinfect door handles, light switches, stair railings, and frequently touched surfaces.
- Disinfect bathrooms and other common areas frequently.
- Make sure that disinfectant and related supplies are available to all employees.
- Ensure adequate sinks, soap, and paper products for all classes or other sanitizing stations.
- Make hand sanitizer available to all people in the building.
- Post signs at all entrances informing all who enter that they must: a) Not enter if they are ill; b) maintain a minimum of six-foot distance from one another; c) not shake hands or engage in any unnecessary physical contact.
- Post signs in bathrooms with directions on effective hand washing.
- Remove frequently touched items from the classroom or hallways but not easily cleaned.

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Take measures so that people exposed can be more easily traced

- Use sign-in sheets for in-person meetings to document attendees.
- Keep accurate records of any other students and staff entering the building.

Minimize the need for people to be in the building other than necessary employees and students

- Restrict vendor access to the school when students are absent.
- Minimize visits and ask guests to stay in the school office.
- Restrict the number of people in the school building who are not students or staff.
- Only allow employees required for student instruction and student services in the building during school hours.

Dealing with illness

- Send any person exhibiting signs of illness to the nurse.
- Set up a separate space for anyone exhibiting signs of illness.

Covid-19 Cleaning Procedures for Weight Room

The weight Rooms will have multiple hand sanitizer dispensers located in them. Microfiber cleaning cloths will also be available, and EPA-registered disinfectants to wipe down all equipment. At the end of each session, the instructor will spray down all commonly touched surfaces with a Victory Electrostatic Disinfectant Sprayer. Thayer Custodial Staff will spray all contents with a Victory Electrostatic Disinfectant Sprayer at the end of each day. In addition, Thayer Custodial Staff will collect all used microfiber cleaning cloths and launder them. Thayer Custodial Staff will be responsible for providing cleaning cloths and disinfectants and keeping hand sanitizer dispensers filled.

Visitors & Guests Pandemic Procedures

The following considerations may be taken until normal activities resume to keep an environment as clean and safe as possible for Thayer R-II students and staff. The following document outlines the procedures Thayer School District has or may take to begin the 2022-2023 School Year. These procedures are based upon the most recent recommendations from state and federal resources and may evolve as information is updated from state and federal health agencies.

In general, school visitors should abstain from entering facilities to minimize exposure. However, if a visit is necessary and essential, please follow the procedures below.

Visitor Procedures

- Visitors can contact the school/office to determine whether an onsite visit is necessary.
- Visitors will check in at the front office and will be asked about COVID-19 symptoms.
- If the entrance is determined as essential, a designated space for meeting with visitor(s) will be determined for the facility
- Prior to the entrance, screening questions may be asked.
- Surfaces will be cleaned before and after the visit.
- Documentation of areas visited by the individual will be kept.

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- In addition to these safety measures, school board policy KK will continue to be implemented
- Parents will not be allowed to walk students to class or congregate around the doorways of the building.
- Thayer R-II Schools are still committed to open lines of communication. Therefore, when parents/guardians need to meet with their child's teacher or administrator, they are encouraged to contact the office to set up an appointment.

TRANSPORTATION:

Parents concerned about COVID-19 spreading on the school bus are asked to consider taking their children to school instead of sending them on the bus. Thayer School District will take every precaution to social distance on the bus and keep siblings seated together. We will take as many precautions as possible:

- All bus riders will have assigned seats.
- Families will be seated together when feasible.
- Buses will be disinfected daily.
 - Disinfecting using Electrostatic Disinfection Technology
 - Ensure that hand sanitizer is available in each vehicle
 - Cleaning/sweeping at the end of the run/end of the day
 - Utilize disinfectant sprays for high-contact areas
 - Disinfect the entire bus between each group of students
- Unload at each school building one bus at a time, communicated to the buses via radio.
- Bus routes will be added when deemed necessary.
- Parents and caregivers should screen children for symptoms at home before riding the bus.
- In addition to CPR and first aid training, bus drivers are trained in COVID-19 safety procedures and protocols.

Nutrition Services Operation Plan

Students eating breakfast will continue to eat in the cafeteria. During lunchtime, students will eat in the cafeteria while maintaining social distancing to the extent possible. Parents/visitors will not be allowed to eat lunch at school. At this time, we continue to ask parents/guardians not to deliver food items from outside vendors to students at school to minimize possible exposure.

- **Operating Kitchens**
 - **Essential Employees**

During emergency management, where meals are provided to children, all Nutrition Staff are essential employees and will be called into work. The nutrition Team includes:

 - 2 Cashiers
 - Substitute Cooks
 - 6 Cooks

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- 1 Dishwasher
 - 1 Director of Nutrition
- **Kitchen and Equipment**

Each kitchen must be inspected to ensure the equipment is functioning correctly and safe for operation. Once the kitchen has been inspected, the kitchen will be opened for meal preparation. If a kitchen is damaged during emergency management, a separate kitchen will be opened to prepare meals. Therefore, the District has two functional kitchens with the listed equipment.

 - **Elementary**-Walk in Cooler and Walk-in Freezer, Washer and Dryer, Double Stack Ovens, Stove, Kettle, Steamer, Reach-in Cooler, Reach-in Freezer, Dishwasher, and Ice Machine
 - **High School**-Walk in Cooler and Walk-in Freezer, Washer and Dryer, Double Stack Ovens, Stove, Kettle, Steamers, Reach-in Warmers, Reach-in Coolers, Reach-in Freezer, Dishwasher, and Ice Machine.
- **Inventory**

In the event of a natural disaster, a running inventory will be kept as a starting inventory for emergency meal preparation and insurance purposes.
- **Keeping Team Members and the Public Safe During Emergency Management**
 - **Sanitizing**

Preparation surfaces in the operating kitchens will be sanitized before switching to a new task or every two hours with the Evaclean Electrostatic Sprayer.
 - **Handwashing**

During operations of emergency management, Nutrition Staff and volunteers will wash their hands for a minimum of 20 seconds with warm water and antibacterial soap when:

 - **Entering the Kitchen:** When any team member enters the kitchen to begin the workday or returns from the office, cafeteria, freezer, or cooler.
 - **Changing Tasks:** Anytime a team member completes one task and moves on to a new task or is moved from an existing task to a new task
 - **Gloves**

Gloves will be worn in the kitchen during meal preparation and service.
 - **Face Masks**

During operations of a pandemic, Nutrition Team Members will wear recommended facemasks while preparing meals and receiving groceries.
 - **Temperature**

During a pandemic, Nutrition Team Members will self-check daily and report to the Food Service Director if the temperature is 100 degrees or over. If a member develops a fever during a pandemic, the team member will immediately be sent home, and the kitchen will be closed until sanitized and safe to use.
- **Reopening Schools**
 - **Cafeteria - Considerations based on the ability to deliver quality instruction**
 - **Utilize Commons Areas and Gymnasiums**

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Cafeteria tables may be separated and moved into the Gymnasiums and Commons Area to limit occupancies in one area.

- **Increase Lunch Shifts**
Added lunch shifts may or may not be needed to ensure social distancing and limit the number of occupancies in one area.
- **Tables**
The tables may need to be facing the same direction. Stickers may be placed on student's and staff seats to ensure social distancing.
- **Social Distancing**
 - **Breakfast and Lunch Lines**
Students and staff will stand on designated spots in the breakfast and lunch lines.
 - **Cashiers**
Cashiers will enter all transactions into the Nutrition Services accounting system to limit contact with equipment.
 - **Nutrition Service Team**
The Nutrition Team will follow the CDC recommendations during preparation and service.

Special Education

Accommodations, modifications, and any related special education services for students with Individualized Education Plans (IEP) or 504 Plans will be addressed in each student's Plan. In addition, changes in Form G will be made. Questions or concerns about special education should be made to Mrs. Betty Shrable, Special Education Director.

504 and IEP Closure Guidance

Teachers must continue to provide applicable 504/IEP accommodations to eligible students as indicated within the current 504 or IEP plan. In addition, the following guidelines will be followed to ensure that teachers are monitoring 504/IEP implementation.

The 504/IEP Process Coordinator will support teachers and 504/IEP teams during the closure and, with parent consent, continue any initial evaluations in progress. 504/IEP teams will review and/or update 504/IEP plans and address educational and health services as necessary. Counselors will communicate accommodations to teachers. Counselors will send this information to each student's teacher to review it to determine all appropriate accommodations that can be implemented remotely based on the assignments given. Teachers will then monitor their students with 504/IEPs and document accommodations implemented. Counselors can hold 504/IEP meetings virtually if needed during the closure with parent consent.

Tiered Level of Protocol

- The Thayer R-II School District will operate on a tiered level of protocols.
- These levels will be referred to as
 - **Green** - Campus opens with protocols to mitigate the spread of coronavirus.

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- **Yellow** - Campus is open with higher levels of protocols to mitigate the spread of coronavirus.
 - **Orange** - Campus and/or school building(s) closed for a short period of time with online/AMI learning in place & higher level of protocols in place for building(s) still open to help mitigate the spread of coronavirus.
 - **Red** - Campus closed for an extended period of time with online/AMI learning in place.
- Thayer R-II will concurrently implement multiple strategies to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, including but not limited to:
- Social distancing
 - Hand hygiene
 - Touchless hand sanitizing stations
 - Cohorting
 - Designated grade level areas Pre-K through 1st grade (i.e., 5th and 6th grade in west hallway, etc.)
 - Walking lanes in hallways
 - Plexiglass and dividers
 - Increased cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitization

ATHLETICS & EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:

- The Thayer R-II School District will continue to offer athletics and other extra-curricular activities.
- Participation in these activities is voluntary.
- The risk of coronavirus transmission will be present to some degree. Therefore, students and their families must recognize these risks.
- THS will consult with the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) and other schools within the same conference and District.
- Individual coaches, directors, and sponsors will share protocols and procedures with participants and their families.

Thayer R-II School District COVID-19 Operating Plan

Thayer R-II

COVID Event Guidelines

We ask your help to ensure a safe environment for student-athletes, coaches, officials, and spectators. These guidelines are in place for any event hosted on the Thayer R-II campus.

All Facilities

- ✓ Facial coverings are recommended.

- ✓ All spectators must perform a self-assessment for COVID-19 symptoms before attending any THS event. Therefore, we ask that you please not participate if you are sick or generally not feeling well.
 - ✓ The visiting team should self-monitor temperatures before travel.
- ✓ The home team needs to self-monitor temperatures at home before arriving on campus.
 - ✓ Social distancing is recommended when possible.
- ✓ Social distancing is recommended when standing in line for the concession and restroom facilities.
 - ✓ Events will be streamed for patron viewing

Indoor Facilities

- ✓ It is recommended that all spectators sanitize their hands upon entry.
 - ✓ Facial coverings are recommended.
 - ✓ Social distancing is recommended when possible.

Outdoor Facilities

- ✓ Facial coverings are recommended when social distancing cannot be practiced.
 - ✓ Social distancing is recommended when possible.
- ✓ No current restrictions on the number of fans for outdoor events.

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PLAN UPDATES:

- The Thayer R-II School District COVID-19 Operating Plan is likely to change as more coronavirus information becomes available and new guidelines are made available by local, state, and federal agencies.
- The updates will be made available via the Thayer Schools webpage, Facebook, and the District's regular communication channels.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs):

- What is the District doing to help keep my child safe at school?
 - The health and safety of students are of the utmost priority. Therefore, the District has developed a comprehensive plan to help keep students safe. You can view the Plan on our district website.
- Will teachers and staff wear face coverings?
 - Face-covering usage on campus will depend upon the tiered level the District operates under and upon age and area appropriateness (i.e., face-covering will be recommended when social distancing cannot be accommodated.)
- What are the ages for facing coverings?
 - The CDC recommends face coverings for anyone over two years of age. Thayer School District will also have other items, such as social distancing, plexiglass, dividers, and face shields. Face coverings will be recommended at the yellow level when one of these other protection methods is not feasible.
- Can I have breakfast or lunch with my child?
 - Visitors to the school and the classroom will be limited to the office area only.
- Will students have access to water?
 - Mouth water fountains in the elementary will be closed. However, we have installed water bottle fillers in each building so that students can access water through alternate methods.
 - Students are encouraged to bring their own water bottles.
- Will students have their temperature taken before the school day?
 - Parents and caregivers should screen children for symptoms at home before coming to school. Students with symptoms should not attend school, and parents should consult their healthcare provider and follow CDC considerations regarding their return to school. Symptoms include:
 - fever or chills (fever of 100 degrees or more)
 - cough
 - headache
 - muscle or body aches
 - nausea

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- vomiting or diarrhea
 - new loss of taste or smell
 - new runny nose or congestion
 - shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - fatigue
 - sore throat
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- How will I know which tiered level the school is operating under?
 - Daily operation level will be communicated on the home page of the district website, and a change in operation level will be communicated through the District's regular communication channels.

 - What operating level is the school year starting on?
 - As of January 5, 2023, the school year will begin operating on level **YELLOW**. However, that is subject to change and will be communicated as outlined above.

 - What if my child needs to quarantine at home due to COVID-19-related reasons? How will absences and make-up work be handled?
 - If students need to stay home for any COVID-19-related reasons, we completely understand and encourage them to do so. However, student absences will be handled as usual, with teachers sending home a combination of online and paper assignments.

 - What enrollment options is the district offering for students?
 - Students will be in seated, in-person instruction.
 - If school closes, all students in seated, in-person will transition to online/AMI instruction taught by Thayer teachers.