

2021-2022

Return to Learn

(Updated December 15, 2021)



Thayer R-II School District

COVID-19 Operating Plan

Thayer R-II School District COVID-19 Operating Plan

Thayer R-II COVID-19 OPERATING PLAN TABLE OF CONTENTS:

Definitions	3
Thayer Operating Plan Overview	4/5
Academic Options	6
Staff and Student Screenings	6
Procedures for Exposures	7
District Health Protocol	7-10
Assessment Plan & Calendars	11
Alternative Methods of Instruction - AMI	12
Attendance	12
Increased Cleaning and Sanitation	13
Social Distancing within the School	13-15
Weight Room Cleaning	15
Visitors and Guest Procedures	15
Transportation	16
Nutrition Services Operation Plan	17-18
Special Education	19
504 Accommodations	19
Tiered Level of Protocols	19
Athletics & Extra-Curricular Activities	20-21
Plan Updates	22
FAQs	22-23

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.

Thayer R-II School District COVID-19 Operating Plan

To comply with federal regulations, school districts are required to 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 will be 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 are required to be examined and revised as needed every six months with input from community members. The mask mandate will be continuously monitored and lifted as soon as the community and district spread is minimized and it is safe to do so.

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 who was 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 simply 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-

Thayer R-II School District COVID-19 Operating Plan

person instruction for the entire 2020-2021 school year, primarily due to the mitigating strategies outlined in the board-approved Re-Entry Plan for the school year. Many of the protocols will continue in the 2021-2022 school year. Thayer Schools are consulting with the Oregon County Health Department and 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 and enable 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, 2021. 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 upon 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 covering usage(age & area appropriate) in place when social distancing is not possible**

Criteria: Minimal to moderate community spread of COVID-19 in Oregon County

Thayer R-II School District COVID-19 Operating Plan

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(age & area appropriate)**

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 timeframe that school will be closed, 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 timeframe that school will be closed, 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 on the home page of the district website, and a change in 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.

Thayer R-II School District COVID-19 Operating Plan

Academic Options

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

- Seated, in-person instruction is provided on campus each school day by Thayer R-II teachers.
 - 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 regarding how we can meet 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
- close contact with a person with COVID-19

Thayer R-II School District COVID-19 Operating Plan

- 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 listed above for families screening students at home.
- Any individual who is tested for COVID-19 should remain at home while awaiting a diagnosis.
- Individuals with an alternate diagnosis may return at the discretion of their healthcare provider and the school nurse.
- Individuals with direct (primary) contact with a positive COVID-19 individual, the student, or staff member will need to self-quarantine at home for 14 calendar days.
- Students or staff who are quarantined due to a primary contact may take a COVID Test by a physician within days 5-7 to see if they receive a negative test and return to school or work.

Procedures for Exposures

- If individual tests positive for COVID-19 and has been identified as being on the Thayer R-II Campus:
 - **If unmasked**, the Thayer Schools will notify parents and staff of an identified case through email or phone communication.
 - **If unmasked**, the Oregon County Health Department will contact individuals who have had close contact with the identified case.

Thayer R-II School District Health Protocol (Last updated 08/17/2021)

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 gives public school districts the authority to exclude students who have a contagious disease such as COVID-19 or who are liable to transmit the disease after being exposed to it. 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 will be excluded from school if they test positive for COVID-19. Students and employees that exhibit two or more of the symptoms of COVID-19 based on CDC Guidance that is not otherwise explained may be excluded from school, see below:

- a) A fever of 100.0° F or greater

Thayer R-II School District COVID-19 Operating Plan

- 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)

➤ **Screening**

Thayer R-II School District may implement screening protocols for anyone that enters our buildings, i.e., taking temperatures, asking questions, or otherwise 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. Students and employees exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 without other obvious explanations are prohibited from coming to school, and if they do come to school may be sent home.

➤ **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 is exhibiting 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 take the temperature of students, employees, and visitors to school property randomly 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

Thayer R-II School District COVID-19 Operating Plan

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 may be required to wear PPE depending on the Level of Protocol the District is placed on at a given time. In addition, persons who are coughing or sneezing for reasons other than potential COVID-19 infections (allergies, etc.) may be asked to wear a mask or other PPE while on school property to minimize the dissemination of bodily fluids if a mask mandate is not in place.

➤ **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. Untested - Persons who have not received a test proving or disproving the presence of COVID-19 but experience symptoms may return if the following three conditions are met:
- a. They have not had a fever for at least 24 hours (that is a full day of no fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers); and
 - b. Other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved); and
 - c. At least ten (10) calendar days have passed since your symptoms first appeared.
- 2. Tested - Persons who experienced symptoms and have been tested for COVID-19 may return to school when a negative test occurs.
- 3. Tested with no symptoms - Persons who have not had symptoms but test positive for COVID-19 may return when they have gone fourteen (14) calendar days without symptoms and took a second test by a health care provider, 5 – 7 days after the first day of symptoms and test negative.

➤ **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 will also be quarantined.

Thayer R-II School District COVID-19 Operating Plan

➤ **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. Students will be given a mask to wear if a mask mandate is not in effect. Only essential staff and students assigned to the room may enter, and the room will be disinfected throughout the day as needed. Social distancing and the wearing of appropriate PPE are recommended. Students who are ill and excluded will be walked out of the building to their parents to minimize entry into the building.

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

When confirmation that a person infected with COVID-19 was 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.

Suppose a mask mandate is not in effect. In that case, the District will contact parents/students and employees of possible exposed areas and notify them that someone who tested positive for COVID-19 was in the assigned area. The individual who tested positive will not be identified in communications to the school community at large but may need to be selectively identified for contact tracing by the health department.

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

Thayer R-II School District COVID-19 Operating Plan

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 length of the break, 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 student 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.

Thayer R-II School District COVID-19 Operating Plan

Alternative Methods of Instruction - AMI - Plan

The Thayer School District will use Alternative Methods of Instruction during the 2021-22 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 students' overall achievement for 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

- Attendance will be reviewed to monitor student and staff absenteeism patterns to assess district health. 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 who are quarantined due to a primary contact in the home having COVID-19 need to prove positive test. Physician note or Health Department contact is sufficient.
- 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.

Thayer R-II School District COVID-19 Operating Plan

Increased Cleaning and Sanitation

- Handwashing and infection prevention instruction will be required and taught to staff and students.
- Respiratory etiquette will be taught, e.g., coughing into the elbow, using Kleenex.
- 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 after each use.

Social Distancing in Thayer Schools

The following are examples of measures that Thayer R-II Schools may take 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 wide-spread contact.
- Sanitize playground equipment with Electrostatic Disinfectant Sprayer after each recess.
- 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 works best instructionally.

Thayer R-II School District COVID-19 Operating Plan

- Rearrange desks to increase space in between students.
- Minimize students traveling to different buildings to receive services.
- Only allow staff who are required for instruction in the classrooms.
- Limit students sharing instructional items, including art supplies or other educational tools.

Review nutrition services procedures

- Minimize self-served food items.
- Minimize 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 other frequently touched surfaces frequently.
- Disinfect bathrooms and other common areas frequently.
- Make sure that disinfectant and related supplies are available to all employees.
- Ensure there are 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.

Thayer R-II School District COVID-19 Operating Plan

- Post signs in bathrooms with directions on effective hand washing.
- Remove frequently touched items from the classroom or hallways but not easily cleaned.

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 people other than students and staff who enter the building.

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

- Restrict vendor access to the school to times when students are not present.
- 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 2021-2022 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 first contact the school/office to determine whether an onsite visit is necessary.
- Schools will be closed to outside visitors such as guest speakers, etc.

Thayer R-II School District COVID-19 Operating Plan

- 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.
- If the nature of the visit does not allow for social distancing, face-covering is required for the visitor in the building.
- Surfaces will be cleaned before and after the visit.
- Documentation of areas visited by the individual will be kept.
- 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.
- Drop off and pick up will occur via the carline only.
- 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 who have concerns with COVID-19 spread 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:

- Due to increased physical distancing limitations and a federal mandate, all individuals, including drivers and students, on school buses will be required to wear a face covering.
- All bus riders will have assigned seats.
- Load buses from back to front, unloading from front to back one seat at a time.
- Families will be seated together when feasible.
- Buses will be disinfected after each use.
 - 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 distances to the extent possible. Parents/visitors

Thayer R-II School District COVID-19 Operating Plan

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 being provided to children, all Nutrition Staff are essential employees and will be called into work. Nutrition Team includes:

- 2 Cashiers
- Substitute Cooks
- 6 Cooks
- 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 the emergency management time frame, 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**

Thayer R-II School District COVID-19 Operating Plan

Gloves will be worn in the kitchen at all times during meal preparation and meal 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 operations of a pandemic, the team member will immediately be sent home, and the kitchen closed until sanitized and safe to use.

➤ **Reopening Schools**

➤ **Cafeteria - Considerations based on the ability to deliver quality instruction**

▪ **Utilize Commons Areas and Gymnasiums**

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 specific area.

▪ **Tables**

The tables may need to be facing the same direction. Stickers may be placed on the seats where students and staff are to sit to ensure social distancing.

➤ **Social Distancing**

▪ **Breakfast and Lunch Lines**

Students and staff will stand on designated spots while in the breakfast line and lunch line.

▪ **Cashiers**

To limit contact with equipment, cashiers will enter all transactions into the Nutrition Services accounting system.

▪ **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 for special education should be made to Mrs. Betty Shrable, Special Education Director.

504 and IEP Closure Guidance

Thayer R-II School District COVID-19 Operating Plan

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

The 504/IEP Process Coordinator will provide the necessary support to 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 types of assignments given. Teachers will then monitor their students with 504/IEP's 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 open with protocols in place to mitigate the spread of coronavirus.
 - **Yellow** - Campus open with higher levels of protocols to mitigate the spread of coronavirus and face-covering usage (age & area appropriate) in place when social distancing is not possible.
 - **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 and face-covering usage (age & area appropriate) in place.
 - **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
 - Face Coverings
 - Face Shields
 - Increased cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitization

ATHLETICS & EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:

Thayer R-II School District COVID-19 Operating Plan

- The Thayer R-II School District will continue to offer athletics and other extracurricular 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

COVID Event Guidelines

We ask for 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 are required to 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 on 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.

PLAN UPDATES:

Thayer R-II School District COVID-19 Operating Plan

- 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 through 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 that the District operates under and upon age and area appropriateness (i.e., face-covering will be required when social distancing cannot be accommodated.)
 - All individuals will require face coverings on school buses until further notice.
- What are the ages for facing coverings?
 - The CDC recommends face coverings for anyone over 2 years of age. Thayer School District will also have other items in place, such as social distancing, plexiglass, dividers, and face shields. Face coverings will need to be worn at the yellow level when one of these other protection methods is not feasible, except the school bus. On the school bus, all individuals will need to wear a face covering.
- 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 in 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

Thayer R-II School District COVID-19 Operating Plan

- nausea
 - vomiting or diarrhea
 - new loss of taste or smell
 - new runny nose or congestion
 - shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - fatigue
 - sore throat
 - close contact with a person with COVID-19 in the last fourteen days.
- 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 August 17, 2021, 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.