



Niangua R-5 School District Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan for 2021-2022

Niangua R-5 School District has continually maintained the opportunity for in-person instruction for all students throughout the 2020-21 school year. The district would like to thank everyone for the support of our faculty, staff, students, school board, and community. The district developed a reentry to educational services plan in July of 2020 which facilitated quality education while complying with directives from the State, County health departments, and the Federal government. Planning and execution of our plan were achieved with continual consideration of public comment and feedback throughout the 2020-2021 school year. To support our academic plan, and satisfy the requirements for accepting additional funds through the American Rescue Plan (ARP) and the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund, all provisions will be made to continue coordinating with the community governmental agencies, and health agencies.

Despite the occasional setbacks, we were able to preserve the 2020-2021 school year, keeping students in school while maintaining open lines of communication with our community. Knowing that schools best educate students through interactive, in-person, project-based group activities, our plan is to continue providing in-person instruction for the 2021-2022 school year. As always, the Niangua R-5 administration and staff will make every reasonable effort to minimize health risks while continuing to diligently work towards providing a learning environment focused on delivering everyone opportunities for life-long success to our students.

The consistent message from our community has been that access to school is important and that prioritizing student and staff safety is an expectation. In reaction to our community's input, and knowing the COVID-19 pandemic will continue to be a factor in 2021-2022, Niangua R-5 is planning to continue carrying out the mission of high-quality education while addressing the learning loss created by the many interruptions to education over these past two years. The Niangua R-5 Safe Return to In-person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan (SRCSP) will concentrate on:

- Providing environments that are as safe as possible for students and staff;
- Providing equitable, guaranteed, and high-quality educational services;
- Seeking every support for mitigating learning loss and providing educational opportunities for students specific to indicators below established benchmarks, as identified through district and state assessments.

Niangua R-5 Safe Return to In-person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan (SaRCSP) for 2021-2022 will be posted on the District's website at www.nianguaschools.com. Everyone is encouraged to acquaint themselves with the SRCSP and then contact District administration with any questions.

Thank you to everyone for their continued efforts at supporting our students and staff!

Respectfully,

T.J. Bransfield
Superintendent



Development Plan

Stakeholder Feedback:

In developing the original re-entry plan in 2020, and amending this plan to create an SRCSP, district administration examined survey data, resources from the Department of Elementary and Secondary education (DESE), Centers for Disease Control (CDC), local Health Departments, and the Missouri School Boards Association (MSBA. Through this process, collaboration has also included Niangua R-5 staff members; to include staff members specializing in health & wellness, counseling, food service, maintenance, custodial, and academics.

It is important to note, this plan is a living document and will be updated when new information becomes available. Revisions will be incorporated directly into the document and close attention should be paid to the “last updated” date in the bottom left-hand corner of this document. Close attention will be given to data focusing on contagion levels, the number of contact tracing cases, and student/staff attendance. Decisions will be made in coordination with the Board of Education, local and state authorities, and community expectations. Updates on this plan and the COVID-19 topic will be made available every Monday on the district website (www.nianguaschools.com) through the 2021-2022 school year.

Status and Levels

Learning Modes Based on COVID-19 Community Transmission

	Green	Yellow	Red	Remote Only
Local Data	Analysis of district attendance percentage (80% and above)	Analysis of district attendance percentage (79% or below)	Analysis of district attendance percentage (50% or below)	Declaration of a health emergency or shutdown order from the State
Elementary Learning	In-person seated learning following safe opening practices	In-person seated learning following safe-opening practices	Remote only	Remote only
Elementary assemblies and extracurricular group activities	In-person learning following safe-opening practices	No all-school assemblies. Group activities will accommodate distancing and mask when distancing is unfeasible. Groups should be in cohorts with limited numbers.	Remote only	Remote only
	Spectator/audience should be advised to maintain distancing and sit in household groups	All activities should limit capacity to allow for 6' social distancing. Masks should be worn during indoor activities		



Middle & High Schools Learning	In-person seated learning following safe-opening practices	In-person seated learning following cleanliness standards. Cohorting, distancing, encouraging masking, daily temp checks	Remote only	Remote only
Middle & High Schools assemblies and extracurricular activities	In-person activities following safe-opening practices	Extracurriculars will continue but no group travel to high-risk activities. Conditioning/practice may continue with modifications for distancing and cohorting at ALL times. ALL indoor event audiences will be limited to <u>parents only</u> . Attendees will distance, sit in family groups, and be masked	Extracurriculars will continue but no group travel to high-risk activities. Conditioning/practice may continue with modifications for distancing and cohorting at ALL times. <u>No audiences will be permitted during indoor activities</u> . Masks are required to be worn when not actively engaged in competition.	Discontinued
	Spectator/audience should be advised to maintain distancing and sit in household groups			

An Overview of the District SRCSP Plan:

1. **District and building offices will open on Tuesday, August 3, 2021.**
2. **All District staff will be involved in back-to-school orientation and professional development Wednesday-Friday, August 18-20th.** In preparation for the start of school, employees who have been advised by a medical practitioner that they are immune-compromised should consult with their building administrator. If the employee would like to request Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accommodations, Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), or Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) leave, they should do so as soon as possible.
3. **The 2021-22 academic school year will begin Tuesday, August 24th**
4. **Campus-wide disease mitigation practices may include:**
 - **Socially distancing.** To every extent possible we will be utilizing all available classroom and learning spaces and making necessary modifications to distance individuals from each other.
 - **Cohorting.** Keeping classes contained and separated from each other.
 - **Health screenings** for staff, students, and visitors.
 - **Maintaining healthy facilities through the implementation of scheduled sanitizing all common spaces, ventilation improvements through upgrades to HVAC infrastructure.**
 - **Accumulating extra inventory of cleaning supplies and hand sanitizer.** Providing for open access to sanitizer.
5. **Allowing for the usage of masks.** Individuals who choose will be able to wear a mask as outlined by the Center for Disease Control. Parents/guardians do want their student to wear a mask at



school should be sure to check with the Department of Health Services for guidance on students with respiratory problems, incapacitated or unable to remove the mask without assistance and those with sensory sensitivities. It will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian electing to have their student wear a mask to supply those masks.

6. **Contact tracing, isolation, and quarantine** will be conducted in collaboration with the State, local agencies
7. **COVID-19 tests** of teachers or students will be available upon request. Students and staff who are exhibiting symptoms like elevated temperature, fatigue, nausea, shortness of breath, loss of taste, and/or smell will be encouraged to stay at home and communicate with their health practitioner. Those already at school will be directed to the school nurse. **Vaccinations** to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible, will be coordinated through the local county Health Departments.
8. **Accommodations** for children with disabilities will remain an expectation and will be coordinated with the student, parent/guardians, special education staff, and health practitioners.
9. **Close monitoring** of conditions and keeping everyone informed. Niangua R-5 staff will be closely monitoring health and safety conditions throughout the school year and will strive to keep everyone informed. Updates on this plan and the COVID-19 topic will be made available every Monday on the district website (www.nianguaschools.com) through the 2021-2022 school year.
10. **Anyone who has questions are encouraged to contact a building office or central office. Anyone with questions is also encouraged to preview the District's SWRCP at www.nianguaschools.com**

Everyday Practices:

- Students will have seating charts for bus transportation, classroom, lunchroom, etc. to assist with contact tracing
- Employees will self-monitor for related symptoms before arriving on campus
- Adequate supplies (soap, paper towels, hand sanitizer, tissue) to support healthy hygiene practices throughout
- Routinely clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that are frequently touched: doorknobs, light switches, sink handles, countertops, lockers
- Teach and model good handwashing, coughing, and sneezing hygiene strategies
- Students and staff can wear face coverings if they choose
- Implementation of social distancing based on space/activity as best as possible
- Limitation of outside visitors
- Shared equipment including desktop computers, art supplies, and athletic equipment will be disinfected frequently
- Use of separate containers for used/unused school supplies (pencils, etc)



- Continue to partner with local medical practitioners, health experts, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, and the Missouri State government in mitigating the viral threat while providing fair and equitable educational services.

Safety and Well Being / Pandemic Period / Response Activities:

In the event, there is evidence of district-wide transmission of COVID-19, or if there is wide-spread human-to-human transmission in Webster County, Niangua R-5 School District will enter the highest level of alert, which may include restrictions on access to buildings, if recommended by public health authorities.

Health and Safety Practices:

- The district will encourage “wash-in/wash-out” with both students and staff. They will be encouraged to wash their hands immediately upon arrival at school and again at the conclusion of the day. In addition to wash-in/wash-out, breaks will be provided during the day to both wash and sanitize hands.
- Health Service staff will continue to keep a record of all persons seen in the nurse’s office. Due to student privacy, these records are not public, however, information may be shared with the Wright and Douglas County Health Departments, as appropriate.
- The County Health Departments will provide the district guidance on students and staff who have had contact with people who are suspected COVID-19 positive.
- We will strive to follow safe social distancing practices by class.
- Temperatures may be checked for any visitor.
- For health and safety concerns, outside visitors, volunteers, and parents will have restricted access to the school grounds. This includes visits during breakfast and lunch.
- Water fountains may be restricted. Students are encouraged to bring their own water bottles/containers.
- A nurse will be available on campus.
- Students/staff that are running a fever >100 (and do not exhibit COVID-19 symptoms) will be dismissed from campus and should not return to school until they are fever-free for 48 hours without taking fever reduction medication.

Home Screening Practices:

- Families are recommended to monitor temperatures and related symptoms daily before leaving their homes.
- Anyone with a fever of greater than 100 degrees should not come on campus. Students should be fever-free for 48 hours without fever-reducing medication(s).

Surveillance, Screening, and Triage:

In the event that a student or staff member is feeling unwell, they will follow the long-standing protocol of communicating with their teacher, who would then communicate with the nurse. It would be the



determination of the nurse what course of action follows. The nurse would communicate with the family to further explain the situation and recommend the parent follow-up with their healthcare provider.

Social / Physical Distancing:

Given space constraints, District school classrooms may not allow for six feet of social/physical distancing between students. Student seats in a classroom will be distanced to the extent the room allows. Classes may on occasion and weather permitting occur outside to allow for greater social/physical distancing. Classes may occur in other spaces of the school, like the cafeteria, gym, or library.

Many of the District's special needs students require close proximity and assistance with mobility. Staff will wear masks and gloves, and protective covering (as necessary), to protect themselves and the student.

Parents and guests to campuses can expect social distancing requirements and special seating arrangements for afterschool activities and athletics once they resume and are open to the public.

Face Masks:

Individuals who so choose will be able to wear a mask as outlined by the Center for Disease Control. Face mask guidance from the CDC, DHSS, and local health departments regularly changes in reaction to local ordinances, contagion levels, and percentages of local populations which have been vaccinated. The District is obligated to adhere to local ordinances and health directives. Please check with the Department of Health Services for guidance for students with respiratory problems, incapacitated or unable to remove the mask without assistance, and those with sensory sensitivities. Be sure to communicate any and all information about needs for accommodation to the school district. It will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian electing to have their student wear a mask to supply those masks.

Visitors to school campuses and District offices are encouraged to wear masks before entering any building office space.

School Meals:

Schools will continue to use the commons/cafeteria space for the consumption of student meals. The convening a large number of students in cafeterias for the purposes of breakfast and lunch will be monitored and should infection rates indicate an increased risk of virus spread then parents should expect assigned seating, some combination of grab-and-go meals, multiple lunch periods, or lunches consumed in the student's classroom or outdoors. School lunch and breakfast procedures could vary by building. Deliveries of outside food is not recommended.

After-School Activities and Athletics:

Involvement in after-school activities is an important part of a student's school experience. Parents should regularly refer to the school's website for updates on after-school activities and guidance on the return of school sports.

Parent Conferences and Meetings:

Staying in regular communication with your student's educators has always been strongly encouraged. Parents may request virtual or phone meetings to discuss any aspect of their child's education. Parents wanting or needing to come to campus for any reason should contact the school office first. IEP meetings will be coordinated through the district special education team in collaboration with the family.



Lingering on Campus:

To help prevent the spread of infectious disease it is important that traffic within a school is limited to the school day to the extent possible. Students not actively engaged in an approved after-school activity or event must leave the campus immediately. Students cannot linger on the campus unsupervised after school.

Field Trips:

Field trips, assemblies, and large gatherings will be modified to meet social distancing guidance at the time the event is being planned. Social distancing requirements and special seating arrangements for afterschool activities and athletics may occur.

Bus Transportation:

Students who ride a school bus can wear a mask if they and/or their parent/guardian so chooses. Buses will be cleaned and disinfected between routes and at the end of each day.

Surveillance, Screening, and Triage

Students and staff who have a fever (100 or higher) and/or cough may be asked to stay home and report the absence to the school office or supervisor. Students and staff who have been traveling must complete a daily self-check. This self-screening outlines that you should not enter a building if, in the past 14 days, you have experienced two or more of these symptoms that are unusual for you personally:

- a fever (100 or higher) or a sense of having a fever (you don't feel well);
- chills, cough, sore throat, headache;
- new loss of smell or taste, new muscle aches;
- if you or a close contact has been diagnosed or presumptively diagnosed with COVID-19.
- Those allowed into the school buildings may be screened. Those who are identified to have concerning symptoms may be instructed to wear an appropriate mask, use hand sanitizer, and go to a designated area to be picked up by parents and sent home. If a child or a parent/guardian refuses to wear a mask, the school will not force an individual to wear a mask. It is highly advisable the Niangua employee wear a mask in this situation. *Students/staff must be fever/symptom/medicine free for 24 hours to return to school. Temperatures will be taken before re-entry. Parents should consider COVID testing when their child has multiple symptoms.*

In the event a student needs to be sent home:

- For students who exhibit symptoms (fever, cough, etc.), as defined by the health department guidelines, and whose parents are unable to be located, the alternate contact person will be called to pick up the student.
- Administration/school officials may be asked to transport the student home for parents/guardians who are unable to pick up their child due to a lack of transportation. Both the school personnel and the student will be required to wear a mask. Whenever possible, the student should ride in the back seat of the vehicle with the windows open.



When a Student or Staff member tests positive for COVID-19:

It is imperative to community health that the District be made aware of any student or staff member that has tested positive for COVID-19. All staff and students can be assured of confidentiality and privacy when reporting their positive test results. The District will follow all current CDC and health department guidance on what to do when students or staff exhibit symptoms and when a case is suspected/confirmed.

Students or staff who exhibit symptoms will be directed home to self-isolate and seek medical attention, as necessary. Positive or suspected cases will be confirmed with the local Department of Health who will assist with developing recommended next steps based on the level of potential exposure.

According to the most recent guidance from the Health Department, those who may have come in close contact with a confirmed case will be directed to self-isolate and self-monitor for potential symptoms.

Certain situations may result in the temporary closure of school buildings or offices for two to five days. At a minimum, in the event of a confirmed case, the District may close off portions of an entire office or a building for a period of 24 hours and allow for additional cleaning/disinfecting before reopening.

According to the most recent guidance from the Health Department, before returning to work or school in person, anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 must wait at least 24 hours after symptoms ceased (resolution of fever and improvement in respiratory symptoms) AND 10 days since symptoms first appeared.

Depending on the extent of positive cases within a school, a school may need to close for up to two weeks. During virtual instruction, the Alternative Methods of Instruction (AMI) plan will be enacted and students and teachers will continue uninterrupted teaching and learning.

Nursing:

The Niangua R-5 nursing staff regularly keeps a log of health room visits. The name and number/address of all persons seen with fever and new cough will be recorded. Due to student privacy, these records are not public; however, information may be shared with the Webster County Health Departments, as appropriate. The Health Department will provide guidance on students and staff who have had contact with people who are suspected COVID-19 positive.

Student Services:

Maintaining the health and safety of our students continues to be of paramount importance. With that in mind, it is crucial we ensure student information remains up to date. In the event a student becomes ill, we must be able to get in contact with the legal parent/guardian or their designated alternate contact. Parents/guardians must inform the district if any contact information has changed.

Staff:

Like every other school year, health and safety are everyone's responsibility. Sanitation will continue to require close monitoring. Practices such as symptom monitoring, social distancing, and any other mitigating strategy resulting from an increased spread of disease will remain everyone's responsibility to implement and practice.



If school is closed for health reasons or we cannot maintain adequate staff for all the classrooms the expectation would be for teachers to transition to alternative learning strategies. In such a situation the following guidelines would be in place:

- All staff will report every school day to work at 8:00 AM unless given exception by their supervising administrator and it will only be granted for a program need
- All staff will complete duties as assigned
- Food service will be engaged in providing to-go breakfast and lunches. Buses will assist with the delivery of meals, educational materials, etc.
- Social distancing and masks may be required for staff if you are out of your workspace

Vaccination:

Vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible, will be coordinated through the local county Health Departments.



Appendix A

Safe Practices

All district planners should keep the following in mind:

- Close coordination between the district, community, health practitioners, State and Federal agencies is essential.
- Develop alternative plans for remote learning, should the situation become dire and require limiting in-person activities.
- Promote healthy hygiene practices, including frequent hand washing, covering coughs and sneezes with an elbow, and staying home when sick.
- Intensify cleaning and disinfection practices. Frequently touched surfaces should be disinfected often.
- As much as possible, student groups should remain the same and not intermingle. As much as possible, the same adult should remain with static student groups.
- A six-foot distance between people should be maintained as much as possible. If six feet cannot be achieved, a three-foot distance should be maintained. Distancing is particularly important when people will be in proximity of one another for a period of more than 10 minutes when mixing between static groups, and/or when they are participating in activities that may result in respiratory droplets traveling further than normal (e.g., singing, exercising).
- Limit sharing of materials and supplies. When items are shared, they should be disinfected after use and all involved should practice good hand hygiene.
- Limit non-essential outside visitors.
- Maintain healthy operations. Each building team should establish protocols for the management of staff and/or students exhibiting COVID-like symptoms, including identifying isolation areas/supervision.
- Appropriate PPE should be worn when health/medical procedures or care standards necessitate it (cloth barrier masks/facial coverings are not considered PPE).