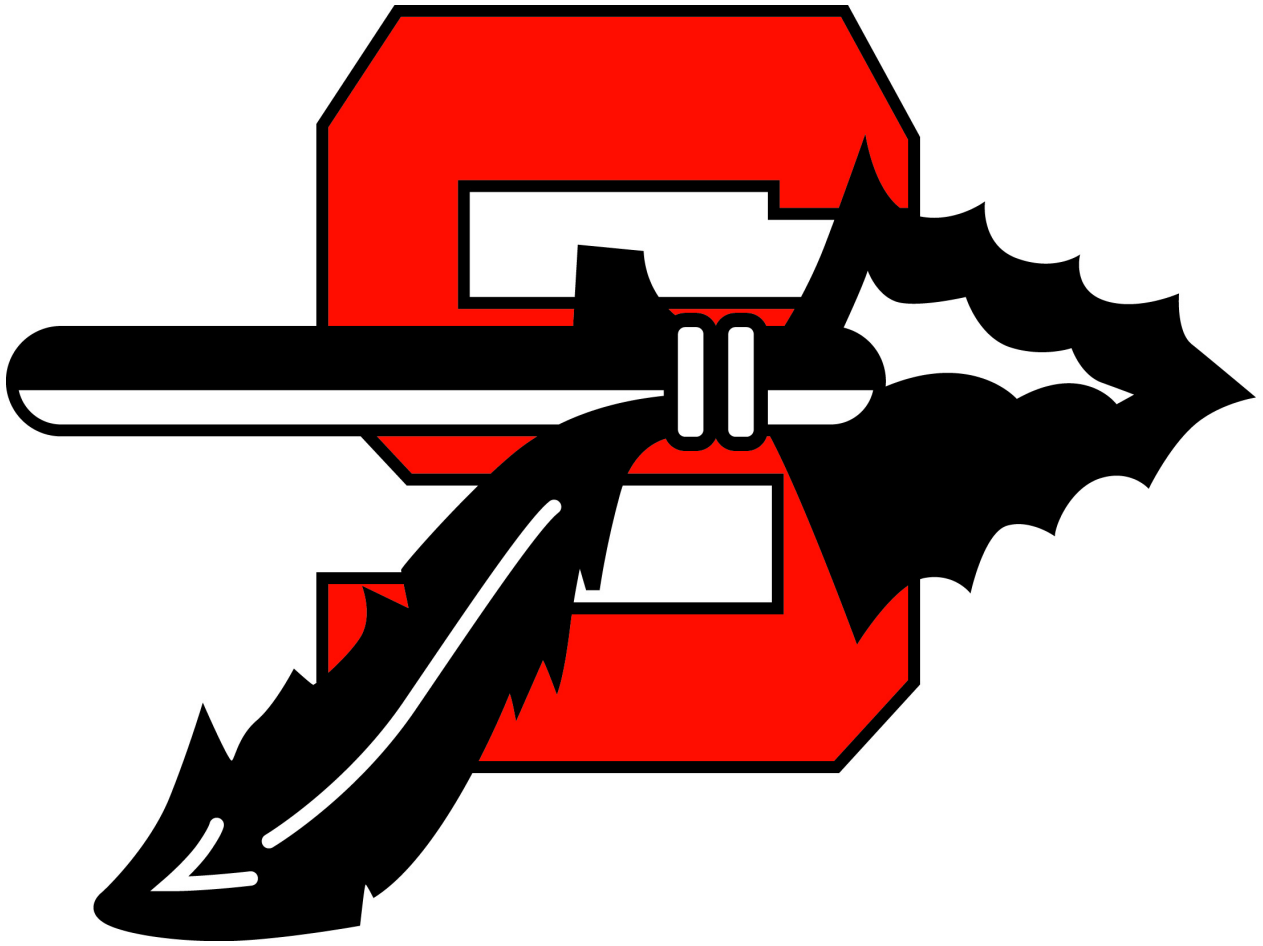


Sherwood Cass R-VIII School District



COVID-19 Safety Plan 2022-23

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Overview

The Sherwood Cass R-VIII School District will continue to provide a quality education to our students. Having experienced two years with COVID-19 restrictions and precautions in place, we will continue to utilize certain precautions and procedures as well as adjust to the local health condition of our community. Sherwood Schools will work with the Cass County Health Department on local guidance and recommendations with the final decisions being made by the Board of Education of the school district.

This plan is created in cooperation with feedback from the students, parents and guardians, school faculty and staff, administration, and the Board of Education. This plan will be reviewed and updated at least monthly. The latest feedback was collected from July 1, 2022 through July 14, 2022..

As of December 10, 2021 the Cass County Health Department will no longer issue isolation or quarantine orders. The Health Department will continue to share best practices and guidance from DHSS and the CDC to school districts. Per guidance Sherwood Schools will include the following in the plan:

- Students and staff testing positive for COVID-19 must remain out of the school during the transmission period of their illness. This is 10 days from the date of first symptoms or the date of a positive test if a symptom date cannot be determined. Board Policy EBB allows for the district to have students with communicable diseases or illnesses to stay home. As the CDC guidance is 10 days, the district will continue this practice.
 - Students and staff may return to school five (5) calendar days after testing positive for COVID-19 provided they are symptom free and wear a mask for the following five (5) calendar days.
- Students who are exposed to COVID-19 are still allowed to come to school.
- Per August 11, 2022 updated guidance the district will no longer provide contact tracing.

Safety and Well Being

- **Screening begins in the home.** Parents must screen students and keep students home if ill. This includes having the following COVID-19 symptoms:
 - A fever (100.0 degrees or higher) or a sense of having a fever;
 - Chills, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, headache;
 - New loss of smell or taste, new muscle aches;
 - Or if your student has been diagnosed or presumptively diagnosed with COVID-19.
- If a student or staff member is awaiting COVID-19 test results, the student or staff member should remain home until a negative test result is determined. We strongly recommend contacting our nurses' office for the use of antigen testing. The results are available 15 minutes after swabbing the upper area of the nose or bridge of the nose. There is no cost for this testing. Only Sherwood students and employees may be tested.
- Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 may return to school after the ten (10) day isolation period has been concluded from the date of symptom onset or the date of a positive test if a start date cannot be determined. Students and staff may return to school early from isolation after five (5) days from a positive test result provided the student or staff member is symptom free and a mask is properly worn for five (5) days. Students and staff who fail to meet this condition will not be allowed an early return from isolation and will be sent home from school.
 - Per Board Policy EBB the school district may exclude students who have a communicable disease. Students are not allowed to return until the end of the transmission period of ten (10) days or after five (5) days if agreeing to meet the noted masking requirements above and the student is symptom free.
- Students who are exposed to COVID-19 may attend school.
- Those allowed into the school building may be screened through random temperature checks using non-contact thermometers.
- Those who are identified to have symptoms of COVID-19 will 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
 - Students who display any symptoms cannot return to school until they are symptom free without medication.
 - Students who return to school multiple times and are sent home multiple times while still having symptoms over a seven (7) day period may be presumed positive by the district and will be required to fulfill a ten (10) day isolation period.

Universal and Correct Wearing of Masks

The following guidelines the use of masks and/or face coverings:

- The district will require all persons to wear masks if 5% or more of the student population is unable to attend school due to testing positive for COVID-19. The district will remain using masks for all persons until the district is below 2% of students not at school testing positive for COVID-19 for two (2) consecutive Fridays.
 - Students will be required to wear masks on the bus as well as in the school building when the district is at the 5% mark.
- Requirements could be changed based on the health conditions of the community and/or recommendations from the CDC or local health department.
- The masking policy in the district will be reviewed at least monthly by the Board of Education

****Students may return to school early from isolation after five (5) days from a positive test result or symptom onset provided the student is symptom free and a mask is properly worn for five (5) days. Students who fail to meet this condition will not be allowed an early return from isolation and will be sent home from school.****

Masks will be allowed at any time for students or employees who feel the need to wear one.

- When mask wearing is required, students and staff must wear masks correctly - tight fitting over the nose and mouth at all times unless 6 ft of distance from others is available.
 - Faculty and staff are expected to enforce this with students

Physical Distancing

- Per the updated guidance from the CDC released on August 11, 2022, social distancing is not as important as proper ventilation. However, the Sherwood School District may use appropriate spacing as needed based on the health of the community and the school district.

Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette

- Proper handwashing is essential to slowing the spread of COVID-19. As such the district will:
 - Encourage all students and employees to wash their hands regularly
 - Make hand sanitizer available in all classrooms, offices, and common areas
 - Have signage in various areas reminding students to use hand sanitizer and/or to wash their hands appropriately
 - Teachers of students in elementary school will provide instruction on proper hand washing to younger students and monitor restroom breaks to reinforce proper hand washing
 - All students will be encouraged to:
 - Clean hands regularly
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
 - Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing; or use the inside of your elbow, not your hands.
 - Clean your hands after coughing, sneezing, eating/handling food or touching things in common areas
 - Wipes or cleaning materials will be provided in every classroom.

Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities

- The Sherwood Cass R-VIII School District is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for students and staff. As such, the following precautions are being taken based on recommendations from health experts:
 - All cleaning supplies are rated for killing germs related to COVID-19
 - Additional spraying machines and fogging machines have been purchased by the district to clean large areas
 - All student desks and tables are cleaned daily
 - Other high-touch surfaces will be cleaned multiple times per day
 - The district has purchased newer and more efficient equipment in various parts of the district (such as dishwashers, HVAC, etc.) to increase sanitation and improve ventilation

- The facilities team will maintain cleaning supplies throughout the district as well as maintain an adequate stock of hand sanitizer in various areas of the district

Diagnostic and Screening Testing

- Students and staff exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 may request to have a COVID-19 antigen test conducted by the school nurse.
 - All students and staff who are sick are encouraged to stay home.
 - The use of antigen tests should not be the first step whenever a person is ill. The most accurate results tend to be when symptoms have been present for 48 hrs
 - Students and staff who test positive through an antigen test are treated like any other positive COVID-19 test and will be required to leave school immediately.
 - All positive test results are reported to the health department. All testing (negative or positive) is reported in the state reporting system.
 - **Parent permission is required for students to be tested.** We will NOT test students without consulting parents/guardians first.
 - Testing is available only for students and Sherwood employees.

Efforts to Provide Vaccinations to Educators, Other Staff, and Students (if eligible)

- Sherwood Cass R-VIII School District has provided vaccination opportunities for faculty, staff, and students. In partnership with local health agencies we have provided:
 - March & April of 2021 - Time off with no required use of paid leave for any employee wishing to get vaccinated during the regular school day during partnership with Cass Regional Medical Center
 - May & June of 2021 - Hosted vaccination clinics through Cass County Health Department for students and staff ages 16 and up. This was expanded to those 12 and above once approved by the CDC.
 - August 2021 - Hosted clinic for community during School Supply Event.
- The district will continue to share information about vaccination events when provided from local partners.
- Sherwood R-VIII School District will continue to provide opportunities for vaccinations when presented with the opportunity from local partners.

Accommodations for Children with Disabilities with Respect to the Health and Safety Policies

Sherwood Cass R-VIII School District will work with students, families, teachers, and staff to put into place any and all appropriate accommodations as necessary or as mandated by a student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Section 504 Plan.

For any questions regarding you student's IEP or Section 504 Plan please contact Ms. Nancy Engle, Director of Student Services, at nancy.engele@sherwoodk12.net or 660-499-2239 ext 500.

Athletics and Activities

All Activities

- Social distancing is highly encouraged.
- Spectators are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and sit in family groups when possible.
- MSHSAA guidance will dictate requirements for face coverings. If no guidance is provided then teams will follow the local community guidelines set forth earlier in this plan.
- At multi-team events, athletes are encouraged to sit with their teams away from the stands. Space for tents will be available on the outfield of the softball field and along the fence near the parking lot.
- Face coverings are recommended, but not required
- Please sit in family groups when possible.
- Visiting teams are to temperature check their own athletes prior to arrival.
- The number of patrons in attendance will not be restricted.
- Live streaming of events will be done through Sherwood school's website when available. It will be free of charge. www.sherwoodk12.net

**Changes to this plan may be made with immediate effect should the health status of the community change. This would include returning to indoor limitations used during the 2020-21 school year.

Student Transportation

- We HIGHLY encourage parents to transport their children to school. The district is required to provide transportation to those who need or want it; however, this is the area where **physical** distancing may be the most difficult **and during the colder months proper ventilation is not as available. This area will have a higher risk of exposure than classrooms or other school settings due to lack of ventilation and the high number of students in the space**
- Before Boarding: **Parents should screen their children** in the morning and keep their child(ren) home if they have any of these symptoms or concerns:
 - A fever (100.0 degrees or higher) or a sense of having a fever (they don't feel well);
 - Chills, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, headache;
 - New loss of smell or taste, new muscle aches;
 - Or if the student has been diagnosed or presumptively diagnosed with COVID-19.

COVID-19 Testing at Sherwood

Sherwood has been participating in the statewide antigen testing program provided by the Department of Health and Senior Services and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Please see the information below regarding the ability to test for COVID-19 at school:

Eligible Participants:

- Students or staff who have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.
 - For best results, the student or staff member should be exhibiting symptoms related to COVID-19.

Process for Testings

- Parent contacts the nurses' office and arranges for testing.
- Testing takes 15 minutes for results following the swabbing of the upper nose area.
- Positive results means the student must return home; a negative result means the student may resume school for the day.

Contact Tracing Procedures

- Per the August 11, 2022 update from the CDC, contact tracing is only recommended to hospitals and certain high-risk group living situations such as nursing homes. As such, the Sherwood School District will no longer continue contact tracing procedures.
- Anyone exposed to COVID-19 and develops symptoms are not to come to school and should be tested for COVID-19 as soon as possible.

Authority to Close Schools

- The Board of Education has approved the Superintendent to close and/or open school due to COVID-19 related reasons. This includes excessive absenteeism of faculty/staff or students due to being positive for COVID-19.
- When closed, the building may or may not be off-limits to students or staff and students. If the district is closed only to students, employees will be required to continue to perform their regular duties and regular responsibilities except as directed by the Superintendent.
- The Superintendent may cancel activities on district property by outside groups, even if the district remains open. When the district is closed, activities scheduled at the district and other locations involving students and/or staff would also be canceled.
 - Any cancellations will be posted on the district Facebook page and sent to parents/guardians via email, text message, and voice messaging.

Human Resources (Faculty & Staff)

In order to protect our students, faculty and staff, we will continue to provide regular maintenance, cleaning, and disinfecting of all areas. The school district will make reasonable best efforts to minimize risk.

- **Daily Self Checks:** Every faculty and staff member should perform a daily self check. If you are experiencing one of the following, you are recommended to stay home:
 - A fever (100 degrees or higher) or a sense of having a fever (you don't feel well);
 - Chills, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, headache;
 - New loss of smell or taste, new muscle aches;
 - Or if you are deemed as presumptively diagnosed with COVID-19.
- Employees should leave school ***immediately*** if they start to feel ill or unwell or be tested for COVID-19 prior to leaving. Notify your supervisor immediately so the district may take precautionary steps to clean the affected area.
- **Masking:** All employees must follow masking requirements listed earlier in the plan.
- **Hand Washing and Good Health Etiquette**
 - Every building will have additional hand sanitizer stations. There will be the expectation of healthy practices:
 - Clean your hands regularly (consider hand washing breaks)
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
 - Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing; or use the inside of your elbow, not your hands.
 - Clean your hands after coughing, sneezing, eating/handling food or touching things in common areas
 - Wipes or cleaning materials will be provided in every classroom.
- **COVID-19 Related Leave:** For the 2022-23 school year employees will be able to claim up to five (5) COVID-19 paid leave days per school year. This is an approved request through the superintendent by completing the COVID-19 Leave Form on the district website under Departments - Human Resources.