

# Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan



## School District of Monroe

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# Introduction

On March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plans (ARP) Act was signed into law. In it, the U.S. Department of Education is providing an additional \$121.9 billion for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER III Fund). This legislation will award grants to state educational agencies (SEAs) for providing local educational agencies (LEAs) with emergency relief funds to address the impact that COVID-19 has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools across the nation.

Wisconsin will receive \$1,540,784,854 in ESSER III funds from the Act, with 90 percent being awarded to school districts with amounts determined in proportion to the amount of Title I, Part A funds they received in summer 2020 from funds under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The remaining funds will be used for state-level activities to address issues caused by COVID-19.

This plan describes how the School District of Monroe will provide a safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services for all schools, including those that have already returned to in-person instruction.

# Maintaining Health and Safety

## Overview

The following section outlines how the School District of Monroe will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other school and LEA staff, and the extent to which the School District of Monroe has adopted policies or practices and a description of any such policies or practices on each of the CDC's safety recommendations including the universal and correct wearing of masks; modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding); hand washing and respiratory etiquette; cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation; contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the state, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments; diagnostic and screening testing; efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible; appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies or practices; and coordination with state and local health officials.

### Description on maintaining the safety of staff and students

The School District of Monroe will begin the 2022-23 school year with a five-day per week, face-to-face instructional model and adhere to the following health protocols. Accordingly, the District will:

- publish the COVID-19 pre-screening checklist and strongly encourage students and staff members to utilize the checklist before entering a school facility,
- encourage staff members and students to stay home or go home if they are showing COVID-19 symptoms or if they have tested positive for COVID-19,
- All are encouraged to wear a mask
- make masks available at schools and district buildings for students and the general public that do not have them,
- encourage staff members and students to frequently wash their hands and use hand sanitizer,
- provide sanitizing stations throughout the building,
- allow water bottles for all students instead of the use of water fountains.

### Description to continue to provide services regardless of the mode of instruction (for example, health and food services if the LEA must pivot to virtual or hybrid instruction)

The School District of Monroe will offer in-person learning five days a week according to the Board adopted 2022-2023 Academic Year Calendar. The School District has also provided families the option, upon approval from district administration, to enroll their students in virtual learning using JEDI. In the event of school closure due to the pandemic, the district purchased Chromebooks for all students to continue virtual learning.

In the event of interruptions of daily school due to a pandemic, a breakfast and lunch meal program

will be offered either in-person, take home meals, or otherwise as directed by the USDA.

The School District of Monroe employs one full-time school nurse and five health assistants who will continue to offer health services in-person. The School District also employs five full-time school psychologists to support students' mental health.

## Mitigation Measures

### Universal and correct wearing of masks

The School District of Monroe Board of Education adopted that the wearing of masks or face coverings will be optional, but strongly recommended, for all students and staff. The School District of Monroe Board of Education authorizes the District Administrators' Heightened COVID Response Plan (HCRP) as a matrix. The plan is as follows:

#### Implementation:

- Initiated when the 3-day rolling average for student COVID positive cases is at or above 100 districtwide
- Revert to the above default plan once the 2-week rolling average for student COVID positive cases is below 80 district-wide.

#### Masks:

- Masks will be mandatory for all students and staff
- Mask exemptions specified in IEPs, 504 plans, or Individual Health Plans will continue to be honored

#### Quarantine:

- Quarantines for individuals that test positive for COVID-19
- Quarantines for household contacts as ordered by Green County Health Department or determined by the district nurse
- No other quarantines unless ordered by Green County Health Department

#### Test-to-Stay Program:

- Available for those quarantined by Green County Health Department or others as directed by District Nurse

The District will encourage all to wear a mask. Masks will be made available at all schools and district buildings for students and the general public that do not have them. Masks are optional for all outdoor activities.

### Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (for example, the use of cohorts and podding)

Mitigation measures such as proper signage in multiple languages, the installation of floor decals and water bottle filling stations, and the promotion of social distancing have been implemented at each

facility. While custodial and food service staff may continue many of the cleaning and serving protocols established during the COVID 19 pandemic, no specific protocols are required specifically to address COVID 19. All custodial and food service staff are to adhere to the standard safety protocols established for the duties they perform as employees.

While physical distancing reduces the spread of many pathogens, there are no specific requirements for physical distancing. Staff are recommended to physically distance students 3 to 6 feet apart when practical and choose activities that limit physical contact when possible. Staff can eat and drink in classrooms but are asked to think about germ transmission when deciding when and how to do so.

### **Handwashing and respiratory etiquette**

Frequent handwashing and use of hand sanitizer are recommended. Water bottles will again be allowed for all students. In addition, hand sanitizing stations/liquids are available in all classrooms and throughout all facilities.

### **Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation**

Enhanced sanitation procedures have been implemented and continue at all schools focusing on high-touch surfaces. While custodial staff may continue many of the cleaning protocols established during the COVID 19 pandemic, no specific protocols are required specifically to address COVID 19. All custodial staff are to adhere to the standard safety protocols established for the duties they perform as employees.

### **Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments**

*Description of the School District of Monroe's Quarantine Policies and Practices:*

- Quarantine required for students and staff that test positive for COVID:
  - Individuals that are identified as COVID positive are required to quarantine for a minimum of 5 calendar days after the onset of symptoms.
  - Individuals may return to school on day 6 if they are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication with other symptoms improving, and they wear an appropriate mask through day 10 of the quarantine period.
  - Those that refuse to wear a mask through day 10 of the quarantine period will be asked to quarantine at home until the completion of the 10-day period.
  - Individuals that are close contacts with positive students and staff will follow the following quarantine guidelines
- The district will consider "close contacts" to be individuals that reside in the same household.
  - Individuals that reside in a household with an individual that is identified as a COVID-positive will be identified as household contacts
  - Individuals identified as household contacts are subject to quarantine, regardless of vaccination status
  - Individuals identified as household contacts will be required to quarantine for 10

calendar days after symptoms are first reported for an individual in the household unless they opt to participate in the Test-to-Stay Program.

- Individuals identified as household contacts may return to school immediately by successfully participating in the Test-to-Stay program.
  - Individuals identified as a household contact that participate in the Test-to-Stay Program must test through day 5 of the quarantine period; those that receive negative test through day 5 will be exempt from testing for the remainder of the 10-day period
  - Those that test positive will be subject to quarantine
  - Those that refuse to test will be presumed positive and subject to quarantine
  - Those that test negative will receive a pass to return to school
  - Participation in the Test to Stay program requires individuals to wear a mask through day 10 of quarantine
  - Those that refuse to wear a mask through day 10 of the quarantine period will be asked to quarantine at home until the completion of the 10-day period

#### **Test-to-Stay Program:**

- **Close Contacts:** All individuals identified as close contact that are subject to quarantine may participate in the Test to Stay program
  - Daily participation in the program is required through day 5 of quarantine
  - Those that test positive will be subject to continued quarantine
  - Those that test negative will receive a pass to return to school
  - Participation in the Test to Stay program requires individuals to wear a mask through day 10 of quarantine

The School District of Monroe will continue transparent reporting to the public of COVID-19 cases and staff quarantines within the District. To provide transparent reporting for our stakeholders, the District maintained a COVID-19 case dashboard throughout the 2020-21 and 2021-22 school year, and will continue to do so for the 2022-23 school year.

The District nurse and health assistants will be responsible for contact tracing. The District nurse and health assistants will collaborate with Green County Public Health Medical providers, and families, to make decisions on student and staff quarantines. All contact tracing decisions made by the District nurse and health assistants are final and are not subject to appeal. Procedures for contact tracing can be found on the district website.

#### **Diagnostic and screening testing**

The School District of Monroe recommends students and staff get tested for COVID by their medical provider or a local pharmacy. Since the state has made COVID 19 testing available to schools at no cost, the District offers the “Test to Stay” program for students and staff with the Rapid COVID tests.

**Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible**

All eligible staff employed in 2020-2021 were provided the opportunity to be vaccinated. All eligible staff employed in 2021-2022 were provided the opportunity to receive the COVID Booster in October of 2021. Students ages 16 and older were provided access to an on-site vaccination clinic in April, May, June & August of 2021. Students ages 12 and older were provided access to an on-site vaccination clinic in June & August of 2021. Students age 5 and older were provided access to an on-site vaccination clinic in November & December of 2021. All eligible students aged 12 and older were provided with an opportunity to receive the COVID Booster in February 2022. New staff will be given access to vaccinations by working with local healthcare partners and Green County Public Health.

**Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies and practices**

When circumstances require specific policies or procedures designed to protect the health and safety of students, 504 and IEP teams will determine if modifications and/or reasonable accommodations are needed for individual students with disability-related issues.

**Coordination with state and local health officials**

The School District of Monroe continues to work with the Green County Public Health to implement mitigating strategies for the safety of students and staff.



# Continuity of Services

## Overview

The following section describes how the School District of Monroe will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs and students' and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services.

### District response on continuity of services

**The School District of Monroe will provide for continuity of services as follows:**

#### **Student Academic Needs**

The School District of Monroe has implemented a summer school program (August Jumpstart) to assist targeted K-4 students with academic recovery. The School District of Monroe plans to continue full-time, in-person instruction beginning the fall of 2022, with limited exception. Teachers are required to utilize Google Classroom or Schoology as a virtual platform so students can perform some learning activities remotely when quarantined.

#### **Student Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs**

Additional training has been provided to counseling staff to aid in our students' social and emotional learning needs during the pandemic.

#### **Staff Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs**

The District has provided staff with opportunities for social and emotional support through the Steeping Wellness program.

#### **Other Staff Needs**

The District will follow national, state, and local governing agencies' laws and directives concerning staff employment and benefits.

# Periodic Review

## Overview

Districts are required to review and, as appropriate, revise their Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan at least every six months through September 30, 2023, including seeking public input and taking such input into account in determining whether to revise the plan and, if revisions are determined necessary, on the revisions it makes to its plan.

### District response on ensuring periodic updates to its plan

The School District of Monroe will periodically review and, as needed, revise the plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services. The plan will be reviewed at least every six months, and the school system will seek and take into account public input during the review process. Plan revisions will address updated CDC and Green County Public Health guidance on safely reopening schools if any are issued.

# Public Input

## Overview

The ARP Act requires that school districts make their Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan available to the public online and that the plans be in an understandable and uniform format; to the extent practicable, are written in a language that parents can understand or, if not practicable, orally translated; and upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability, provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent. Before making its plan publicly available, school districts must seek public comment on the plan and develop the plan after taking into account public comment.

### District response on public input in the development of its plan

The School District of Monroe has taken the following steps to make its plan available to the public:

- The plan is posted at <https://www.monroeschools.com>
- The plan is available in English and Spanish, along with multiple languages through the use of our web provider powered by Google Translate.
- The plan was sent to parents, students, and employees via our messaging systems.
- The plan was shared at the School District of Monroe Board of Education meeting on January 24, 2022. An opportunity for public comment was available during the January 10, 2022, Board meeting.
- Upon request, a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA may be provided with the plan in an alternative format accessible by contacting our district office.

[MSD Safe Return to In-Person & Continuity of Services Plan](#)

[MSD ESSER III Survey](#)