

Strain-Japan R-XVI School District

**Safe Return to School Plan**



**Stand  
with  
Strain!**

**Safe Return to  
School Plan  
2021-2022  
Strain-Japn R-XVI**

**Revised 2/28/2022**

If you require this document in a different language, please contact the school office. Si necesita este documento en otro idioma, comuníquese con la oficina de la escuela.

## **2021-2022 School Year**

The guidelines and protocols outlined in this document are subject to revision as needed to reflect local, state, and federal guidelines.

Guidelines and protocols may also be revised as appropriate to reflect changes in conditions of the virus as it progresses.

The Strain-Japan R-XVI Board of Education will continually evaluate guidance from all agencies and consult with the Franklin County Health Department to ensure student and staff safety.

This plan will be evaluated every 6 months or more often as needed.

The district will consult the following stakeholder groups in the planning and the preparation of this plan

- Teachers and other staff
  - District Families
  - Students
- Board of Education

### **COVID-19 Guidelines & Protocols**

- The safety and well-being of Strain-Japan R-XVI students and staff is our top priority in all decisions related to conducting school and providing quality education to all students we serve.
- The COVID-19 guidelines developed and presented below follow all applicable local, state, and federal guidelines and incorporate many best practices recommended by DHSS, CDC, and the Franklin County Health Department.

- The content in this document will be updated as additional guidance is provided by the state, local, and federal authorities. Please refer to this document often to stay informed about the most current guidelines and protocols our district will be following.

## **Vaccination**

Covid-19 vaccination is the leading mitigation strategy to prevent individuals from getting infected by the virus and transmitting it to others. Achieving high levels of COVID-19 vaccination among eligible students and teachers, staff, and household members is one of the most critical strategies to help schools safely resume full operations. The available Covid-19 vaccines in the U.S. are safe and highly effective at preventing infection.

## **Masks**

- All students and staff can wear masks during the school day, but it is not required.
- While it is not required, it is highly recommended that students wear masks when they are not able to maintain social distancing.
- Masks should be cleaned frequently for sanitation purposes.

## **Isolation**

Students, teachers, and staff who test positive should self-isolate and not return to school until the following criteria are met:

- 5 days since symptoms first appeared and
- 24 hours with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and
- COVID-19 symptoms have improved (for example, cough, shortness of breath)

## **Alternative Methods of Instruction**

- If school is closed for inclement weather or for any reason related to COVID-19, the district will follow the AMI plan.
- If a student is positive, that student will be able to continue learning as stated in the AMI plan.
- Students receiving services through an Individual Education Plan or a 504 plan will continue to receive services through virtual means for the duration of their days absent.

## **Good Hand Hygiene**

Students will be encouraged to

- Wash their hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided throughout the building.

## **Drinking Fountains**

- Drinking fountains will be turned off.
- A bottle filling station is accessible.
- Students should bring a water bottle and clean it regularly.

## **Social Distancing**

- It is recommended that students maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms.
- Social distancing will be observed to the extent possible by all faculty, staff, and students. Social distancing is more achievable in outdoor areas and larger facilities.
- Teachers are encouraged to conduct class in our outdoor classroom or outside as much as is possible.
- Building extra outdoor playtime in your schedule is also encouraged.

## **Cleaning the Building**

- The building will be cleaned and disinfected regularly.

## **Testing**

- The SJS school district will again offer rapid testing for students and staff.
- Testing will be conducted at school by the Health Aide. Results are given in 15 minutes. These results are reported to the Local Health Department.

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

- Students will engage in weekly guidance lessons promoting social, emotional, and mental well-being for all. Individual student mental health needs will be addressed through collaboration with the district's administration.
- The school counselor will utilize a research-based SEL program for grades K-8.
- The school counselor will communicate additional resources for parents, students, and staff.

## **Return from Absence**

- When students return from an extended period of absence related to Covid-19, they will have 5 days to complete any work that was assigned to them during quarantine.
- Upon return, any gaps in learning that are detected will be addressed during the first five days of returning to school. The student will receive interventions during Leopard Time and the specials period for the day.

## **Transportation**

- Parents/guardians are encouraged to drop students off at school instead of using the bus service. Drop-off and pick-up systems will be organized to ensure social distancing to the greatest extent possible.
- Hand sanitizer will be available on school buses.
- Drivers will use personal protective equipment (PPE), such as masks, throughout routes.
- Per a federal order issued by the CDC, every student riding the bus will be required to wear a mask.

## **Athletics**

- Student activities will be conducted as usual to the extent they are permissible under local, state, and federal guidelines.
- Water bottles will need to be used by all athletes during practices.
- Practice balls and supplies will be sanitized at the end of each practice and game by coaches.