



UNION STAR R-II SCHOOLS

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Rick Calloway, Superintendent
Ben Hopper, K-12 Principal

USR2 Family,

First and foremost, we are very excited to have our students back on Monday, August 24th. We feel that it is in the best interest of our students to have school in-person this year and are asking for your help to make it a great year.

Student and Staff Screening

Please help us by keeping your children home when they are sick. Also, by screening your child(ren) for symptoms of and exposure to COVID-19 at home each day before sending them to school. This screening method should also be used by all staff members in the building as well. This will help to further protect other students, staff members, and the community. The following checklist should be used each day to ensure students are free from any symptoms and exposure:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Headache
- Close contact with a person with COVID-19 in the last 14 days
- Muscle aches
- Sore Throat
- Runny nose/congestion
- Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea
- New loss of taste or smell
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

The above list is subject to change as new symptoms of COVID-19 are identified. Students with symptoms should not attend school and parents should consult their healthcare provider and follow CDC considerations regarding their return to school. If diagnosed with COVID-19, students may return to school in 10 days from symptom onset, has had 3 days without fever and symptoms are improving. Children with a known close contact with COVID-19 should stay home from school for 14 days from their last contact and until return is approved by the local health department in accordance with CDC guidance (see link below).

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/end-home-isolation.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fprevent-getting-sick%2Fwhen-its-safe.html

Visitors

The school district is limiting visitors inside the building during the school day. Visitors will only be allowed for IEP, 504, or parent meetings that cannot take place over the phone or by zoom meeting. On the first day of school, Monday August 24th a picture area will be set up outside of the north door for parents to get first day pictures of students with their teachers or by themselves if they so choose.

Risk-Reducing Measures

The district is recommending masks be worn by students and staff on buses, in the hallway, and when near others. Classroom tables, desks, and other essential instructional equipment will be cleaned throughout the day and classes will practice social distancing as best as possible in the hallways, lunchroom, and classrooms. Spectators at games will be expected to wear masks when entering the building, transitioning to the stands, and may take off their mask once in the stands and practicing social distancing. Face coverings use is important strategy to reduce transmission of COVID-19, both by reducing the spread of infection from the wearer to those around as well as preventing acquisition of the infection by the wearer. Similarly, physical distancing of 3 to 6 feet away is another important measure to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Positive Cases and Contact Tracing

If a student or staff member is found to have COVID-19 symptoms while at school, they will be immediately isolated in a containment room and should wear a medical-grade mask until they are no longer in the building. The district recommends that these students and staff should see their primary care provider in this situation. The link below shows the most recent school nurse Algorithm used to manage symptomatic students and staff.

<http://wupaarc.wustl.edu/COVID-19-and-Children/Algorithms-for-Clinicians-and-Schools/-School-based-Algorithm>

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) has a provision that allows personal health information to be shared by the local health department to LEAs if the disclosure is necessary to protect public health. In the case of COVID-19, the “minimum necessary” information to disclose to protect public health (e.g. to support case investigations and contact tracing) may include the name of the student/staff member who has contracted COVID-19, and the probable date of onset. This information should only be disclosed to the necessary staff members (e.g. the school or district COVID-19 point-of-contact) to inform and conduct the steps of the LPHA or school/district. The individual who tested positive will not be identified in communications to the school community at large.

In the case of a COVID-19 virus infection, the district will close for a short period of time for contact tracing and sanitization efforts. The school district will work with the local health department to determine the length of the closing. The local health department will lead the contact tracing process and contact all potential infected individuals about self-quarantining for 14 days from last contact with the positive case.

Chromebook Agreement Forms

For 2nd through 12th grade students, Chromebook agreement forms will need to be filled out and Chromebook insurance fees paid at open house or soon thereafter before students will be assigned a Chromebook. Students should bring the signed form and fees back to school as soon as possible before they will receive their Chromebook.

Overall, the teachers and staff are excited to be in their classrooms with their students where the best learning takes place. We will do our best to make this the best year ever even in these trying times. Thank you for helping us to make it a safe environment for learning for our students. Go Trojans!

Sincerely,

Rick Calloway