Background:

- Updates were added to our website every two weeks.
- Beginning in late October, the administrative team began discussing the options to consider for some sort of lessening of mitigation measures based upon our data.
- Data was collected on our students and staff by building along with county data.
- Working with the EdPlus superintendents and the working group of health professionals, we discussed how to progress and what options may be done over time.
- Our authority is based upon our **Communicable Disease Policies 4820** and **2860** and the **Revised Statutes of Missouri**: §167.191 and §171.031.
- After thorough analysis and study, we propose to the BOE, for consideration, a revised plan and resolution for the second half of the year.
- This plan and resolution has been vetted by our legal counsel and administrative team.
- To change this plan in a district our size, it takes time, logistics and planning.
Primary Objective

Lessen mitigation strategies and move toward a more traditional school setting as we continue our goal to keep as many students and staff safe, healthy and in school.

Goals

- Provide an in-person, high-quality education for our students five days a week.
- Keep healthy students in school by highly recommending mask wearing for the start of the second semester.
- Effectively address individual school needs as they present themselves.

Considerations

- Masking on public transportation (buses) will continue per federal requirements;
- We will pay close attention to the Omicron variant;
- We must be willing to pivot if we have a measured increase in cases in a school or building.
What is NOT changing...

- Highly encouraging staff and students to get vaccinated and to voluntarily let us know if they are vaccinated;
- Continue cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities;
- Promoting frequent hand hygiene;
- Physical distancing to the extent possible;
- Encouraging parents to keep children home when they are sick;
- Encouraging staff to stay home when they are sick;
- Data collection and monitoring at all sites, with health indicators updated daily;
- Notifications to close contacts of a positive case will continue;
- Students will still be required to wear a mask on their school bus.
What IS changing...

- Masks will be highly recommended beginning on January 18, 2022;
  - This will give parents and employees time who may now want to get vaccinated given the change in mask protocols.
- Contact tracing under the existing plan will pause December 23, 2021, then resume January 3, 2022;
- Contact tracing a positive case;
  - Healthy students can remain in school;
  - Positive student/staff will need to stay at home for 10 days;
  - A close contact who has multiple symptoms will need to stay home until they have a physician’s diagnosis other than COVID or produce a negative COVID test;
    - Based on Communicable Disease Policies 4820 and 2860
    - COVID symptoms
  - COVID leave will extend through the end of the 2021-22 school year for all employee groups.
COVID SYMPTOMS - multiple for exclusion

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty in breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
What IS changing...

● If a building has a positivity and/or exclusion rate of 4% or more (students and staff), the building will revert to a mask requirement for two weeks.
  ○ After two weeks, the building will either go back to mask recommended if below 4% or continue with mask requirements for another week. This would continue until the rate is below 4%.
  ○ Mask exemptions and/or ADA accommodations will remain in effect if we return to masking in a building.

● We will continue to monitor infection, quarantine, exclusions and vaccination rates and adjust the plan with notification to the Board per the resolution.

● **Whole building notifications:** Whole building notifications will end, **but if any building hits 2%** - a whole building notification will go out that we are monitoring the situation. (Close contacts will still be notified and the health indicators on the website will continue to be updated daily).
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Implementation Timeline

- **Week of Dec. 6**: Updated Plan Shared with Administrators
- **Week of Dec. 13**: Updated Plan Shared with all Staff & Families
- **Dec. 16**: Updated Plan Presented to Board of Education for Approval
- **Jan. 18**: Updated Plan Implemented

*Decisions regarding Summer Academy and the 2022-2023 school year will be made at a later date.*
Options for Parents and Students:

Parents not comfortable with the school environment may request online learning through MOCAP. They may contact their principals or Dr. Shelley Willott’s office at 636-733-2101.

Students enrolled in online courses through MOCAP will be assigned MOCAP teachers and will need to contact the MOCAP vendor for academic and technology support. Their child will remain enrolled in their home school, so they will continue to receive building communications.

K-5 Students

Students in kindergarten through fifth grade will be enrolled in the Launch Online Program through MOCAP. Launch coursework includes:

- Six hours of daily, teacher-supported virtual programming
- Live, synchronous daily lessons with teachers
- 25:1 student-teacher ratio
- Full-time teacher support
- Daily workbook activities
- Accommodations for students with IEPs and 504s
- ELA, Math, Science and Social Studies instruction
- Five related arts courses (one hour each per week): physical education, music, art, coding and information literacy
MOCAP for Middle School and High School

6-12 Students

Students in grades 6-12 will be enrolled in a combination of Launch Online Coursework and other MOCAP vendors.

- 6-12 Students will be enrolled in Launch, but students may also need to access coursework through other MOCAP vendors depending on their schedule.
- All Launch and MOCAP courses are approved by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to meet Missouri graduation requirements.
- Coursework options are dependent on course availability.
- It is possible that students will have coursework from multiple vendors. Each vendor has a slightly different course access system, so in the event multiple MOCAP vendors are needed to fulfill a student’s schedule, the student will need to learn to navigate each system.
- Students may need to make alternative course selections based on course availability.
Social-Emotional Support:

Rockwood School District is committed to maintaining a multitiered system of support that provides for the emotional, social, behavioral and physical needs of each student. This emphasis is even more pronounced during the COVID-19 pandemic, a time in which we must attend to the academic, social and emotional development, physical and mental health, cognitive development and overall well-being of all district students and staff.

Student Services:
- Social Workers
- School Counselors
- Social-Emotional Behavior Specialists
- Partnering with Alive & Well Communities St. Louis to provide trauma-informed care for students, as well as partnering with Rockwood Transportation and Child Nutrition Services and the Voluntary Interdistrict Choice Corporation (VICC) to continue to offer food services for families receiving free and reduced lunch.
Conclusion:

- Shared proposed plan through communication with Administrative Council, Presidents’ Forum Executive Board, Staff and Community;
- Will continue to use our Rockwood News clearinghouse to keep record of the comments sent to the district;
- Will continue to use the Community Conversation for comments;
- Continue to use the data, information and resources from the current Rockwood Safe Together plan;
- Will add content of the proposed plan to the Rockwood Safe Together section of the district website (rsdmo.org);
- Reports to the BOE will be done monthly;
- Recommendations on Summer Academy and the 2022-2023 school year plan will be made in March and;
- A year-end report on the revised plan and its effectiveness will be given to the Board of Education in June.
Rockwood Safe Together Update

Rockwood School District

December 16, 2021