

Mask Gating Criteria for the Excelsior Springs School District

The goal of the gating criteria application is to utilize data points within the school district as well as those provided by Clay County Public Health to develop a means of applying mask mitigation measures appropriately. This is because there seems to be no “one size fits all” solution to the use of masks. For example, the Clay County Public Health Department has not mandated masks in schools, while other counties and cities have said mandates. Also, students and staff are not required by mandate to wear masks in any other public venue in the county and interior cities (Ex. restaurants, stores, or public gatherings), which limits the effects of masks. Additionally, another key mitigation strategy known as social distancing is highly utilized within the school facilities. For example, students are seated 3 feet apart in the classroom as well as at lunch, preventing close contact exposures that often result in quarantine events. Furthermore, the mitigation strategy of vaccination is highly utilized in the area. According to the Clay County Public Health Department, zip code 64024 has the second highest vaccination percentage at 62% initiated and 55% completed. Beyond the three above mentioned, other mitigation strategies are utilized in the district such as, Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette, Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities/Buses, Limited Arrival/Dismissal, Limited Visitors, Ventilation Improvements, Reduced Touch, Staying Home when Sick, Isolation Protocols, and Clay County Contract Tracing.

Because this pandemic continues with no end in sight, a significant level of concern has developed within our communities. Patrons want to know when this will all end. Patrons also want to know how we can get back to as normal as possible while the pandemic persists. To attempt this sense of normalcy in balance with safety, the district plans to apply mitigation strategies at appropriate levels according to data points within the school district as well as those provided by Clay County Public Health.

This gating criteria application began on **Monday, November 15, 2021** and remains in place while the pandemic continues. The district will work with Clay County Public Health as well as monitor the evolving situation to evaluate and propose changes as needed. This document remains in draft form so these updates/changes can be made.

ESSD Gating Criteria		Green	Red
	Students + Staff Totals	0-4%	4.1%+
High School	808+74=882	0-35	36+
Middle School	595+57=652	0-26	27+
Elkhorn	206+24=230	0-9	10+
Lewis	422+49=471	0-19	20+
Cornerstone	489+65=554	0-22	23+
ECC	132+23=155	0-6	7+
Career Center	230+14=244	0-9	10+
District Totals	2,882+306=3,188	0-126	127+

- As of 10-1-21 PS Students + Staff

Green	Red
Masks Optional	Masks Required
<p>No quarantine is required if both the infected and exposed individuals were correctly wearing masks (snug over the mouth and nose without gaps or holes) during the exposure. The exposed individuals should monitor for symptoms and isolate if they become ill. They should continue to wear a mask at all times.</p> <p>Any individual (not up-to-date on vaccinations OR had COVID-19 within 90 days) who is a close contact (within 3 feet for a cumulative of 15 minutes or more over a 24 hour period) with someone who tests positive for COVID-19 will need to quarantine for 5 days (return day 6), provided the exposed individual remains asymptomatic. A mask should be worn through day 10. <i>*If both parties are masked, then you will not need to quarantine.</i></p> <p>Persons testing positive (regardless of vaccination status) should isolate for 5 days. ESSD will continue to collaborate with CCPHC to provide information about individuals diagnosed or exposed to COVID-19. ESSD will continue to notify parents of exposure and will collaborate to monitor symptoms.</p>	
Masks required on school buses while federal mandate exists	Masks required on school buses while federal mandate exists
Social Distancing of 3 feet is required	Social Distancing of 3 feet is required
Field trips are permitted with mitigation measures in place	No field trips
Visitors are allowed but must wear masks regardless of vaccination status	No visitors are allowed
Assemblies are permitted if social distancing protocols are maintained	No assemblies

- Implied Mitigation Measures: Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette, Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities, and Contact Tracing
- Trends are monitored for projected sustained increases or decreases. Projected sustained numbers above or below 4% are reviewed to determine a change in mask usage.
- Downward trends may require consecutive weeks before reducing masking requirements.
- Upward trends may result in an immediate increase in masking requirements.