

COVID-19 Prevention Measures for the 2021-2022 School Year

Students benefit from in-person learning, and safely returning to in-person instruction in the fall of 2021 is a priority. We ask for cooperation and patience from all so that we may work through this challenging time. USD 348 Schools will follow these COVID-19 prevention measures during the 2021-2022 school year in order to maintain safe learning environments for all students and staff.

The school district will monitor local, county, state and federal information about COVID-19 spread.

Mitigation strategies are subject to change.

The district will follow all county mask mandates. The board reserves the right to react to conditions in the district in considering going above and beyond county mandates.

Promoting Behaviors that Reduce the Spread

Vaccination

- USD 348 strongly encourages all staff and students eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine, in consultation with your physician, to be vaccinated. The district will continue to provide educational information to students, staff, and families about the COVID-19 vaccination.
- USD 348 will continue to work with local public health officials to provide vaccination opportunities for staff, students, and families.

Staying Home When Appropriate

- The district recommends and will continue to educate and encourage staff, students, and families to follow public health and safety measures in and out of school.
- The district recommends staff, students, and parents use a Daily Self-Assessment to self-monitor for signs and symptoms of illness.
- Anyone experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, such as fever (100.0), cough, or shortness of breath, **should stay home** and seek medical advice, as necessary.
- We ask that staff and families notify school officials if they or their children have COVID-19 symptoms, test positive for COVID-19, are

waiting for test results, or have been exposed to someone with symptoms or a confirmed or suspected case.

- The district will provide to staff information about recognizing COVID-19 signs and symptoms.

Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette

- Schools will continue to educate and encourage students and staff to wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or if soap and water are not available, to use hand sanitizer or Tersano water.
- Schools will continue to educate and encourage students and staff to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, throw tissues in the trash, and wash hands immediately, or if soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer or Tersano water.

Cloth Face Coverings, Masks, & Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Masks are optional for staff and students this year unless conditions call for a change.
- It is highly recommended that masks be worn indoors. Staff will provide mask breaks for students that wish to wear masks. Special education teams will work with families to determine appropriate use of personal protective equipment based on student individual needs.
- The district will make masks, face shields, and gloves available to staff and students, as needed.
- The district will make N95 NIOSH masks available to staff, as needed.
- The district will provide gowns for staff performing procedures where contact with bodily fluids is likely.
- **Any bullying related to mask wearing will not be tolerated**, and may result in disciplinary consequences in line with the building's handbooks and district/state policies regarding bullying.

Temperature and Symptom Screening

- The district encourages staff, students, and visitors to use devices provided for temperature checks when needed.
- Schools will conduct temperature checks when staff or students report COVID-19 symptoms.

Testing and Screening

- Saliva-based PCR test kits are available upon request for testing at home.
- Rapid COVID-19 antigen and PCR tests will be available in schools for staff and students with parental consent.

Defining a Case of COVID-19 and the Infectious Period

- A Person Under Investigation (PUI) is someone who is suspected of having COVID-19 disease because of symptoms or exposure.
- A person who is being tested for COVID-19 because they are suspected of having the disease is required to be in isolation until test results are received.
- A person is considered a case of COVID-19 disease if they have tested positive for the SARS-CoV-2 virus by a diagnostic test (PCR or antigen). Based on what we currently know, a case is considered infectious two days prior to the onset of symptoms through at least 10 days after the onset of symptoms. For asymptomatic cases, the infectious period is considered as two days prior to the date the sample was collected through a minimum of 10 days from the date the sample was collected.

Defining a Close Contact

- Anyone who is within 6 ft. of an infected individual for longer than 10 consecutive minutes OR
- Had contact with the person's respiratory secretions (coughed or sneezed on, kissed, shared a drinking glass, food towels or other personal items) OR
- Live with the person or stayed overnight for at least one night in a residence with the person.
- High-risk activities and low-risk activities may influence whether a person is considered a close contact.
 - Examples of high-risk activities:
 - Eating/ drinking less than 6ft apart
 - Indoor/ outdoor activities with physical exertion in which the individuals are less than 6ft apart for 10 minutes or longer.
 - Athletic activity that involves close, sustained contact between participants, lack of significant barriers, and a high probability that respiratory droplets will be transmitted between participants.

- Playing woodwind and brass instruments without another precaution in place, specifically masking and social distancing.
- Singing without another precaution in place, specifically masking and social distancing
- Examples of low-risk activities:
 - Being in the same classroom with proper and consistent mask wearing (by both the positive case and the potential contact) and 3ft-6ft social distancing.
 - On the same bus with proper and consistent mask wearing (by both the positive case and the potential contact) and other precautions such as ventilation and 3ft-6ft social distancing.
 - Being on the playground, even unmasked, provided the activity doesn't move into a high-risk exposure.

Quarantine of a Close Contact

- Individuals who are identified as low risk, and therefore not a susceptible contact, do not need to quarantine following an exposure, as long as they remain asymptomatic.
- Fully vaccinated individuals are not considered susceptible contacts and do not have to quarantine following an exposure, as long as they remain asymptomatic.
- With parent permission for unvaccinated, asymptomatic, close contact students, rapid COVID-19 testing can occur daily at school for 10 *days* after last contact with the infected individual and allow them to continue in-person learning if negative.
- Unvaccinated, asymptomatic, close contact staff can receive testing daily at school for 10 *days* after last contact with the infected individual and allow them to continue at school.
- Unvaccinated close contacts with evidence of previous infection supported by a positive PCR or antigen test may be exempt from quarantine after re-exposure as long as they remain asymptomatic.
- Unvaccinated students choosing to quarantine at home, can obtain a PCR test on day 6 post-last date of exposure, and if negative and asymptomatic, may be released from quarantine on or after day 8 post-exposure.

Advising Local Health Officials, Staff and Families of Sick Students/Exclusion from School

- In accordance with state and local laws and regulations, the district will notify staff, and families of reported cases of COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Separation While in School/Care Rooms

- A room is designated in each building for a student suspected of having COVID-19 symptoms.
- The student will be given a mask to wear.
- With a parent or guardian's verbal consent, a rapid PCR or antigen test can be performed in the designated room to rule out infection. If the test is negative and Health Services staff rules out any other communicable disease, the student can return to class.
- Without parent or guardian consent for testing, the parent or guardian will be asked to pick up their child immediately. The student is unable to return to school until symptom free and/or proof of a negative COVID-19 PCR or antigen is received. Only essential staff and students assigned to the room may enter. Strict social distancing is required and staff must wear appropriate PPE.
- If the student tests positive, they will remain in the designated room and the parent or guardian will be asked to pick up their child immediately.
- We ask that families keep emergency contact numbers updated in PowerSchool by notifying the school office.

Student Support in Isolation/Quarantine

- The district will follow its aforementioned guidelines for quarantine and exclusion due to COVID-19.
- Staff will provide assignments for quarantined students and those students/parents can contact teachers for additional support.
- Social and emotional support will be available as requested.

Returning to School after Isolation/Quarantine

- Once a student or staff member is excluded from the school environment, they may return if they satisfy the recommendations

of KDHE the local health department and the school district. Currently those guidelines are:

- Untested Persons who have not received a test proving or disproving the presence of SARS CoV-2, but experience symptoms, may return if the following conditions are met:
 - 10 days from the onset of symptoms OR
 - 72 hours after fever is gone without the use of fever reducing medication AND there has been significant improvement in symptoms
 - Whichever is longer
- Tested and awaiting results Persons who are suspected of having COVID-19 disease are awaiting test results should be isolated at home until test results are received.
- Positive result most cases are considered no longer infectious and can be released from isolation using this criteria:
 - 10 days from the onset of symptoms OR 72 hours after fever is gone without the use of fever reducing medication AND there has been a significant improvement in symptoms.

Maintaining Healthy Environments and Operations

Social Distancing Considerations

- Schools will:
 - Observe 3 ft. or as much social distancing as possible given the physical environment.
 - Provide visual cues about safety measures in classrooms and hallways.
 - Provide directional signs in buildings, as necessary.
 - Remove extra furniture and unnecessary materials from classrooms to increase available space if necessary.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

- Custodial teams will follow the district's established cleaning procedures in maintaining healthy and clean environments and prioritize high-touch

areas, including handles, handrails, counters and surfaces, tables, chairs, desks, etc.

- Custodial teams will clean restrooms regularly throughout the school day.
- The district will train all staff in effective cleaning and disinfecting procedures.
- Staff will provide hand sanitizer stations in multiple locations throughout the building for frequent use.
- Custodial teams will provide cleaner, disinfectant, and cleaning cloths for classrooms, upon staff request or signup.
- Building administrators will encourage non-custodial staff to clean and disinfect their classrooms and work areas.
- Building administrators will notify the custodial staff of COVID-19 cases so they may close affected areas for cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing.

Communal Spaces Including Athletic Facilities

- Observe 3 ft., or as much social distancing as possible, given the physical environment.
- Office areas will include signage informing staff, students, and visitors to:
 - Masks are recommended.
 - Observe 3 ft., or as much social distancing as possible, given the physical environment.
- No lunch guests.

Physical Guides

- Schools will provide physical guides, such as decals on floors and sidewalks and signs on walls, to remind staff, students, and visitors of social distancing.

Playground/Recess

- Staff and students should wash or sanitize hands before and after recess.
- Students may use playground equipment.

Food Service

- The USDA's National School Lunch & Breakfast Program will provide free meals to students this school year
- Food Service will clean and sanitize all carts, utensils, and food surfaces after each use.
- Schools will follow National School Breakfast and Lunch Program meal requirements.
- No guests may join students for meals.
- Elementary building administrators, in cooperation with Food Services, will determine the location and logistics for meal consumption and share that information with parents.
- Secondary students will eat in cafeterias or other designated dining areas.
- The following guidelines will be implemented for eating:
 - A staff member will provide supervision in the designated location where meals and snacks are served and eaten.
 - Students will have the opportunity, as well as encouraged to, do hand washing or utilizing hand sanitizer before and after meals.
 - Staff will clean and sanitize surfaces before and after meals and snacks.
 - Students may not trade or share food.
 - Self serve protocols will be in place.
 - Water will be available during lunch.

Classroom Layouts

- Staff will maintain seating charts for use in contact tracing.
- When the physical environment permits, students will sit facing the same direction.
- Staff will utilize outdoor spaces for instructional purposes when possible.
- Plexiglass dividers are available for staff use.
- No soft furniture in classrooms.

Sharing Facilities

- The district will accept community facility use requests beginning August 1, 2021.

Visitors

- Visitors are limited to maintenance and instructional guests.

- Visitors will follow sign-in procedures.
- Visitors will observe 3 ft., or as much social distancing as possible, given the physical environment.
- No visitors allowed during meal times.
- Staff may conduct virtual parent/teacher conferences and/or meetings.

Attendance

- The district will follow its Attendance Policy for staff and students.
- Families should contact their child's school to report student absences.
- Staff should report absences on Frontline or their Time Clock.
- Staff and students who are symptomatic should stay home.

Transportation

In accordance with Federal Order Under section 361 of the public health service act (42 U.S.C 264) and 42 code of federal regulations 70.2, 71.31(b), 71.32(b) Requirement for persons to wear masks while on conveyances and at transportation hubs. **All riders in school district vehicles including drivers and passengers must wear a mask over their mouth and nose.**

- Buses will be regularly cleaned, disinfected, and sanitized.
- Maintain a seating chart for passengers.
- Open windows and vents when possible.

Field Trips/Gatherings

- Staff will incorporate district mitigation strategies into the planning of field trips and gatherings for the safety of students, staff, and families.
- No capacity limitations for gatherings.

Water Systems

- Water fountains will not be available.
- Staff and students should bring their own water bottles and label them.
- Water bottle fillers will be available.

Ventilation

- The ionizers will remain off until further notice.
- Higher grade filters will be used to better filter air.
- The district will continue to monitor air quality.

Instructional Materials/Shared Objects

- Limit the sharing of supplies whenever possible, but students and staff should wash their hands or use hand sanitizer prior to and after using shared materials and equipment (such as computers).
- Shared tablets, laptops, and other electronic devices should be turned off and cleaned (**between users or daily**). Shared desktop computer keyboards can be unplugged and cleaned (**between users or daily**) without turning the computer off.
- Staff and students assigned a take-home device are encouraged to clean their device regularly.
- Devices should be cleaned with isopropyl alcohol as described here: <https://www.usd348.com/>

COVID-19 Points of Contact and Response Teams

- The school nurse/health aide will serve as the point of contact for COVID-19.
- Each building will maintain a COVID-19 response team.

Student Health Services Changes in Asthma Management

- Students will not be allowed to receive nebulizer treatments while at school until further notice.

KSHSAA Activities

- The school district will follow KSHSAA guidance and rules regarding covid prevention measures.

Mitigation strategies are subject to change.