

## **USD 429 District Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services**

**As our patrons and community are aware, USD 429 had in person education from the onset of the fall 2020-2021 school year. As part of CDC guidelines, United States Congress, and other Federal Government Agencies, we must post a re-opening plan on our website.**

**This was thrown at us on June 16, with a requirement to post on our website by June 22. We plan to start school the way we ended school in 2021, as normal as possible!**

**Draft-pending Board of Education approval**

### **PART I.**

***Describe how the district will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff and the extent to which it has adopted policies, and a description of any such policies, on each of the following safety recommendations established by the CDC:***

#### **(A) Universal and correct wearing of masks:**

Our school district has removed the mask mandate based on vaccination rates and infection rates for the school. USD 429 does not have a mask mandate.

If needed, we may adopt reasonable safety measures to protect the safety of district personnel, students, and visitors during school-related activities. Reasonable safety measures may include, but may not be limited to, cleaning and sanitization plans, use of physical safeguards and barriers, and the use of personal protective equipment (PPE). Exceptions to any requirements may be granted as required by law, state, county, and/or local health officials, and on a case-by-case basis. We will continue to monitor national, state, and local government and health agency mandates, guidance, and recommendations as well.

Lastly, the district will continue to inform students and staff in the proper wearing of personal protective equipment as needed, and we will post signage outlining the proper wearing of personal protective equipment as needed.

#### **(B) Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding).**

Where needed, social distancing practices will be utilized. Efforts will be made to maintain classroom seating and cafeteria seating with a minimum of 3 feet of social distancing between students and between students and staff for the 2021-2022 school year. Considerations will be made for cohorts or podding if needed. We will continue to reduce class size and group sizes when applicable.

#### **(C) Handwashing and respiratory etiquette.**

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette will continue to be taught to students with emphasis and practice protocols rehearsed more frequently in the primary grade levels. Signage will continue to be posted throughout our buildings as reminders of handwashing and respiratory etiquette. In addition, hand sanitizer and wipes will continue to be made available for use in all classrooms.

#### **(D) Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation.**

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Custodial staff have been and will continue to follow specific cleaning protocols and procedures. We will continue to consider assignments/reassignments to applicable shifts in order to continually clean high traffic and high contact surfaces. Our district will continue to use cleaning solutions that are rated to eliminate the COVID-19 virus. We will continue to monitor ventilation efficiency and effectiveness for opportunities to continually improve air quality.

### **(E) Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments.**

Our district employs a school nurse, they and the administration complete all contact tracing documentation and efforts. The nurse will continue to work with the school administration and will contact individuals who have been in close contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID and recommend that those individuals follow current quarantine/self-isolation guidelines and recommendations. Working with and communicating with the Doniphan County Health Department will continue during these incidents.

### **(F) Diagnostic and screening testing.**

Students, staff, and community members can access COVID-19 diagnostic or screening tests through a variety of community partners, including the Doniphan County Health Department. The school nurse and support staff will continue to monitor for symptoms, trends, and clusters, and request that students and staff seek medical services as appropriate.

### **(G) Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities.**

Our district will participate and partner with vaccination efforts in accordance with state and federal law for staff and eligible student groups. The District will not refuse, withhold from, or deny a person any services, goods, facilities, advantages, privileges, licensing, educational opportunities, health care access, or employment opportunities based on the person's COVID-19 vaccination status. Working with the Doniphan County Health Department, school employees were offered vaccinations in the Spring of 2021. The health department has communicated with us they will still provide those vaccinations including students.

### **(H) Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies.**

Our district will provide reasonable, necessary, and appropriate accommodations to its policies and practices for students with disabilities as determined by individual student needs and in accordance with an individual's documented accommodations and/or individualized education plan (IEP). Parents or guardians of students requiring accommodations should contact the applicable building administrator(s) to request information on plans for students with disabilities.

### **(I) Coordination with State and local health officials.**

Applicable district personnel currently participate, and will continue to participate, with our local county health department and/or agencies on a frequent basis to determine next steps as needed. Working with the Doniphan County Health Department, USD 429 will continue zoom calls when applicable with the county schools and the health department. We will continue to attend all relevant zoom calls.

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## **Part II. *Describe how the district will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to:***

### **(A) Services to address students' academic needs**

USD 429 has implemented a summer learning program to assist students with academic recovery. Our district plans to continue full time, in-person instruction beginning the fall of 2021. Additional instructional personnel have been added or reassigned where possible to implement further academic recovery efforts in core curriculum areas. Where possible, specialists, paraeducators, and educational consultants will be available and utilized during the instructional day, on professional development days, and/or during before and after school tutoring programs throughout the year to support students. USD 429 has used ESSER monies to purchase a variety of remedial solutions for our students who might have suffered learning loss.

### **(B) Students' and staff social, emotional, mental health**

Our district has K-12 staff to monitor and address the social and emotional learning needs of our students. We will continue to partner with social workers and local mental health services with the goal of helping students and families overcome obstacles with connecting to school. We will continue to screen all students three times a year using the Fastbridge, SAEBRS screener.

Our district would provide staff with opportunities for social and emotional support if and when needed. Staff social and emotional wellness and mental health are also considered in district communications.

### **(C) Other needs, which may include student health and food services.**

Families may also be in contact with their child's school for any other health or food service needs. We will continue to follow safe serving guidelines for all students when applicable.