

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. Classrooms are currently equipped with air purifiers.

(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.

CLOSE CONTACT

Fully vaccinated individuals are exempt from quarantine, unless symptomatic. Proof of vaccination will be required in order to honor quarantine exemption.

- Anyone not fully vaccinated who is within 3 ft. of an infected individual for longer than 10 minutes.
- Anyone not fully vaccinated with direct respiratory particle exposure, even if less than 10 minutes (e.g. coughing on someone).
- Anyone not fully vaccinated with household contact with an infected individual.
- Cloth masks do not eliminate close contact. Quarantine for close contacts is 10 days following the last exposure.

7 Day Quarantine (Testing and No Symptoms)

- Must remain symptom free
- On or after Day 6 of exposure, individuals may get a PCR test. Make sure that you are getting the correct test as antigen and antibody tests will not be accepted.
- If the test is negative and you remain symptom free, you may return to normal activity on Day 8.
- If you are still waiting for results on Day 7, you must remain in Quarantine until the results are received. The school must have proof of a negative result before the student can return to school.

10 Day Quarantine

- Must remain symptom free for 10 days
- On day 11, you may return to normal activities as long as you remain symptom free.

All exposed persons should monitor their symptoms for 14 days from exposure and contact their healthcare provider if symptoms develop.

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

ATTENDANCE

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.

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- The district will follow its attendance protocols for staff and students.
- Families should contact their child's school to report absences.
- Staff and families should notify school officials if they or their children have COVID-19 symptoms, test positive for COVID-19, are waiting for test results, or had exposure to someone with symptoms or a confirmed or suspected case while not fully vaccinated.
- Those fully vaccinated who have a fever can return to school after 24 hours of being fever free and medication free (proof of vaccination required).

(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. USD 429 has received a grant for KDHE and will rapid test individuals in the school community who were close contacts, while in school, of confirmed covid 19 cases.

(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. Students and staff were offered free vaccinations at enrollment on August 9, 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.

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

(A) Services to address students' academic needs

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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.

Troy Schools

COVID-19 Testing Information and Consent Form

A vigorous Covid-19 testing strategy supports safe, in-person learning and activities while providing another layer of protection for students, teachers, and staff. Testing is one way to quickly identify infection and prevent it from spreading in the school. USD 429 schools are not required to conduct COVID-19 testing, but will do so for close contacts of confined covid cases while in school.

Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) COVID testing program:

TEST to KNOW

At each school building, students and/or teachers and staff who are potentially exposed to COVID-19, and/or have symptoms of Covid-19, will have the opportunity to have a rapid antigen COVID-19 test performed by a trained staff member.

TEST to Learn/TEST to Play

To keep students healthy and in school learning.

To ensure that schools can provide the most normal school experience outside of the classroom including participation in extracurricular activities & school-based events with the least amount of

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disruptions. Testing of susceptible close contacts daily during their quarantine period and allow them to continue in-person learning and activities if negative.

If a susceptible close contact is identified, the close contact may continue to participate in school and activities in-person if they are tested daily for 10 days during the quarantine period.

- If the close contact is positive, they will isolate themselves at home.
- If the close contact is negative, they may continue in-person participation.

To **Test to Learn/Test to Play** students and staff must meet all of the following criteria:

- Parental consent for school staff to test student
- Student/Parent and/or staff must consent for the student to wear a mask, while indoors, for the duration of their 10 day quarantine. If a student refuses to wear a mask correctly while in quarantine they will be referred to the building Principal.
- The student will not be in close contact with other students or staff at school until a negative test result is known. **This includes riding the bus and carpooling.**

Close Contact Definition-

- You were within 3 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for a total of 10 minutes or more
- You provided care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19

CLOSE CONTACT QUARANTINE OPTIONS			
No Quarantine	Quarantine 10 days	Quarantine 7 days	Test
Fully Vaccinated	Those who do not consent to participate in testing.	If you are symptom free for 7 days you can test on day 7. If the test is negative you may return on day 8.	If you are identified as a close contact you may get a daily nasal swab (for 10 days after exposure) at the school and if it is negative you may go to school and activities that day.
Tested Positive for Covid-19 in the last 180 days and your 180 days will not end during the quarantine period			

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If both of the involved students wore a mask correctly for the entire duration of the event, which mitigated the exposure risk.			
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*Testing will be available at 8:15 am Monday-Friday when school is in session. Testing will be administered in the Troy Middle School High School Cafeteria.