

RETURN TO SCHOOL

General Guidelines for Families

Kansas Elementary School

PROTECTING OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

The following guidelines are shared with our school communities, including students, families, and staff, in an effort to mitigate the risk of transmission of COVID-19. Over the past several weeks, representatives from all of the district's stakeholder groups, as well as leaders in specialized areas of the school district's service areas, have been researching the constantly evolving literature from the education, medical, and public health sectors. The goal has been to create carefully layered, flexible, and developmentally appropriate practices that will ensure the strongest advice given by the American Academy of Pediatrics: All policy considerations for the coming school year should start with a goal of having students physically present in school. (<https://tinyurl.com/yc4stuh8>)

A host of reasons support this American Academy of Pediatrics recommendation, from the importance of in-person learning to the damage of social isolation; and Kansas Schools is in complete agreement. The truth remains, however, that ensuring this goal will require all of us to work together.

The information presented in this document is shared so that all of our community can begin school with a shared understanding of our responsibility in keeping our students and staff safe from COVID-19. We know we cannot eliminate the virus; but with wise choices, we can mitigate it.

LAYERED MITIGATION PRACTICES

RESPONSE TO ADDITIONAL SYMPTOMS - While many children will present with fever initially, many will not. Other symptoms that may develop initially include the following: chills, cough, headache, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion, runny nose, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. Any of these are cause for keeping a child home from school.

HYGIENE - Handwashing is one of the best means of protection against infection. Students will be reminded to wash their hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing their noses, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating. They will also have access to an alcohol-based hand sanitizer throughout the school building when handwashing opportunities are not readily available.

SOCIAL DISTANCING - While it will be difficult to maintain distance between the students at school, each site will be devising plans to provide for this precaution in the common areas of hallways, classrooms, cafeterias, gyms and buses. All grades will stay in homeroom groups: a schedule will reflect recess, P.E., lunch changes.

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ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL

As students arrive at school in the morning, they will be directed to go to their homerooms. Students will not be gathered in large groups to wait for their school day to begin. **Parents will not be escorting their children into the building. All parents will be asked to remain in their cars and drive through the drop-off line to ensure a safe exit from and entrance into their family vehicles.** While awaiting dismissal, students will be in their classrooms, still following social distancing guidelines by not waiting in large groups. Buses will arrive at 7:50 a.m. and Walk Gate opens at 7:50 – 8:15a.m. Buses will leave at 3:00 p.m. and Walk Gate opens 2:55 p.m. Parents will pick their students up at the Walk Gate instead of coming to the cafeteria.

BREAKFAST & LUNCH

Students will wash hands prior to eating. As much as possible, the children will be seated in the cafeteria in a manner to allow for distancing. Pre-K grade will be eating in their classrooms. Grades k-5 will be eating in the cafeteria at staggered times. When cafeteria space is limited, students will be directed to eat in another area in order to provide for distancing. No guests will be allowed to have lunch on-site as long as the threat of COVID exposure is predominant in the community.

We will provide meal service each day once we start back to school, regardless of being in school buildings or having to do virtual learning. Meals will be able to be picked up similar to the way we did it for the summer meal program if we are forced to go to virtual learning-more details will follow on this. Again, we ask for parental help in this area, as we want all of our students to receive their nutrition during the week.

SNACKS

No class wide snacks will be allowed or distributed at school. Students choosing to bring a snack to school may bring an individually wrapped snack for themselves.

SUPPLIES

Sharing of supplies such as crayons, markers, scissors and pencils will not be allowed. Students will keep their individual supplies separated from those of others in individually labeled containers or cubbies. Any manipulatives needed for instructional purposes will be sanitized prior to use by another student.

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RECESS

Elementary will develop a recess schedule that allows daily outdoor playtime for all students. Recess schedules may vary due to limiting the number of students in any one area.

MASKS FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

FACE COVERINGS - Evidence continues to mount on the role and importance of face coverings in interrupting the spread of COVID-19. The latest indication is that the use of face coverings protects both the wearers and those with whom they come in contact. It is highly recommended that all employees, students and visitors wear a face covering. This can be a cloth mask, a disposable mask or a face shield. The face covering must effectively cover the nose and mouth at the same time. Face masks for elementary students are highly recommended. Masks will be encouraged anytime social distancing is difficult to accomplish; therefore, all students are asked to have a mask available at all times. To the extent possible, schools will promote and reinforce the use of face coverings for all students. We ask that parents prepare your students for this.

- Students with an Individualized Education Plan or Medical situations will be on a case by case basis.
- The wearing of masks is subject to change as directions from governing authorities and health officials respond to new information and developing environmental conditions.

COVID-19 SYMPTOMS AT SCHOOL

POSITIVE COVID-19 CASES

- Students or staff who test positive may return to school after following the CDC guidelines: After 10 days of symptoms AND no fever for three days AND respiratory symptoms have improved OR if no symptoms, they may return after 10 days from a positive test.
- Students and staff are encouraged to wear a mask (if possible) for the remainder of the 14 days.
- While out of school, students will be educated through Distance Learning.

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CONTACT TRACING

- Students and parents/guardians will be notified if it is confirmed their student has been in **close contact** with someone who tests positive for COVID-19.
- It is recommended that the person who is a **close contact** stay home from school and start Distance Learning. This will be following CDC guidelines. They may return to school on day 8 with a negative test result between day 5 & 7. If they choose not to be tested, they can return to school after 10 days from exposure.
- If the person chooses to come to school, he/she will report to the site office in his/her building each day for temperature checks and COVID-19 monitoring protocols through the full 10 days. It will be highly recommended that they wear a mask during this time. If symptoms occur, they will be sent home or asked to stay home and follow the CDC guidelines.
- If someone in your household has COVID-19, you will be asked to stay home and start Distance Learning. Please follow the CDC guidelines.

WATER FOUNTAINS AND RESTROOMS

As school opens, all traditional “bubble up” water fountains will be disconnected. Most schools now have water bottle filling stations; these will remain connected and available to students and faculty. Students and staff are encouraged to bring filled water bottles or other non-breakable water containers to school with them. Student restrooms will be cleaned multiple times throughout the day by the site custodial staff, who will use portable disinfectant foggers to sanitize the areas. Staff restrooms will also be disinfected periodically throughout the school day.

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TRANSPORTATION

The buses will still run a normal schedule, we strongly encourage you to bring your student to school and pick them up each day too. Parents are expected to take their students temperature before getting on the bus. The windows will be kept down while riders are on-weather permitting. Students and staff are encouraged to wear a face covering\mask in school buildings and on school buses. Family groups will be expected to sit with one another. In compliance with Oklahoma senate bill 658, face coverings/masks will not be required without consultation from the Delaware County health department and an emergency declaration for Delaware County by the Governor.

Buses will be cleaned before each route.

CLEANING AND SANITIZING

We will be disinfecting and cleaning even more each day with constant wipe downs of door handles, desks, chairs, computers, etc. There will be daily end of day sanitizing of each classroom, the hallways and cafeterias. We will leave no stone unturned. We will encourage repeated hand washing throughout the day. We also had over sixty (60) hand sanitizing stations added around all the school buildings last fall, even before the pandemic hit. We will have additional sanitizing products in the classrooms and at activities/events.

We also ask if you see an area where you think we could add another layer of precaution and prevention, please call your building administrator and let them know to have that area addressed. We will be listening for additional input as we go along trying to deal with this situation to the best of our ability.

Please let us know how we can help your student get back to being the best student they can be.

Child Nutrition

Our cafeterias will remain open and we will take different measures at each site to promote social distancing. We will incorporate meals in classrooms, have added lunch times, outdoor seating, spreading out tables, staggering seating and other measures as we see fit. There is no one size fits all plan as each site has a different number of students and varying space in cafeterias. We will adjust if needed during the school year.

Site Screenings:

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Staff/Student:

1. Staff will enter each site at a designated point of entry.
2. Face coverings will be available for staff upon request. All staff will be required to wear face-covering while they are in close proximity and working 1:1 with students.
3. Locations will be established to house students who may have symptoms or a temperature of 100 degrees or greater. Students will remain in the quarantined area while parents are notified and schedule a pickup time and location.
4. Cleaning of the location will occur upon the exit of the quarantined staff/student.

The contents of this document are subject to change as directions from governing authorities and health officials respond to new information and developing environmental conditions.