



COVID-19 Health/Safety Actions

USD 470 COVID HEALTH/SAFETY ACTIONS FOR 2021-2022*

*The following information has been taken from the Kansas Covid Workgroup for Kids (KCWK) recommendations for the safe opening and operation of schools and modified for USD 470.

General Health Safety Actions for staff and students.

- Continued testing, tracking and contact tracing by designated school health care staff in conjunction with Cowley County Health Department (CCHD)
 - Use of COVID tracing spreadsheet to ensure that COVID cases and contacts are accurately listed
 - Encourage students and staff with symptoms of COVID or close contacts to be tested
 - School testing and screening programs for those with symptoms, exposure, individuals participating in high-risk sports and activities, unvaccinated students and staff if there is increased community transmission
 - Cooperate with CCHD and state health authorities on isolation and quarantine policy
- Stay home when sick
 - Educate and send regular reminders to staff and students families about when they should stay home due to illness and when they can return to school
 - Staff members that have COVID symptoms should inform their administration and/or school nurse and arrange for school based test/testing at their healthcare provider
- Promote hand-hygiene and respiratory etiquette practices
 - Regular hand washing breaks and reminders on effective hand washing (i. Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds ii. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap is not readily available)
 - Make hand sanitizer readily available

- Hand hygiene visual cues (posters) visible around school buildings
- Teach and reinforce respiratory etiquette to decrease spread of viruses from coughing and sneezing (i.e. cough into your elbow, wash hands after using a tissue, etc)
- Encourage mask wearing for staff and students
 - Although masks may not be required, they are strongly encouraged for students and staff when indoors and when unable to physically distance
 - Masks have assisted in reducing the spread of COVID in communities and schools as well as other respiratory viruses such as influenza and RSV
 - Encourage correct mask wearing in staff and students
 - Reminder that the majority of students and some staff are not vaccinated and masks are strongly recommended by CDC and KDHE for unvaccinated individuals
 - Masks WILL be mandatory if a student or staff member exhibits COVID like symptoms until the student/staff member is no longer on school property
 - Mask requirements are subject to change based on community and school transmission and in line with recommendations from state and local health authorities
- Vaccinations
 - Encourage and educate staff, students and their families to get vaccinated (unless medically contraindicated) and facilitate vaccination clinics for staff/students who would like to be immunized with local health department and healthcare clinics
 - Students under 12 currently do not qualify for COVID vaccination and current COVID vaccine rates in children and adults in Kansas communities remain lower than necessary to achieve herd immunity
 - Build a list of vaccinated staff members and encourage students who are vaccinated to inform school nurse for recording of vaccination
 - Encourage staff and students to receive flu shot for the current year
 - Work with local primary care physicians, pharmacies, immediate care clinics, and other vaccination providers to keep up to date student immunization records.
- Continued quarantine of COVID positive staff and students and their contacts (if unvaccinated)
 - Current modified quarantine and isolation guidelines (test and return before 10 days of isolation) are based on low risk exposures to COVID and when students and staff are distanced and masked
 - Loosening mask requirements for students and staff could mean increased quarantine periods and increased transmission of COVID especially for unvaccinated
- Continue efforts to physically distance students

- Maintain at least three feet of distances between students in classrooms
- Assigned seating arrangements in classrooms and cafeteria
- Staggering student meal-times to reduce exposure
- Encourage outdoor time where students can have mask breaks
- Cleaning and disinfecting
 - Maintain increased cleaning and disinfecting as developed for 2020/21 school year
- Ventilation
 - Maintain modification and upgrades to ventilation as developed for 2020/21 school year
 - Health office air purifiers should be used daily
- Water fountains
 - Utilize alternatives to public water fountains for providing access to drinking water to students and staff
 - Continue to use personal reusable water bottles with bottle filling stations around the school instead of fountains
 - Consider school water bottle for each student with extras in health offices