

# USD 422 COVID-19 Protocol

## USD 422 Plan for Return to Safe In-Person Instruction

### & Continuity of Services for the 2021-22 school year

*Approved by the USD 422 Board of Education on January 10, 2022.*

This plan may change and evolve as the 2021-22 school year progresses.

***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.**

We will use a variety of factors to determine if masks are necessary for any of our students or staff. Decisions for mandating masks will be made by a vote of the USD 422 Board of Education with input from administration, local doctors, our district Covid gating team and CDC/KDHE guidance.

No student or staff member will be prohibited from wearing a mask if they feel it is needed for health reasons.

In accordance with federal mandates, masks will be strongly recommended in all school transportation vehicles that contain more than one person.

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

The superintendent will monitor the covid positivity rate and number of positive cases in our district to make decisions on implementing physical distancing.

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

Students will wash hands before lunch and will use hand sanitizer on a regular basis throughout the day. Hand sanitizer stations will be maintained at every exterior door where students and staff regularly enter and exit. Sanitizer stations will also be set up at lunch lines for additional opportunities to sanitize. All classrooms will be continually stocked with a minimum of 1 or more sanitizer dispensers that are easily available to students in each classroom.

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

Desks will be cleaned daily in elementary classrooms and between class periods in the junior and senior high classrooms. High touch surfaces such as doorknobs, water fountains, and handrails will be wiped down throughout the day by custodial staff. Air purification systems will

be utilized in “high traffic areas” as well as classrooms when possible. Fresh air intakes will be opened on applicable HVAC units to maximize ventilation.

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

The district will follow quarantine and isolation directives with guidance from the Covid Gating team and USD 422 school board. In the event of a positive case of COVID-19, our school nurse will conduct contact tracing and those determined to be a close contact will be notified to monitor for and immediately report symptoms. Close contacts (those considered to be within 6 feet or less for 10 minutes or more) will be determined through contact tracing. Close contacts may participate in test to stay or quarantine if they choose to do so but will not be required to do either. Should a “close contact” become symptomatic at any point in the 7 days following exposure or miss school due to illness during this time we will strongly encourage that individual to have a Covid test prior to returning to normal school activity.

Those students within 6 feet of the positive case will be notified about the possible transmission of COVID-19. These students will be asked to watch for symptoms. They are encouraged to follow the Test-to-Stay procedure.

If there is a positive case within the household, all negative and asymptomatic students within the home will have the option to test to stay for five days. If this is not an ideal option for the student then they must quarantine for five days and will be strongly encouraged to wear a mask for five days upon returning to school.

Students with a positive household contact that have been considered fully vaccinated and/or have received their booster within the past six months as well as students that have been medically confirmed Covid positive (meaning not with a home test) will not be required to quarantine or test to stay but will be asked to monitor for symptoms.

**Diagnostic and screening testing.**

USD 422 is a state recognized testing location.

**(F) Efforts To Provide Vaccinations To School Communities.**

We will continue to make our students and staff aware of opportunities to be vaccinated in our community.

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

We will work with our special education staff to ensure that our special education students have full access to appropriate educational support even if we are forced to alter the instructional delivery model.

**(H) Coordination with State and local health officials.**

The superintendent and the school nurse will continue to monitor information available from KSDE and KDHE to ensure that the district is ready for statewide changes to policies or recommendations. The superintendent will also communicate with the Covid Gating team on a regular basis to monitor the current situation in the county and district.

**Part II.**

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

**(A) services to address students' academic needs**

Using ESSER funds we have improved our ability to deliver remote instruction. In the event of a widespread breakout the district will consider the use of either a hybrid plan to minimize cross class interactions and could consider the use of remote learning if the situation requires.

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

Using ESSER funds the district will continue to employ a school nurse to help students and their families deal with the stresses of the pandemic through telemedicine and facilitating services with the area mental health center.

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

The district has contingency plans and materials for quickly changing to grab and go meals if a shutdown is required. The district will continue to employ a full-time school nurse to conduct contract tracing, screening, etc. along with meeting the day-to-day health and emotional needs of our students.

American Rescue Plan Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

Updated January 10, 2022

Updated BOE approved January 10, 2022