

# USD 266 COVID Mitigation Guidelines 2021-2022

Adopted: April 11, 2022

Effective April 11, 2022, Maize USD 266 has adopted the following guidelines. However, changes to these guidelines may be implemented as new data, information, or regulations are updated.

## Safety precautions

- Follow local, state, and federal required mitigation requirements.
- Current local health department guidelines regarding positive COVID cases, close contacts, and quarantines will be followed as deemed necessary by the Maize Board of Education or designee.
- The district strongly encourages all unvaccinated students and employees to wear face masks when social distancing is not possible. The district has youth and adult masks in stock for those who want them. Staff members who work in close proximity to students who are medically fragile may be administratively required to wear masks when working directly with the student(s) deemed medically fragile.
- Special considerations regarding accommodations to account for vulnerable student populations, including but not limited to those who are medically fragile, have significant developmental challenges, have special health care needs and/or significant disabilities will be made. Special considerations may include, but are not necessarily limited to the use of personal protective equipment and safety protocols, configuration of the educational environment, development of specialized schedules and routines, adjustments to instructional materials, and the training of school personnel.
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) is an important way for staff members to protect themselves and students from COVID-19. However, the use of PPE may not be feasible for some students with special needs. School personnel should consult with administration regarding alternative PPE options and, as necessary, consult with school and local health practitioners regarding appropriate alternatives.
  - In some instances, the 504 and/or IEP team may need to meet to further consider and address any accommodations and/or modifications to match PPE to a student's individual needs.
  - Any decision to not use PPE should remain under review, and alternative strategies encouraging the introduction (explanation, instruction, and desensitization) and utilization of appropriate PPE should be addressed.
  - In addition, the 504 and/or IEP team should, as necessary, consider any services and supports required to assist with social distancing protocols and the increase in hygiene routines such as handwashing.
- As approved by the Maize Board of Education on Sept. 7, all students and staff members will follow [the Kansas State High School Activities Association \(KSHSAA\)'s COVID-19 Student-Athlete Return to Participation Guidelines, which can be found by clicking here.](#)
- Maintain social distancing in all spaces to the greatest extent possible while maximizing instructional opportunities.
- Vaccinations are strongly encouraged but not required for those who are eligible. Employees who have not been vaccinated and work in close proximity to students, including but not limited to teachers, paraprofessionals, administrators, secretaries, and bus drivers, will be encouraged to wear a mask while at work.
- Any individual (student or staff) who is infected with a communicable disease, including COVID-19, is required to be excluded from school or work for the time period consistent

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with communicable disease policy and statutory requirements. This is considered an isolation.

- Remain at home for 5 full days (symptom onset day 0)
- If after 5 days the person is fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications AND they have no symptoms or their symptoms are resolving, they can return to work or school but must wear a well-fitting mask at all times for an additional 5 days. They cannot take their mask off while at school, so they cannot participate in activities where a mask cannot be worn and would need to be separated from other students to eat meals. This includes employees.
  - If their symptoms are not resolving or they still have a fever after 5 days, they would remain at home in isolation until their symptoms were resolving and they were fever-free for 24 hours without medication.
  - Those with proof of a current negative test on any day of their abbreviated isolation period may remove their face mask at work/school. Tests must be clinical and not home tests.
- All individuals, vaccinated or unvaccinated, who are symptomatic and have an exposure to COVID-19 should consult with their physician, seek testing, and wear a mask when around others. Students or employees who have COVID test results pending due to symptoms or suspected exposure should stay home and wait for results. Individuals who are exposed to COVID-19 and are ordered to quarantine by Sedgwick County Health Department (SCHD) will be excluded from school.
- All students and employees are expected to stay at home when sick or symptomatic following a potential COVID-19 exposure.
- Students or employees potentially exposed to a positive case should consider one of two options to protect themselves and others from exposure:
  - Exclusion for 7 days but return to school or work on the 8th day of exclusion with a negative PCR test taken on the 6th day from the potential exposure
  - A daily negative COVID test and no present symptoms for 7 consecutive days from the close contact. Those choosing this option should wear a face mask in school and during school activities throughout the 7-day period.
  - **Exception:** Employees or students who are household contacts of a positive case will continue to be considered a high-risk close contact. Students or staff members who are able to remain isolated from the household case may only attend school following one of the two testing and symptom-monitoring options listed above. Those unable to remain isolated from the household positive case will need to stay home for 10 days and then come to school masked and complete 7 days of testing.
- The district will continue to monitor recommendations from the Sedgwick County Health Department (SCHD), Kansas COVID Workgroup for Kids, Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The utilization of federal stimulus funds, a full-time COVID-19 Coordinator, and additional support staff will be hired for the 2021-2022 school year.

## Voluntary Testing Program

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) is offering a voluntary testing program for school districts with the goal of keeping staff and students in the classroom throughout the school year by guarding against COVID-19 outbreaks and managing positive cases. The district will assign one staff member who will coordinate the onsite program in conjunction with the Wichita State University Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory (MDL), funded by KDHE.

- **Voluntary Symptomatic Testing** - MDL, in coordination with the state's testing program, will provide individualized PCR testing of nasal or saliva specimens for persons who are presenting symptoms of COVID-19. The free onsite test would be voluntary and provide convenience for staff and students without having to schedule an offsite test to determine if they have the virus. PCR testing is more sensitive than antigen testing and can identify cases in the early stages of infection prior to transmission occurring.
- **Voluntary Testing after Exposure** - Access to testing is important for students and staff who are exposed to a person with COVID-19. Because COVID-19 has overlapping symptoms with many other respiratory viruses, differentiation between COVID-19 and other viruses is more difficult when voluntary testing is not available. Access to testing after exposure is helpful so that students and staff can stay in or return to in-person school as quickly as possible. MDL will help implement county guidelines for post exposure testing.

The voluntary program includes test materials, trained test personnel, specimen transport and processing, safe disposal of medical waste, and fully compliant results reporting. Turnaround time for test results is 24-48 hours, with most results available in less than 24 hours.

## **Healthy schools**

- Enhanced cleaning efforts will continue throughout the district. Disinfecting wipes and hand sanitizer will be available.
- Maintain maximum ventilation practices with HVAC, windows/doors, and use of outdoor instruction.
- Students and employees are encouraged to use bottle fillers provided in all school buildings.
- Regular hand washing and/or sanitizing will be encouraged and education will continue.
- Indoor classroom celebration parties and similar activities where a large number of visitors are expected will be prohibited.

## **Caring employees**

- USD 266 will continue to collect vaccination information from families in accordance with district policy and state law. If families provide verification of voluntary COVID-19 vaccination, the information will be recorded. Individuals will not be excluded based solely on COVID-19 vaccination status. As with all communicable diseases, vaccination information may be used when making exclusion decisions. The district will, at times, partner with outside agencies to provide space for voluntary vaccination clinics.
- District health staff will monitor student and employee COVID cases.
- Staff are expected to self-monitor for COVID symptoms.

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- Encourage COVID testing and provide it for students and staff to the fullest extent possible.

## **Student support**

- Transportation will resume as close to normal as staffing will allow. Face mask requirements on school buses should match or exceed classroom mask requirements unless there are mask regulations governing school buses that are more restrictive.
- Additional staff, training, and other supports will be added/implemented throughout the school year to support academic loss and social-emotional issues.
- School personnel will utilize progress monitoring data to determine if consideration of amendment to special education and/or related services is warranted.
- All students will be eligible to receive one free breakfast and one free lunch each day during the 2021-2022 school year through the USDA free-lunch program.
- Students who must learn from home for brief periods due to illness and/or quarantine and have difficulty accessing the internet may be eligible for low-cost service through a local provider or use district-issued hot spots. Technology staff has been dedicated to provide necessary assistance.
- The Board of Education can only authorize 40 hours of remote learning in a school year. The Kansas State Board of Education can authorize up to 240 hours in some circumstances. The Board of Education may approve remote learning for an individual student on a student-by-student basis for extenuating circumstances.
- Routine mask breaks will be provided for students who are required to wear masks. Mask breaks will be outdoors when possible.
- Efforts will be made to ensure that students developing early literacy skills and speech-language skills are able to see proper formation of letters and sounds. Specialized PPE may include clear face masks, clear face shields, and plexi-glass sneeze guards.

## **Flexibility & feedback**

- Adjustments may be necessary due to updated regulatory guidelines, positive COVID case trends, or other unforeseen circumstances.
- The USD 266 school-community will be updated regarding modification to these guidelines.