

## USD 262 Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

**\*\*This plan is subject to modification as conditions warrant\*\***

### **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.**

Beginning Tuesday, September 14, 2021, masks will be required of all individuals, regardless of vaccination status, while inside a USD 262 Valley Center Public School building during the school day when six percent (6%) or greater of that school's staff or student populations are considered COVID-19 impacted (positive case or high-risk contact). This requirement extends to students and staff participating in athletics, fine arts, and physical education classes, practices, rehearsals unless students are actively exercising, rehearsing, or performing.

Masks are required for 14 days of all individuals, regardless of vaccination status, who are contacts of cluster-associated cases as identified by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and/or the Sedgwick County Health Department.

Masks are required for drivers and passengers, regardless of vaccination status, on district vehicles while transporting students. (see 42 USC 264a 42 CFR 70.2, 71.31(b), and 71.32(b) )

Masks must be worn by non-USD 262 employees and students, regardless of vaccination status, when visiting a USD 262 school building during the school day. In district buildings that are not schools, visitors will be required to wear masks when distancing cannot be maintained. Masks will be made available upon check-in for those who do not have one.

Examples of appropriate masks are non-medical disposable masks or cloth masks that have two or more layers, fit properly, and do not have inner filter pockets or exhalation valves/vents.

Students and staff may be exempt from the requirement based on disability or a signed, medical exemption from a medical provider (MD, DO, ARNP, PA).

Based upon information from the Sedgwick County Health Department (SCHD), school-based situations involving multiple positive cases, significant changes to the positive percentage rates in the area, or upon any mandates of the CDC, state, local, and/or county health officials, USD 262 may put into effect additional masking guidelines and/or requirements.

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

To the extent possible, distancing measures will be followed, and student groups will be assigned seating in classrooms, during lunch, and on transportation to the reduce the number of others who may be exposed.

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

Frequent handwashing/sanitizing is important. Sanitization stations are placed throughout the schools. Students will be reminded of the importance of handwashing/sanitizing. Sneezes and coughs should be covered with a tissue or elbow.

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

Enhanced cleaning protocols will occur in district facilities and on school buses. High-touch areas will be wiped down periodically throughout the day. The district will continue to improve ventilation in buildings with strategic HVAC settings which include increased outside air flow.

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

USD 262 will continue to work with and follow the guidelines and requirements of Sedgwick County Health Department. Low risk and high-risk contacts will be identified and the appropriate protocols followed for each. ( [Protocol Chart](#) )

**(F) Diagnostic and screening testing.**

The district will provide diagnostic testing for those staff and students experiencing Covid-like symptoms, following an exposure, and/or to reduce time away from school or work. Periodic screening tests may also occur.

**(G) Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities.**

USD 262 will continue to partner with local resources to assist with vaccination efforts as appropriate.

Although a person's vaccination status may affect time away from school or work if exposed to a case, USD 262 will not use vaccination status for other purposes such as access to programs, employment, or other opportunities.

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

USD 262 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.**

USD 262 personnel will continue to participate with state and local county health professionals and/or agencies on a frequent basis to determine appropriate means to help maintain the health and safety of our staff, students, and community.

## **Part II.**

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

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

USD 262 plans to continue full time, in-person instruction to begin the 2021 school year. Families may contact their students' building administrator to learn of options for virtual learning programs. Supplemental learning opportunities may be provided throughout the school year before, during, and after school to assist those students who may need the additional support.

ESSER funds have been utilized to provide additional personnel, technology, and additional supports for addressing our students' academic needs.

Current State Statute limits remote learning during the 2021-2022 school year. When students miss school due to illness, school exclusions, or other reasons, their teacher(s) will work with them to address learning while absent.

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

The social and emotional learning needs of our students and staff remains a priority. We will continue to utilize the Hornet Care Team, comprised of district mental health liaisons, school personnel, and local mental health services, in order to provide a coordinated approach to support our students and families.

USD 262 staff are provided social and emotional supports through an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) provider.

ESSER funds have also helped provide additional personnel and supports.

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

Free meals will be provided to all students. Contingency plans are in place to provide meals should schools be forced to close due to emergency closures.

Should grant-funding be approved, the district will continue to provide our students and staff with family-medicine type health services at the School Based Health Clinic, located at VCHS.