



**Riverton Unified School District No. 404
COVID-19 Exposure Mitigation & Reopening Guidelines
2022-2023 School Year - Version 2.1 (Revised 04-03-2023)**

General Operations Statement

We are asking all school district personnel and students to help with our prevention efforts while at work/school. In order to minimize the spread of COVID-19 at our schools, we all must play our part. As set forth below, the school district has instituted various housekeeping, social distancing, and other best practices at our schools. Employees, students, parents, and visitors are asked to follow these guidelines.

Safely operating in our communities and in our schools requires an accumulation of small, individual choices that we all make to responsibly address the physical, social, and emotional wellness of ourselves and our community.

Habits of healthy choices may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Self-monitoring physical indicators of wellness
- Social distancing when possible and where appropriate
- Wearing a mask or other face covering when necessary
- Responsible hygiene practices such as coughing or sneezing into the elbow, frequent handwashing, and the use of hand sanitizer.

Employees are expected to report to their principals or direct supervisor if they are experiencing signs or symptoms of COVID-19, as described below. If you have a specific questions about these guidelines or COVID-19, please ask your principal or direct supervisor.

Objective

To promote conditions that allow for a positive in-person learning experience for all students.

Overview

The following guidelines will be in place for onsite In-Person Learning and Continuity of Services at Riverton USD 404. The health and wellness of our students, staff, and patrons will remain the priority as we begin the 2022-2023 school year. Knowing that 100% risk-elimination is not possible, several protocols have been put in place to reduce the risk of virus transmission so schools can remain open for students and parents. However, any human interaction carries with it some degree of risk of virus transmission.

Information provided by the Cherokee County Health Department, the Kansas State Department of Education, the Kansas Department of Health, and the Centers for Disease Control will guide the decisions of district and building leaders throughout the 2022-2023 school year. With this in mind, the **practices outlined in this document may be updated or changed as new information becomes available.**

Part I. Maintaining the Health and Safety of Students, Staff, and Visitors

A. Universal and Correct Wearing of Masks

Our school district has removed the mask mandate based on vaccination rates and infection rates for the school. Masks are still recommended for unvaccinated individuals and unvaccinated groups, however, they are not required.

Based on consultation with state and local health authorities, we may adopt reasonable safety measures to protect the safety of district personnel, students, and visitors during school-related activities. Reasonable safety measures may include, but may not be limited to, cleaning and sanitization plans, use of physical safeguards and barriers, and the use of personal protective equipment (PPE). Exceptions to any requirements may be granted as required by law, state, county, and/or local health officials, and on a case-by-case basis. We will continue to monitor national, state, and local government and health agency mandates, guidance, and recommendations as well.

Lastly, the district will train students and staff in the proper wearing of personal protective equipment as needed.

B. Modifications to Allow for Physical Distancing

When and where possible, social distancing practices may be utilized. Efforts will be made to maintain classroom seating with a minimum of 3 feet of social distancing between students and between students and staff for the 2022-2023 school year. Should the need arise, considerations may be made for cohorts or podding to the extent possible.

C. Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette will continue to be taught to students with emphasis and practice protocols rehearsed more frequently in the primary grade levels. Signage will continue to be posted throughout our buildings as reminders of handwashing and respiratory etiquette. In addition, hand sanitizing stations and liquids will continue to be made available for use in all classrooms.

D. Cleaning and Maintaining Facilities (Including Improved Ventilation)

Custodial staff will continue to follow cleaning protocols and procedures. Cleaning of high traffic and high contact surfaces using cleaning solutions rated to eliminate the COVID-19 virus will remain a priority. Likewise, school district personnel will continue to monitor ventilation efficiency and effectiveness for opportunities to continually improve air quality.

E. Contact Tracing, Isolation and Quarantine

Appropriate school district personnel will work with state and local health officials to properly address any need for contact tracing and/or quarantines as a result of testing and/or exposure to COVID-19.

F. Diagnostic Screening and Vaccinations

Students, staff, and community members can access COVID-19 diagnostic screening tests and vaccinations through a variety of community partners. Specifically, the school district will work in conjunction with the CCHD and Community Health Clinics of Southeast Kansas to ensure access to testing and vaccinations for those who qualify or need such services. The District will not refuse, withhold from, or deny a person any services, goods, facilities, advantages, privileges, licensing, educational opportunities, health care access, or employment opportunities based on the person's COVID-19 vaccination status.

It is a goal of the school district to offer and maintain a "Test to Stay and Learn" program during the 2022-2023 school year in order to keep students healthy and in school learning. All protocols associated with this testing program will be managed by the school nurse and in consultation with KDHE and the CCHD.

G. Accommodations for Children with Disabilities (Health and Safety Policies)

Our district 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).

H. Coordination with State and Local Health Officials

Applicable district personnel currently participate, and will continue to participate, with our local county health department and/or agencies on a frequent basis to determine next steps as needed.

Part II. Continuity of Services

A. Services to Address Students' Academic Needs

Our district has implemented a summer learning program to assist students with academic recovery and at the present time, the school district plans to return to full time, in-person instruction in August. Where possible, specialists, paraeducators, and educational consultants

will be available and utilized during the instructional day and/or in before or after-school programs.

B. Student and Staff Social, Emotional, Mental Health

Our district has K-12 staff to monitor and address the social and emotional learning needs of our students. We will continue to partner with social workers and local mental health services with the goal of helping students and families overcome obstacles with connecting to school.

C. Student Health and Food Service

During the last two years, pandemic child nutrition waivers have been utilized to provide free meals to all students at school. On March 10, 2022, the US Senate passed the Omnibus Appropriations bill, which DID NOT extend these waivers. As a result, the waivers expired on June 30, 2022. This action will reinstate the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs for the 2022-2023 school year. Families who feel they may qualify for free or reduced price meals are encouraged to complete the [Application for Free and Reduced Price Meals](#).

Part III. More Specified Guidelines and Protocols

A. School Calendar

At this time the school calendar remains the same as adopted by the Riverton USD 404 Board of Education. The first day of student attendance will be Wednesday, August 17, 2022.

Likewise, school hours will remain the same. These items could change if the school district experiences an outbreak of illness or a high number of school closures due to weather.

B. Student/Staff Responsibilities (Students and staff are encouraged to...)

- Frequently wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. When soap and running water are unavailable, use an alcohol-based hand rub with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands that are visibly soiled.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Employees or Students who have symptoms (i.e., fever, cough, or shortness of breath) should notify their school and stay home—DO NOT GO TO SCHOOL.

C. Visitors

- The number of visitors to the schools, including the offices, may be limited based on consultation with the Cherokee County Health Department (CCHD).
- Any and all masking requirements and/or temperature checks will be based on ongoing consultation with the CCHD.

D. Points of Entry to School Buildings

- Access to the school buildings will be limited to entrances as designated by the building principal.

E. Cleaning & Disinfecting

The District has instituted regular housekeeping practices, which includes cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces, devices and equipment, and other elements of the work environment, where possible. Employees should regularly do the same in their assigned work areas.

- Classrooms and break/lunchroom areas will be cleaned at least once per day.
- While building level custodial staff will assist in cleaning, it is the responsibility of everyone to help disinfect between classes and activities.
- Vehicles, buses and equipment/tools should be cleaned at least once per day and before change in operator or rider.
- Any disinfection shall be conducted using one of the following:
 - Common EPA-registered household disinfectant
 - Alcohol solution with at least 60% alcohol

F. Transportation / Riding the School Bus

Procedures and practices will be based on continual evaluation of CDC and KDHE recommendations as well as consultation with the CCHD and may include the following:

- Encouraging parents to transport their children.
- Pre-ride health screening that may include temperature checks.
- Efforts to limit students to two to a seat.
- Seating family members together while riding the bus.
- Seating students based on pick up order and/or assigned seating.

G. Arrival and Drop-Off

Procedures and practices will be based on continual evaluation of CDC and KDHE recommendations as well as consultation with the CCHD and may include the following:

- Strategies to ensure social distancing as appropriate during and upon arrival to school.
- Screening for symptoms of illness, which may include temperature checks.

H. Dismissal and Pick-up

Procedures and practices will be based on continual evaluation of CDC and KDHE recommendations as well as consultation with the CCHD and may include the following:

- Modified procedures for parents/guardians at pick-up to avoid gatherings in the school lobby/hallways or in front of the school.
- Social distancing guidelines so as to limit congregating during and after dismissal.

I. Classrooms

Procedures and practices will be based on continual evaluation of CDC and KDHE recommendations as well as consultation with the CCHD and may include the following:

- Assigned seats that maintain social/physical distancing standards to the extent possible.
- Utilization of outdoor spaces when possible and/or appropriate.
- Limited sharing of classroom supplies.
- Use of hand sanitizer or washing hands when entering and exiting the classroom.
- Limited use of lockers as determined by building level principals.

J. Technology / Instructional Equipment

Procedures and practices will be based on continual evaluation of CDC and KDHE recommendations as well as consultation with the CCHD and may include the following:

- Limiting the number of students using each device.
- Cleaning and sanitizing of devices and/or equipment between uses.
- In classrooms where devices/equipment are located in fixed locations such as a lab setting, students should consider sanitizing both before and after use.

K. Transitions

Procedures and practices will be based on continual evaluation of CDC and KDHE recommendations as well as consultation with the CCHD and may include the following:

- Modifications to transitions between classes, lunch, recess, etc. to minimize and avoid mixing of groups of students

L. Recess

Procedures and practices will be based on continual evaluation of CDC and KDHE recommendations as well as consultation with the CCHD and may include the following:

- Recess times may be staggered to limit the number of classes on the playground.
- Use of hand sanitizer and/or washing of hands with soap and water before and after recess.
- Staff monitoring for social/physical distancing.
- Disinfecting commonly touched playground equipment between groups of students when feasible and/or deemed appropriate.

M. Breakfast and Lunch

Procedures and practices will be based on continual evaluation of CDC and KDHE recommendations as well as consultation with the CCHD and may include the following:

- Use of hand sanitizer and/or washing hands prior to eating
- Use of disposable packaging and utensils
- Pre-assembled meals
- Touchless check-out
- Limited or no use of microwave ovens
- Use of additional school spaces to provide for appropriate social distancing

N. Use of Water Fountains/Bottle Filling Stations

- Water fountains have been returned to full service and will be cleaned on a daily basis.
- The great majority of school district water fountains include access to a bottle filling station. As such, students are encouraged to use a personal water bottle when possible.
- In some instances, individual school buildings may have the ability to provide a free water bottle to students who have a need.

O. Crisis Response & Drills

- Intruder, fire, and storm drills will occur with attention paid to social distancing.

P. Periodic School Closures

- The District will continually monitor COVID 19 cases and will work with the Cherokee County Health Department when reviewing the level of localized virus spread.
- When conditions and/or circumstances related to localized virus spread require quarantine or closures, Riverton USD 404 officials, in cooperation with the county health officials, will quarantine individuals and/or close classes, or buildings for a specified period of time. Students and families will be informed of the closure and students will access remote learning for the time the site is closed.

Q. Virtual Education and Eligibility for Activities

- KSHSAA guidelines regarding “bona fide student in good standing” will be followed for all student activities
- Students who choose a virtual learning option will NOT be allowed to participate in KSHSAA activities.

R. Student Illness

- Students who are ill or experiencing COVID-related symptoms should not report to school and should notify the school.
- If students become ill after arriving at school, students will be isolated from others (Masks may be used if needed in efforts to isolate) and sent home immediately. Parents should make arrangements to pick up students from the health office as soon as possible to avoid prolonged exposure.
- Students who exhibit symptoms of COVID 19 should contact their health provider for additional instructions.
- Unless otherwise cleared to return to school by a doctor, the student must remain at home until he or she is symptom free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing or other symptom-altering medicines.
- Students who have been tested and are awaiting results should remain isolated at home until the results are received.

S. Staff Members Health and Safety Precautions

- Prior to reporting to work daily, employees should self-assess their health and not report to work if they have a temperature more than 100.4 degrees, feel sick or have COVID 19 symptoms.
- Staff members who exhibit symptoms of COVID 19 will be asked to leave the attendance center, return home and should contact their health provider for additional instructions.
- Unless otherwise cleared to return to school by a doctor, the employee must remain at home until he or she is symptom free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing or other symptom-altering medicines.
- Employees who have been tested and are awaiting results should remain isolated at home until the results are received.
- The district will provide facial coverings or employees may wear their own. Employees may wear gloves, however, handwashing or use of hand sanitizer is strongly advised.

Part IV. Protocols for Students and Staff who Test Positive

What is COVID-19?

The novel coronavirus, COVID-19 is one of seven types of known human coronaviruses. COVID-19, like the MERS and SARS coronaviruses, likely evolved from a virus previously found in animals. The remaining known coronaviruses cause a significant percentage of colds in adults and children, and these are not a serious threat for otherwise healthy adults.

Patients with confirmed COVID-19 infection have reportedly had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms such as fever, cough, and shortness of breath.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”), Chinese authorities identified an outbreak caused by a novel—or new—coronavirus. The virus can cause mild to severe respiratory illness. The outbreak began in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China, and has spread to a growing number of other countries—including the United States.

How is COVID-19 Spread?

COVID-19, like other viruses, can spread between people. Infected people can spread COVID-19 through their respiratory secretions, especially when they cough or sneeze. According to the CDC, spread from person-to-person is most likely among close contacts (about 6 feet). Person-to-person spread is thought to occur mainly via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes, like how influenza and other respiratory pathogens spread. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. It is currently unclear if a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes.

Symptoms of COVID-19

- Persistent Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fever of 100.4 degrees or higher
- Chills, repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell
- Runny nose or congestion
- Other flu-like symptoms, such as nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.

If you develop a fever and symptoms of respiratory illness, such as cough or shortness of breath, DO NOT GO TO WORK and call your healthcare provider right away. Likewise, if you come into close contact with someone showing these symptoms, call your healthcare provider right away.

Protocol for Students or Staff Who Test Positive

- Students/teachers/staff who test positive for COVID-19 should stay home for at least 5 days and be fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication before leaving home (minimum 5-day home isolation). After that, they may resume normal activities but should wear a high-quality, well-fitting mask indoors at home and in public while around others for an additional 5 days. If a mask cannot or will not be worn, isolation for 10 days may be recommended.
- Students and staff who have tested positive should consult with the school nurse and/or their healthcare provider for additional recommendations for a healthy return to school and/or work.

Communication Protocol for Students or Staff Who Tests Positive

Procedures and practices will be based on continual evaluation of CDC and KDHE recommendations as well as consultation with the CCHD and may include the following:

- Depending on circumstances, school officials may notify parents and staff regarding known positive cases of students and staff. If deemed necessary, all notifications will be done in accordance to applicable law.
- Except for circumstances in which the District is legally required to report workplace occurrences of communicable disease, the confidentiality of all medical conditions will be maintained in accordance with applicable law and to the extent practical under the circumstances. When it is required, the number of persons who will be informed of an employee's condition will be kept at the minimum needed not only to comply with legally-required reporting, but also to assure proper care of the employee and to detect situations where the potential for transmission may increase. The District reserves the right to inform other employees that a co-worker (without disclosing the person's name) has been diagnosed with COVID-19 if the other employees might have been exposed to the disease so the employees may take measures to protect their own health.