

USD 108 Safe Return to School Plan for In-Person Instruction and Continued Services

While USD 108 did not have a disruption in school services and our students attended all of the 2020-21 school year on-site (with some quarantined episodes periodically), ALL districts in the nation are required to post the following safe return to school plan.

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:

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.

If needed, 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 continue to train students and staff in the proper wearing of personal protective equipment as needed, and we will post signage outlining the proper wearing of personal protective equipment as needed.

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

Where possible, social distancing practices will 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 2021-2022 school year. Considerations will be made for cohort groups if needed.

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 healthy facilities, including improving ventilation.

Custodial staff have been and will continue to follow specific cleaning protocols and procedures. We will continue to consider assignments/reassignments to applicable custodial shifts in order to continually clean high traffic and high contact surfaces. Our district will continue to use cleaning solutions that are rated to eliminate the COVID-19 virus. We will continue to monitor ventilation efficiency and effectiveness for opportunities to continually improve air quality.

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

Our district employs a school nurse - Lisa Ouellette - who works in conjunction with our Washington County Health Department and the local doctors to determine when and if any students or staff should be quarantined because of exposure to COVID 19 viruses. Nurse Lisa will complete all contact tracing documentation and efforts. The school nurse will continue to work with the administrators and will contact individuals who have been in close contact with

a person who has tested positive for COVID and recommend that those individuals follow current quarantine/self-isolation guidelines and recommendations.

F. Diagnostic and screening testing.

Students, staff, and community members can access COVID-19 diagnostic or screening tests through a variety of community partners. Nurse Lisa will continue to monitor for symptoms, trends, and clusters, and request that students and staff seek medical services as appropriate.

G. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities.

USD 108 will participate and partner with vaccination efforts in accordance with state and federal law for staff and eligible student groups. 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.

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

USD 108 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.

District and school 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

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

A. Services to address students' academic needs

USD 108 has implemented a summer learning program to assist students with academic recovery. Our district plans to continue full time, in-person instruction on August 18, 2021. Additional instructional personnel have been added or reassigned where possible to implement further academic recovery efforts in core curriculum areas. Where possible, specialists, paraeducators, and educational consultants will be available and utilized during the instructional day, on professional development days, and/or during before and after school tutoring programs throughout the year to support students.

B. Students' and staff social, emotional, mental health

USD 108 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. USD 108 has a secondary counselor and we have added an elementary counselor to assist with this process.

USD 108 has provided staff with opportunities for social and emotional supports through our district's participation with an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) provider. Staff social and emotional wellness and mental health are also considered in district communications and staff committees.

C. Other needs, which may include student health and food services.

Free meals will be made available for all children ages 1-18 this summer and for children in grades K-12 during the 2021-2022 school year. Families may also be in contact with their child's school for any other health or food service needs.