

Plan for Safe Return, In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Meade USD 226 – 2021-22 – Board Revised/Approved 8/30/2021

Part I: Health and Safety of Students and Staff

(A) Masks will not be required in any Meade USD 226 facilities, but are encouraged for those who are not fully vaccinated. Mask wearing will be optional for students, staff, and patrons. For those that choose this option, per CDC guidelines, masks are to be worn correctly and should completely cover both the nose and the mouth. The wearing of masks will be optional on all district transportation vehicles unless superseded by federal mandates. The board of education has the authority to reinstate the wearing of masks if COVID-19 cases increase significantly. The change in the mask mandate is only effective for Meade USD 226 facilities and does not override or supersede league rules, KSHSAA requirements.

(B) Schools will continue to allow for physical distancing for large groups (lunch, classrooms, etc.) as needed and as recommended by state and local county health officials.

(C) Schools will continue to recommend and encourage consistent handwashing and/or sanitizing practices multiple times a day. This also includes respiratory etiquette to reduce transmission of COVID-19 and other communicable illnesses.

(D) Schools will maintain a regular cleaning schedule that will include the cleaning and sanitizing/disinfection of surfaces and facilities using disinfectant that is effective on COVID-19. Staff will continue to have available supplies be able to sanitize student desks/tables, as needed. Electrostatic disinfecting will continue to be utilized in all buildings. Improved ventilation and air quality will continue in all schools. In addition, improvements to the Meade HS HVAC system to significantly improve air quality is in progress.

(E) Meade USD 226 will continue to work directly with the Meade County Health Department (MCHD) officials to handle any contract tracing, isolations, and possible quarantine issues. Decisions will be made in conjunction with current state and local recommendations.

(F) The district will continue to allow students and staff to receive a temperature screening each day, however, this will be optional for the individual. The board of education has authority to reinstate temperature screenings for everyone if COVID-19 cases increase significantly. The district will continue to work with the MCHD to allow for FREE COVID-19 testing for all staff, students, and their family.

(G) The district will continue to work with the MCHD regarding vaccination of school staff and students. While the district encourages staff and students (who are eligible) to

get the COVID-19 vaccine, this will remain optional. Information will continue to be provided by the district to staff, students, and parents regarding vaccines.

(H) The district will continue to maintain appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities based upon the student's specific health concerns and needs. Appropriate health and safety accommodations will also be made for other students when necessary as a result of COVID-19.

(I) Meade USD 226 will continue to monitor county and local illness/infection numbers, as they are provided by the MCHD. Meade will continue to maintain a COVID Gating Task Force to monitor COVID issues and make recommendations, using local gating data, for appropriate health safety in conjunction with state and local officials.

Part II: Continuity of Services

(A) In the event that a student cannot attend class in-person, due to a COVID related illness or quarantine, teachers will provide schoolwork remotely using Zoom, Google Meet, Google Classroom, and/or through other technological means. Teachers will be in consistent contact; video conferencing, phone calls or emails, with students if they cannot attend in-person. Teachers will make themselves available to assist students and answer questions by giving the student and parent(s) contact information, as well as specified times they are available. The district has also added a K-12 Intervention Specialist to help meet the academic needs of struggling students. The district will work with families to help provide the appropriate connectivity if none is available for families requiring remote learning. Full remote learning for the entire year will not be an option this year, but will be available when students are ill or quarantined due to COVID-19.

(B) Meade USD 226 has a counselor at the high school and an SECD Coordinator at the grade school to address social and emotional needs. Social and Emotional screens will continue to be in place at both buildings to monitor student needs. This year the district will have in place a facility dog at the grade school to help with the social and emotional needs of students and staff. The district continues to work with area mental centers to provide services to students and staff when necessary.

(C) The district contracts with the Meade County Health Department (MCHD) to provide health services to the district and the county administrator is a part of the district COVID Gating Task Force. The district has continued to operate a summer breakfast and lunch program for all children age 1 to 18. These meals are free and information will be provided to parents about free meals for all students during the 2021-22 school year. Meals will be available for pickup, if desired, for students who are required to be at home due to a COVID-19 illness or quarantine.

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