

USD 489

**Guidelines for COVID
Prevention
2021-2022**

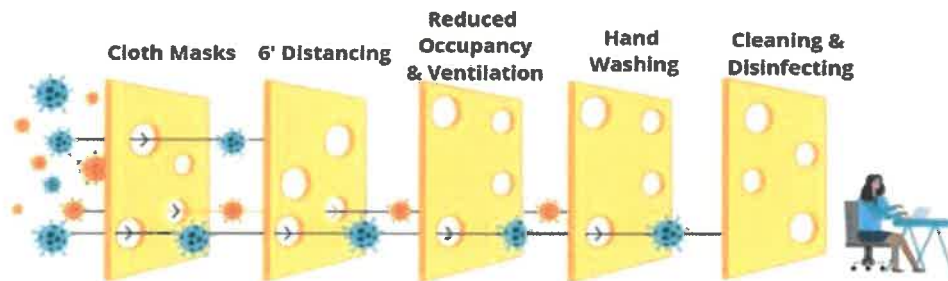
Adapted from publications
issued by the following:



Phased Multi-layered COVID-19 Control Strategy

Schools that were able to conduct successful on-site education in the 2020-2021 school year did so by implementing multi-layered COVID-19 control measures (see figure below "Swiss Cheese Model"). As COVID-19 is still present and causing severe illness in Kansas, a multi-layered COVID-19 control strategy should remain in place for the 2021-2022 school year. This control strategy may be flexible based on community and school-based transmission of COVID-19 and other illnesses and should be able to be escalated rapidly if concerns arise.

The "Swiss Cheese" Model of COVID-19 Mitigation in Schools



PolicyLab adapted this graphic from the Cleveland Clinic's "Swiss Cheese Approach to COVID Mitigation"

Learning Loss

Kansas school children have experienced interruptions in their education and other school functions over the past two academic years. Poor academic achievement affects individual and public health outcomes, therefore our goal for these recommendations is to create a safe environment where children can learn effectively with few interruptions.

Mental Health

The effects of COVID-19 on our communities and schools have exacerbated an already growing mental health crisis for children in Kansas. Many staff and students have experienced trauma during and related to the pandemic. School districts should provide training on and strive to offer trauma-informed learning environments for staff and students. Please refer to KCWK's Mental Health Resources for strategies to address mental health needs for students and staff.

- A. [Youth Mental Health & COVID-19: Recommendations & Resources for Coping](#)
- B. [Promoting Systemic Change in Schools to Combat the Mental Health Crisis in Kids](#)
- C. [Tips for Building Resiliency in Your Children](#)

Please NOTE:

***Close contacts** are defined as those without wearing a mask within six feet of a confirmed case for ten minutes or longer.

Vaccinated is defined as 14 days after one's last shot.

General health safety actions for staff and students

A. Testing, contact tracing, quarantine

1. The district's designee will track COVID-19 related absences and conduct contact tracing for positive cases. This will require seating charts to be maintained in all learning environments and school transportation.
2. Encourage students and staff with symptoms of COVID-19 or a close contact* to be tested. USD 489 will provide rapid testing. Use this resource for assistance with possible exposure – [COVID Symptoms/Exposure Guidelines](#). Please contact Jessica Roe, jroe@usd489.com, for information about testing.
3. USD 489 will implement a **testing program**. (See Appendix)
4. All unvaccinated USD 489 employees are strongly encouraged to participate in the testing program which provides rapid testing. (See Appendix)
5. Unvaccinated FHSU students participating in field experiences within USD 489 buildings are strongly encouraged to participate in our testing program. (See Appendix)
6. Contact tracing will be done to determine close contacts* of positive cases within our schools for students and staff.
7. Close contacts* who are not within a household and are unvaccinated will be notified and be given the option of being quarantined for ten days from last contact. At day five of quarantine, a PCR test can be administered to determine return to work/school on day seven. This optional quarantine may change to required quarantine and/or a quarantine of mask wearing while in school dependent upon local transmission increasing.
8. Close contacts* exhibiting COVID symptoms, regardless of vaccination status, will be required to quarantine for ten days from onset of symptoms. These individuals are also encouraged to get tested for COVID.
9. Quarantine/Isolation for students will be treated as an excused absence.
10. Quarantine/Isolation for staff will be treated as sick leave.

B. Recommended, but not required, masking

1. Masking will be recommended but not required in all district buildings, activities, and events.
2. Those determined to be close contacts* who were determined to be wearing a mask will not have to quarantine unless symptomatic.

C. Promote good-hygiene measures

1. Hand washing/sanitizing will be done regularly throughout the day, including after bathroom breaks, before lunch, or after playing outside.
2. Hand sanitizers will be made readily available throughout the buildings.

D. Stay home when sick – Use links below for guidance.

[At Home Health Screening Tool](#) & [COVID-19 Symptom Flowsheet](#)

1. Students, teachers, and staff who have symptoms of COVID-19 should stay home and contact their healthcare provider for testing and care.
2. All staff and students are asked to monitor symptoms, including temperature, prior to coming to work/school each day.
3. Students experiencing COVID symptoms who are sent home from school will be required to see a healthcare provider to have the [Return to School Guidelines](#) completed before returning to school.

E. Physically/Socially distancing

1. Efforts will be continued to physically distance within our buildings.
2. Physical/Social distancing will be maintained between students in classrooms where feasible.
3. Assigned seating arrangements will be utilized in classrooms and school-activity trips/events to assist in contact tracing if needed.

F. Cleaning and disinfection – Buildings will continue to maintain cleaning and disinfection processes to minimize the risk of COVID exposure.

G. Vaccinations

1. All students will be asked to adhere to the KDHE Kansas School Immunization Requirements.
2. All staff and age-eligible students are strongly encouraged to get a COVID-19 vaccination unless medically contraindicated.
3. Students and staff are strongly encouraged to be immunized against influenza by the end of October 2021, unless medically contraindicated.

H. Water Fountains

1. Water fountains will be made available for use.
2. Staff and students are encouraged to use personal water bottles while at school.

Modified Quarantine/Closure of classrooms and/or buildings if substantial transmission

1. If classroom/building transmission is high and warrants control measures, students and staff within the district may be required to wear masks to prevent further closures.
2. If local health officials determine that there is substantial transmission of COVID-19, guidance will be provided to administrators on the best course of action that may include modified quarantine or closure of classrooms/buildings.
3. Learning will continue in the event of a closure to minimize learning loss. Details of the delivery of instruction will vary in accordance with the grade level impacted.

Please NOTE:

***Close contacts** are defined as those without wearing a mask within six feet of a confirmed case for ten minutes or longer.

Fully vaccinated is defined as 14 days after one's last shot.

Appendix

Testing Program

Rapid COVID-19, strep, and flu testing will be made available to students, teachers and staff who become symptomatic during the day.

Rapid COVID-19 testing will be made available for students, teachers and staff who would like testing for any reason.

Rapid COVID-19 testing will be administered by district health personnel twice a week at Rockwell Administration Center at set times for any unvaccinated employee and FHSU field experience student.

At times of outbreaks and/or with ongoing transmission, staff and FHSU field experience students who are not fully vaccinated may be asked to test for COVID-19 to prevent further transmission.

On day five of a quarantine, a PCR test can be administered by a healthcare provider to staff or students to determine return to work/school on day seven.

Mitigation Strategies from Least to Most Restrictive

- based upon current active cases
- Evaluated weekly during the Ellis County Covid Advisory meeting

Ongoing Mitigation Measures

- Sanitization
- Hand Washing
- Distancing When Possible
- Outbreak in any cohort and the cohort will quarantine as determined by El. Co. Health Dept.
- Close monitoring for symptoms
 - Do not send your child to school if they are sick.
 - In home positive requires quarantine of household as per Ellis County Health Dept.

