

- 1) What are the requirements for masks for special needs?
 - a) If your student has an IEP you will work with your student's case manager to make a plan that will work best for your student. Discussions on masks will be made in consultation with you (the parent) and your child's healthcare provider.

- 2) Why is it that kids can ride on a bus sitting next to each other for over 10 minutes and not 6ft apart ok, but at school, they have to be 6ft apart?
 - a) Students will have assigned seats on busses and will be as far apart as possible and will be sitting with siblings when possible. Currently, there are no capacity restrictions concerning COVID-19. If we are unable to socially distance on the bus students will then need to wear a mask.

- 3) My child has ADHD, PTSD, and asthma, so wearing a mask is not good for him, he will refuse to wear a mask due to he can't breathe like he needs to.
 - a) "For people with very mild asthma or well-controlled asthma, it's probably not going to be an issue," said Dr. David Stukus, member of the Medical Scientific Council for the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA). "For people who have very severe disease and have frequent exacerbations, ER visits, hospitalizations, require lots of medications and frequent symptoms, it might cause more issues for those folks."

Students with these concerns will be required to provide documentation from a physician.

- 4) When it comes to PE, how are the kids going to use the locker rooms since they are supposed to be distanced?

- 5) I don't feel that kids need to wear a mask/shield, they have been socializing all summer and are doing ok.
 - a) We plan to open as normal as possible. We will follow the recommendations from the state and county health department.

- 6) Are the plans for sports the same as for school?
 - a) We will follow guidelines from KSHSAA

- 7) At what point would masks no longer be required?
 - a) We will follow the recommendations from the state and county health department.

- 8) How will wearing masks affect sports, choir, and other activities where masks would be intrusive to wear?
 - a) We will follow guidelines from KSHSAA

- 9) How will IEPs work if learning is done remotely?
- a) This is a decision that will be made by you (the parent) and the student's case manager. If your student has an IEP you will work with your student's case manager to make a plan that will work best for your student just as you do at each annual meeting.
- 10) Will a student who is an afternoon only bus rider have an assigned seat?
- a) All students will have an assigned seat.
- 11) Will students with medical issues be required to wear a mask or will the district be providing an alternative?
- a) Health exemptions are for the deaf (and those who are communicating with them), and for "persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a face-covering- this includes persons with a medical condition for whom wearing a face-covering could obstruct breathing or who are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance." A note by a licensed physician will be needed.
 - b) If your child's medical issues relate to mental health, begin talking with your child now and let them know what the expectation will be, begin practicing wearing a mask for a few minutes at a time, and gradually work up to longer periods of time. Finding a mask made of a material that is comfortable will help your child if they have sensory issues. If the student has an existing IEP it may be helpful to consult with your child's case manager. If you feel that your student 's medical condition makes it impossible to wear a mask, please consult with your child's doctor.
- 12) My children have ADHD, autism, and other medical issues and I don't think that they would wear a mask as directed so what would happen if a student refuses?
- a) Begin talking with your child now and let them know what the expectation will be, begin practicing wearing a mask for a few minutes at a time, and gradually work up to longer periods of time. Finding a mask made of a material that is comfortable will help your child if they have sensory issues. If the student has an existing IEP it may be helpful to consult with your child's case manager. If you feel that your student 's medical condition makes it impossible to wear a mask, please consult with your child's doctor.
- 13) How will the teachers make sure the students are social distancing at recess and other [outdoor] activities and also keeping their mask on at all times?
- a) "Enforcing physical distancing in an outside playground is difficult and may not be the most effective method of risk mitigation. Emphasis should be placed on cohorting students and limiting the size of groups participating in playground time. Outdoor transmission of virus is known to be much lower than indoor transmission" (American Academy of Pediatrics).

- b) While outside and where social distancing is possible, students are not required to wear their mask.

14) How will the Zoom schedule work?

- a) During Plan A, online learners will attend their classes live via Zoom with their cohorts according to their daily schedules. These students will have the opportunity to ask questions, work in groups, and engage in lessons.
- b) During Plan B, students will be divided into two groups. Group 1 will attend classes on campus Monday and Tuesday. Then they will attend via Zoom Wednesday and Thursday. Group 2 will attend via Zoom Monday and Tuesday. Then they will attend classes on campus Wednesday and Thursday. Fridays will be reserved for mentor groups and extra learning support.
- c) Plan C will have all classes online according to their daily schedule.
 - i) Daily schedules will be provided at a later date.

15) I do not feel safe sending my children to school at this time.

- a) Parents have the option to keep children at home and choose to utilize the online learning option with USD 239 or select homeschooling. Pediatric infectious disease experts at Children's Mercy Hospital say schools in Kansas need to reopen this fall because not being in school is riskier for most kids than the coronavirus. The American Academy of Pediatrics came out with a strong statement in support of school re-entry, as long as districts have a plan to minimize the risk of coronavirus exposure for students, parents, and teachers. <https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/>

16) I think the damage we are doing to the kids by not allowing social interaction with peers and teachers is much more damaging than the COVID virus.

- a) By taking these precautions, we are allowing our doors to remain open and to keep our children at school. We recognize the need for social interaction.

17) I would like a health exemption for my student. Please let me know if this is possible.

- a) Health exemptions are for the deaf (and those who are communicating with them), and for "persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a face-covering -- this includes persons with a medical condition for whom wearing a face-covering could obstruct breathing or who are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance" (CDC). A note by a licensed physician will be needed.

18) Is there a social/emotional component to address students' health in this new and very different way of doing school?

- a) Yes, our two school Social Workers are playing a large role in our reopening plan when it comes to the social/emotional well-being of our students. We will have plans in place at the beginning of the school year for students who attend on campus, as well as students who choose to stay home and learn.
- 19) Taking the mask on and off their faces completely negates why you wear one in the first place. The mask is put on their faces to protect them. However, by teaching them to take the mask on and off their faces, you not only risk exposure by anything that would be on the outside of the mask, but it also teaches them that their hands can be close to their face to take their mask off.
- a) Students will learn how to properly mask and de-mask. Hand-sanitizing will be encouraged whenever students remove their masks.
- 20) Temperatures should be taken BEFORE kids even get on the bus to come to school.
- a) Temperatures will be taken before students get on the bus.
 - b) Parents are strongly encouraged to take their child(ren)'s temperature before they leave the house for school.
- 21) If possible, it would be better for all of my high school/junior high/ grade school kids to be on the same schedule if the hybrid schedule is the one the district decides to go with. My older kids can help keep my younger kids on track.
- a) That will be our plan if we must go to a hybrid schedule.
- 22) There are many exceptions to the state mask requirement, including but not limited to people age 5 and under, disabled people, people with medical and mental health conditions. What will be done in regards to this? Will people who meet these requirements and are exempt from wearing masks travel the halls at a different time? Or what is the plan for social distancing for them?
- a) Health exemptions are for the deaf (and those who are communicating with them), and for "persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a face-covering -- this includes persons with a medical condition for whom wearing a face-covering could obstruct breathing or who are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance" (CDC). A note by a licensed physician will be needed.
 - b) Alternative plans will be addressed case-by-case.
- 23) We are concerned about a Kindergartner wearing a mask off and on throughout the day. Also, we are worried about her being stuck in the classroom as we have heard rumors of no recess, no music...
- a) We will follow the recommendations from the state and county health department. Begin talking with your child now and let them know what the expectation will be, begin practicing wearing a mask for a few minutes at a time, and gradually work up to longer periods of time. Finding a mask made of a material that is comfortable will help your child if they have sensory issues.

- b) There will be recess, music, and PE.
- 24) It's interesting that our kids can go to workouts, weights, and participate in sports through the school during the summer with no social distancing, no masks, and no cleaning of equipment. Then when school starts they have to wear masks and social distance while trying to still learn.
- a) By taking these precautions, we are allowing our doors to remain open and to keep our children at school. Students will have the freedom to learn without a mask.
- 25) Wearing masks is not medically or socially good for our students. The research is out there that shows why this is true in so many ways. Our students are currently attending weights, sports camps, practice, driver's ed, going to the pool, and hanging out with the very friends they will be in school with.
- a) By taking these precautions, we are allowing our doors to remain open and to keep our children at school. Masks are not 100% effective, but mask-wearing does decrease the risk of viral spread. Public health professionals believe that mask-wearing and social distancing are the keys to controlling the virus. For the general public, the reason for wearing a facial covering is to help protect others from you when you cough, sneeze or even talk and spray viral droplets into the air. Many people who become infected can unknowingly spread the COVID-19 virus because they have few or no symptoms. So, wearing a mask is showing respect for others.
- 26) What is the plan for kids with asthma and breathing issues?
- a) "For people with very mild asthma or well-controlled asthma, it's probably not going to be an issue," said Dr. David Stukus, member of the Medical Scientific Council for the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA). "For people who have very severe disease and have frequent exacerbations, ER visits, hospitalizations, require lots of medications and frequent symptoms, it might cause more issues for those folks."
- 27) What is the plan for recess?
- a) "Enforcing physical distancing in an outside playground is difficult and may not be the most effective method of risk mitigation. Emphasis should be placed on cohorting students and limiting the size of groups participating in playground time. Outdoor transmission of the virus is known to be much lower than indoor transmission" (American Academy of Pediatrics).
 - b) While outside and where social distancing is possible, students are not required to wear their masks.

28) What is the plan for the kids with IEPs and that are part of the special education part of schooling?

- a) This is a decision that will be made by you (the parent) and the student's case manager. If your student has an IEP you will work with your student's case manager to make a plan that will work best for your student just as you do at each annual meeting.

29) Why reopen schools when there is a higher number of positive cases than when schools shut down last year?

- a) We follow the guidelines from the Kansas State Board of Education, our County Health Department, and our local school board.

30) Will school hours still remain Monday through Friday 8 am-3:30 pm?

- a) As of now, school hours will remain the same on all three reopening schedules.

31) Without definite plans regarding attendance or safety, I am uncertain how I feel. If my children's health can't be guaranteed within a certain degree of standards I wouldn't feel comfortable returning them to physical classes.

- a) All students, staff, and visitors are required to have a temperature check when entering the building.
- b) All students, staff, and visitors are required to have a mask on when entering the building.
- c) Prior to entering and exiting a classroom, students and staff will sanitize their hands.

32) Why not divide the students into two groups to minimize the amount of students in the building at once?

- a) That is a great suggestion and we have that plan ready if we are required to have a lesser amount of students in the building at one time. We believe that we have small enough class sections that we are able to socially distance.