

# USD 114 Reopening Plan FAQ Page

## Information is updated as it becomes available

Thank you for stopping by the FAQ page! If you review the Frequently Asked Questions page, and you still have a question, submit your questions to [webmaster@cyclones114.org](mailto:webmaster@cyclones114.org). This list will be updated regularly with answers to the questions asked most often by parents/guardians.

\* Please know that this information is fluid and can change based on information from local, state and federal government agencies/organizations. Thank you for your patience and cooperation during these ever-changing times ~ USD 114 Riverside

## **COVID-19 Health and Wellness Questions**

### **Will students wear masks or face coverings in classrooms? (Updated 8-11-2020)**

The wearing of face masks will be ~~expected~~ recommended (*per USD 114 BOE Resolution 8-10-20*) for staff and students as per [Governor's Executive Order 20-59](#) and in guidance from the Kansas Department of Education in their [Navigating Change](#) document. Masks will be ~~required~~ recommended (*per USD 114 BOE Resolution 8-10-20*) for students and staff in all areas of the buildings, especially where social distancing or proper ventilation is difficult or impossible to maintain, school arrival and dismissal, riding on the bus, and when passing in common areas.

### **Will students be expected to socially distance?**

In many school settings students will be socially distanced to the extent possible. At the elementary school level, where social distancing will be extremely difficult, students will spend most of the school day interacting only with students in their class. By limiting their exposure to a small number of students, we reduce the chance of infection. And if a student becomes ill, the immediate class is affected, not the entire school.

### **What steps will be taken to ensure that surfaces are clean in classrooms?**

Maintenance workers and school custodians will clean frequently touched surfaces throughout the day and conduct overall cleanings at the conclusion of every day. Other non-custodial staff members will be expected to do their part keeping surfaces clean. All staff members will have access to cleaning supplies for their classroom.

### **What other steps are being taken to ensure a healthy environment?**

USD 114 staff will continue to educate students on the importance of hand washing, hygiene, and social distancing. Hand sanitizer will be made available in classrooms, workplaces and on school buses. Sick children and staff must stay home if running a fever as normal protocol. All schools have a registered nurse on staff.

### **What will my student's school do if a classmate or staff member exhibits symptoms of COVID-19?**

If a student or staff member exhibits any symptoms, they should not come to school or report to work. If a student exhibits symptoms at school, they will be taken to a designated location within the school and their parent or guardian will be notified to take them home and or to visit a medical professional.

### **What if a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19?**

The Doniphan County Health Department and or the Kansas Department of Health and Environment will notify the district if a student or staff member tests positive. We will notify parents, while not specifically identifying the student or staff member. We will cooperate with the Health Department as they conduct the appropriate notifications of individuals who have been in contact with the person infected.

**Is a daily screening necessary?**

Students' temperatures will be checked daily prior to entering the school buildings each day.

**Does my child need to be tested for COVID every time they have a fever?**

No. If fever is the only symptom, the student should stay home until fever free without the aid of medication for at least 24 hours. This is no different than our practices in the past.

**What happens if my child has a fever at school?**

As with standard practice at school, should a student have a temperature greater than 100.4, the student will be tested again to confirm the first temperature measured was accurate. After verification, the student's parents or guardian will be contacted for the student to be taken home or to the doctor for care and treatment. Student's may return to school after being fever free for 24 hours and without showing symptoms of COVID-19. Should the student exhibit two or more common COVID-19 symptoms as anytime during this process, screening for the virus by the Doniphan County Health Department or physician may be needed.

**I have a child who is asthmatic. Do I need to have a doctor's note to enroll her in the in-person program?**

No. Please consult with your doctor and make the choice for learning that makes the most sense for you and your child.

**Can you get a pre-note that states your child has a recurring condition so that they are not sent home and have to go to the doctor?**

No. Even students with chronic conditions such as seasonal allergies, can get COVID-19. We need an assurance from a health professional that the student's symptoms are due to something other than COVID-19.

**Are there plans to sanitize and service the HVAC systems in the schools?**

Our building HVAC systems have a regular maintenance schedule. Unlike homes and most businesses, many of the HVAC systems in our schools do not recycle inside air. Instead, they are constantly bringing in outside air which makes for a much healthier environment.

**Are hand air dryers being removed and replaced with paper towels?**

No. Our air hand dryers are touchless and, if face coverings are being worn and hands are washed properly, do not increase the risk of spreading the virus.

**If students go on vacation will they be allowed back in school?**

We are looking at this as a "contact of a contact" situation. If anyone in the family exhibits COVID-like symptoms upon return, all students in the family should be tested or quarantined for 14 days. Please consult the Doniphan County Health Department should you travel to a location that is on travel restriction list.

**If a child has a few COVID like symptoms and sees their pediatrician, does the pediatrician have to give a medical diagnosis to come back to school?**

Your doctor will need to provide written documentation that the symptoms exhibited are not due to COVID-19. They may provide an alternate diagnosis or recommend returning to school because all symptoms have subsided by the time the child is evaluated.

## **General Operations Questions**

**Has the start date for the 2020-2021 school year changed?**

The 2020-2021 School year starts on August 20, 2020.

**Will school start and end times be different?**

Presently, School is scheduled to start on regular schedule times.

**Will student safety be a priority?**

Student and staff safety is a high priority in the Riverside School District. Handwashing, social distancing and the expectation of students and staff wearing masks is a part of our current safety plan requirement. Cleaning/disinfecting classrooms, common areas and buses will occur frequently during the school day.

**Will parents and volunteers be allowed in school buildings?**

Parents, visitors and volunteers will not be allowed in schools unless they have a scheduled meeting to keep down the risk of exposure. Parents will not be allowed to walk their child to their classroom and visit during the lunch period as in normal years.

**How will the district communicate important information to stakeholders?**

The district will provide frequent and ongoing communication with staff, students, parents and community stakeholders. Please know that as information changes, the district will communicate with our stakeholders through the district website, social media, parent notification system, and local media outlets.

**How will supervision of students be handled to ensure they are maintaining all protocols including wearing their mask properly? What will be done discipline wise if a student will not wear their mask properly?**

In schools, we teach behaviors every day. This is no different. We do not intend for mask wearing to become a discipline issue. If a student forgets their mask, we will provide a disposable mask for them to wear. If compliance becomes an issue, the building administration will intervene to help educate the student on the importance of caring for each other in this manner.

**Can face shields be worn instead of a mask?**

No. At this time face shields cannot be worn without the use of a facemask. They can be an added measure if a student or staff member would like to add it to regular mask wearing, but can't be used in place of a mask.

**Will there be barriers around students' desks?**

We are looking at acrylic barriers on tables when students are working in small groups, in close proximity, or face-to-face to add an extra layer of protection for students and staff. There are no plans to surround individual desks with any type of barrier, however.

**Who did the district consult when creating this plan?**

- American Academy of Pediatrics
- CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- KDHE (Kansas Department of Health and Environment)
- KSDE (Kansas State Department of Education)
- KASB (Kansas Association of School Boards)
- Doniphan County Health Department
- Mosaic – St. Joseph
- Atchison Community Health Clinic
- KSHSAA (Kansas State High School Activities Association)
- St. Joseph Health Department

## **Academics**

**What are my child's options to attend school this semester?**

Students can choose to attend school in one of two ways for the 2020-21 school year. Upon registration, students may choose to attend school in a full on-ground setting or in a fully remote capacity. On ground students will have traditional classroom instruction with limitations due to COVID-19 restrictions. Students that choose the fully remote path will receive instruction from Riverside teachers and staff offsite from the school setting. Students who choose the remote learning route are committed to this route for a semester and are not eligible for KSHSAA sanctioned activities. Please reference USD 114 Remote learning plan for further details.

**If I choose the Remote Learning option for my child, will I need to have my own computer or laptop?**

A device and an internet connection will be necessary. Students will be provided a school issued device for remote learning services. Home internet, or access to internet service is required. Measures are being made to help secure device hotspots for those without access.

**If an individual student is out of school for 10-14 days due to a COVID-19 exposure, what measures are available to help keep the student(s) up to date on school work so that they do not fall behind?**

We will address this situation like we have always done in the event of an extended illness, the classroom teacher will provide lessons via Google Classroom to keep the student engaged in class work. Teachers will be available to answer questions and provide assistance during plan times or before or after school.

**How will I know how my child is doing in their courses, if I chose the remote option?**

Parents will receive weekly progress reports from teachers via email, and parents may schedule verbal communication and meetings with teachers as needed. We will have virtual parent-teacher conferences once each semester.

**Will parents or guardians need to help students who attend school remotely?**

Yes, this option will most likely require the student's parent or guardian to help facilitate their child's learning for younger students. This will be a partnership with the teacher, who will provide guidance and instruction especially for our younger students who may need help with locating and submitting assignments. This is especially true with the start of the school year.

**If remote learning is chosen, how will attendance be counted?**

Attendance will be counted by participation verification documents that will be provided to you by the district. This form is signed daily, but may be turned in weekly. The district is working on a digital form that can be accessed and filled online for our auditory and compliance purposes.

## **Elementary Education**

**Under the Traditional model, will elementary students be able to have recess?**

Yes. Recess will be organized to emphasize social distancing and to minimize exposure. More frequent recesses may be scheduled from a break of wearing masks.

**What will elementary specials scheduling look like?**

All elementary specials arrangements in the traditional setting will have procedures in place to support the health, safety and wellness of students and staff.

**Will schools host Back to School nights?**

Enrollment and back-to-school nights will be conducted virtually.

**Will schools hold assemblies?**

Assemblies and class field trips will not take place during the first semester and possibly the school year.

**Will the district provide after school care and enrichment programs?**

The district will work with the community to maintain afterschool programming as it can during these very unique times.

**Is remote learning a year-long commitment if I choose to enroll at the beginning of the year?**

No. Remote learning will have an exit option at the end of the first semester.

**Is remote learning the same as in-person instruction?**

Remote learning will be different, but we will make it as close as possible to the in-person instruction with your regular teachers.

## **Secondary Education**

**How will safety and social distancing work in the high school setting?**

Students, teachers and staff may often utilize Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as face coverings and gloves in settings with several people and when social distancing is not possible, e.g. passing periods, offices, cafeteria, large classes, etc. Seating charts and arrangements in the classrooms will be changed to maximize the distance between students.

**Will Highland Community College courses continued to be offered?**

Yes. Those qualifying for HCC courses will be able to take those courses. Additional information will be out on the Riverside website.

**Will Highland Community Technical School be an option for students?**

Yes. Highland Community Technical School will be an option for our in-person traditional students.

**Is remote learning a year-long commitment if I choose to enroll at the beginning of the year?**

No. Remote learning will have an exit option at the end of the first semester.

**Is remote learning the same as in-person instruction?**

Remote learning will be different, but we will make it as close as possible to the in-person instruction with your regular teachers.

**Do you have to log in at a specific time?**

Yes. Remote students will be required to log in and work with each of their teachers as a part of their normal schedules.

**Are all classes going to be offered and available to students choosing the remote route?**

Yes. All of the courses we offer at RHS will be available to remote students.

## **Special Education**

**My child has special needs. Will I hear from anyone regarding their plan for starting school?**

A personal phone call from special education staff will be made prior to the first day of school to discuss their student's IEP, what options are available, and to answer any questions or concerns.

**How will Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings take place in the fall?**

IEP meetings will be encouraged to be held virtually unless they are special circumstances requiring an in-person meeting. Any in person meetings will be held in a location where social distancing guidelines can be appropriately followed.

**May students with special needs sign up for Remote Learning option?**

Yes. Parents may have their students with an IEP sign up for remote learning. Your child's Special Education teacher will be reaching out to you whether your child is remote or in-person.

## **Mental Health**

### **If my child is anxious or concerned about returning to school, what can I do to help?**

Talk to your child and find out the reason for their concern. Provide them reassurance and answer their questions, share information pertaining to their concern and seek answers if you are unaware. If you still need support, reach out to your child's school for additional assistance.

## **Food and Nutrition**

### **If my child selects the USD 114 remote option will they still be permitted to receive their free or reduced meals?**

Yes. A plan is being developed so students can receive their meals if they signed up for remote learning and meet the federal guidelines to qualify for the breakfast/lunch program. More information is yet to come from the state.

### **What steps will be taken to limit exposure in the school cafeteria?**

Pre-packaged utensil kits may be used to reduce student contact should cases rise in Doniphan County. Students will not be allowed to self-serve on items that are not pre-packaged. Hand sanitizer will be available in all dining areas through the district.

### **Will my child eat in the cafeteria or their classroom?**

Lunch shifts will be staggered and or added where needed to keep students more socially distanced. Satellite areas, such as eating in classrooms, outdoor eating areas, or other designated areas may be utilized to allow for social distancing where needed as well. Cleaning and sanitizing will take place between each lunch shift.

## **Transportation**

### **Will students be required to wear masks or face coverings? (Updated 8-11-2020)**

It is ~~the expectation~~ recommended (*per USD 114 BOE Resolution 8-10-20*) that all students choosing to participate in school transportation wear a facemask while being transported. Additionally, students who ride the morning bus, will be given a temperature check prior to getting on the bus. Hand sanitizer will also be available to students who board the bus daily.

### **How will social distancing be enforced on school buses? (Updated 8-11-2020)**

Students are ~~expected~~ recommended (*per USD 114 BOE Resolution 8-10-20*) to wear a facemask at all times as social distancing will not always be possible on school buses. Siblings will be directed to sit together and students will utilize space available to distance when possible. There will be no more than two students allowed per seat.

### **My student has health issues that make wearing a face covering impossible. Will they have to still wear a face covering?**

Accommodation will be considered relative to this expectation. Please communicate concerns with school staff for further direction. For the safety of all students and staff, students who cannot wear a face mask are encouraged to travel to school by other means. This district encourages parents to bring each student family each day to limit social contact on our busses where possible.

## **Technology**

### **If we choose the remote option and we don't have a device, will the district provide one?**

Yes, we will provide a device for all K-12 students to use for either in-school or online learning. For students in PreK-2, the issued device will be a Chromebook with a touchscreen, for students grades 3-8 the device will be an iPad. Students in grades 9-12 will be issued Chromebooks to use.

### **If we have several children, do we need devices for each child?**

Every student will be assigned a device, and, if several children in the home are involved in online learning, it would be best for them to each have their own device.

**Will the District support my child's device if I send one from home?**

The district will provide a device for each student, and these will be set up with all the district-purchased software, filtering, network access, etc., students will need. While students participating in online learning from home may be able to use a personal device for some parts of the online learning experience, a district-issued device will be provided and necessary for use at school.

**Activities****Will students participate in sporting activities this fall?**

USD 114 values the importance of the educational opportunities that athletics provide and recognizes the threats presented by COVID-19. The district in conjunction with the Kansas State High School Activities Association has developed a reentry plan for fall athletics that will allow students to work out and compete in the safest manner possible. At this time fall sports are set to begin workouts August 17<sup>th</sup> 2020. Additional information pertaining to home and away sporting activities will be forthcoming. The Big Seven League will create a set of standards each school will abide with, but each school may implement more strict guidelines based on geographic location and each school's needs. Please be aware that situations concerning sports may and most likely will change at any time.

**Will students participate in activities such as band and choir this fall?**

A group of Fine Arts staff is currently working on the reentry plan for these types of activities. We will share this information here or with students and families as soon as it is available.

**Is it possible to be a remote student and still participate in in-person activities like sports, clubs, or band?**

No, not at this time. Students who choose the remote learning route will not be eligible for KSHSAA activities for the semester they are enrolled remotely. To be eligible to participate in on-ground activities, students must be enrolled as on-ground students. Students who are enrolled remotely may participate in any activities that have a remote or virtual participation component.