

As the Delta variant of COVID-19 continues to extend into our communities and region, USD 417 presents the following information to serve as a current update for COVID-19 related issues and concerns. USD 417 is committed to making every effort to provide high quality, on-site instruction while maintaining a high degree of safety for all students and staff members.

****Current county, state, or federal mandates supersede operational guidelines set forth in this document.****

Masks

Students

- Recommended and encouraged but optional for students

Staff

Grades 7 - 12

- Recommended and encouraged but optional for staff members

Grades Prek - 6

- Recommend and encouraged but optional for vaccinated staff members
- Unvaccinated staff members will be required to wear a mask when working within six feet of a student.

Contact Tracing and Quarantines

- Contact tracing will be done in cooperation with the Morris County Health Department.
- Positive cases will isolate according to the Morris County Health Officer.
- Options for those on quarantine based on exposure outside of the school setting will be at the discretion of the Morris County Health Department.
- Quarantine will not be required when deemed a close contact **IF** there is consistent and appropriate mask wearing by the positive individual and close contact.
- Quarantine options if considered a close contact due to COVID-19 exposure while at school or during a school event:

If previously diagnosed within the past six months:

STAY IN SCHOOL if previously diagnosed with COVID-19 by a physician or positive test within the past six months and remains non-symptomatic during the quarantine timeline

- Must show proof of positive COVID-19 test or physician diagnosis.

If vaccinated:

STAY IN SCHOOL if vaccinated for COVID and is non-symptomatic during the quarantining timeline

- Verification of vaccination is required

If NOT vaccinated:

Option 1: STAY IN SCHOOL if individual staff or student (parent/guardian) consents (OPT IN) to daily non-invasive COVID-19 testing with negative results obtained, remains non-symptomatic during the quarantine timeline, and wears a mask while in school.

Option 2: QUARANTINE AT HOME according to the Morris County Health Department

Diagnostic Screening and Testing

- Thermal imaging cameras will continue to be used to monitor temperatures of students, staff, and visitors in each building.
- COVID-19 testing will be available in each school health office with parent/guardian consent (OPT IN).
- Additional screening and testing options may be made available in cooperation with the Morris County Health Department upon parent/guardian consent (OPT IN).

Hygiene Measures

- Hand washing emphasis will continue
- Hand sanitizer will be available in classrooms and around the school facility
- Social distancing when possible
- Stay home when feeling ill
- Signage will be present

Cleaning of Facilities

- Cleaning regimens and protocols are established and will continue
- Cleaning solutions that are rated to eliminate COVID will be used
- All classrooms will have cleaning supplies available

Vaccinations to School Communities

- Vaccination opportunities will be made available to guardians in cooperation with the Morris County Health Department.
- COVID-19 vaccinations will not be required
- Any vaccination requires a signed consent form from the guardian of each student.

Accommodations for Children with Disabilities

- Students with an IEP, 504 Plan, and other documented supports will have all appropriate accommodations and supports made available to them.

Coordination with State and Local Officials

- We will meet regularly with officials on the latest data and inform stakeholders as needed.
- We will consider all state and local health guidance.

Continuity of Services

- Academic needs will be met through continued full-time, in person instruction. Summer learning opportunities were offered. Virtual learning opportunities are available
- Social, emotional, and mental health needs will be met through social emotional curriculum, counselors, and social workers.
- Student health and food service needs will be available for all students. All students will have access to free breakfast and lunch daily as well as school nursing services.