

2022-2023 COVID-19 Operations Guidelines

(Updated 9/12/22)

As variants of COVID-19 continue 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. Moving forward there will be a stronger focus on individual responsibility for testing and, when a person tests positive, notifying their close contacts about the potential exposure.

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

Layered Prevention Strategies:

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.
- Vaccination for a staff member requires a signed consent.
- Vaccination for a student requires a consent from a parent or guardian.

Masking

Universal indoor masking is recommended when community levels are high based on the KDHE Weekly Cumulative Incidence Rate or the CDC COVID-19 Community Levels. USD 417 will share this information weekly as it is available.

Screening, Diagnostic Testing, and Test-to-Stay

- COVID-19 testing will be available in each school health office with parent/guardian/staff consent (OPT IN) when symptoms appear, for test-to-stay purposes during quarantine, or for screening (if inventory allows).
- Thermal imaging cameras will be available for use to monitor temperatures of students, staff, and visitors in each building if the number of COVID cases is heightened and closer screening would be beneficial.
- Additional screening and testing options may be made available in cooperation with the Morris County Health Department upon parent/guardian/staff 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.

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.

Isolation and Test to Know Measures

- Students or staff members **that test positive for COVID-19 disease** will stay home for at least 5 days and be fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication before returning to school or school activities (**ISOLATION**). After that, they may resume normal activities but should wear a well-fitting mask around others for an additional 5 days. (ADDITIONAL OPTION: May discontinue masking earlier if obtain two negative consecutive antigen tests taken 48 hours apart after the 5th day)
- Notification will be given to the school health office by a parent or staff member if a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19.
- **TEST to KNOW** (been exposed to COVID-19 unless you have had COVID-19 in last 90 days):

Test to Know Testing Cadence (Non-Household Contacts):

*Students/staff who choose to wear well-fitting masks daily for at least 10 days after exposure should be tested on day 5 following their exposure.

*Students/staff who choose not to mask should be tested upon notification of their exposure and then every other day through day 7 (Minimum of 3 tests with at least one test occurring on day 5 or later)

* Students/staff who choose not to mask or test may not return to school or school activities until at least day 6 since last exposure (IF no symptoms have developed).

Test to Know Testing Cadence (Close Household Contacts):

*Students/teachers/staff who are close household contacts who choose to wear a high-quality, well-fitting mask indoors daily should mask while household exposure is ongoing and for 10 days following their last exposure and testing is recommended on day 5 after last exposure, or immediately if symptoms develop.

* Students/teachers/staff who are close household contacts who choose not to mask should be tested upon notification of their exposure and then every other day through day 7 after last exposure (Minimum of 3 tests with at least one test occurring on day 5 or later).

* Students/teachers/staff who choose not to mask or test may not return to school or school activities until at least day 6 since last exposure (IF no symptoms have developed).

- Any change to isolation / testing protocols directed by the Morris County Health Department will supersede the above policy.
- Contact tracing will no longer be completed by the health department or school. Push notifications will be sent out to parents/guardians when there is a known case that may affect certain children. The notification will be done in a manner that does not identify the person who attended school while infectious.

Other Information:

Accommodations for Children with Disabilities

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

Coordination with State and Local Officials

- We will meet 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.
- 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 school nursing services.