

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.

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

Masking (refer to USD 417 Masking Guidelines document)

Students & Staff

Grades: PREK – 12

- Masking in each building will be determined on a weekly basis by the USD 417 Masking Scorecard adopted by the Board of Education on 1/19/2022.

Grades: PREK

- All unvaccinated staff or visitors will be required to wear a mask when working within six feet of a PREK student.

Contact Tracing and Quarantines

- Contact tracing and quarantines will be in accordance with local, state, and federal guidelines.
- Positive cases will isolate according to the Morris County Health Officer.
- Options for those quarantined based on exposure outside of the school setting will be at the discretion of the Morris County Health Department.

If fully vaccinated:

STAY IN SCHOOL if fully 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 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 academic 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.
- 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.