

# USD 417 COVID-19 Family Preparedness Recommendations



Due to the dramatic increase in positive COVID-19 cases in the school district, the administrative team is asking parents and staff members to be aware of the following potential situations that may require your immediate attention. Please plan accordingly as a household to prepare for the potential likelihood of one of the following situations taking place during the increased outbreak of COVID-19 cases.

- 1) Be prepared for last minute notifications of school or grade level closures. Depending on availability of substitutes and other personnel, individual grade levels or entire buildings may be forced to close for the day or longer at the last minute.
- 2) Be prepared for last minute notifications of the cancellations of school bus routes. Depending on the availability of substitute bus drivers, individual or multiple routes may be canceled at the last minute if a substitute driver cannot be located.
- 3) If your child is home sick or at home quarantined, please follow your child's school handbook for the process of obtaining homework. It is the responsibility of the guardian/student to contact the student's teacher to make arrangements to obtain and collect a student's homework.
- 4) If your child is home in isolation or in quarantine and does not have access to the internet, there are mobile hotspots available for the guardian to check out from the school office for the student to use while at home during the quarantine period.
- 5) There is new temporary guidance issued from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) that will take effect for the next 30 days starting on 1/18/2022. During this temporary guidance period, due to the lack of testing supplies and availability of school health personnel, USD 417 will only issue COVID-19 tests under the following circumstances:
  - If supplies are available, we will continue to perform diagnostic testing to support students/staff who become symptomatic during the school day and/or for students/staff that call and notify the school that they are symptomatic.
  - If supplies are available and a student/staff member would like to participate in quarantine testing (Test to Learn) during day 1-5 after COVID-19 exposure, we will continue to provide this option. That testing guidance includes 2-3 COVID tests performed within that first 5 day time frame. Whether or not antigen or PCR testing is completed will be determined on a case-by-case basis. (Keep in mind that the health department determines when a student/staff member can return to school to start this testing when the exposure is within the household or community. If the return is on day 6-10 after exposure, a test will not be required unless symptoms develop.)More information explaining the temporary KDHE guidelines will be sent home via the parent notification system and will be posted on the USD 417 Facebook page.
- 6) Any outside visitors to school buildings will follow the USD 417 Masking Guidelines Scorecard status for masking in the building. Outside visitors must check in at the school office.
- 7) Any staff or visitors working with students in the USD 417 Pre-K program must wear a properly fitting mask if not fully vaccinated. Proof of vaccination will be required.

Sincerely,

The USD 417 Administrative Team