

# Proposal A for COVID-19 Mitigating Measures 2021-2022



Keeping schools open and safe is a top priority for the upcoming 2021-22 school year. The primary goal of the mitigating measures is to provide layered strategies to help keep students in school and focused on learning. This information may change in response to community transmission data and/or additional guidance offered from public health officials with short notice.

## General Information

- As an education community, we believe our shared, primary goal remains to keep schools open so that our children can learn and benefit from interactions from others. We understand that this goal requires the collective effort of our educators, families, public health, and county officials, as well as support from the medical community.
- The Shawnee Mission School District (SMSD) recognizes the strongest mitigating measure may be found in the immunity gained from vaccines.
- It is strongly recommended that unvaccinated individuals continue to mask until fully vaccinated.
- The Shawnee Mission School District reserves the right to change mitigation protocols at any point by action of the Board of Education or superintendent.

## Learning Opportunities

- SMSD will provide in-person learning for the 21-22 school year based on guidance from the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE). As a result of Kansas House Bill 2134, remote learning is no longer a universal option for school districts to provide.
- SMSD does not have an accredited virtual school; therefore, if SMSD students request a virtual option, we will refer them to the approved KSDE list of Accredited Virtual Schools.
- All students will continue to have one-to-one devices.
- Wireless hotspots will be available for student checkout to support those without connectivity in the home.
- Elementary specials will resume ABCD daily rotations.
- Student Individual Education Plan (IEP) services will continue to be implemented as determined by the IEP team.
- Field trip guidance will be provided based on community transmission data and/or additional guidance offered from public health officials.
- The decision to allow external building visitors (including volunteers) will be determined based on community transmission data and/or additional guidance offered from public health officials.

## Vaccination and Testing

- It is recommended all eligible individuals receive the COVID-19 vaccine.
- Vaccination clinics will be facilitated by SMSD in conjunction with community partners for staff, students, and community.
- SMSD will continue to offer testing for symptomatic, exposed asymptomatic, and optional participation in surveillance testing.

## Maintaining Healthy School Environments

- It is **strongly recommended** that unvaccinated individuals continue to mask until fully vaccinated (2 weeks after the last dose in series).
- Fully vaccinated individuals do not have to wear a mask. Individuals should always be allowed to wear a mask if they choose, regardless of vaccination status.
- Individuals do not need to mask when outdoors. This includes students participating in elementary recess.
- **All bus riders must wear a mask** when riding on a school bus.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>U.S. Department of Transportation <https://www.transportation.gov/safety/mask-travel-guidance>



- Individuals are encouraged to self-monitor for symptoms of illness. Individuals who are ill should stay home.

### **Johnson County Department of Health and Environment (JCDHE) Contact Tracing**

- Individuals providing a COVID-19 vaccination record who have been exposed to a positive case of COVID-19 will not be required to quarantine as long as they are asymptomatic.
- SMSD will notify JCDHE of positive cases and positivity rates in class, group, school, etc.
  - SMSD will cooperate with JCDHE for contact tracing purposes.
  - Contact tracing and follow up instructions to be provided by JCDHE to exposed individuals
  - Elementary - SMSD will provide grade level notification of exposure to a positive case and general COVID-19 information.
  - Secondary, CAA, O&M, Office Staff - SMSD will not provide notification of exposure to a positive case as most at the secondary level and administrative offices have had the opportunity to be vaccinated and/or participate in surveillance testing.
  - Collaborate with JCDHE to determine necessary action in the case of increased positivity rates in a class, group, school, etc.

### **Exclusion from School**

- Anyone testing positive for COVID-19 will be excluded for 10 days (excused absence) from the onset of symptoms or a positive test per JCDHE exclusion guidelines and [K.S.A. 65-122](#).
- Anyone experiencing COVID like illness will be excluded from school/work as follows:
  - Excluded for 10 days (excused absence) OR
  - Providing documentation of a negative PCR test OR
  - Alternative diagnosis from a physician per JCDHE exclusion guidelines and [K.S.A. 65-122](#).
- SMSD will maintain a COVID-19 dashboard for positive cases located on the district's website.

### **Cohorting, Social Distancing, and Group Sizes**

- Secondary schools will lift requirements for cohorting, social distancing and group size limits.
- Elementary schools will continue to social distance indoors (3 feet distance) and cohort to the extent possible until vaccines become available for younger students.
  - During breakfast/lunch elementary students will sit in assigned seats in an effort to maintain class cohorts to the extent possible.
  - Recess: During outdoor recess, cohorting will not be required.

### **Cleaning and Ventilation**

- Air handling enhancements implemented in the 2020-21 plans will continue for the 2021-22 school year.
- Cleaning and sanitization protocols implemented in the 2020-21 plans will continue for the 2021-22 school year.

### **Activities/Athletics**

All [KSHSAA](#) and district guidelines must be followed at all times. SMSD will use the following prevention strategies:

- It is strongly recommended that unvaccinated individuals continue to mask until fully vaccinated.
- Optional surveillance testing available for student athletes and coaches.
- Cohort to the extent possible with large groups.
- The Shawnee Mission School District reserves the right to require masks or implement other mitigating measures at any point.

### **Performing Arts**

- Utilizing outdoor spaces whenever possible is strongly recommended.
- Masks are strongly recommended to be worn when singing or speaking.
- Bell covers are strongly recommended to reduce aerosolized material.
- Social distancing to 3ft in rehearsal spaces.

The Shawnee Mission School District will continue to monitor the data and will remain in communication with the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment. As a result, these safety mitigation protocols may change with short notice.

## **Shawnee Mission School District Employees**

### **Return to Work**

- All positions in the SMSD are “in-person” positions.
- Any staff members who may have concerns about their work conditions because of their health, should contact the Human Resource Office and access the [ADA form](#).

### **Exclusion**

- Asymptomatic staff will not be required by JCDHE to quarantine if they show proof of vaccination. Therefore, staff are encouraged to share their positive vaccination status with their school nurse. This information will be kept in strict confidence in a separate medical file by the Human Resource Team.
- SMSD employees are responsible for notifying their supervisor of their orders to exclude from work.
- If a staff member is required by a government agency to quarantine or isolate, they will need to use their own accumulated leave and/or access an available leave option.

The Shawnee Mission School District will continue to monitor the CDC guidelines and will remain in weekly communication with the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment. As a result, these safety mitigation protocols may change by action of the Board of Education or superintendent in response to community transmission data and/or additional guidance offered from public health officials with short notice.