

Shawnee Mission Schools
Updated COVID-19 Mitigating Measures
2021-2022



Due to high community transmission rates of COVID-19 in the county and lack of vaccine availability for all individuals, the Shawnee Mission School District (SMSD) will require masking of all children and adults in grades PreK-12 and in all district facilities until further 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 recognizes the strongest mitigating measure may be found in the immunity gained from vaccines.
- 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, the district 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. All visitors must wear a mask.

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

- **Masks are required for all children and adults** until such a time as all students have the opportunity to be fully vaccinated and community transmission levels decrease.
- **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 unless there is documentation presented to the school for a medical mask exemption.
- Individuals are encouraged to self-monitor for symptoms of illness. Individuals who are ill should stay home.
- External building visitors must wear masks.



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

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

Elementary	Secondary
During breakfast/lunch elementary students will sit in assigned seats in an effort to maintain class cohorts to the extent possible.	It is strongly recommended that secondary schools cohort and social distance (3ft) to the extent possible, and limit large group assemblies from gathering during the instructional day while community transmission is high.
During outdoor recess, cohorting will not be required.	

Activities/Athletics

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

- 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.
- Bell covers are strongly recommended to reduce aerosolized material.
- Social distancing to 3ft in rehearsal spaces.

Mask Exemption

- The following Individuals may be exempt from wearing masks while inside school buildings:
 - Persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a face covering. This includes persons with a medical condition for whom wearing a face covering could obstruct breathing or who are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance.
 - For students, faculty and staff, documentation of the above condition should be provided to the school nurse pursuant to school guidelines using the District [Mask Exemption Form](#).
 - Persons communicating with a person who is deaf or hard of hearing, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication.
 - Persons engaged in activities and athletics inside school buildings, who should follow KSHSAA and/or school guidelines.

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.