

Shawnee Mission Schools COVID-19 Mitigating Measures 2021-2022 - January 10, 2022



The Shawnee Mission School District (SMSD) continues to make modifications to its Covid-19 mitigation plans. Decisions will be made based on data relating to the rates of infection and transmission in Johnson County and in SMSD schools, vaccination rates among different age populations, and other factors. The mitigation measures below go into effect on January 11, 2022 **and will apply to all previously identified cases currently excluded.**

The district reserves the right to return to previous mitigation measures should conditions at the individual classroom, building or district level warrant it. These safety mitigation protocols may change by action of the Board of Education or superintendent in response to classroom, building or community transmission data and/or additional guidance offered from public health officials.

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.
- Approved field trips will be supported to the extent transportation is available. Building mitigation measures will remain in place during field trips into the community and Shawnee Mission schools.
- Visitors are welcome in schools in a limited capacity. See the winter guidance document [here](#) for details. All visitors must follow the building mitigation protocol.

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 and exposed asymptomatic as available.

Maintaining Healthy School Environments

Pre-K Elementary Schools

- **Masks are required** for all students and staff. At this time there is a county mandate for this age group. We will continue to monitor vaccination rates and community transmission.
- **Individuals do not need to mask when outdoors.** This includes students participating in preK-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.

Secondary Schools

- Mask wearing inside middle school and high school buildings is optional for students and staff.
- 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.

***If a school building reaches 3% or > exclusion and quarantine, the building will return to full mask requirements. The building will remain masked for at least 14 days and until the percentage of recommended exclusions and quarantines is < 3%.**

****If school building rates of required exclusion and quarantine are unknown due to one of the extended district breaks (such as Thanksgiving, Winter, Spring or Summer breaks) AND the percent positive rate is 8% or higher according to the JCDHE dashboard, all buildings will return to school with full mask requirements until data can be collected to determine the actual building rate. This time period will be no longer than one week unless > 3%.**

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 & Environment (JCDHE) Exclusion from School/Work Guidance

- Anyone testing positive for COVID-19 will be excluded for **5 days** (excused absence) from the onset of symptoms or a positive test per JCDHE exclusion guidelines and [K.S.A. 65-122](#).
- **If an individual tests positive for COVID-19 or is suspected of having COVID-19 (symptomatic) regardless of vaccination status they must:**
 - Stay home for 5 days from symptom onset or test date, whichever is first. If symptoms have resolved or are improving after 5 days students and staff can return to school and school-related activities.
 - Once returned, individuals must wear a mask for days 6-10. *Individuals with COVID-19 should also remain separated in instances where they cannot mask (e.g. Eat 6 feet away from others). Individuals returning during days 6-10 should refrain from activities that make consistent and proper mask wearing impossible, activities that involve frequent or sustained close contact (e.g., certain sports), and activities that increase the risk of transmission of aerosolized respiratory particles (e.g., wind instruments, singing, shouting, etc.).

If you have a fever, continue to stay home until your fever resolves for 24 hours without the aid of medication.

- **If an individual was exposed to someone with COVID-19 and fully vaccinated**
Has been boosted

OR

Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 5 months

OR

Completed the primary series of J&J vaccine within the last 2 months

- Must wear a mask around others for 10 days from the date of exposure.
 - PCR/lab confirmed antigen test on day 5 from the exposure.
 - Eat 6 feet away from others.
 - If you develop symptoms get a PCR/lab confirmed antigen test and stay home until documentation of a negative result is provided to the school nurse.
- If an individual was exposed to someone with COVID-19 and **not fully vaccinated** Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine more than 5 months ago and are NOT boosted
- OR**
Completed the primary series of J&J vaccine within more than 2 months ago and are NOT boosted
- OR**
Are unvaccinated

If Test to Stay is not available

- Stay home for 5 days after the date of exposure.
- Required PCR/lab confirmed antigen test on day 5 from the exposure.
- Continue to wear a mask at school/work on days 6-10.
- Remain 6 feet away from others day 6-10 when unmasked.

OR

Stay home for 10 days after the date of exposure.

*If Test to Stay is available

- Wear a mask at school/work for 10 days from the date of exposure.
- Participate in Test to Stay testing every other day for 5 days.
- Remain 6 feet away from others day 6-10 when unmasked.

OR

Stay home for 10 days after the date of exposure.

If you develop symptoms get a PCR/lab confirmed test and stay home until documentation of a negative result is provided to the school nurse.

***Testing for those exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms will be prioritized at the SMSD testing site. Test to Stay will be available as capacity allows. When community transmission and testing demands are high, Test to Stay may be suspended until testing demands decrease.**

**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 building or community transmission is high.
During outdoor recess, cohorting will not be required.	

Activities/Athletics

All schools will follow [KSHSAA](#) and district guidelines:

- 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.

***The Shawnee Mission School District reserves the right to change mitigation protocols at any point by action of the Board of Education or superintendent.**

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 **recommended** 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 classroom, building or community transmission data and/or additional guidance offered from public health officials, with short notice.