

Shawnee Mission Schools
COVID-19 Mitigating Measures
2021-2022 - February 14, 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 February 16, 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 elementary students and staff while the county mandate is in effect. At such time as the county removes the mandate, elementary schools will revert to the district threshold for masking (see below) set for all other SMSD facilities.
- Individuals do not need to mask when outdoors.
- 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

- Masks inside middle school and high school buildings are optional for students and staff as long as they remain below the district threshold for masking (see below).
- 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.

District Threshold for Masking

If a school building reaches > 3% positive COVID cases or the overall absentee rate related to illness is > 5%, the building will return to full mask requirements. The building will remain masked for at least 14 days and until the percentage of positive cases is < 3% and overall absentee rate related to illness is < 5%.

If school building rates of positive cases or illness rates 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 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.

Please find the JCDHE recommendations for positive cases and exposures [here](#).

*SMSD will maintain a COVID-19 dashboard for positive cases located on the district’s website to the extent possible.

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, 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.

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