

Shawnee Mission Schools
COVID-19 Mitigating Measures
2021-2022 - April 18, 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.

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.

Vaccination and Testing

- It is recommended all eligible individuals receive the COVID-19 vaccine.
- SMSD will continue to offer testing for symptomatic and exposed asymptomatic as available.

Maintaining Healthy School Environments

Pre-K - 12 Schools

- **Effective April 19, 2022 and for the remainder of the 2021-22 school year, total COVID-related absences must remain below five percent (5%). In the event that an individual building (school) exceeds this threshold, that building (only that building) will temporarily return to the mask requirement and will need to drop below five percent (5%) of COVID-related absences for one week before moving to optional masking.**
- Individuals do not need to mask when outdoors.
- Individuals are encouraged to self-monitor for symptoms of illness. Individuals who are ill should stay home.
- Outside guests are not allowed to visit the cafeteria during the lunch period.
- 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.
- Visitors are welcome in schools. All visitors must follow the building mitigation protocol.

Cleaning and Ventilation

- Air handling enhancements, 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.

Activities/Athletics/Performing Arts

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

- Cohort to the extent possible with large groups.
- Utilizing outdoor spaces whenever possible is strongly recommended.
- Bell covers are strongly recommended to reduce aerosolized material.

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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