

USD 262 Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

****This plan is subject to modification as conditions warrant****

PART I.

Describe how the district will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff and the extent to which it has adopted policies, and a description of any such policies, on each of the following safety recommendations established by the CDC:

(A) Universal and correct wearing of masks.

USD 262 will follow all federal, state, and county health orders that apply to school districts.

Should masking orders be put in place, students and staff may be exempt from masking requirements based on disability or a signed, medical exemption from a medical provider (MD, DO, ARNP, PA).

Based upon information from the SCHED, school-based situations involving multiple positive cases, significant changes to the positive percentage rates in the area, or upon any mandates of the CDC, state, local, and/or county health officials, USD 262 may modify mitigating measures.

(B) Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing.

Social-distancing measures may be followed during periods when high rates of infection occur in the district. These measures may include assigned seating in classrooms, during lunch, and on transportation to reduce the number of others who may be exposed.

(C) Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Frequent hand washing/sanitizing is important. Sanitization stations are placed throughout the schools. Students will be reminded of the importance of handwashing/sanitizing. Sneezes and coughs should be covered with a tissue or elbow.

(D) Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation.

Appropriate cleaning protocols will occur in district facilities and on school buses. High-touch areas will be wiped down periodically. The district will continue to use strategic HVAC settings which include increased outside air flow.

(E) Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the state, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments.

USD 262 will follow all federal, state, and county health orders that apply to school districts. Contacts will be identified by SCHED and the appropriate federal, state, and/or county orders followed for each.

(F) Diagnostic and screening testing.

The district will provide diagnostic testing for staff and students experiencing Covid-like symptoms, following an exposure, and/or to reduce time away from school or work. Periodic screening tests may also occur.

(G) Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities.

USD 262 will continue to partner with local resources to assist with vaccination efforts as appropriate.

Although a person's vaccination status may affect time away from school or work if exposed to a case, USD 262 will not use vaccination status for other purposes such as access to programs, employment, or other opportunities.

(H) Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies.

USD 262 will provide reasonable, necessary, and appropriate accommodations to its policies and practices for students with disabilities as determined by individual student needs and in accordance with an individual's documented accommodations and/or individualized education plan (IEP). Parents or guardians of students requiring accommodations should contact the applicable building administrator(s) to request information on plans for students with disabilities

(I) Coordination with State and local health officials.

USD 262 personnel will continue to participate with state and local county health professionals and/or agencies on a frequent basis to determine appropriate means to help maintain the health and safety of our staff, students, and community.

Part II.

Describe how the district will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to:

(A) services to address students' academic needs

USD 262 will continue full time, in-person instruction. Families may contact their students' building administrator to learn of potential options for virtual learning programs. Supplemental learning opportunities may be provided throughout the school year before, during, and after school to assist those students who may need the additional support.

ESSER funds have been utilized to provide additional personnel, technology, and additional supports for addressing our students' academic needs.

Current State Statute limits remote learning during the 2023-2024 school year. When students miss school due to illness, school exclusions, or other reasons, their teacher(s) will work with them to address learning while absent.

(B) students' and staff social, emotional, mental health

The social and emotional learning needs of our students and staff remains a priority. We will continue to utilize the Hornet Care Team, comprised of district mental health liaisons, school

personnel, and local mental health services, as well as School-Based Health Clinic personnel, in order to provide a coordinated approach to support our students and families.

USD 262 staff are provided social and emotional supports through an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) provider.

ESSER funds have also helped provide additional personnel and supports.

(C) other needs, which may include student health and food services.

Contingency plans are in place to provide meals should schools be forced to close due to emergency closures.

The district will continue to provide our students and staff with family-medicine type health services at the School Based Health Clinic, located at VCHS.