

Andover USD 385

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

Contact info@usd385.org to provide comment for this plan.

Please note: Any new updates will be indicated in each section below.

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.

Masks were required during the 2020-21 school year for staff, students, and visitors. Based on the community data in our area, we moved to optional masks beginning on June 1, 2021. The wearing of masks will continue to be optional but strongly recommended as we move into the 2021-22 school year.

Update (9/3/21): Masks are required among students, staff and visitors in elementary school buildings from the period of September 3, 2021, through October, 12, 2021, per a vote by the Board of Education on August 31, 2021.

Update (10/11/21): The Board of Education extended the mask requirement for students, staff and visitors in elementary buildings through November 9, 2021.

Update (11/10/21): Masks returned to optional but strongly recommended for elementary school building after the current requirement was allowed to expire by the Board of Education.

Update (9/19/22): The Board of Education has no specific policy relating to masks for the 2022-23 school year. Per guidance from KDHE, following language is contained in the letter sent to students and staff who have reported testing positive for Covid: *Your child may return to school and activities beginning [insert date of return] (assuming he/she has been fever-free for 24 hours prior and symptoms have diminished without the aid of medications) and must wear a mask for 5 days. If a mask can not be worn, then your child may return to school after day 10 on [insert date of return].*

In addition, the letter sent to household contacts contains the following language for students and staff who are not showing symptoms: *Your child may stay in school and monitor for symptoms. Testing is recommended on Day 6 after exposure. Masks are recommended by Sedgwick and Butler County Health Departments for 10 days. Day 6 recommended testing for your child will be on the morning of [insert date of testing]. Please make an appointment for this date here: <https://apstesting.timetap.com/>*

Update (8/23/23): The Board of Education has no specific policy relating to masks for the 2023-24 school year. Per guidance from the CDC, the following language is contained in the letter sent to students and staff who have reported testing positive for Covid: *You may return to school*

and activities beginning [date] (assuming you have been fever-free for 24 hours prior and symptoms have diminished without the aid of medications) and it is recommended you wear a mask for five days after you return.

(B) Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding).

During the 2020-21 school year physical distancing to the extent possible was implemented for staff, students, and visitors. Some examples of this include using multiple areas for lunch, creating visual signs in the building to help students maintain distance from one another, and when possible, limiting the interactions among students. As we move into the 2021-22 school year, we will have all of our students learning on-site daily, so we will do the best we can with encouraging physical distancing and minimizing opportunities for high-risk exposures.

Update (9/19/22): Current practice is back to pre-COVID use of cafeterias/commons for student lunch time. Visitors are allowed in the building.

Update (8/23/23): No changes from 2022-23 year

(C) Handwashing and respiratory etiquette.

Hand sanitizer is available in all of our schools, and is readily accessible for students, staff, and visitors. Reminders of handwashing etiquette are in our schools.

Update (8/23/23): No changes from the 2022-23 year.

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

- a. Facilities are cleaned daily after students leave.
- b. Staff have the ability to clean on demand throughout the day with supplies that have a rapid effective rate for any areas of concern.
- c. All products are stored in secure locations with content information posted.
- d. All air filters are changed on a quarterly basis.

Update (8/23/23): No changes from the 2022-23 year.

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

The district follows health guidance from the Butler County & Sedgwick County Health Departments.

Update (8/23/23): No changes from the 2022-23 year. No contact tracing will be done in our schools by staff members.

(F) Diagnostic and screening testing.

Students with COVID symptoms will continue to be screened and monitored in a room away from others. Our nursing staff or principals will contact parents to come pick up their child.

Follow-up care and procedures from the local health department will be followed, based on the county in which the student resides.

Update (9/3/21): The district began a Stay to Learn testing option on Sept. 7, 2021. This allows students 11 and under (who are not eligible for vaccination) who are deemed a close contact to be tested daily and stay in class, provided they are asymptomatic.

Update (1/18/22): The district began a Test to Know testing option to allow students or staff members who are showing COVID symptoms to be tested.

Update (9/19/22): For the 2022-23 school year, the district is offering Covid testing by appointment for students and staff.

Update (8/23/23): Covid testing for students and staff is continuing. A room in the Andover eCademy building will be used. At-home tests also are available for students and staff.

(G) Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities.

- a. The district works with both county and local government to provide information regarding availability.
- b. Onsite vaccinations have been provided for staff and the need will continue to be monitored.

Update (8/23/23): The option of Covid vaccinations or boosters will be included with this year's flu vaccination clinic for staff.

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

- a. Children with IEPs or 504 plans, based on their individual situation, may not be required to wear masks.
- b. Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) may be provided to students on an as-needed basis to accommodate disability or health situations.

Update (8/23/23): No changes from the 2022-23 year.

(I) Coordination with State and local health officials.

The District maintains close communication with local health officials regarding updates and the latest guidance with Covid-19.

Update (8/23/23): No changes from the 2022-23 year.

Part II.

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

(A) services to address students' academic needs

Andover Public Schools offered a robust summer learning program for students during the summer of 2021. Elementary and middle school students who met eligibility requirements attended three weeks (12 days) of summer school instruction focused on remediating learning loss. High school students had the opportunity to enroll in credit recovery courses and drivers education. In addition, Andover eCademy is offering virtual education to students this summer. For the 2021-22 school year, classes will be held in-person at all of our brick-and-mortar schools, and Andover eCademy will continue to provide the blended model as it has done for many years. Summer programs again will be offered to address potential learning loss.

Update (9/19/22): Similar summer school offerings were provided during the summer of 2022. In-person learning continues for the 2022-23 school year, with Andover eCademy continuing to be a virtual option for families. Additional reading specialists have been hired to support the middle and high school levels. Educator training and resources are also being provided to assist with identifying learning loss and how to provide additional targeted support.

Update (8/23/23): These practices continued during the summer of 2023 and will continue for the 2023-24 school year.

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

A variety of programs and services are in place to address students' social, emotional, and mental health needs. The list of programs and services includes but is not limited to:

- Classroom lessons focused on providing strategies and skills for students to build social and emotional skills. Programs utilized include: Capturing Kids Hearts, Second Step curriculum, and Ramp Up to Readiness
- Counselors and school nurses are available in all of our schools.
- In addition, the district partners with outside agencies to address needs that extend beyond the scope of what our schools typically provide.
- Resources and education are provided to assist parents as they work with their children on social-emotional skills.
- The district has hired part-time consultants in the areas of family engagement and mental health/substance abuse to help provide resources for families.
- Additional training and resources for educators are being provided to support student emotional support.

Update (8/23/23): The district will begin offering on-site therapy and small group therapy through South Central Mental Health and Friends University. Any student referred for therapy services must have parental permission and involvement in the process. South Central Mental Health will begin offering services through therapists and

student therapists this fall. Friends University will begin offering services through students in its Master of Science in Family Therapy program beginning in May. These services are being offered to address an increase in mental health issues, such as anxiety and depression, that our schools have seen in recent years.

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

For students enrolled in our elementary and middle school academies during the summer of 2021, breakfast and lunch were provided each day that school was in session. Weekday meal service (breakfast and lunch) will be provided for all students in the district during the 2021-22 school year.

Update (9/19/22): Due to the discontinuation of the federal free meal program, students who meet income guidelines will be required to pay for meals during the 2022-23 school year. The district provides ample communication to families about applying for free or reduced meals.