

LEAVENWORTH USD 453



PIONEER RESTART 2.0



2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

UPDATED AUGUST 28, 2024

Leavenworth USD 453: Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services (24-25 School Year)

Overview

The 2024-25 school year began as the 23-24 school year ended, with masks being optional for students and staff, and guidance for students and staff to stay home from work/school when experiencing any symptoms related to COVID-19.

The Leavenworth Unified School District (USD 453) will review any related communication or guidance received from the Kansas State Department of Education, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, and/or Leavenworth County Health Department. Any significant adjustments or changes to school day operations would be presented for review/approval to the Leavenworth Board of Education.

Health Symptoms

USD 453 continues to consider how best to decrease the spread of acute respiratory illness and lower the impact of COVID-19 in our facilities. Working in close collaboration with the Leavenworth County Health Department, our objectives are (1) reducing transmission among students and staff, (2) protection of people who are at a higher risk for adverse health complications, (3) maintaining operations, and (4) minimizing adverse effects on our students and staff. According to the CDC, people with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Students and staff experiencing any of the symptoms above should not report to work or school. Students or staff that report and start exhibiting the above symptoms during the day will be dismissed.

Dismissal for Illness

Student: When the school nurse believes it is in the child's best interest to be dismissed from school for illness, parents/guardians will be called to make arrangements for the child's transportation home within 30 minutes. (Walking/bussing will be at the discretion of the school nurse/building administration and with parental permission).

Staff: When the building administrator or Human Resources Department feels it is in a staff member's best interest to be dismissed from work for illness, the staff member will be notified of their need to place a leave entry in the system and will be advised to call the Human Resources Department for further guidance.

Defining a Case of COVID-19 Disease and the Infectious Period

A Person Under Investigation (PUI) is someone who is suspected of having COVID-19 disease because of symptoms or exposure (travel-related or exposure to a known case). A person who is being tested for COVID-19 because they are suspected of having the disease is required to be in isolation until test results are received.

Other Students & Employees in the Household

If a student or employee is excluded from school because of a positive COVID-19 test, other students and employees living in the same household that are considered susceptible close contacts should practice social distancing and proper hand hygiene.

Exclusion From School

Students, staff and teachers exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 without other obvious explanations or an alternative diagnosis from a healthcare professional are prohibited from coming to school, and will be sent home from school if already in attendance, until they have been symptom free for 24 hours without the use of medication.

Tested & Awaiting Results

Persons who are suspected of having COVID-19 disease and are awaiting test results should be isolated at home until test results are received.

Positive Result

Any COVID quarantine or isolation periods are at the discretion of your treating physician and are not directed by the district. Our guidance to students, families and staff defaults to the standard communicable illness protocol; individuals should be symptom free, or have significant symptom improvement without the use of medication for at least 24 hours prior to their return. It is recommended that additional hygiene steps are taken to prevent the spread of respiratory illness, such as masking, frequent hand washing and frequent disinfection of classroom or work space, etc.

School Response to Identification of a Case

As soon as the school becomes aware of a student or employee that has been diagnosed with COVID-19 disease, the custodial staff will be informed so that all desks, lockers and workspaces

of the person are thoroughly disinfected. There is no need to wait 24 hours or any other length of time before disinfection occurs.

Masking (Optional)

Beginning on January 4, 2022, students, staff, and visitors on USD 453 property were no longer required to wear masks or face coverings.

Hand Washing / Sanitization

Students and staff are encouraged to follow proper hygiene and health practices in the school setting. Hand sanitizers and hand washing stations are available throughout each school building in the district.

Before each school day, custodial staff will thoroughly clean and sanitize all occupied spaces. Throughout the day, custodial staff will clean and sanitize higher use areas at regular intervals with materials and methods that are safe.

Water Bottles, Backpacks & Personal Items

Students are encouraged to bring a personal water bottle, clearly marked and labeled, that can be refilled throughout the day at our bottle filling stations. Backpacks, lunch bags, etc. will be allowed and should be secured by the student once inside the school facility.

Visitors, Guests, & Volunteers

Visitors and guests are encouraged to schedule in-person appointments prior to arriving at one of our campuses. All visitors and guests will be required to use our “Hall Pass” check-in system prior to entry.

Individuals interested in volunteering at the school can inquire with their child’s teacher or building principal about upcoming opportunities and must have completed a background check with the district. Approvals take approximately one week to process, and remain valid for two years. The USD 453 HR Department can inform an individual whether or not a previously submitted background check is still valid.

Volunteer background checks can be completed online at:

<https://bib.com/SECUREVOLUNTEER/LEAVENWORTH-USD-453/Facilities & Custodial Procedures>

Throughout each school day, custodial staff will focus on cleaning/sanitizing touch surfaces, and high traffic areas, including restrooms. Each evening, custodians will disinfect desks, chairs, tables, door handles and touch surfaces as well as entrances and exits. Classrooms will be provided with additional cleaning supplies for on-the-spot disinfecting at the discretion of staff members assigned to that room.

All building sites have received air filtration changes to provide high-level filtration treated with an anti-microbial coating to help improve the supply air in our buildings. Filters are changed quarterly, with HVAC systems operated under industry standard to provide and control air

exchange and fresh air circulation.

Academic/Instructional

Learning Models

On-Site ("In-Person") Learning Environment: students and teachers will be in school. Instruction is teacher-led using district curriculum, schedule, and grading practices. Students wishing to remain on-site are expected to comply with all on-site public health protocols, expectations outlined in the student handbook and communicated from their building principal and classroom teachers.

- **Extended Absence(s):** If directed due to changing health conditions or circumstances requiring an extended absence for your student(s) from their regular learning environment, routine district policies and practices for repeated absence will apply. Policies are outlined in the student handbook.
- **Repeated Absence Due To Illness:** Students who are frequently absent due to illness may require medical attention. Parents/guardians are encouraged to maintain close communication with the child's teacher, principal, and attendance liaison if repeated absences are necessary for health reasons. After six absences, the principal may require a note from a physician before further absences are considered excused. In the event that a child is ill for more than three consecutive days, a physician's note may be required to consider the absences excused. Factors, which may be considered in deciding whether or not to require a physician's note include:
 - Past attendance history of a child;
 - Past attendance history of siblings;
 - The reasons for past absences;
 - The degree to which parents have communicated with school personnel regarding absences; or
 - The point in the school year when six absences accumulate (for example, six absences in the first quarter is much more significant than six absences spaced out over an entire school year).

Parental/Guardian Responsibility Regarding School Notification

- Parents/guardians should contact the school any time a student is absent. If at all possible, an absence call should be made to the school office before 9:00 a.m. on the day of the absence. This call serves several purposes including: Notifying school personnel that the student is safe at home; a record of the reason for the absence can be recorded in the school attendance files; and arrangements can be made for homework to be picked up.

Leavenworth Virtual School (K-8 only)

- Students would be doing all of their learning from home, the curriculum is provided by Calvert/Edmentum which is different from our traditional school sites, making it more difficult to transfer back to the assigned attendance area. Instruction is parent/guardian-led, but supported by a certified instructor. Online checkpoints and weekly progress requirements are documented by an assigned staff member. Students can attend Virtual School on-site for tutoring and special events, but can only participate in extracurricular athletics and activities at their physical attendance area if enrolled and attending at least one class period for on-site learning. This program is free of charge for all eligible K-8 students with proof of Kansas residency.

Note: Leavenworth High School does not offer a virtual school option, and legislative changes made in Kansas make it impossible for schools to provide remote education. High school aged students interested in virtual learning can visit the link provided for a listing of programs recognized and accredited by the State Department of Education:

<https://www.ksde.org/Agency/Division-of-Learning-Services/Career-Standards-and-Assessment-Services/CSAS-Home/Graduation-and-Schools-of-Choice/Virtual-Schools-and-Programs/Virtual-Directors>

Social & Emotional Wellbeing

Leavenworth USD 453 has several available support options for families in times of emotional or physical need. Our district has a team of educators with specialized training in times of crisis including situations such as death, natural disasters, or in our current situation a pandemic. Please contact your individual child's school administrator, counselor, social worker, or school psychologist, to learn what resources and supports are available for your family.

Our district has a licensed clinical social worker that serves as a liaison between our district and community mental health centers such as The Guidance Center. During this time of uncertainty and potential increased needs, Leavenworth USD 453 is available to help connect families with community resources.

Q&A/Additional Clarification

Exclusions

Q. Can the school district ignore the orders of the Health Department, or other medical authority, and allow a student/staff member to return to school/work before the end of their quarantine/isolation period?

A: No.

Q. Can my student remote into their classroom while sick?

A: Due to House Bill 2134 enacted by the Kansas Legislature, remote learning is not available to students that have been excluded from school. Students who are absent due to illness will receive missing assignments and homework. Building administration and assigned staff will work with students and families to develop plans and timelines for making up missed assignments.

Q. I am a Leavenworth USD 453 staff member, and have specific questions and concerns about my own condition, whom do I contact for guidance and clarification?

A: Staff members are encouraged to contact the USD 453 Human Resources Department (913-684-1400) for consultation and direction related.

Vaccinations

Q. Will staff/students be required to receive a vaccination as a condition to report to work or school? Will volunteers be required to provide proof of vaccination before entering schools?

A: Leavenworth USD 453 does not require proof of vaccination for any student, staff member, or guest/volunteer.

Q. Where can I get a COVID-19 vaccine?

A: The Leavenworth Health Department offers vaccination clinics, and can be contacted at 913-250-2000. Additional opportunities to receive area vaccinations can be identified here:

<https://www.vaccines.gov/>

Busing

Q. Are masks required on buses?

A: As of February 28, 2022, masks are optional for USD 453 students and drivers on buses and district vehicles.

Q. When will I know if I have secured transportation for my student via Easton Bus?

A: Ridership status can be determined by contacting Easton Bus directly at 913-682-2244 between 7am - 3pm Mondays through Fridays.

Virtual Learning

Q: When can a family change their mind about On-Site enrollment, and request a change to Virtual School?

A: For academic continuity, it is recommended that families request a transfer to K-8 virtual no later than September 7, 2024. The Leavenworth Virtual School is a parent-led, home-school environment serving grades Kindergarten through 8th, with a different curriculum than the rest of USD 453 schools making it more challenging to transfer to In-Person during the course of a school year. In-district transfer requests to the Leavenworth Virtual School must be made no later than September 7, 2024. Virtual School applicants will need to apply for this option, take a grade level assessment, and sign-off on attendance policy and expectations agreement for acceptance into the program.

There is no virtual school option for grades 9-12 provided by USD 453. High school aged students interested in virtual learning can visit the link provided for a listing of programs recognized and accredited by the State Department of Education:

<https://www.ksde.org/Agency/Division-of-Learning-Services/Career-Standards-and-Assessment-Services/CSAS-Home/Graduation-and-Schools-of-Choice/Virtual-Schools-and-Programs/Virtual-Directors>