



# McLouth USD #342

## Return-to-School Guide

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### **Important Dates:**

**Enrollment:** August 5, August 6. Enrollment will be conducted by appointment. Appointments may be scheduled through Sign Up Genius

**Professional Development:** New Teacher: August 7; All Teachers: August 10-14, 17-21, 24-25

**Teacher Workday:** August 26

**First Day of School:** August 27

#### **What will school look like for the 2020-21 school year?**

As long as we are allowed, and it is deemed safe, by the Jefferson County Health Department and the Kansas State Department of Education and the district, we will provide on-site learning. Throughout the year, there could be three different learning environments based on the current phase the county is in, or the local needs of our buildings and district. The district or building's learning environment status will be determined by the USD 342 Board of Education, administration, local health officials, and/or the state. Below are the three different learning environments.

**On-site Learning Environment:** students and teachers will be in school with social distancing practices in place when possible. The remote learning environment will also be an option.

1. All students are on site and in attendance at their school.
2. All staff and students will wear face coverings due to potential social distancing limitations.
3. Nontraditional spaces may be used for instruction.
4. Students should remain with the same cohort group in one space to minimize mass movement when possible.

**Hybrid Learning Environment:** students would be spending part of their time in the classroom and part of their time learning remotely from home.

1. Students will attend school either two or three days a week.
2. Students will engage in synchronous and asynchronous learning every day when off site.
3. Social distancing measures can be maintained according to current guidelines.
4. Class sizes will be reduced by creating cohorts based on alphabet with the exception of families with different last names staying together.
5. Onsite priority will be provided, depending on staffing, for:
  1. Students with disabilities

2. English language learners
3. Students that are homeless
4. Students in foster care
5. Students with written plans created through collaborative teams

**Remote Learning Environment:** students would be doing all of their learning from home and not entering the school building at all.

1. Students maintain enrollment status at USD #342.
2. Students engage in school online during regular school hours and follow a standard school schedule.
3. Learning will occur asynchronously with daily synchronous contact.
4. Teachers meet with students daily utilizing web conferencing technology.

#### **Can parents choose between on-site, hybrid, and remote learning for their kids?**

Parents will have the choice between two options: 1.) send kids to school according to the learning environment determined by the district and/or health officials. The district and/or building will determine the learning environment status (on-site, hybrid, remote) based on county health orders, state orders, and/or local needs of the building/district. If circumstances allow for the on-site learning environment, it will be the district's preferred choice. If it is determined that the on-site learning environment is not a safe option for students, the district would adjust to the hybrid learning environment or the remote learning environment, depending on what is deemed appropriate.; 2.) Register for the remote learning environment. Parents must commit to a method of instruction on a semester basis. Students signing up for remote learning will not be allowed to participate in extra-curricular activities.

All parents will have the option of continuing with their first semester environment or switching between on-site or the remote learning environment for the second semester.

#### **Will staff, students and visitors be required to wear a mask?**

K-12 public and private schools shall require all students, faculty, staff, vendors and other visitors to public or private K-12 school attendance centers to cover their mouth and nose with a mask or other face covering at all times except as described below:

1. While eating;
2. While working other than to prepare food or meals—in a room or office that is  
(1) not open to students or visitors and (2) in which all individuals present can maintain a 6-foot distance from other individuals with only infrequent or incidental moments of closer proximity;
3. While engaged in an activity during which it is unsafe or impossible to wear a mask or other face covering;
4. Children who are not students and are 5 years of age or under—children age two years and under in particular should not wear a face covering because of the risk of suffocation;
5. 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;

6. Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing, or communicating with a person who is deaf or hard of hearing, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication;
7. Persons for whom wearing a face covering would create a risk to the person related to their work, as determined by local, state, or federal regulators or workplace safety guidelines; and
8. Persons engaged in any lawful activity during which wearing a mask or other face covering is prohibited by law.

### **How will on-site learning look compared to previous years?**

On-site learning will look and feel the same as previous years when it comes to teaching and learning. There will be some modifications to schedules and other items to reduce the spread of COVID. Some of these items include:

- No morning assemblies for elementary students. Instead of congregating in the same space, students will go directly to classrooms upon arrival.
- Water fountains will be closed. Water bottle fill stations may remain on. Students will be responsible for bringing their own water bottle to school, they are not to share water bottles.
- Lunch times will be extended to accommodate smaller groups of kids eating together and time for additional cleaning between groups. Students will be allowed to eat outside on a more frequent basis and the multi-purpose room will be used for eating as well.
- Staff and students will be required to wash their hands as scheduled by the building principal.
- Classrooms will limit the sharing of materials and school supplies. Each student will need to have his/her own supplies to work with.

### **How is the district keeping students and staff safe?**

Cleaning and sanitation are critical to a healthy and safe learning environment for our students and staff. Some of these additional safety items include:

- All staff, students, and visitors will have their temperature scanned as they enter the building.
- Staff will be expected to self-assess their health before every school day using the [KDHE provided COVID health assessment checklist](#).
- Parents will be expected to assess their student's health before every school day.
- Each staff member will be provided two reusable cloth face masks and one face shield.
- Each student will be provided two reusable cloth face masks.
- Ongoing cleaning and sanitation will occur during school day with an emphasis on high traffic and high touch zones; deep cleaning/disinfecting will occur outside school hours.
- EPA hospital grade disinfectant is used by the district.
- Building use by outside groups after school hours will be temporarily suspended to minimize additional traffic and footprint in areas used for school.

### **How will I know if the district activates the hybrid or remote learning environment?**

The district will inform parents/guardians as soon as possible when the decision has been made to move from the on-site learning environment to either hybrid or remote learning through the regular emergency notification process. The district website will display the current learning environment status on the home page with additional information.

### **What will bussing look like?**

Additional safety measures will be in place for bussing. These precautions are outlined below:

- Masks will be required for students and drivers.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided and students will use it upon entry.
- All students will have assigned seats.
- Only family members will be allowed to ride together, if at all possible.
- Buses will be disinfected between each route.
- Students will not be able to ride each other's bus.
- Families will only be provided transportation to and from one location.
- Please be advised that we will not be able to provide 6 foot social distancing.

### **What will the protocol be before school/entering the building?**

- Temperature will be checked before entering the school - Staff will be stationed at entrancing in the morning to assist. If a student has a fever of 100.4 or higher, the student will be moved to a holding area where a parent/guardian will need to get them.
- Hands will be washed or sanitized upon entry and every hour.
- Students will be allowed to enter the building beginning at 7:50.
- Students may pick up a grab and go breakfast, then they must report to their room.

### **What will hallway protocol look like?**

- Traffic will be directional to help with spacing and contact.
- Lockers will be used on a limited basis.
- Attempts will be made to limit student traffic in the halls.
- Ongoing cleaning and sanitation will occur during school day with an emphasis on high traffic and high touch zones; deep cleaning/disinfecting will occur outside school hours.

### **What will the classroom look like?**

- Hand washing or sanitizing will occur every hour
- When possible, social distance of 3-6 feet will be observed in the classroom.

- Rugs and extra furniture will be removed from classrooms so that students can be more spaced.
- High touch areas will be cleaned throughout the day.
- Classrooms will be deep cleaned at the end of the school day.
- Elementary students will be self-contained. Specials will go to the classrooms.
- Middle school students will remain with cohort groups to the extent possible.

**What will the cafeteria look like?**

- Breakfast will be served grab and go and all students will eat in their classroom.
- For lunch, the multipurpose room and outdoor areas will be utilized to help with social distancing.
- Tables and high touch areas will be disinfected between lunch periods.
- All food will be served by cafeteria staff at lunch.
- Lunches will be staggered to provide time for disinfecting.

**What happens if there is a positive COVID-19 case in the building?**

The district will work closely with the Jefferson County Health Department on contact-tracing and determining a safe course of action.

- Notify the Jefferson County Health Department and begin contact-tracing.
- Due to HIPPA and FERPA regulations, USD #342 is not allowed to notify parents of a “possible exposure” or if a student, classmate, or staff member is being tested.
- Close off areas used by a sick person and do not use before cleaning and disinfection. Wait 24 hours before you clean and disinfect. If it is not possible to wait 24 hours, wait as long as possible. Ensure safe and correct application of disinfectants and keep disinfectant products away from children.
- Advise sick staff members or students not to return until they have met state DPH criteria to discontinue home isolation.

# Guide to School Exclusion When COVID-19 Disease is Suspected or Confirmed

