

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

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.

Currently, there is no plan to return to the wearing of masks. It is an individual choice to wear a mask for both students and staff.

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

Since all of our elementary classes are for the most part self-contained we are basically already in cohort groups. At the secondary end of the building the classes are small enough, and the classrooms are of good size that we can appropriately social distance.

(C) Handwashing and respiratory etiquette.

The district has purchased enough hand sanitizer to appropriately equip every classroom with their own bottle. Teachers will continue to encourage sanitizing each time students leave and reenter another classroom. In addition, stations are provided throughout the buildings, and specifically at both main entries of the district for visitors.

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

Maintenance personnel follow a designated daily cleaning schedule for the entire facility. Appropriate sanitizing of the buses will occur on an as needed basis. The district is replacing a new HVAC system at the elementary end of the building, while also considering an update to the secondary HVAV system to specifically address ventilation. ESSER II funds have been approved for a new HVAC in the elementary building. Administration has completed ESSER III application to fully fund this project. The project is to be completed by the summer of 2023.

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

It is a common practice for teachers to assign specific seating within their classroom. If contact tracing needs to be investigated, assigned seats will allow for an accurate determination of exposure. If quarantine is to be implemented, the district will follow recommendations and guidance from the Stafford County Health Department, in conjunction with the Stafford County Commissioners. As of January 18th, 2021, the district has suspended contact tracing.

(F) Diagnostic and screening testing.

Currently, the district does not implement any diagnostic tests on site. If necessary, temperature checks could be re-implemented before entering a bus or at the front doors. At this point in time, we do not anticipate temperature checks. Our school nurse will be involved with all medical decisions. Unchanged as of 1/21/2022.

(G) Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities.

Whether to submit to the COVID vaccination is a personal decision, and the district respects that choice. Our nurse provides the information needed to schedule an appointment with the County Health Department. School employees are supported if they choose to receive the vaccine and will not be charged any leave time if they need to get the vaccine during their work day.

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

The district accepts the responsibility of providing appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities, as well as all children, as a high priority. This expectation is a reality regardless of a COVID epidemic or not. All recommendations that would come from any student's medical doctors will be followed without prejudice.

(I) Coordination with State and local health officials.

The district implemented all recommendations made during the 2020-21 school year from the Stafford County Health Department. Their directives were from health officials at the state level, and we do not anticipate that to change. Our nurse is in contact with the county health department on an as needed basis to discuss and implement any contact tracing or quarantines. Quarantine guidelines as well as contact tracing guidelines have changed over the last year multiple times. USD 351 will continue to follow recommendations from KDHE in conjunction with Stafford County Health. Our latest revisions with these guidelines occurred on January 18th, 2022.

Part II.

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

(A) services to address students' academic needs

Fortunately, the district was able to remain with face to face instruction other than a handful of days during the 2020-21 school year. If needed, the district is fully equipped and capable of implementing remote learning. The district has maintained face to face instruction for the entire 2021-22 school year, and the start of the 2022-23 school year.

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

Our District Leadership Team (DLT) meets the first Wednesday of each month to discuss all of these issues. Activities, surveys, and inservices are scheduled to address these concerns. In addition, our counselor visits each classroom to monitor behaviors and issues that may need to be addressed. The district has purchased specific curriculum to help address these concerns. The district is making huge gains to return to a "near normal" school year.

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

The district's nursing position has evolved from a half-time position, to a full time position. She is constantly monitoring not only students but also staff making sure everyone is safe. With the implementation of free meals from the federal government, our cooks and our local Authorized Representative worked hard to make sure every student received a free meal that requested one. Free meals for students ended with the beginning of the 2022-23 school year