



## **HODGEMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS REOPENING PLANS**

Hodgeman County Public Schools will provide face to face as well as remote learning. School will look as normal as possible and will be subject to change as situations arise. We will follow our calendar as much as we can but we can not control activities that we are not hosting. We will keep everyone aware of changes and cancellations as we get them. We will provide the safest environment for our students with steps and procedures put in place to keep students and faculty safe as possible. As we start the year we ask that everyone keep in mind that at any given time we can be exposed to a variety of illnesses and we will deal with these situations accordingly. We will list precautions and safety measures that USD 227 will be using and will keep families abreast as situations arise, including the scenario if we have to return to remote learning for all students. Parents, you will need to make the choice for your student that best meets your comfort level. On site learning will be as normal as possible with students following a regular daily schedule with modifications. The other option is remote learning which involves students working from home on work provided by staff. With remote learning students will not be offered extra-curricular activities. In choosing remote learning, you are making a commitment by quarters. At the end of each quarter you may make the choice of returning to face to face instruction. If you start school face to face and choose to move to remote learning you will be committed to that for the semester. Cases can be reviewed as needed.

## Hygiene Measures

County Health has recommended we keep group gatherings to fifty or less when congregating, as large groups. None of our classes come close to that number and we will work with our schedules to avoid numbers that exceed that when possible.

To start the school year off, masks will be optional. Students and faculty may choose to wear a mask if they wish, but please keep in mind that this is a fluid situation and if cases develop, masks will become required. If people do not want to wear a mask, then they can go to remote learning.

**Temperature Checks** - All students and guests entering the building will have a temperature check. We will check students riding the bus as they get on and they will not need to be screened again when they arrive at school.

Students that have outside appointments either before or during school will need to have their temperature checked upon returning to school.

We will start this year with the student body being trained and informed in routines and hygiene and social distancing will be practiced whenever possible.

Students will be encouraged to wash hands with soap and water on a regular basis as well as use hand sanitizer as needed. All items will be readily available.

Back packs will be allowed. We ask that parents monitor them so the students are only bringing essential items to school.

Classrooms will be supplied with sanitizing materials to be used daily. All classrooms and buildings will be disinfected nightly.

## Medical Inquiries

If students or faculty call in ill, there will be a quick screening of symptoms that will be asked to keep records. In cases of positive results the county

health nurse will have a separate screening to work through possible contacts, of others who may have been exposed.

## **Exclusion from School**

Students and employees exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 without other obvious explanations are prohibited from coming to school, and if they do come to school, they will be sent home immediately. The current known symptoms are:

- Fever (100.4F or 38C or higher)
- Chills
- Rigors
- Muscle or body aches
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Lower respiratory illness (cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing)
- New loss of taste or smell
- Diarrhea

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

A person is considered a case of COVID-19 disease if they have tested positive for the SARS-CoV-2 virus by a diagnostic test (PCR or antigen). Based on what we currently know, a case is considered infectious two days prior to the onset of symptoms through at least 10 days after the onset of symptoms. For cases that do not have symptoms, the infectious period is considered as two days prior to the date the sample was collected through a minimum of 10 days from the date the sample was collected. Cases must remain in isolation until they have met the criteria for release from isolation set by KDHE or the local health department

## **Confirmed Case of COVID-19 in the School Building**

When there is confirmation that a person infected with COVID-19 was in a school building, the school will contact the local health department immediately. As one option, the school will close the school building for a minimum of two to five days and work with the local health department to assess factors, such as the likelihood of exposure to employees and

students in the building, the number of cases in the community and other factors that will determine when the building should reopen. While the school building is closed, all school activities will be cancelled or rescheduled, regardless of whether the activity was to take place in the building or another location, including extracurricular activities, before and after-school programs and field trips. Parents/students and employees will be encouraged to stay at home until more information is provided by the school or the health department.

As another option, the school may remain open but block off areas where the person infected with COVID-19 was in the school building until the area has been cleaned thoroughly. The school should work with the local health department to assess for close contacts within students and staff and inform those who are exposed that they must start a mandatory 14-day quarantine period.

The school will contact parents/students and employees and notify them that a person who tested positive for COVID-19 was in the building and encourage cooperation with the school and the local health department to trace contacts with the individual. The individual who tested positive will not be identified in communications to the school community at large.

### **Defining a Close Contact**

A person is considered a close contact of a case if they were within 6 feet of the case for 10 minutes or more or if they had exposure to secretions (for example, being coughed or sneezed on). Close contacts must remain in quarantine until they have met the criteria for release from quarantine set by KDHE or the local health department

### **Return to School After Exclusion**

Once a student or employee is excluded from the school environment, they may return if they satisfy the recommendations of KDHE or the local health department.

Currently those guidelines are:

**Untested** - Persons who have not received a test proving or disproving the presence of SARS CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, but experience symptoms may return if the following conditions are met:

- Ten (10) calendar days have passed since symptoms first appeared

AND

- Fever free for 72 hours without the use of fever reducing medicine and other symptoms have improved (for example, when cough or shortness of breath have improved).
- Whichever criteria is longer. Meaning, a minimum of 10 days.

**Tested and 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** -

-Symptomatic cases may return if the following conditions are met:

- Ten (10) calendar days have passed since symptoms first appeared

AND

- Fever free for 72 hours without the use of fever reducing medicine and other symptoms have improved (for example, when cough or shortness of breath have improved). Whichever criteria is longer.
- Meaning, a minimum of 10 days

-Asymptomatic cases may return if the following conditions are met:

- Ten (10) calendar days have passed since the date sample was collected

AND

- Symptoms have not developed. If symptoms develop during the 10-day isolation period, then follow the above criteria for symptomatic cases with a new isolation period starting from the day symptoms started.

**Negative result** - Known exposure to a COVID-19 case or travel from a location on the KDHE Travel related Quarantine List People who are identified as close contacts of a COVID-19 case or have travelled from a

location on the KDHE Travel-related Quarantine List must be quarantined for 14 days - A negative test result within the 14-day quarantine period does not affect the quarantine period and the person must finish their 14-day quarantine.

No known exposure to a COVID-19 case or travel-related exposure. People who have not been identified as a close contact to a COVID-19 case and have not travelled from a location on the KDHE Travel-related Quarantine List may return to work/school.

### **Other Students and 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 are considered close contacts and will be excluded from school for a mandatory 14-day quarantine period, which begins after their last exposure to the case. If the household contacts continue to live in the same household as the case while the case is in isolation, the 14-day quarantine period for household contacts begins once the case is released from isolation by Public Health.

If a student or employee is excluded from school on a 14-day mandatory quarantine period because they have been identified as a close contact of a case, then other students and employees living in the same household are considered contacts of a contact and do not need to be excluded from school unless they were also identified as a close contact of a case.

### **Modified Quarantine**

Modified Quarantine may be used during the school year if a case is identified within the grade school. This modification will not be used at the jr/sr high school as students move from class to class and interact with multiple teachers.

These modified quarantine requirements are contingent on the close contacts of a case remaining asymptomatic. Students and staff who have had an exposure but remain asymptomatic should adhere to the following practices prior to and during the school day:

- Transportation: Students and staff on modified quarantine should not commute to school with anyone that is not also on modified quarantine.
- Arrival and dismissal times: Students and staff on modified quarantine must arrive and leave school on a staggered schedule without interacting with the general school population.
- Pre-screen: School administrators should measure the quarantined student and staff temperatures and assess symptoms prior to the start of the school day. Ideally, temperature checks should happen before the individual enters the school building . If an infrared device is used to check temperature, accuracy may be an issue so anyone measuring 100.4F or 38C or higher should receive a more accurate temperature check and in-depth symptom screening.
- Medical check-in: quarantined students and staff should check in with medical staff at specified time periods. If the quarantined student or staff becomes sick during the day, they should be sent home immediately. Surfaces in their workspace should be cleaned and disinfected. Anyone who develops illness compatible with COVID-19 during the quarantine period should notify the school nurse or school administration who will work with the local health department to arrange for testing.
- Wear a mask: The quarantined students and staff should wear a face mask/face covering at all times while in the school.
- Physical separation: The quarantined students and staff should be physically separated from the general school population. All activities, including mealtimes and classes like art and music, should take place within the classroom.
- Bathrooms: The quarantine students and staff must have their own designated bathroom or, if feasible, common bathrooms must be cleaned after a quarantined student or staff have used them.
- School activities: Quarantined students and staff should not participate in any activities that involve interaction with non-quarantined students and staff. This includes before and after school care and all school-related activities.
- Outside of school: Quarantined students and staff should understand that they are still in quarantine outside of the normal school day. Meaning, they should remain at home when not physical in school.

## **Travel-Related Quarantine**

If a student or employee has recently traveled from a location on the KDHE Travel related Quarantine List, the student or employee is subject to a mandatory 14-day quarantine starting from the day after they return to Kansas.

## **School Response to Student or Employee in Isolation or Quarantine**

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. If the school is not open when notification occurs, the custodial staff will wait 24 hours or as long as possible prior to disinfecting and instead will block off the area so that others do not have contact. However, if that is not possible or school is in session, the cleaning will occur immediately.

School staff will immediately begin compiling a list of close contacts, including names, email addresses and phone numbers. Consider the two days prior to when the case started having symptoms or if the case was asymptomatic the two days prior to the date the sample was collected. Identify anyone who would have been within 6 feet for 10 minutes or more or would have had direct contact with secretions. Guardians of students who have been identified as close contacts and any staff identified as close contacts should be informed immediately.

Close contacts must start a 14-day mandatory quarantine period starting from the day after the last contact with the case. The list of close contacts should be shared with the local health department for follow-up during the quarantine period.

## **Separation While in School**

Each school must have a room or space where students or employees who may have COVID-19 or another communicable disease will wait to be evaluated or for pick-up. Students will be given a mask to wear. Only essential staff and students assigned to the room may enter, all will sign in so that there is a record of the persons who entered the room, and the room will be disinfected several times throughout the day. Strict social distancing is required, and staff must wear appropriate PPE. Students who are ill will be walked out of the building to their parents.



## **Classrooms**

Teachers will go over best practices and hygiene with students the first week of school so everyone in the building knows the expectations.

Social distancing will be practiced whenever possible.

Students will move from class to class. When possible the number of students in the halls will be limited.

## Special Classes

Students will attend their special class and social distancing will be practiced when possible. Each class will be disinfected before the next class starts.

Instruction materials will be sanitized after each use (music, art, computers, supplies, manipulatives, etc.) Students will be encouraged to not share personal items such as pencils, crayons, etc.

Technology - K-8 students will be assigned a chromebook for use at school and 9-12 students will be assigned a chromebook for use at school and at home. Parents will be asked to fill out a user agreement before the 9-12 students are assigned their device. If a student has their own device they would like to use instead of our chromebook they will need to register it with the school.

## **Class Parties**

During this time, we ask that parents only bring pre-packaged snacks for their child's birthday and/or holiday party. Please bring all food items to the office. Classroom teachers will be contacted once items are left in the office, and they will pick up items to be shared with the class.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

Busses will run their normal routes to and from school. Student temperatures will be taken before a student is allowed to board the bus.

If a student is running a temperature he/she will be sent back to their house and parents will be notified that their child is running a fever.

Students will be asked to sit with family groups when possible and social distancing will be practiced when possible.

We will only transport regular route students - NO EXCEPTIONS

The district will also offer, during Covid time, reimbursement to bring your students to school if you don't feel comfortable on the bus. You will need to contact the district office to get the paperwork.

All vehicles and busses will be disinfected after every trip.

## **FOOD SERVICE**

Breakfast will be served from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.

Students will come in, pickup their breakfast and go to the lunchroom. As soon as they are finished they will report to their classroom. Social distancing will be practiced when possible.

Lunch-

Students will eat in shifts with groups not exceeding fifty. The high school/jr. High will occupy two areas for lunch, the hs commons and the jr. high commons. Students will be spread out and social distancing will be practiced when possible.

There will be no sharing of food.

Students will wait at the table until released to recess or their next class.

Tables will be disinfected after each group eats.

Milk will be handed to students by a school employee.

During this time we will not be allowing any guests during lunch.

## **Hodgeman County Remote Learning Option**

Hodgeman County Public Schools will provide a Remote Online Learning option. Students will have weekly contact with their classroom teacher(s) and will receive instruction, as well as be assessed on the same state standards and competencies as that of their peers learning On-Site.

Teachers will provide a combination of video recorded lessons and weekly learning packets. With remote learning students will not be offered extra-curricular activities. In choosing remote learning, you are making a commitment by quarters. At the end of each quarter you may make the

choice of returning to face to face instruction. If you start school face to face and choose to move to remote learning you will be committed to that for the semester. Cases can be reviewed as needed. USD 227 will provide a chromebook to families that need a device but you are responsible for your own internet connection.

Take home packets will be provided weekly. Guardians will be expected to drop off their child's current week's completed assignments, while picking up their student's assignments for the following week. Students will be required to turn in their assignments on time (no late work accepted, unless previous arrangements have been made with their classroom teacher). Completed assignments must be returned in paper form (no picture submissions accepted) and completed daily Remote Learning Logs will be turned in weekly as well. Students will also be expected to take the same exams as their On-Site peers. Attendance will be determined by the work turned in by the student. Regular attendance policy through USD 227 will be enforced.