

USD 237 Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services.

This document is fluid and will be revisited and modified on a regular basis during the 2023-2024 school year.

This is a document required by the state.

PART I.

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.

At this point masking will be voluntary for USD 237 students, employees, and visitors. Masking is not mandated or recommended in the county and the providers do not recommend masking at schools at this time. However, if students, employees, or visitors feel more comfortable wearing masks they will be allowed to do so. Face masks may be required if deemed needed by medical professionals in consultation with county medical professionals as agreed upon by the USD 237 BOE. USD 237 will accept mask wearing exemptions, if the exemption is provided by a licensed medical provider.

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

Currently, USD 237 is not social distancing or utilizing cohorts of classes. If infection rates increase and the medical providers recommend returning to the practice of physical distancing we will make the appropriate modifications. USD 237 Smith Center will not offer remote learning as an alternative to the in-school format, unless we are directed by KSDE and/or the State Board of Education. USD 237 will provide remote learning for students 5-12 if an extraordinary circumstance as defined by KSDE is met.

(C) Handwashing and respiratory etiquette.

Handwashing will continue to be encouraged and at times dictated as in the past, as well as covering of coughs and respiratory etiquette. We will have hand sanitizer available throughout the school. Students and staff will be required to wash or sanitize their hands before eating breakfast and lunch. Outside visitors will be encouraged to wash their hands or sanitize upon entry to the buildings.

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

We will continue utilizing our COVID cleaning protocol. Hydrostatic sprayers with appropriate disinfectant will be used to treat high traffic areas. Staff will continue routinely wiping down high contact areas in classrooms. The district has installed ionizers in all air handlers to help with air quality.

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

Quarantine rules/protocol from Smith County Memorial Hospital and Smith County Health Department will be followed as agreed by the USD 237 BOE members.

(F) Diagnostic and screening testing.

COVID testing is not available on site. Testing will be an individual decision discussed and enacted under the guidance of the individual's family physician. Covid-19 testing should always be done in an approved medical lab and with the recommendation of a medical provider. If a student or employee has symptoms of respiratory illness, they should be encouraged to contact their primary care provider for further action as determined by the provider. Testing will only be done as a provider deems necessary.

(G) Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities.

Vaccination clinics will be considered in coordination with the local health department and the USD 237 Board of Education.

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

Appropriate accommodations will be made for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety. Continuity of service for staff/students will be maintained and monitored, in regard to academic, social, emotional, mental, health, and physical needs.

(I) Coordination with State and local health officials.

The USD 237 school district will coordinate, collaborate, receive information from and follow the guidance of the providers at Smith County Memorial Hospital, Smith County Health Department as deemed appropriate by the local authority of the board of education.

Part II.

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

(A) services to address students' academic needs

- **High quality Instruction will be provided in classrooms each day.**
- **Students' academic progress will be monitored throughout the year.**
- **Building principals will work with staff to identify students who need academic support beyond what is provided through regular instruction.**
- **Parents/Guardians and students may bring academic concerns to the attention of a staff member.**
- **When academic concerns arise, academic support options will be discussed with the parent/guardian.**

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

- **A counselor will be available in both district buildings to provide academic and social-emotional support.**
- **The SCE and SC JR/SR HS will continue providing lessons through the Wayfinder Curriculum.**
- **Building principals will work with staff to identify students who need social-emotional and mental health support beyond what is provided through regular instruction.**
- **Parents/guardians and students may bring concerns about social-emotional and mental health needs to the attention of a staff member.**
- **When social-emotional needs arise, social-emotional and mental health support options will be discussed with the parent/guardian.**

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

- **Breakfast and lunch will be provided at both buildings in the district**
- **A full-time school nurse will be on staff and available to students and staff in the district**
- **The school nurse will be the liaison with Smith County Health and Smith County Memorial Hospital as needed to help coordinate health efforts in the county.**

It is the intention of USD 237 to return to “business as usual”, as much as possible, for the 2023-2024 school year. The USD 237 school district will coordinate, collaborate, receive information from and follow the guidance of the providers at Smith County Memorial Hospital, Smith County Health Department as deemed appropriate by the local authority of the board of education.