

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.

Geary County Schools USD 475 is following the Centers for Disease Control's guidelines for K-12 schools. The CDC recommends that schools continue the use of COVID-19 prevention strategies for the 2020-2021 school year.

Geary County Schools will continue to require masks for students in summer school through the end of July.

The USD 475 Board of Education will review the Way Forward document in a future board meeting. Any changes to the mask policy will be outlined in that document and updated on the District Plan.

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

Geary County Schools will follow the CDC's guidelines for K-12 schools. This includes correct use of masks and physical distancing when possible.

Geary County Schools will continue utilizing grouping students in cohorts where and when possible.

(C) Handwashing and respiratory etiquette.

Geary County Schools, at the guidance of the CDC, knows that cleaning and hand hygiene are important to slow down the spread of COVID-19.

The district will continue to clean and disinfect schools and requests frequent hand washing and hand sanitizing among students and staff.

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

Geary County Schools plans to maintain healthy facilities by continuing cleaning efforts made by janitorial staff to slow the spread of COVID-19. We will maintain our COVID-19 ventilation mitigation initiative.

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

In cooperation with the CDC's guidelines, Geary County Schools asks that students, teachers and staff who feel ill or have COVID-19 to stay home.

Geary County Schools will honor the quarantine directives for any student or staff member from any health department or medical provider.

(F) Diagnostic and screening testing.

In accordance with the CDC's recommendations, Geary County Schools has offered and will continue offering diagnostic testing to any teacher or staff member who has [symptoms of COVID 19](#). Diagnostic tests for COVID-19 are provided for teachers and staff.

Please email covid19@usd475.org if you have any COVID-19 related questions or diagnostic testing.

(G) Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities.

Every teacher, administrator and staff member of Geary County Schools can receive a COVID-19 vaccination. In accordance with CDC's guidelines, children ages 12 and up are encouraged to receive the vaccination as well through their healthcare provider or the local health department.

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

Geary County Schools will make every effort to accommodate children with disabilities. Please contact covid19@usd475.org for more information.

(I) Coordination with State and local health officials.

Geary County Schools plans to follow the CDC's guidelines for K-12 schools. The district works with local health officials, when the needs arise, to test and quarantine students, teachers and staff members who are exposed to COVID-19.

Part II.

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

(A) services to address students' academic needs

Research shows that children learn the best when they are in a brick-and-mortar school building. There will not be a remote learning option for the 2021-22 school year.

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

School counselors and social workers are always available to help students and staff's social, emotional, and mental health needs. Geary County Schools offers all students a social and emotional curriculum. Please contact your school for more information.

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

Students in Geary County Schools are encouraged to see a school nurse if they feel unwell.

Free meals are provided to kids ages 1-18 in Geary County through a summer meals program in June and July. Free meals are provided from 11:30 to 12:30 at Spring Valley Elementary, Westwood Elementary, Lincoln Elementary, Seitz Elementary, Grandview Elementary, and Milford Elementary.

Please contact covid19@usd475.org for more information.