



USD # 211
PLAN FOR REOPENING
2020-2021 School Year

(8/10/2020)

As USD # 211 prepares for the fall and reopening schools, we are striving to do the right things to take care of our students, staff, and community. This is a difficult time for everyone as we navigate how to best work towards opening school to maximize learning and mitigate the transmission of Covid-19.

We have created this plan, using guidance from KSDE's Navigating Change: Kansas' Guide to Learning and School Safety Operations, advice of local/public health officials, staff, and community members.

As more information becomes available, this plan may need to be changed, adjusted, or modified to meet the latest guidance from health officials and KSDE.

The plan is focused on three main areas:

- I. Academic Options
 - A. On-Site
 - B. Parent Choice Remote
 - C. Remote Learning
- II. Health and Safety Precautions and Protocols
 - A. Hand Washing
 - B. Physical Distancing
 - C. Cleaning and Disinfecting
 - D. Masks or Face Coverings
 - E. Health Screens
 - F. Exclusions for Covid-19
- III. School Operations
 - A. Food Services
 - B. Transportation

Academic Options

USD #211 will be offering two academic options as we reopen this fall: **On-Site** or **Parent Choice Remote**.

A. Norton's On-Site Learning Option

Students and staff attend on site with health and safety protocols put in place. On-site learning will be implemented when there are low levels of community restrictions.

B. Norton's Parent Choice Remote Learning Option K-12

Norton's Parent Choice Remote Learning is available as an option for USD # 211 families. Students who are considered high-risk or live with someone who is

high-risk may want to consider this option. This is the option for families who do not wish to have their child(ren) attend on-site.

- This is a remote option we are offering during the COVID-19 pandemic for students in the USD # 211 School District. This option will require the student's parent or guardian to help facilitate their child's learning.
- Students who choose this option during the COVID-19 pandemic must commit to attend the Parent Choice Remote Learning Option for the first nine weeks. They will not be able to switch back to on-site learning until the end of the first nine weeks of school.
- The student will need to have access to the internet.

General Description of Norton's Parent Choice Remote Learning Option K-12

1. Curriculum and instruction is prepared, provided and/or supervised by the school district.
2. Students receive their instruction remotely by USD 211 teachers.
3. Students must maintain a daily log of activities signed by the student and parent or responsible adult, and submitted to the district.
4. A minimum of six hours DAILY will need to be logged daily by each student to meet attendance requirements.

Specific Details of Norton's Parent Choice Remote Learning Option 7-12

1. Students engage in school online during regular school hours and **follow a standard school schedule** with daily contact being made by staff via video conferencing.
2. Students will not be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities.
3. Not all classes will be available through the remote learning option.
 - a. NJHS Students will not be enrolled in Mechanical Skills/Woods.
 - b. NCHS Students will not be enrolled in Yearbook, Woods, or Ag Mechanics.

Deadline for Parent Choice Remote Learning Option

- The deadline for notifying USD # 211 that a family is choosing remote learning for the first nine weeks will be at the enrollment time for your child(ren).
- A form will need to be completed stating your commitment to the Norton's Parent Choice Remote Learning Option for the 2020-21 first nine weeks.
- Continuation of Norton's Parent Choice Remote Learning Option for the remainder of the Covid-19 pandemic will be determined in the future.

C. Norton's Remote Learning

Norton's Remote Learning may be activated based on the level of community restrictions or building/district needs. All or a portion of USD #211 K-12 students may need to transition to remote learning if local health officials, USD #211 Administration, and USD # 211 BOE determines that it is in the best interest of student/staff health. Instruction would be led remotely by USD #211 staff.

- Remote Learning will require the student's parent or guardian to help facilitate their child's learning.
- Students must maintain a daily log of activities signed by the student and parent or responsible adult, and submitted to the district.
- A minimum of six hours a day will need to be logged daily by each student to meet attendance requirements.
- The student will need to have access to the internet.

Health and Safety Precautions and Protocols

Signs will be posted in highly visible locations that promote everyday protective measures and how to stop the spread of germs. Visitors will need to consent to the health screening protocols. Entrances will have signs posted informing all who enter that they must have their temperature taken, that masks are required, and to maintain a minimum of 6-foot distance from one another. Staff will be encouraged to use virtual options for parent meetings and conferences whenever possible. Each school will attempt to modify the drop off or pick up of students to allow parents to remain out of the building.

A. Hand Washing

Students will be directed to frequently wash their hands upon entry to the building and no less than once every hour on an hourly basis throughout the day. If students cannot wash their hands, they will use hand sanitizer. Hand sanitizer will be available in each classroom and other locations in the school buildings.

B. Physical Distancing

Students and staff will practice social distancing whenever feasible. Social distancing is defined as physical separation of a minimum of six feet. Teachers and students should not engage in any unnecessary physical contact. Common spaces within the school may be closed or restricted to help maintain a healthy environment and promote social distancing.

C. Cleaning and Disinfecting

Ongoing cleaning and sanitation will occur during the school day with an emphasis on high traffic and high touch zones. Students and staff will clean desks before transitioning. Students will be instructed to not share personal belongings. Classrooms will limit the sharing

of materials and school supplies. Water fountains will be closed. Water bottle fillers will remain in use. Students will be asked to bring a personal water bottle for daily use.

D. Masks or Face Coverings

Masks or face coverings are required for all students, faculty, staff, and visitors with exceptions outlined in KS Executive Order 20-59. The KS Executive Order 20-59 goes into effect August 10, 2020. Persons with a documented medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a face covering will be allowed to not wear a mask. The documentation must be provided to the school from a medical professional. When physical distancing is not possible, students and staff must wear face masks, including during transitions between classes. Staff will be encouraged to provide students with a chance to remove the masks when social distancing can be achieved. Students are encouraged to bring paper sacks to store their masks in or have a lanyard to hook the mask to when they have the opportunity to remove the masks.

Definition of masks or face covering as outlined in KS Executive Order 20-59: a covering of the nose and mouth that is secured to the head with ties, straps, or loops over the ears or is simply wrapped around the lower face. A mask or other face covering can be made of a variety of synthetic or natural fabrics including cotton, silk, or linen. Ideally a mask or other face covering has two or more layers. A mask or other face covering may be factory-made, sewn by hand, or even improvised from household items.

E. Health Screens

Temperatures checks will be required for staff, students and all individuals before/upon entering the building for the day as outlined in KS Executive Order 20-59. Students and staff must stay home if sick.

The current known symptoms of Covid-19 are:

- Fever
According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, a fever is 100.4 F or greater.
- Chills
- Rigors
- Muscle or body aches
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Lower respiratory illness (cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing)
- Loss of taste and smell
- Diarrhea

Ill students will be isolated and picked up by a parent or guardian. Students who have driven to school will be allowed to drive home immediately. Staff/Students who have a fever and exhibit multiple symptoms may be recommended to see a physician.

****All USD # 211 families will be encouraged to monitor and screen their children before sending them to school to help mitigate the spread of Covid-19.****

F. Exclusions for Covid-19

USD 211 Health Guidelines for COVID-19 Pandemic

The Illness policy for the 2020-2021 school year will be more challenging due to COVID-19. Our school district will continue to follow the USD 211 Illness Guidelines as previous school years. Symptoms could be related to a pre-existing condition or an alternative diagnosis (other than COVID) which the student or employee may be able to return to school sooner than expected. Refer to USD 211 Illness Guidelines and BOE policies for communicable illnesses for students (JGCC) and employees (JAR) requiring notes for communicable illnesses.

Example: If a student presents with allergy symptoms which may subside in 24-48 hours after taking allergy medication, AND the student has improved symptoms AND is fever free 24 hours the student may return to school. If symptoms have not subsided or improved in 24-48 hours and the student is NOT fever free, contact your healthcare provider as there may be an alternative diagnosis.

However, if students or employees become ill without an alternative diagnosis or pre-existing condition, they will be sent home and will need to contact your health care provider for further recommendations which may lead to staying at home for 10 days as explained below.

RETURN TO SCHOOL AFTER EXCLUSION WITH COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

Students and employees exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 without an alternative diagnosis will be sent home from school. At least 2 or more of the following symptoms: Fever 100.4, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, chills, rigors (sudden onset of chills), muscle aches (myalgia) malaise (general feeling of discomfort), headache, congestion, runny nose, loss of taste or smell, lower respiratory illness, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea.

If students or employees have COVID-like symptoms that do not improve in 24-48 hours, contact your health provider for further recommendations. Students or employees may return if recommendations from KDHE or local health providers are met:

UNTESTED

If a student or employee chooses to NOT be tested, they must remain home for 10 calendar days from onset of symptoms (as this is the communicable period of COVID-19) or 72 hours fever free whichever is longer. A MINIMUM OF 10 DAYS.

TESTED AND AWAITING RESULTS

Students or employees suspected of COVID-19 awaiting test results should be isolated at home until results are received.

POSITIVE RESULTS

SYMPTOMATIC CASES may return with the following conditions:

*10 calendar days have passed since symptoms first appeared AND 72 hours fever free without the use of fever reducing medications and symptoms have improved (example 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:

*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 criteria for symptomatic cases with a new isolation period starting from the day symptoms started. Contact the county health department.

NEGATIVE RESULTS

If a student or employee has been identified as a close contact or has travelled from a location on the KDHE travel related quarantine list, they must quarantine for 14 days. IF you receive a negative test during this period you must finish the 14 day quarantine.

If a student or employee has not been identified as a close contact of a COVID-19 case or has not had a travel related exposure, they may return to school with a note from the local health officials that the student or employee's COVID-19 test is negative.

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 the last exposure to the case. If household contacts continue to live in the same household as the case while the case is in isolation (minimum of 10 days), the 14 day quarantine period for household contacts begins once the case is released from isolation by Public Health. Isolation is a minimum of 10 days. Household contacts that are **not positive** will be required to quarantine a minimum of 24 days.

If a student or employee is excluded from the 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.

Classes that students that have been sent home with COVID like symptoms will only be notified if the case is positive. Individual names will not be disclosed. The positive case will then be turned over to the county health department.

As information changes during the COVID-19 pandemic, these guidelines may change without notice. Please refer to www.usd211.com for the latest available updates.

***Guidelines adopted from Kansas Dept of Health and Environment, Kansas Department of Education: Navigating Change Operations Manual, and Norton County Health Department.

Operations

A. Food Services

Regardless of the learning environment, families will have access to school meals.

- Students will be charged for meals based on their eligibility status.
- Students will be required to wear masks or face coverings and maintain social distancing while in the serving line and transitioning to their seat.
- Breakfast and lunch serving times may be extended to reduce the numbers of students in the lunchroom.
- Alternative areas of the school may be utilized to reduce the number of students in the lunchroom at any given time.
- Staff will follow all safety guidelines as recommended by KSDE and the Food Service Division.

B. Transportation

- Students and staff being transported in USD # 211 owned vehicles will be required to wear masks or face coverings.
- If there is room on the bus students will maintain as much separation as possible. Bus riders living in the same household may be required to sit with each other.
- To allow for social distancing, seating assignments may be implemented.
- The seat behind the driver will be left open on all district buses when possible.

- Drivers will wear a mask if it does not interfere with their vision.
- All district vehicles will be wiped down/cleaned after every trip.