As champions for all students, North Kansas City Schools' mission is to ensure that all are life-ready and ethically grounded in an ever-changing world through innovative educational experiences that inspire lifelong learning, embrace inclusion and forge a unified community. The purpose of this plan is to guarantee continued and safe school operations that best serve all students and staff through full in-person instruction.

Information included in North Kansas City Schools' Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan (SRCSP) aligns to guidance from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). This plan will be updated at minimum every six months or as practices and recommendations change throughout the school year.
Overview

NKC Schools learned many lessons while navigating the pandemic. Effective communication and collaboration with all stakeholders proved essential. This will remain a priority as we begin a new school year. NKC Schools is fully prepared for any scenario that may arise. While the world around us changes and evolves, it is imperative for the school district to learn and grow, preparing students to be successful and resilient regardless of the opportunities and challenges brought to our community by COVID-19.

Throughout the 2020-2021 school year, a task force of students, parents, educators, classified staff members, representatives from teachers’ unions, medical professionals and community agencies with whom we work met periodically to determine procedures that will best serve all students and staff. The end result entails a combination of mitigation strategies, continual monitoring of district data and ongoing partnership with local health partners to support in-person Collaborative review with stakeholders happens on an ongoing basis, at minimum every six months or as practices and recommendations change throughout the school year.

NKC Schools is thankful for the support of our community as we strive to be champions for all students. A unified effort is critically important. District leaders stand ready to work in partnership with all families for a successful academic year!

Contents

- Mitigation Strategies
- Case Protocols
- Vaccination Opportunities
- Accommodations
- Continuity of Services

Additional information, updates and resources are available online at nkcschools.org/coronavirus.
Mitigation Strategies

NKC Schools’ COVID-19 mitigation strategies follow guidance from the Clay County Health Department (CCPHC), Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) and Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). Clear and consistent implementation of recommended mitigation strategies will support in-person instruction. NKC Schools will continue to collaborate with our local health departments and monitor data, particularly at individual school sites.

CLEANING & HYGIENE

NKC Schools’ Custodial Services Department has developed clear procedures for extensive cleaning throughout the day and each evening. High-touch surfaces have been identified and ventilation systems reviewed to support healthy environments. Regular handwashing and the covering of coughs and sneezes will continue to be taught and reinforced to students. Hand sanitizer will be available throughout each site.

DISTANCING

Physical distancing of students and staff is no longer required. Distancing of students and staff may continue to the extent possible, if a situation dictates it.

MASKS

North Kansas City Schools has consistently followed the ordinances requiring masks that are voted upon by members of the respective city councils in which our schools are located. The previous school mask ordinances approved by the City Council of Kansas City, Missouri and the city of North Kansas City expired on Thursday, February 17, 2022.

As a result, masks will be recommended, rather than required, for students, staff and patrons beginning Friday, February 18, 2022.

Clay County Health Department’s guidance for schools recommends masks be worn indoors by all individuals (age 2 and older), unless medical or developmental conditions prohibit use.

SYMPTOM MONITORING

We ask that all members of our community self-monitor for symptoms, such as new cough, headache, congestion, fever and/or sore throat. If you feel sick, it is important to stay home from school. Individuals are then encouraged to contact their healthcare provider for further advice.
COVID-19 Case Protocols

The goal of NKC Schools' COVID-19 protocols is to minimize the risk of COVID-19 in our school sites. The district works in close partnership with the Clay County Health Department and the Kansas City, Missouri Health Department.

Students or staff who test positive for COVID-19 should follow the guidance of their medical provider and inform their school or supervisor.

Partnerships

Health department partners may provide expert guidance to those who have tested positive or may have been exposed to a positive case. NKC Schools will provide support to staff and families in accessing diagnostic testing through widely available community resources.

Clay County Public Health Center:
https://www.clayhealth.com/

Kansas City, Missouri Health Department:
VACCINATION OPPORTUNITIES

NKC Schools’ goal is to ensure that vaccination against COVID-19 is convenient and accessible for those staff members and families who would like to take advantage of the opportunity.

When Missouri’s K-12 educators were approved to receive the vaccine in March 2021, NKC Schools hosted a series of on-site clinics for all employees. As eligibility was extended to all individuals ages 16 and older, the district partnered with Children’s Mercy to offer vaccination opportunities at each high school. For students ages 5-18, NKC Schools has collaborated with multiple organizations to host clinics at our school sites across the district.

We will continue to provide opportunities for vaccination to students and staff, including resources for students ages five years or older. Vaccination status is not a condition for employment nor access to activities and athletics.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Accommodations will be provided to students as necessary or mandated by their Individual Education Plan (IEP).

Stakeholders representing the interests of children with disabilities, English learners, children experiencing homelessness, children and youth in foster care, migratory students, children who are incarcerated and other underserved populations will monitor implementation of the plan to determine need for additional accommodations and/or revisions.

This plan has been made available in the home languages of the students served by NKC Schools.

A virtual learning option exists for K-12 families who would prefer this learning mode for their child. More information is available at nkcschools.org/virtual.

CONTINUITY OF SERVICES

These updates to procedure will continue throughout the school year. In the event we see an increased number of positive cases in our community, NKC Schools will re-evaluate our district health and safety protocols in conjunction with the health department.
For questions, comments or concerns regarding this collaboratively developed plan for the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services, please contact North Kansas City Schools at 816.321.5000.

Additional information and updates are available at nkcschools.org/coronavirus.