



**U.S.D. No. 369**

# **Burrton Schools**

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Joan Simoneau  
Superintendent  
Elementary Principal

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Welcome Back to School, Chargers!

We are so excited to have everyone back in the building after summer break. We were hopeful that after a quiet summer that this school year would be closer to what we consider "normal". Unfortunately, Covid-19 numbers are steadily rising as we approach the beginning of school.

This plan is to help guide us through the early stages of the school year. It is important to understand that public health guidance has changed often during the lead up to this school year. We will need to be ready to adjust these plans and protocols based on the number of Covid-19 cases in our school, community, and county.

Last year, we worried about our most at-risk population for severe illness due to Covid-19. That population was our adults who might have had an underlying health issue. The staff here at Burrton is over 90% vaccinated, and our community has access to free COVID vaccines which is the "leading public health prevention strategy to end the Covid-19 pandemic" according to the Harvey County Health Department.

We may continue to face challenges this year due to COVID-19, but our goal is to provide the very best learning environment for our students and staff. We are excited to have everyone back in the building and participating in activities that are vitally important to a positive school experience.

Thank you for trusting USD 369 with the education of your children. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

Joan E. Simoneau

USD 369

Superintendent/Elementary Principal

## **STAY HOME WHEN SICK**

- Any student with a temperature of 100 or greater should stay home from school.
- Students may return to school when they have been fever-free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication if there is a negative COVID-19 test.
- Students may return to school when they have been fever-free for 72 hours without fever reducing medication if there is no negative COVID-19 test.
- Students who exhibit 2 or more symptoms of COVID should stay home from school, and parents are encouraged to test for COVID when 2 or more symptoms are present.

## **COVID-RELATED ABSENCES**

- Students will be excused from school for the following COVID-related reasons:
- Positive COVID-19 test or awaiting results of a COVID-19 test.
- Quarantine due to being a close contact or household contact.
- Fever of 100+ and one other symptom of COVID-19.
- Staying home out of caution due to family member testing for COVID-19.

## **MASKS**

- Referencing the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Harvey County Health Department (HCHD) states, "Masks are highly recommended to be worn indoors by all individuals (age 2 and older) in areas of substantial or high transmission of COVID-19."
- USD 369 highly recommends masks are worn by everyone who wishes to do so, and we will create an environment supportive of all individuals choosing to wear a mask.
- USD 369 does not mandate masks, and we encourage families to make the decision they feel is best for them, understanding current guidance and known risks of COVID-19.

## **PHYSICAL DISTANCING**

- The CDC recommends schools maintain at least 3 feet of distance between students in classrooms.
- USD 369 will consistently maintain at least 3 feet of distance between students in all classrooms.
- Students may be within 3 feet of one another during lunch. Cohorts will be employed in any setting where 3 feet of space cannot be maintained.
- Cohorts involve students sitting by the same individuals each day while at lunch tables or in other common spaces.

## **CONTACT TRACING, ISOLATION, AND QUARANTINE**

- According to the HCHD, isolation is described as follows: "An individual who receives a positive COVID-19 result will remain in a maximum of 10-day isolation period, unless symptoms of the virus are still present."
- According to the HCHD, quarantine is described as follows: "Any close contacts will be contacted for a quarantined period outlined by KDHE and the Harvey County Medical Director. This quarantine period may be up to 14 days. Close contacts in K-12 settings are individuals deemed 6 feet or closer for 10 minutes or more who have not been fully vaccinated. Those fully vaccinated are exempt from quarantine."
- Additionally, any close contact who has had a positive COVID-19 test within the past 6 months will be exempt from quarantine requirements, as long as symptoms are not present.
- When a positive test result is known, it is the responsibility of USD 369 to ensure individuals who have tested positive remain in isolation in accordance with the requirements of the HCHD.
- It is the responsibility of the HCHD to identify and notify any close contacts of the obligation to quarantine in accordance with the requirements of the HCHD.

### **DIAGNOSTIC TESTING AND SCREENING**

- For those individuals who may be exposed to COVID-19 or who have developed symptoms, we will provide information on local testing sites and services.

### **VACCINATIONS**

- According to the HCHD, "Vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. Promoting vaccination can help school safely return to in-person learning as well as extra-curricular activities and sports."
- For anyone who is eligible wishing to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, they are available at Dillon's, Walmart, and the Hesston Pharmacy.

### **CLEANING FACILITIES AND VENTILATION**

- USD 369 will continue to maintain high standards of practice for cleaning and disinfecting facilities.
- We will maintain an ample supply of cleaning supplies in all buildings and vehicles.
- We will consider utilizing federal COVID-relief funds to further upgrade our HVAC infrastructure.

### **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

- USD 369 will ensure all students receive educational services in accordance with all aspects of IDEA and ADA.

### **COORDINATION WITH HEALTH OFFICIALS**

- USD 369 will continue to work and communicate with the Harvey County Health Department as the USD 369 Board of Education and school district administrators make decisions to promote a safe and healthy learning environment for all students and staff.

### **ADDRESSING STUDENT ACADEMIC NEEDS**

- USD 369 will continue focusing on student academic needs.
- Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, our primary goal has been to ensure our students are able to attend school each day in-person, and that will continue to be our priority for 2021-22.
- We will continue to utilize a variety of academic assessments to track student progress and performance and will utilize classroom-based assessments and teacher feedback to ensure adequate student supports are in place.

### **SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL, AND MENTAL HEALTH**

- USD 369 is highly committed to supporting student and staff social, emotional, and mental health.
- We will continue to use our social/emotional screener SAEBRS.
- All staff will focus on identifying any students struggling with mental health concerns and will work to ensure these students can access any necessary resources.

## TRANSPORTATION

- Order under section 361 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 264) and 42 code of Federal Regulations 70.2, 71.31 (b), 71.32(b) Requires all individuals in school transportation to wear a mask.
- Students/staff will need to put on their mask before getting in any school vehicle, and wear it during transport.
- Exception to this rule is when the driver is alone in the vehicle. When the driver is the only person in the school bus/vehicle they may remove their mask.

## USD 369 REMOTE LEARNING INFORMATION

Earlier this year, the Kansas Legislature passed a new law that changes remote learning from what we knew during the 2020-21 school year.

As a general rule, remote learning will not be available to students for the 2021-22 school year. If a student is absent for a COVID-related reason, that student will continue to receive classwork and will stay in contact with teachers, just as he or she would when missing for any excused absence.

A summary of HB 2134 is as follows:

- *The bill defines remote learning as a method of providing education in which the student, regularly enrolled in the school district, does not physically attend the attendance center on a full-time basis and curriculum and instruction are prepared, provided and supervised by teachers and staff of such school district to approximate the learning experience that would take place in the classroom.*
- *Schools may provide up to 40 total hours of remote learning for any student. This could allow a school to be temporarily closed to on-site learning due to weather, gas line leaks, etc., but students may continue to attend through remote learning (if it approximates the learning experience that would have taken place in the classroom).*
- *However, no school may provide more than a total of 40 hours of remote learning for any student, unless either:*
  - *The local school board exempts an individual student because the student cannot reasonably attend in person due to illness or injury. Any exemption made for an individual student must be reported to the State Board of Education.*
  - *The State Board, due to a disaster, allows a district to provide up to a total of 240 hours of remote learning because the district could not reasonably adjust its schedule to comply with the requirements of the bill.*

This plan is subject to change due to Covid-19.