

Fowler USD 225: Back-to-School Plan



It is our sincere desire to have our students with us, in school, well protected, and receiving a high quality education. We are doing everything in our power to make this possible. We love our Goldbugs, and we miss seeing them every day!

Below are some specific measures we are implementing to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission in our school. These measures may change as the situation changes.

HEALTH INFORMATION

Education & Resources

- The free Fowler Schools USD 225 App is our district's official communication method. It is important for parents to download this app and turn on notifications. App notifications and Facebook posts also appear on our school website at www.usd225.org.
- Parents are encouraged to prepare an emergency plan for sick children.
<https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/DocumentCenter/View/115/Family-Action-Plan-Handout-PDF>
- We will lean heavily on the resources below to guide our decision making:
 - Meade County Health Department: <http://www.meadecohealth.com/>
 - American Academy of Pediatrics Kansas Chapter: <http://www.kansasaap.org/wordpress/>
 - Kansas Department of Health & Environment: <https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/>
 - Symptom Resource, English:
<https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/DocumentCenter/View/113/Cold-vs-Flu-vs-Allergies-vs-Coronavirus-PDF---3-19-20>
 - Symptom Resource, Espanol:
<https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/DocumentCenter/View/384/Coronavirus-vs-Resfriado-vs-Influenza-vs-Alergias-PDF>

Screening Student Health

- Using the following checklist, it is the parent/guardian's responsibility to keep sick students home with due consideration of COVID-19 to prevent further spread of illness.
 - If your child has underlying medical conditions and vulnerabilities
 - If your child has recent illness or symptoms suggestive of COVID-19
 - If your child has special circumstances in the home environment
 - If your child has special considerations regarding school transport
- It is encouraged that parents take their child's temperature at home every evening. This should be done prior to administering fever reducing medication (ex. Tylenol, Motrin).
- When there is community transmission of COVID-19, the requirement for a doctor's note to excuse absences will be waived.

Staying Home When Sick

- An employee or student must stay home with a temperature of 100.3 degrees Fahrenheit or higher and may not return until **fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication.**
- Employees or students displaying symptoms of illness must remain home and may not return **until symptom free for 24 hours without the use of medication.**

- All students must be picked up within an hour of parental notification when sick.
- When students return after being sick, they must check in with the school office for admittance.

Family Travel

- We will follow the KDHE guidelines on family travel. Families that travel in affected areas (hot spots) will need to be quarantined depending on these guidelines.
- Parents **must notify** the school if they are traveling outside the U.S. We will follow KDHE and county health guidelines for quarantine.

COVID-19 Symptoms and Testing

- If an employee or student tests positive, he or she will need to remain off campus for a minimum of 14 days until given clearance by a physician or county health department to return.
- In the case of a positive COVID-19 illness in an employee or student, the school campus may be temporarily closed for sanitizing. The school app will be used to notify families.
- In a case in which a family member of a student or employee tests positive, potentially exposed employees or students living within the home will need to remain off campus for 14 days, or until given clearance by a physician or county health department to return.
- Employees and students that are presumed to have COVID-19, but have not been tested, may return to work if they have had no fever for at least 3 days, their symptoms are improving, and at least 10 days has passed since their symptoms first appeared.
- Employees and students who are awaiting COVID-19 test results will remain off campus.
- Employees and students may return to school if they have tested negative for COVID-19 and have been symptom free for 24 hours without the use of medication to control illness signs and symptoms.

Communications

- If a student or employee tests positive for COVID-19, USD 225 will communicate to the health authority. In addition, USD 225 will send out a message through the School App regarding the positive case and any temporary closures. USD 225 commits to maintain privacy and confidentiality for employee and student health information.

FACILITIES

Cleaning & Sanitization

- The district has received additional funding specifically to address the increased sanitization needs of our classrooms and facilities.
- Custodial staff have been trained on proper sanitization methods.
- High touch surfaces will be cleaned multiple times per day.
- Classrooms will be equipped with an increased number of hand sanitizer dispensers. Hands-free sanitizer dispensers will be installed at each main building entrance/exit and the entrance to the cafeteria.
- Water fountains will be disabled. Bottle filling stations will remain in use.

Lunchroom

- Classes may eat lunch in their classrooms or alternate locations to allow for social distancing.
- Tables will be sanitized after each use and sneeze guards will protect the food line.
- Students cannot share food items.

Playground, Weight Room, PE, and Extracurriculars

- Sanitize children's hands upon each return from the playground.
- There will be a sanitizing station for weights equipment. Students will be required to clean equipment after each use.
- Balls and athletic equipment will be sanitized after each use.
- Practice jerseys, uniforms, water bottles, towels, etc. will not be shared.

Bathrooms

- If possible, bathroom doors will be propped open to increase ventilation and reduce contact with door handles.

School Bus

- Students will have their temperature checked before boarding the bus.
- Passengers will be spaced as much as possible following KSDE guidelines.
- Face coverings will be required, and the bus will be sanitized after each use.

Library

- Library books will be returned and placed in a box for 72 hours before entering recirculation.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Medical Supplies

- The school will have on hand and maintain personal protective equipment, including thermometers, gloves, face coverings, and hand sanitizer.

Face Coverings

- Face coverings that cover both the mouth and nose are required at all times for employees and students in grades PK-12 with the following exceptions:
 - While eating
 - While engaged in an activity in which it is unsafe to wear a face covering
 - When outside, such as during recess
 - Persons with a medical or mental health condition or disability that prevents wearing a face covering
- Students must provide their own clean face coverings daily.

STUDENT BELONGINGS

Water Bottles

- Elementary students will be provided with water bottles. Teachers will work with lunchroom personnel to sanitize them using the lunchroom dishwasher.
- Secondary students will provide their own water bottle and take it home daily to be washed. Water bottles will be provided if needed.

Elementary Backpacks

- Elementary students will need a backpack for on-site and hybrid learning models. Backpacks are subject to being sanitized.

Secondary Lockers & Backpacks

- Secondary students will be assigned one locker. They are not required to use it.
- Secondary students may use a backpack or their Chromebook bag to manage their class materials.
- The outside of lockers will be sanitized periodically. Backpacks are subject to being sanitized.
- Secondary students will be assigned one locker in the locker room. No belongings may be left outside of their assigned locker.

Lost and Found

- Lost and found items will be gathered, sanitized, and made available at the end of each quarter.
- We strongly encourage parents not to send non-essential items to school with their students.

SCHOOL PROCEDURES

Arrival Times

- A staff member will be available to begin temperature checks at 7:35 a.m., therefore the doors will be unlocked for K-12 students at 7:35 a.m. Students who arrive earlier than this will have to wait outside.
- The doors will open for morning preschool at 7:45 a.m. and afternoon preschool at 12:00 p.m. If a preschool student arrives after class has begun, they will need to enter through the main entrance and be screened at the front office.

Elementary Entry & Dismissal Procedures

- Preschool students will use the southeast entrance nearest their classrooms for both entry and dismissal. Parents must say good-bye to their children outside of the school building. The preschool teacher will be responsible for temperature checks as they enter and students will put on their face coverings at the door. If students are not picked up at dismissal time, the student will wait at the main entrance and will be dismissed when parents arrive.
- K-5 students will use the main entrance. Staff will be responsible for temperature checks as they enter. Students will put on their face coverings at the door and go directly to their classroom or breakfast after being admitted to the building.
- Kindergarten students will use the southeast entrance for dismissal.
- 1st and 2nd grade students will use the northeast (recess) entrance for dismissal.
- 3rd-5th grade students will use the main entrance for dismissal.

Secondary Entry & Dismissal Procedures

- 6-8 students will use the east side entrance. Staff will be responsible for temperature checks, etc. Students will put on their face coverings and remain in the middle school hallway until class time.
- 9-12 students will use the main entrance. Staff will be responsible for temperature checks, etc. Students will put on their face coverings and remain in the high school hallways until class time.
- Students will dismiss through the nearest exit.

Visitors (including parents and vendors)

- All visitors must check in at the office for official business. Office personnel will ask the purpose of the entry before buzzing visitors into the building. Visitors will have their temperature checked when entering the building.
- If a parent/guardian needs to pick up their child, they should call the school office directly in advance to request their student to be released. The student will wait in the designated seating area at the office and leave the building when the parent/guardian arrives.
- There will be specific procedures in place for parents to drop off items for their child.

