

**USD 423**  
**Leading the Way**  
**2021-22**



Creating engaging educational opportunities while maintaining safety for our USD 423 family.



# MOUNDRIAGE USD 423

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**Cody Rierson, EdD, Superintendent**

## Leading the Way 21-22

### USD 423 Plan for Safe Return

USD 423 will return to our pre-covid school schedule. There will only be one learning model offered this year, and that is in-person and on-site. If the spread of Covid-19 becomes a health risk to students and staff, the Board of Education and 423 Administration may make a decision to alter the educational setting for a student, small group, classroom, school, or building. The decision will more than likely be made for an entire building or district. Flexibility and collaboration between the school and home will be highly necessary as we continue to navigate the upcoming school year.

#### **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.**

We do not intend to require universal mask wearing at USD 423. Face masks will be optional for students, staff, and visitors. That being said, we will use a variety of factors to determine if masks are necessary for any of our students or staff throughout the day. There may be specific situations involving close contact and quarantining, where mask wearing is a requirement for students and staff. For example, at the elementary school when close contact is unavoidable, a teacher might ask students to temporarily wear a mask for the duration of that activity. Wearing masks will also be necessary during modified classroom quarantines (see section E). Decisions for any school-wide or district-wide masks will be made by a vote of the Board of Education with input from local doctors, county health officials, and CDC/KDHE guidance. All staff and students have been trained and will continue to be trained and/or retrained on mask protocols. The district will have masks available for students and staff when needed.

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

The superintendent will monitor the covid positivity rate and number of positive cases in our district to make decisions on implementing physical distancing. Desks will be spaced for maximum social distancing. We are starting the school year with a focus of three feet. Extra furniture in classrooms will need approval by administration.

#### **(C) Handwashing and respiratory etiquette.**

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\*Please note, based on current community data regarding Covid-19, this plan will be revised as necessary for the safety and well-being of staff and students.

Students will wash hands multiple times and will use hand sanitizer on a regular basis throughout the day. Hand sanitizer stations will be maintained at every exterior door where students and staff regularly enter and exit. Sanitizer stations will also be set up at lunch lines for additional opportunities to sanitize. All classrooms will be continually stocked with at least 2 sanitizer dispensers to make sure it is easily available to students in their rooms. Furthermore, breaks will be taken throughout individual classrooms and the day in order to sanitize hands and break from masks if masks become mandated.

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

Every classroom is sanitized each morning. Sanitizer guns are used to spray droplets that envelope all surfaces. Desks will be cleaned at least daily. High touch surfaces such as door knobs, water fountains, and handrails will be wiped down throughout the day by custodial staff. Fresh air intakes will be opened on applicable HVAC units to maximize ventilation.

**(E) Positive Cases / Quarantines**

*Those who are fully vaccinated or have had a documented positive Covid-19 antigen or PCR test within the last 90 days are exempt from quarantine.*

Individuals who report a positive test result to the school will be sent home for 5 days from the start of symptoms.

- ◆ Individuals may return to school wearing a mask after the 5th day, when fever free for 24 hours, and showing significantly improved symptoms. This would continue through day 10.
- ◆ Individuals may not participate in athletics or activities during the 10 days.

Self-identified close contacts may continue attending school wearing a mask for 10 days from exposure.

- ◆ Individuals may not participate in athletics or activities during this time.

*After the 7th day, both individuals who test positive and self-identified close contacts can provide the school nurse with a negative Covid test administered at a testing site (at home test not allowed). If a negative test is provided, the individual is allowed full return to school, athletics, and activities.*

\*Students from homes where a family member is awaiting test results due to illness and symptoms must stay at home until a negative test result is obtained. Students do not need to quarantine in instances where family members are awaiting test results due to work related scheduled testing without symptoms.

**(F) Diagnostic and screening testing.**

USD 423 will continue to partner with families, local healthcare providers, nursing homes, and the county health officer to collaboratively utilize locations for diagnostic and screening tests. At home tests can give some good information, but the school district will require tests from a health care clinic. USD 423 will not be testing students.

**(G) Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities.**

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We will continue to make our students and staff aware of opportunities to be vaccinated in our community. The local schools have been a central location for local family practice to provide vaccinations for the public. The district hopes to continue this into the 2021-2022 school year.

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

We will work with our special education staff to ensure that our special education students have full access to appropriate educational support even if we are forced to alter our delivery model. Additional steps will be taken on a daily basis to ensure students are in an appropriate setting and receiving agreed upon services.

**(I) Coordination with state and local health officials.**

The superintendent will continue to monitor information available from KSDE and KDHE to ensure that the district is ready for statewide changes to policies or recommendations. The superintendent will also communicate with the county health officer on a regular basis to monitor the current situation in the county and district. These guidelines will be shared with staff, parents, and patrons.

**(J) Visitors to buildings and events.**

Scheduled visitor access to our buildings and events will be allowed unless Covid-19 cases rise. If during the instructional day, please notify the school you would like to visit. Set up an appointment beforehand. This allows the school to make any necessary accommodations for your visit. If you need to drop something off, please go directly to the office, no appointment needed. Do not come to any USD 423 location if you are experiencing any illness or Covid-19 related symptoms.

Sports and activities spectator attendance is not currently limited, and masks are optional.

**Part II.**

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

**(A) services to address students' academic needs**

Student academic progress will be measured via benchmarking assessments three times throughout the year. The data obtained from these assessments help staff to determine what types of educational support each student needs. The district is using ESSER funds to improve our ability to deliver explicit instruction with interventionists. In the event of a widespread breakout we will return to our hybrid plan.

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

The social, emotional, and mental health needs are evident within our district. The district has decided to hire a social worker to help students and their families deal with the stresses of the pandemic. The social worker will work collaboratively with the counselor to focus on both student and staff social, emotional, and mental health. The social worker and counselor will provide professional support and coaching to staff with a focus on social, emotional, and mental health. In addition, each one will work with individual students, small groups, and classrooms to help meet needs.

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

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\*Please note, based on current community data regarding Covid-19, this plan will be revised as necessary for the safety and well-being of staff and students.

School breakfast and lunch will be provided to any student who needs meals. Meals are free for all students during the 2021-2022 school year. The district collaborates with McPherson to run the summer meal program. During the school year, we have contingency plans and materials for quickly changing to grab and go meals if a shutdown is required.

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Approved by USD 423 BOE 3/1/2022