**2021-2022 District #412 Plan for Safe Return to**

**In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services**

*June 22, 2021*

The USD 412 Board of Education adopted the USD 412 COVID-19 Exposure Prevention, Preparedness, and Response Plan for Education Institutions prior to starting school in August 2020.  The descriptions provided for each of the following safety recommendations established by the CDC are from said policies to assist in maintaining the health and safety of our students, educators, and other staff.  USD 412 Administration and BOE will revisit and revise our current plan as necessary to meet the needs of our students, educators, and other staff prior to the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year.

**General Guidelines and safety practices**

**Universal and correct wearing of masks**

Students, educators, and other staff may choose to wear a mask but will not be required. Masks will be provided if needed.

**Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing**

Social Distance: Maintain 6 feet and practice social distancing as work duties permit in the school.

**Handwashing and respiratory etiquette**

Students, educators and other staff will be provided time throughout the day to wash and disinfect their hands.  Hand sanitizing stations will be provided in all areas of the school. Students, educators and other staff will avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands. Students, educators and other staff will use appropriate etiquette such as cover your coughs, sneezes, etc. Students, educators and other staff will try to avoid close contact with people who are sick whenever possible.

**Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation**

The District will provide alcohol-based hand sanitizers and/or wipes to clean equipment before and after use.  The District may divide students/staff into groups where possible so that teaching can continue effectively in the event that one of the divided teams is required to quarantine.  The District encourages the use of individual water bottles and will provide them if needed.  The District will provide no-touch thermometers for temperature checks in all classrooms, buses and offices.  The District has instituted regular housekeeping practices, which includes cleaning and disinfecting frequently used supplies, devices and equipment, and other elements of the work environment, where possible.  Classrooms and break/lunchroom areas will be cleaned at least once per day.  Trash collected in the classrooms will be changed frequently.  Building level custodial staff will deep clean daily and all staff will help to disinfect between classes and activities.  Vehicles, Buses and equipment will be cleaned at least once per day and before change in operator or rider.  Buildings will be fully “fogged” throughout the school year as needed.

**Contact tracing in collaboration with the county health**

USD 412 will report isolation and quarantine cases to the Sheridan County Public Health Department.

**Diagnostic and screening testing**

Students, educators and other staff will pre-screen before coming to work using the COVID-19 Screening Form provided by Sheridan County Community Hospital.  Any person not passing the screening is asked to stay home. Parents should check their student’s temperatures at the start of each day (pre-screen) before sending them to school. If unable to check temperatures at home, USD 412 will have thermometers available in all classrooms, buses and offices.

Students with a fever, symptoms of COVID-19, or those not passing the screening should not come to school until symptoms have subsided or they have been cleared by a healthcare provider. Students, educators and other staff who develop a fever and/or other symptoms of COVID-19 during the day will leave work until symptoms have subsided or they have been cleared by a healthcare provider.

**Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities**

USD 412 will coordinate with the Sheridan County Public Health Department to provide vaccinations to the school communities.

**Accommodations for children with disabilities**

USD 412 accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies will be the same as for our students, educators and other staff.

**Coordinating with state and local officials**

USD 412 Administration and BOE will coordinate with State and local officials as necessary.

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**Services to address students' academic needs**

It is of the utmost importance that students come to school face-to-face as much as and as often as possible. Research suggests that the best learning takes place in school through peer and direct instruction. Any student who shows learning loss as a result of COVID-19 will be identified and appropriate services will be provided as soon as possible.

**Students' and staff social, emotional, mental health**

USD 412 hired a part time mental health professional for 2021-2022 to assist with the students’ and staff's social, emotional and mental health needs.

**Services for all other student needs**

USD 412 will continue to have the Sheridan County Public Health nurse and staff available for at least one day a week on-site in both the Elementary and JH/HS buildings.