



Unified School District # 447 Cherryvale – Thayer COVID-19 Exposure Prevention, Preparedness, and Response Plan

In accordance with KDHE and CDC guidelines and in consultation with Montgomery County Health Department, USD 447 has developed the following quarantine exemption policy for the 2021-2022 school year. Our primary objective is to keep students and staff safe and healthy while maintaining in-person learning.

A quarantine exemption for a student or staff member with a close contact exposure may be granted if the following conditions are met:

1. The exposed student or staff member is asymptomatic, **AND**
2. The student or staff member is fully vaccinated. “Fully vaccinated” is defined as two weeks after receiving the second dose of a two-dose vaccine (example: Pfizer, Moderna) or two weeks after receiving a single dose of a single-dose vaccine (example: Johnson and Johnson); or
3. The close contact occurs in school and the exposed person is wearing an approved mask appropriately for the entire duration of the close contact and is verified by a teacher present at the time of exposure.
4. *Montgomery County Schools will implement the Kansas Department of Health and Environment’s Test to Stay and Learn program. The goal is to keep students healthy and in school learning. If a student or staff is determined a close contact, daily testing will be available at the school clinic during their quarantine period to allow them to continue in-person learning if asymptomatic and negative. The student/staff will be required to wear a mask while at school throughout the quarantine period.*

This policy may be adopted with the following agreed upon principles:

1. It is highly recommended that anyone (whether vaccinated or masked) be tested for COVID-19 3 to 5 days after their close contact exposure.
2. A close contact is defined as an event where someone is within 6 feet of a confirmed COVID-19 case for 10 consecutive minutes.
3. Any student or staff with a positive COVID-19 diagnosis shall be excluded from school for the length of their isolation.

The risk of transmitting disease is reduced outdoors, if physical distancing is being maintained, masks and cloth face coverings are not generally recommended while outdoors.

The decision to adopt this quarantine exemption policy should be made with the understanding that quarantine is a fundamental strategy of decreasing the transmission of communicable diseases. Adopting this quarantine exemption policy will potentially put other community members, students and staff at higher risk for COVID-19 exposure and every effort should be made to encourage and/or require frequent testing of students and staff who have experienced close contacts with COVID-19 cases.

Each situation will be evaluated on a case-by case basis by the school district and the Montgomery County Health Department.



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At present, masks are optional within all buildings. If the student and/or staff COVID-19 positivity rate in a respective individual building equals 4% or higher on any given day, masks will automatically become mandatory. The mask mandate will become effective for a period of 10-calendar days. Administration will monitor the positivity rate in each respective building daily. Masks will again become optional when the positivity rate falls below 4% after the initial 10-day period.

Based on 2020-2021 data; the average positivity rate was less than 2% on a monthly basis.

Clarification of recommendations:

If symptom free and:

- **mask is worn appropriately, there is no quarantine**
- **if fully vaccinated against COVID-19, there is no quarantine**
- ***if deemed a close contact, an option can be provided to test daily and remain in school following a negative test, and the individual must wear a mask during that time***