

**Updated Guidance for Prevention of COVID-19 Transmission in K-12 Settings and Activities**

August 16, 2021

Dear Superintendents and School Board Members,

Johnson County Department of Health and Environment (JCDHE) recently provided updated guidance to school health coordinators for the prevention of COVID-19 in K-12 school settings and activities. In this update, which replaces our previous guidance issued on July 16, 2021, we have incorporated updated recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status.

This guidance continues to include a multi-layered approach that includes four primary evidence-based mitigation strategies: (1) promotion of vaccination; (2) universal indoor mask wearing, regardless of vaccination status; (3) exclusion of persons with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection; and (4) exclusion of persons who are close contacts of a COVID-19 case.

It is also important to note that the Johnson County Board of County Commissioners, acting as the County Board of Health, adopted Public Health Order No. 001-21 on August 5, 2021, requiring masks or other face coverings be worn indoors by all students, faculty, and staff in public and private schools with students up to and including sixth grade.

We appreciate your partnership in helping to promote and protect the health of our community.

Sincerely,



Sanmi Areola, Ph.D., Director

