

# August Update #2



## KSDE Early Childhood Webinar Follow-up

Tuesday, August 18, 2020

Sent by listserv to Early Learning 0-8 and posted at

[www.ksde.org/default.aspx?tabid=514](http://www.ksde.org/default.aspx?tabid=514)

**This update shares follow-up from the Friday, August 14 webinar of early childhood administrators and KSDE staff.**

**Remember that we have three remaining ASQ Live Question and Answer sessions. These sessions are your opportunity to submit questions and receive answers from the Brookes Publishing implementation team, with live demonstrations of the online system as needed. The next 30-minute session is tomorrow, Wednesday August 19, at 11:00 a.m. You can register at <https://agesandstages.com/ks/live-qa-sessions/>.**

The Friday, August 14 KSDE Early Childhood webinar gave Kansas early childhood administrators the opportunity to connect, brainstorm, and problem-solve together as we prepare for the start of the 2020-2021 school year. Discussion questions included:

- How is your program virtually interacting with families and providing social events?
- How is your program planning to keep students and staff healthy while providing developmentally appropriate activities in the classroom environment?
- What might remote learning for 3- and 4-year-old students look like in your district?

This written follow-up shares both the relevant guidance and ideas shared by peers. Ideas shared by webinar attendees are *in italics* and are **not** agency guidance.

Key resources include:

- **KSDE's Navigating Change 2020 guidance.** In particular, the Operations section, the Remote Learning Section, and the new Appendix L: Guide to Remote, Hybrid, and In-Person Teaching and Learning provide helpful information for many of the questions raised.
- **Public health guidance** from the [Kansas Department of Health and Environment](#) and [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) for licensed child care settings. On Wednesday, August 12, health experts provided an overview of this guidance and a panel of Kansas early childhood care and education providers shared practical tips for putting the guidance into action. View the recording (1 hour) at <https://kschildrenscabinet.org/webinar-archives/>.
- **A link to the text of Executive Order 20-59, as well as a Frequently Asked Questions document,** is available at <https://www.ksde.org/Agency/Fiscal-and-Administrative-Services/School-Finance/Whats-New>. This addresses masks for 3- and 4-year-old students.



### Where can I find guidance for the level of precautions I should take based on my community context?

KSDE's [Navigating Change 2020](#) guidance now includes Appendix K: Kansas Schools Gating Criteria (added August 17). You should be working with your district leadership team as they partner with local health officials and other stakeholders to assess your community's data and determine the appropriate level of precautions based on community context.

### Where can I find guidance for home visiting programs?

- The Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund website, <https://kschildrenscabinet.org/>, includes [Supporting Families during COVID-19: Home Visiting Best Practices](#)
- The Kansas Department of Health and Environment COVID-19 Resource Center, <https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/>, includes KDHE Home Visiting Services Guidance in the Local Health Departments Toolkit: <https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/170/Healthcare-Providers>.

### Where can I find guidance on meeting Indicator 6 for children with IEPs opting for remote learning?

The [School Year 2020-21 KSDE Guidance on Compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and the Kansas Special Education for Exceptional Children Act for Re-Opening Schools during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) is available at <https://www.ksde.org/Agency/Division-of-Learning-Services/Special-Education-and-Title-Services/Special-Education>.

### What is required for maintaining social distancing in classrooms?

A link to the text of Executive Order 20-59, which includes requirements for social distancing in paragraph 2 (on page 3), is available at <https://www.ksde.org/Agency/Fiscal-and-Administrative-Services/School-Finance/Whats-New>.

### How should we set up our classroom for centers, free play, etc.?

The Operations section of [Navigating Change 2020](#) includes guidance for classrooms and common spaces. The [Kansas Department of Health and Environment](#) guidance for licensed child care may also be helpful.

*One attendee shared: We are allowing students to use manipulatives, but trying to limit the number of students utilizing them. We will be cleaning between sessions and using our electrostatic machine every night.*



## How is your program virtually interacting with families and providing social events? Attendees shared:

- *Making videos of expectations and how things will be done*
- *Parent Support Groups and Parent Cafés*
- *Several programs shared that they are using SeeSaw to communicate with families*
- *One attendee shared that they are using Class Dojo as their communication platform. It has a messaging system, you can video, upload portfolios, etc.*
- *Held show-and-tell via Zoom. Held science experiments via Zoom. Using Class Tag app to send activities to parents.*

Each grade band section of [Navigating Change 2020](#) includes guidance for family engagement. The Kansas Parent Information Center has created the [Remote Learning: Together We Can Do This](#) resource to support educators in the engagement of families in their child(ren's) learning from home, which you can view at <https://ksdetasn.org/kpirc/kpirc-resources>. Additional resources to assist districts in supporting families as they support children in remote learning are forthcoming.

## Is there any guidance on the use of black lights? I wanted to provide those but got some pushback... wondered if there is any supportive documentation? Can I get clarification on what black lights are being used for?

Multiple Kansas early childhood care and education programs have shared that they have successfully used blacklights to demonstrate to the children (and adults) how germs spread. Activities usually involve using a special lotion that the children put on their hands and then go about their play. You can then use the black light to see everywhere the lotion (or germs) have spread. You can also use the lotion then have the children wash their hands. Use the blacklight to show if they washed all of the germs off. See more:

- [https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/bam/teachers/documents/epi\\_4\\_hand\\_wash.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/bam/teachers/documents/epi_4_hand_wash.pdf)
- <https://www.glogerm.com>

A black light can help children visualize how germs stay on hands and surfaces. **However, programs should recognize potential to damage children's skin/eyes and carefully monitor use of the blacklight.**

Here is another lesson on germs without using blacklights:  
<https://www.teachpreschoolscience.com/stop-that-germ.html>



### What are you using to clean toys? What cleaner or disinfectant?

The Operations section of [Navigating Change 2020](#) includes guidance for facilities, including cleaning, sanitizing and housekeeping recommendations and considerations, and guidance. The [Kansas Department of Health and Environment](#) guidance for licensed child care may also be helpful.

*Attendees shared:*

- *Eco Lab 3 in 1 Disinfectant, Electrostatic Micro mist, Trying to not share toys, toys go in bucket to be washed after use*
- *Tersano Cleaner- Magic Water*
- *The company that makes the “magic water” is Tersano. We’re fans!*
- *We’re using Genefect for surface cleaning - it is a cleaner/disinfectant on an ongoing basis for surfaces and toys. Also cleaning between classes and fogging all classroom nightly.*
- *We are cleaning the room during recess and between the AM/PM sessions.*

### Is there guidance on singing in classrooms?

The Operations section of [Navigating Change 2020](#) includes guidance for Extra and Cocurricular Activities, including Recommendations for Performing Arts. It recommends referring to the National Federation of High School Associations Performing Arts resources, available at <https://www.nfhs.org/articles/performing-arts-covid-19-resources/>, which includes Fall 2020 Guidance for Music Education. Navigating Change 2020 does not include more specific guidance on singing in classrooms at this time.

### How is your program planning to keep students and staff healthy while providing developmentally appropriate activities in the classroom environment? Attendees shared:

- *Have had children in attendance through the summer. Have to create policies and be flexible to modify as needed. Took out all items from the classrooms that couldn’t be easily washed or wiped down (clothes, playdough, blankets etc.), children can’t bring items from home, try to spread the children out as much as possible, teachers wear masks, children aren’t right now. They do lots of cleaning and arrange time in schedules to do so. One group on the playground at a time, no library or shared spaces are used.*
- *No holding hands. We are trying the Hold-a-ring Walking Rope ([https://www.amazon.com/s?k=pre+k+walking+rope&gclid=EAlaIqobChMIn9C2Icib6wIViYzICh0ICgeKEAAYASAAEgl7tvD\\_BwE&hvadid=323313620312&hvdev=c&hvlocphy=9060626&hvnetw=g&hvqmt=b&hvrnd=7144432606943261198&hvtargid=kwd-328978493965&hydacr=29577\\_10169729&tag=googhydr-20&ref=pd\\_sl\\_4yfap2pr0b\\_b](https://www.amazon.com/s?k=pre+k+walking+rope&gclid=EAlaIqobChMIn9C2Icib6wIViYzICh0ICgeKEAAYASAAEgl7tvD_BwE&hvadid=323313620312&hvdev=c&hvlocphy=9060626&hvnetw=g&hvqmt=b&hvrnd=7144432606943261198&hvtargid=kwd-328978493965&hydacr=29577_10169729&tag=googhydr-20&ref=pd_sl_4yfap2pr0b_b))*
- *Doing lots of Social Stories, do our best to remind children about social distancing, have done black light activities, practice 20 seconds handwashing, ordered table dividers for lunch, parents are not allowed in the building*



## What might remote learning look like for 3- and 4-year-old students in your district?

In response to feedback from the field requesting additional guidance on this topic, KSDE recently updated **Navigating Change 2020** to add a new Appendix L: Guide to Remote, Hybrid, and In-Person Teaching and Learning.

*One smaller district (expecting a class of 17 4-year-old students, with 2 opting for remote learning) shared that they are preparing tubs to send home to families with materials to set up their learning space at home using recyclable materials for a makerspace, etc. This will be an opportunity for the classroom teacher to establish the relationship with the family and discuss how young children learn. A district remote learning coordinator will be responsible for checking in with families daily and will be doing home visits weekly.*

*Another program shared that classroom teachers will be distributing meals and packets to families during pick-up times so that there is a weekly in-person connection.*

*USD 501 Topeka is creating a calendar of template lesson plans, videos, and activities that teachers can draw from by age band. You can view the Pre-K page at <https://sites.google.com/tps501.org/covid19instructionalresources/pre-k?authuser=0>.*

Many programs are interested in a remote learning log that works well for preschool (separate from the template available in the **Navigating Change 2020** Remote Learning section). If districts have examples that they like and would be willing to share, please send them to Natalie McClane: [nmcclane@ksde.org](mailto:nmcclane@ksde.org).

## Do you have anything you would like to share with your Kansas early childhood colleagues?

**Nis Wilbur, KSDE:** The upcoming Kansas Home Visiting Virtual Forum will be free. It will be Monday, September 28th - Thursday, October 1st, 2:00pm - 4:00pm each day. Registration opens August 28th. Please email Nis if you have questions: [nwilbur@ksde.org](mailto:nwilbur@ksde.org).

**Julie Rand, KSDE:** Just as a reminder...the KSDE TASN Summer Leadership recorded sessions (60+) are located at <https://www.ksdetasn.org/tasn/2020-summer-leadership-conference>. It has ALL topics including the MIS Virtual training held this week regarding data reporting and environment/setting codes (Indicator 6-mentioned at the beginning)

**Vicky Roper, Kansas Children's Service League:** Download the free 1800CHILDRENKS app for access to Kansas community resources on parenting, education, counseling, employment and more.

The app connects Kansas families and providers to helpful parenting resources in their local communities. The app can be downloaded from the Apple store: <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/id1526331280> or from the Google Play store: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.auntbertha.webapp.kcsl>

For parenting resources and support without judgment, call 1-800-CHILDREN and speak to one of our trained specialists. Please note this is NOT a crisis line or a suicide line. The suicide helpline can be reached at 1-800-273-8255.



Available 24/7, and by phone, app, or email at [1800children@kscl.org](mailto:1800children@kscl.org), 1-800-CHILDREN is always there to help talk through your parenting concerns.

The 1-800-CHILDREN app became available on August 1, 2020 with funding from the Kansas Preschool Development Grant through the Kansas Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund.

We are so glad that we got to connect with so many Kansas early childhood educators – it was great to virtually “see” you! We are planning a similar opportunity for you to connect with your peers at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, September 11. We want this time to be valuable to you – please share any feedback you have regarding the format or logistics of the webinar with Beccy Strohm, [bstrohm@ksde.org](mailto:bstrohm@ksde.org).

Stay healthy and well, and don’t hesitate to connect with us as we can be helpful.

**Amanda, Nis, Natalie, Jordan, Julie and Beccy**



For more information, contact:

Amanda Petersen  
Director, Early Childhood  
[apetersen@ksde.org](mailto:apetersen@ksde.org)

Kansas State Department of Education  
900 S.W. Jackson Street, Suite 102  
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1212

[www.ksde.org](http://www.ksde.org)

The Kansas State Department of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: KSDE General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, KSDE, Landon State Office Building, 900 S.W. Jackson, Suite 102, Topeka, KS 66612, (785) 296-3201.

