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# COVID-19 SAFETY PLAN

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Oklahoma City Public Schools  
COVID-19 Safety Plan  
Spring 2022

**EDITED VERSION**

*Updated February 7, 2022*

This safety plan is a comprehensive, multi-faceted approach that places health and safety at the center of back to school preparation by providing an intense and consistent approach to the following key areas. Local conditions and advice from Oklahoma City County Health Department (OCCHD) will help to guide the decisions that are made regarding district-level protocols, and we will continue to keep our families and staff informed of any and all safety guidance.

1. Daily Self-Screening
2. Cleaning & Indoor Air Quality
3. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), Hand Hygiene & Respiratory Etiquette
4. Physical Distancing
5. Incident Reporting & Response Protocol
6. Vaccination & Testing



## Daily Self-Screening

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention states, people with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. Anyone can have mild to severe symptoms.

**District Staff and Students** are expected to self-screen prior to reporting to school or work for fever of 100.4 or more and/or other [symptoms](#) associated with COVID-19 prior to arrival at school each day. **District Staff and student(s) should not report to school/work if:**

- **They are sick**
- **They have a fever or other [COVID-like symptoms](#),**
- **They are awaiting COVID-19 test results**
- **They have received a positive COVID-19 test result**

If a student presents at school or during the school day develops a temperature of 100.4 and/or other [COVID-like symptoms](#), regardless of vaccination status, the student will be sent home.

### IF YOU BELIEVE YOUR CHILD IS SICK

- **Families** should report a **positive COVID-19** test result, or symptoms to their **child's school** who can provide further instructions or guidance.
  - A student who tests positive or is symptomatic regardless of vaccination status will be required to stay home for a time period based on current CDC guidelines. Families should be prepared to provide proof of their student's positive test result, including a clinical or home test. OKCPS offers testing for students, make an appointment here: <https://www.okcps.org/Page/6807>
- **Staff members** should report a **positive COVID-19** test result or symptoms to their supervisor who can provide further instructions or guidance.
  - A staff member who tests positive or is symptomatic regardless of vaccination status, will be required to stay home for a time period based on [current CDC guidelines](#).



# Cleaning & Indoor Air Quality

The principal mode by which people are infected with SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) is through [exposure to respiratory droplets carrying infectious virus](#). The most reliable way to prevent infection from surfaces is to [regularly wash hands or use hand sanitizer](#). Cleaning and disinfecting and improving indoor air quality can also reduce the risk of infection. Below are the protocols that OKCPS will follow.

## DAILY CLEANING PROTOCOLS

### Offices/Classrooms/Hallways:

- Wipe surfaces utilizing a disinfectant cleaner
  - Desks - top and bottom
  - Chairs - top and bottom
  - Countertops and cabinets
- Mop floors using an EPA approved disinfectant cleaner
- Empty trash and clean waste receptacle inside and out with disinfectant cleaner and replace liner

### Cafeteria:

- Wipe surfaces utilizing a disinfectant cleaner
  - Eating tables top and bottom
  - Chairs top and bottom
  - Vending machine buttons
- Mop floors using a properly diluted disinfectant cleaner
- Empty trash and clean waste receptacle inside and out with disinfectant cleaner and replace liner

### Restrooms:

- Wipe surfaces utilizing a disinfectant cleaner
  - Fixtures
  - Soap dispensers
  - Toilet / urinal flush handles
  - Partitions

- Paper towel dispensers
- Scrub toilets and urinals with disinfectant cleaner
- Mop floors using a properly diluted disinfectant cleaner
- Empty trash and clean waste receptacle inside and out with disinfectant cleaner and replace liner

### **Custodial Efficiency**

OKCPS Custodial Services will continue to clean and disinfect multiple times throughout the day focusing on high touch surfaces, and after a positive case in a school has been reported. Disinfectant misters are available to be used on an as needed basis.

### **Supplies for Teachers**

All classroom teachers should be provided an EPA approved disinfectant cleaner, along with paper towels and disinfectant wipes in order to wipe down high touch surfaces in the classroom during the school day.

### **Transportation**

Below is an outline of cleaning protocols for all OKCPS school buses:

- Daily Routine
  - High touch surfaces will be wiped down utilizing a disinfectant cleaner
    - Handrail
    - Seatbacks and seats
  - Floors will be swept
  - Trash receptacle will be emptied and cleaned
- Scheduled Cleaning
  - Buses will be misted, which includes a disinfectant cleaner and shield application that has a 90-day defensive lifespan
  - All buses are on a 30-day treatment schedule for increased safety
  - Individual buses will be treated immediately after an exposure event when needed

To learn more about cleaning and safety protocols for district transportation, watch this video from Cody Stull, Director of Transportation. <https://youtu.be/ilkx2THGq1g>

### **Indoor Air Quality**

In addition to replenishing fresh air and air filtration, the district has installed Needlepoint

Bipolar Ionization systems in every district facility in order to increase the air quality in our schools and buildings.

Pollutants, dust, dander, smoke and even viruses and bacteria all can be suspended in the air we breathe, even when you don't see them. Needlepoint Bipolar Ionization works to safely clean indoor air, by creating and releasing ions into the airstream through the HVAC system. When these ions disperse throughout a space, they seek out and form bonds with particles in the air causing particles to cluster together. The larger a cluster of particles becomes, the easier it is to filter it out of the air.

To learn more about the ionization project, watch this video from Chief Operations Officer, Scott Randall. [https://youtu.be/dZcMLW-Q\\_I8](https://youtu.be/dZcMLW-Q_I8)



## Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Hand Hygiene & Respiratory Etiquette

### Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

**OKCPS requires face coverings to be worn on school property, in school vehicles, and at school-sponsored events regardless of your vaccination status.**

These procedures which are outlined in Administrative Regulation [C-26-R2 \(under C-26 Wellness\) Mask Requirement to Protect against the Spread of COVID-19](#) will be implemented as of Monday, August 16 and will remain in place until revised or revoked.

Across the board, our public health officials recommend universal indoor masking in schools, regardless of vaccination status, as a way to slow or stop the spread of COVID-19, especially when paired with other safety measures such as vaccines, social distancing, testing, and increasing ventilation.

Things we want you to know:

1. [Being vaccinated](#) is the number one prevention against contracting COVID-19.
2. [Wearing a mask](#) can reduce your risk of contracting COVID-19 and is highly recommended for unvaccinated people.

- a. Not only can wearing a mask help protect against COVID-19, but can protect against the seasonal flu and other respiratory illnesses like Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV).
3. CDC recommendations for wearing a mask ([update 8/4/2021](#))
  - a. Updated to recommend universal indoor masking for all students, staff, teachers, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status.

OKCPS will continue to provide a mask to ANY student, staff member, or visitor that requests one. Additionally, reusable masks, gloves, and disinfectant wipes and spray are available to every staff member.

### **Medical Restrictions Negating Mask Use**

**Students** - If a parent/legal guardian or eligible student indicates that compliance with mask use is not possible due to medical or religious or strong personal reasons, the parent, legal guardian, or eligible student may [request an exemption in writing using this form](#).

**Employees** - If an employee indicates compliance is not possible due to medical reasons, the employee should be referred to Human Resources to request accommodations on the basis of disability.

**Please note:** OKCPS will also continue to require any individual with a mask exemption who tests positive to isolate (stay home) for 10 days. If the individual is willing to wear a mask for 5 days, they can return to school after 5 days of isolation.

### **Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette**

People should practice handwashing and [respiratory etiquette](#) (covering coughs and sneezes) to keep from getting and spreading infectious illnesses including COVID-19.

OKCPS will monitor and reinforce these behaviors and provide adequate hand washing supplies for staff and students.

- Teach and reinforce [handwashing](#) with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Remind everyone in the facility [to wash hands frequently](#) and assist young children with handwashing.
- If handwashing is not possible, use hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol (for teachers, staff, and older students who can safely use hand sanitizer). Hand sanitizers should be stored up, away, and out of sight of young children and should be used only with adult supervision for children under 6 years of age.

Frequent hand washing and sanitizing will continue to be accommodated and encouraged. Students will be asked to wash and/or sanitize their hands upon arrival, before and after meals and outdoor play. Classrooms will be equipped with hand hygiene products and additional hand sanitizer stations will be placed throughout the school buildings.



## Physical Distancing

In general, CDC recommends people who are not fully vaccinated maintain a physical [distance](#) of at least 6 feet from other people who are not in their household. We recognize that physical distancing is important but sometimes difficult to accomplish. We have developed protocols in a variety of areas and scenarios in order to promote physical distancing to the greatest extent possible.

### Transportation

- Students should physically distance as much as possible while riding the school bus. Students should sit one to a seat when possible and we encourage family members to sit together. However, there will be instances when physical distancing isn't attainable.

### Student Arrival & Dismissal

- Arrival and dismissal procedures have been adjusted at each school to practice physical distancing when possible and minimize congestion during high-traffic times. Parents/guardians and guests are encouraged not to enter the school during arrival or dismissal. Details about protocols will be provided from your child's individual school.

### Restrooms

- Students will be allowed to enter the restroom per the number of stalls available. Staff will monitor congregate areas such as restrooms and hallways to encourage physical distancing as much as possible. Restrooms will be cleaned and disinfected frequently throughout the day.

### Water Fountains

- Water fountains are functional. However, students are encouraged to use refillable water bottles and use the schools' bottle-filling stations, where they are available. The

district's Custodial Services will clean water fountains frequently throughout the day. In some cases, schools have opted to close some water fountains that are in extreme close proximity to one another and instead provide water bottles to students.

### **Lockers**

- The use of lockers may be limited throughout the school day in order to reduce the opportunity for students to gather in the hallways and at lockers.

### **Breakfast & Lunch**

- A combination of options will be made available by School Nutrition Services for students and teachers to expedite food service and to minimize the number of students in the cafeteria during breakfast and lunch periods. Each school will adjust their meal schedule to accommodate physical distancing to the greatest extent possible.

### **Recess**

- Students' ability to participate in unstructured play is an important component for children to develop physical, mental and social skills. Recess schedules may be staggered and the number of children on the playground will be limited at any given time to accommodate physical distance to the greatest extent possible.
- Hand hygiene practices will be in place before and after recess. Additional details about recess procedures will be provided by your child's school.



## **Incident Reporting & Response Protocols**

We ask our families and employees to closely monitor themselves for possible symptoms. If you or your child are feeling ill, please stay home.

### **Reporting**

- **Families** should report a **positive COVID-19** test result, or symptoms to their **child's school** who can provide further instructions or guidance.
  - A student who tests positive or is symptomatic, regardless of vaccination status, will be required to stay home for a time period based on current CDC guidelines.

- **Staff members** should report a **positive COVID-19** test result or symptoms to their supervisor who can provide further instructions or guidance.
  - A staff member who tests positive or is symptomatic regardless of vaccination status, will be required to stay home for a time period based on [current CDC guidelines](#).
  - Staff members will be required to provide proof of positive test results with a clinical test in order to utilize COVID leave. Home test results will not be accepted. OKCPS offers free testing for staff, please visit [www.okcps.org/Page/6807](http://www.okcps.org/Page/6807)

### **Cleaning Following a Positive COVID-19 Case**

In addition to the daily cleaning protocols, after notification of a positive COVID-19 case in a building, high touch point surfaces and potentially impacted areas will be isolated and thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.

### **Returning to Work or School**

A student or staff member who tests positive for COVID-19 will be required to stay home for a time period based on [current CDC guidelines](#). Please note that learning will not be interrupted as students will be able to continue with virtual learning.

**After receiving a positive test**, a student or staff member should:

- Report a positive case to the school or supervisor.
- Stay home for 5 days.
  - **Please note:** OKCPS will also continue to require any individual with a mask exemption who tests positive to isolate (stay home) for 10 days. If the individual is willing to wear a mask for 5 days, they can return to school after 5 days of isolation.
- Continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.
- If you have a fever, continue to stay home until your fever resolves. \*OKCPS defines “fever resolves” as no fever without fever reducing medication for 24 hours.

Please review [the CDC guidance regarding travel](#) if you plan to travel during the school year.



## Vaccination Access & Testing for OKCPS Staff & Students

While masks and other mitigation measures are essential, we know that vaccinations are the number one preventative measure against the COVID-19 virus. So it is more important than ever that those who are interested and able get vaccinated as quickly as possible.

OKCPS will continue to work with community partners to provide vaccination and testing opportunities to our staff, students, and families. As these opportunities are available and younger populations become eligible for the vaccine, OKCPS will keep our staff, students, and families informed. Please visit [www.okcps.org/covid19](http://www.okcps.org/covid19) for more information about vaccination and testing being offered to OKCPS staff and/or families.

Staff and families can also visit [www.vaxokc.com](http://www.vaxokc.com) to find a location offering the vaccine. Staff and families can visit [www.testokc.com](http://www.testokc.com) to find a location offering testing.

## OKCPS Campuses Closed to Outside Visitors

To further limit exposure, OKCPS has also made the decision to restrict access to our campuses for all outside visitors during the school day until further notice. This includes volunteers, community partners and members of the media. Parents and guardians may visit the office at your child's school to conduct any necessary business but will not be permitted to enter other parts of the building.

## OKCPS Athletics

Please be advised that the Athletics Department at Oklahoma City Public Schools has revised the 2021-2022 Covid-19 Guidelines as of Monday, August 16, 2021, to align with the OKCPS District guideline changes.

The information below is being provided so that our community and opponents are aware of the revised guidelines when visiting an Oklahoma City Public School facility to attend and/or participate in an athletic event. Please keep in mind that these guidelines are subject to change.

1. Masks will be required by all student athletes, coaches, officials, and spectators at all

OKCPS hosted events in both our indoor and outdoor facilities.

2. All athletic teams and coaches on the sidelines must wear a mask and socially distance. Players in active play on the field or court do not have to wear masks.
3. Full spectator capacity is allowed at all facilities with mask and social distancing requirements.
4. All locker rooms will be available for use before, during and after games as needed.
5. All OKCPS athletes and coaches must be masked in any team photos.
6. Only prepackaged foods and beverages will be available at all concession stands.
7. Proper disinfecting and hygiene practices should still be followed.
8. Individuals who currently feel ill or have any COVID symptoms should stay home.

The District's priorities are to keep all stakeholders well, safe, and to allow us to continue with face-to-face school and activities for the rest of our school year. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this information, please contact the Site Athletic Coordinator at your school or the District Athletics Office.

## OKCPS Field Trips

As OKCPS continues to prioritize safety, we have updated our guidance for field trips:

- Because our youngest learners do not currently have access to the COVID-19 vaccine, field trips will not be allowed for students in PK-4th grade at this time.
- All field trips for secondary students in grades 5th-12th must be approved by each school site's Instructional Leadership Director (ILD).
- There is currently no restriction in place for sanctioned Athletics or Fine Arts events or for other formal competitions that may require students to be transported to another site.

## Still have questions?

If you have specific questions that have not been addressed, please email the district at [covid19@okcps.org](mailto:covid19@okcps.org). If you don't have access to email, you may also call (405) 587-CV19.

# Additional Information

## **OTHER THINGS WE CAN DO TO STAY SAFE & HEALTHY**

To help us maintain safe and healthy buildings, it is important that all students and staff members remain vigilant with hygiene practices. COVID-19 is transmitted through person-to-person contact and through the exchange of respiratory droplets.

The CDC recommends the following [best practices](#) on how to protect yourself and others and ways to slow the spread of COVID-19:

- Get vaccinated
- Wear a mask
- Stay 6 feet from others
- Avoid crowds and poorly ventilated spaces
- Wash your hands often
- Cover coughs and sneezes
- Clean and disinfect
- Monitor your health daily

You may read the full list here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>