



COVID-19 SAFETY PLAN

Oklahoma City Public Schools
COVID-19 Safety Plan
Fall 2021

Updated July 19, 2021

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.

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

Families are expected to screen children for fever of 100.4 or more and/or other [symptoms](#) associated with COVID-19 prior to students' arrival at school each day. **Families should not send a child to school if they have a fever or other [COVID-like symptoms](#), if they have had a known exposure to COVID-19 and are unvaccinated, or if they are awaiting COVID-19 test results.** If a student presents at school and has a temperature of 100.4 and/or presents with other [COVID-like symptoms](#), regardless of vaccination status, the student will be sent home.

District staff are also expected to self-screen each morning before reporting to work. **Staff should not report to work if they have a fever of 100.4 or more and/or other symptoms associated with COVID-19.**

IF YOU BELIEVE YOU or YOUR CHILD ARE SICK

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

- 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 will be asked 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 will be asked to stay home for a time period based on current CDC guidelines. Please note: COVID-19 leave is no longer an option and if required to isolate; staff can use any available leave they have.



Cleaning & Indoor Air Quality

The virus that causes COVID-19 can land on surfaces. It's possible for people to become infected if they touch those surfaces and then touch their nose, mouth, or eyes. In most situations, the [risk of infection from touching a surface is low](#). The most reliable way to prevent infection from surfaces is to [regularly wash hands or use hand sanitizer](#). Cleaning and disinfecting surfaces can also reduce the risk of infection. Below are the cleaning 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_J8



Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Hand Hygiene & Respiratory Etiquette

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

OKCPS' mask mandate expired on July 1, 2021 and our district no longer requires masks to be worn while on buses, in a school or District building or on any part of a District campus.

This comes after the passage of OK Senate Bill 658, which went into effect on July 1, 2021, prohibiting a school district from implementing a mask mandate unless there is a state of emergency declared by the Governor. This means that although our local public health officials and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) do still encourage wearing masks in the school setting, OKCPS cannot mandate masks be worn while on buses, in a school or district building.

We do, however, welcome all of our staff, students, families, and visitors to continue wearing a mask while visiting district properties, activities, and events; and strongly recommend that those who have not been vaccinated do so.

Even though OKCPS no longer requires masks to be worn while on buses, in a school or District building or on any part of a District campus, the CDC does recommend the use of masks for unvaccinated people stating:

- If you are not fully vaccinated and aged 2 or older, you should wear a mask in indoor public places.
- In general, you do not need to wear a mask in outdoor settings.
 - In areas with high numbers of COVID-19 cases, consider wearing a mask in crowded outdoor settings and for activities with close contact with others who are not fully vaccinated.
- If you are fully vaccinated and have a condition or are taking medications that weaken your immune system, you may need to keep taking steps to protect yourself, like wearing a mask. Talk to your healthcare provider about steps you can take to manage your health and risks.
- If you are fully vaccinated, see [When You've Been Fully Vaccinated](#).

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.

The current CDC guidance for PK-12 Schools also emphasizes the importance of implementing layered prevention strategies. It is important to note that OKCPS will continue with physical distancing, regular cleaning, handwashing and other protocols to manage the spread of the COVID-19 virus in our schools. 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.

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

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.

The CDC recommends schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms, combined with indoor mask wearing by people who are not fully vaccinated, to reduce transmission risk. When it is not possible to maintain a physical distance of at least 3 feet, such as when schools cannot fully reopen while maintaining these distances, it is especially important to layer multiple other prevention strategies, such as indoor masking.

Curricular, Co-curricular, and Extracurricular Activities

Many of the COVID-19 protocols that were in place last school year are no longer required. Activities such as Athletics and Fine Arts will return to regular operations. Additionally, common spaces such as auditoriums, assemblies, and libraries will function under regular operating procedures while incorporating the above listed disease prevention strategies of: frequent cleaning of high touch surfaces, hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette, and 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 will be asked 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 will be asked to stay home for a time period based on current CDC guidelines. Please note: COVID-19 leave is no longer an option and if required to isolate, staff can use any available leave they have.

If a family member of a student or employee tests positive for COVID-19, please use the reporting instructions above so that an exposure risk assessment can be completed by OKCPS to determine if the student or staff member is considered to be a close contact. If it is determined they are a close contact, all proper documentation and notifications will be completed and the individual will be required to isolate for a period of time based on current CDC guidelines.

Additionally, OKCPS will report the number of "self-reported" positive COVID-19 cases, along with the number of individuals who have been asked to isolate due to potential exposure to the virus on the district's website each week.

Contact Tracing

When a school is made aware of a positive COVID-19 case in a classroom, the school's Contact Tracing Team will conduct [contact tracing](#) to determine who was in [close contact](#) with the positive case, be it school staff or another student. OKCPS will work in tandem with Oklahoma City/County Health Department Officials to report COVID-19 confirmed cases. Those identified during contact tracing as [close contacts](#) will be personally notified and provided with isolation information. If a fully vaccinated person is exposed to a positive case, they will not be required to isolate, unless they become symptomatic. Additionally, the entire school will be notified of the positive case.

Here are some definitions to help understand reporting and contact tracing.

- **"Close Contact" Exposure** "Close contact" as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention occurs when an individual is within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 2 days (or 48 hours) before the infected person's diagnosis.
- **Self-Reported Positive Cases** refers to when a staff member or student has notified OKCPS of positive results from a COVID-19 test.
- **Fully Vaccinated** refers to a person who is 14 days out from receiving two doses of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine OR one dose of the Johnson and Johnson vaccine. Any person 12 years or older can receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

Communication & Notification

OKCPS will notify all families and staff of a confirmed positive COVID-19 case in a building/on campus. When contact tracing is complete, those who are determined to have been in close contact and who are unvaccinated will also be contacted separately and asked to isolate.

Each Friday, OKCPS will also report the number of “self-reported” positive COVID-19 cases, along with the number of individuals who have been asked to isolate due to potential exposure to the virus.

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 asked 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 must meet **ALL** of the following criteria to return work or school:

- 10 days after the symptom(s) first appeared,
- Fever-free for the last 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medications), **AND**
- [Symptoms](#) have improved

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- 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 will be asked to stay home for a time period based on current CDC guidelines. Please note: COVID-19 leave is no longer an option and if required to isolate, staff can use any available leave they have.



Vaccination Access & Testing for OKCPS Staff & Students

Vaccination Access

Vaccinations are the number one preventative measure against the COVID-19 virus. OKCPS will continue to work with community partners to provide vaccination 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.

Staff and families can also visit www.vaxokc.com to find a location offering the vaccine.

Testing

OKCPS has partnered with the Oklahoma City County Health Department (OCCHD) to provide COVID-19 testing for OKCPS students and district staff and/or members of their household. Testing is voluntary and requires appropriate consent.

If a staff member, student or their family need information about obtaining a COVID-19 test, please contact your child's school or call the COVID-19 hotline at (405) 587-CV19.

OKCPS Athletics

Oklahoma City Public Schools is happy to bring athletics back to all of our students and spectators for the 2021-22 school year. Below is important information for our community and opponents to be aware of when visiting an OKCPS. [These guidelines are subject to change.](#)

- Masks will no longer be required in our facilities, indoor or outdoor. We do strongly encourage those individuals who have not received their COVID vaccine to continue to wear a mask especially when attending events at our indoor facilities.
- Full capacity is allowed at all facilities.
- All locker rooms will be available for use before, during and after games as needed.
- All facilities can have full concession stands.
- Proper sanitation and hygiene practices should still be followed.
- Any individuals who feel ill should stay home.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this information please contact the Site Athletic Coordinator at your school or the District Athletic Department.

Still have questions?

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