

COVID RESPONSE AND REOPENING

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Attached are the Osage Co. R-I COVID Response and Reopening Plans, which outline the procedures for communicating how suspected and positive COVID-19 cases will be handled in the school setting. Additionally, the document outlines specific procedures for returning to school or work after a quarantine.

There are a number of procedures that will be implemented in order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. While no single action will completely eliminate the risk of COVID-19 transmission, we must make a coordinated effort to implement multiple strategies designed to greatly reduce the risk. We must be vigilant in our mitigation efforts and work together in keeping our building open in order to effectively meet the academic, social, and emotional needs of our students.

Our 2020 Reopening Plan is built around the following foundational priorities:

- 1. Increased Sanitation Efforts*
- 2. Social Distancing*
- 3. Staff & Student Screening Measures*
- 4. Personal Protective Equipment*
- 5. Limited Visitor Access to Buildings*
- 6. Procedures for COVID-19 Infections*

*As we return for the 2020-2021 school year, the Osage Co. R-I School District will work to minimize the risk of exposure to COVID-19 for students and staff. However, we must all acknowledge that returning to in-seat instruction will introduce a greater risk of exposure in spite of our best efforts. The overall goal of the reopening plan is to provide a path that allows for in-person instruction to continue for as many students as possible, for as long as possible with minimal disruptions in learning. **We hope you share the belief that the inconvenience of extended school closings and distance learning is much greater than any perceived inconvenience of procedures related to reopening our school district.***

The information that follows provides a summary of what students and parents can expect as different situations arise. Please remember these procedures are a working document and can be adjusted as information becomes available and we adjust to any federal, state, or local requirements.

Level 1- In- person classes for all. Mitigating measures in place.

Level 2- Limited positive cases in school. Anticipated short-term closing. Increased mitigating measures. Possible distance learning required for some. Attempt to return to Level 1 as soon as possible

Level 3- Multiple cases/continued short-term closing/etc.- Alternate Method of Instruction plans implemented. Distance learning for all.

The decision to move from one level to another will be determined by the district in consultation with local health officials.

Sincerely,

Osage Co. R-I Administration

**LEVEL 1: No/Low Cases in School--
Steady County Rate- In Person Classes**

- Mitigating measures such as distancing, screening and face covering in place.
- Visitor /gathering restrictions.

**LEVEL 2: Limited Positive Cases in school
(student or staff)- Increased County Rate-
In Person Classes or Blended In
Person/Distanced Learning**

- County Health Department will lead contact tracing
- School will not be provided or release any individual names
- Close off rooms/areas where person(s) were located
- Deep clean/disinfect those areas
- Temporary closing of building or district in order to clean- Minimum 1 day-Coordinate closing length with health department
- Implement more strict measures such as increase distancing, implement attendance grouping, grouping system, limit extra curricular activity
- Implement AMI-X or other distance learning measures

**LEVEL 3: Multiple Positive Cases or
Outbreak (student or staff)-Distance
Learning**

- Same procedure for tracing
- School will not be provided or release individual names
- Close all facilities for minimum 24 hours
- Deep clean/disinfect entire facility
- Coordinate with health department on length of closing
- Implement AMI-X and distance learning process
- Consider adding additional in-person days on end of school calendar.

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LEVEL 1-Additional measures may be in place

- School open with in-person classes.
- Preventative measures will be implemented to the extent possible.
 - Increased cleaning and disinfecting
 - Emphasis on hand washing and use of hand sanitizer
 - Visitor restrictions/Health Screening/Limit gatherings and activities
 - Social distancing in classrooms and other areas such as cafeteria and buses
 - Staff use of face covering required when not social distancing (transitioning, hallway, etc)
 - JH/HS student use of face covering required when not able to social distance - transitioning in building/hallway/lines, etc.
 - Health screening and temperature checks as needed for students
 - Health screening (temperature check/log) for staff daily.
 - Assigned seating on bus, classrooms, and common areas such as cafeteria
 - Elementary students/teachers stay with class/stable group as much as possible.

LEVEL 2 Additional measures may be in place

- Continue Level 1 Procedures
- Close off affected area and deep clean/disinfect if notified of positive case.
 - Building or district closed minimum 1 day
- Increased mitigating measures **may include**:
 - Distance learning for specific grade levels only (close contacts of positive tests)
 - Implement distance learning and AMI-X
 - Small group or individual sessions with teacher at school possible for those with distance learning challenges
 - Implement attendance grouping
 - Groups come every other day to allow for social distancing-attempt to keep families together; or
 - JH/HS Grouping System-Stable Group (all students attend same day)
- Modify, postpone, or cancel non-essential instructional activities based on circumstances
 - No extra-curricular on days school not in session
- Possible make-up of hours lost depending on length of closing

LEVEL 3- Additional measures may be in place

- Building and District closing likely
- Length of closing determined by county/state guidance, ability to thoroughly clean and disinfect, prevalence of COVID in community, etc
- Implement distance learning and AMI-X
- Small group or individual sessions with teacher at school possible for those with distance learning challenges
- Postpone/Cancel all extra-curricular and non-instructional activities
- Possible make up lost hours lost depending on length of closing

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Student and Staff Health Protocols

It is essential for the school community to work together to prevent the introduction and spread of COVID-19 in the school environment and in the community while still providing a quality education program. State statute gives public school districts the authority to exclude students who have a contagious disease such as COVID-19 or who are liable to transmit the disease after having been exposed to it. See 167.191, RSMo. In addition, the local health department has the authority to exclude students from school and may order students and others to isolate or quarantine. 19 CSR 20-20.05. Osage Co. R-1 School District will be working closely with the local health departments.

Given the nature of the pandemic, the school district may make additional medical inquiries of staff and students than they otherwise would have. Please note that federal law typically limits the type of medical inquiries that can be made but given the nature of the pandemic more leeway has been given by federal agencies in this circumstance. If a parent tells the school district that a student is ill, the school district may ask the parent whether the student is exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19. If an employee calls in sick or appears ill, the school district will inquire as to whether the employee is experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms. The school district may take the temperature of students, employees and visitors to school property on a random basis or in situations where there is reason to believe that the person may be ill. If a person is obviously ill the school district may make additional inquiries and may exclude the person from school property.

- Students and staff are expected to practice social distancing as directed by the school guidelines.
- Students in grades 7-12 and staff are required to wear a face covering when social distancing is not possible. This would include on busses and in the hallway. Face covering can be provided from home. The school may elect to provide face covering for students and staff.
- Students and employees exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 without other obvious explanations should not come to school, and if they do come to school, they will be sent home immediately.
- Symptoms include:
 - A fever (100.4° or sense of having a fever)
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
 - Chills
 - Muscle pain
 - Headache
 - Sore throat
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
- Temperature checks and screening will be completed for students/staff who display symptoms.
- Employees will be required to self-screen and log daily temperatures prior to the beginning of every school day. Thermometers and logs are available in HS and Elementary office/online.

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- Siblings and other household members of a student or staff who exhibit the above symptoms or test positive may also be excluded from school. If a student is excluded from school due to COVID-19 symptoms, his or her siblings or other students living in the same household will be excluded from school if they display symptoms. If a student has had a positive COVID19 test, his or her siblings or other students living in the same household will be excluded from school and asked to self-quarantine.
- A separate space will be available to assess students or staff members who may be exhibiting symptoms of a communicable disease. Only essential staff will be allowed to enter the room and must wear a face covering.
- Students and staff who exhibit COVID-19 symptoms, without other obvious explanations, will be sent home. Criteria for returning will be based on CDC and local guidelines.
- Students and staff **who are** identified as a close contact of a positive case will not be permitted to return to school until after they have been released by the local health department.
- Students and staff **who are not** identified as a close contact of the positive case will be permitted to return to school after contact tracing by the local health department is complete.

Once a student or employee is excluded from the school environment for COVID related illness or symptoms, they may return if they satisfy the recommendations of the CDC and local health guidelines. Currently those guidelines are:

7. **Untested.** Persons who have not received a test proving or disproving the presence of COVID-19 but experience symptoms may return if the following three conditions are met:
 - They have not had a fever for at least 72 hours (that is three full days of no fever without the use medicine that reduces fevers); and
 - Other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved); and
 - At least ten (10) calendar days have passed since your symptoms first appeared.
8. **Tested.** Persons who experienced symptoms and have tested positive for COVID-19 may return to school if the following three conditions are met:
 - They no longer have a fever (without the use medicine that reduces fevers); and
 - Other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved); and
 - They have received a negative test and have been released by a health care provider/ local health department.
9. **Tested with no symptoms.** Persons who have not had symptoms but test positive for COVID-19 may return when they have gone ten (10) calendar days without symptoms and have been released by a health care provider/local health department.

Students and staff may also return if they are approved to do so in writing by the student's health care provider.

- Non-Covid Illness
 - Students and staff who are sent home with a temperature must be fever free (100.4°) for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications and may return to school if accompanied by a doctor's note with a diagnosis not related

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to a respiratory illness, influenza or COVID-19 (such as pink eye, strep throat, ear infection, etc.).

- Students and staff must be fever free for 72 hours without the use of fever reducing medications if not accompanied by a doctor's note for a diagnosis

Face Covering Exemptions

- The following individuals are exempt from the requirement to wear a face covering:
 - Those who are deaf or hard of hearing
 - PK-6th grade students
 - Persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a face covering. This includes, but is not limited to, persons with a medical condition for whom wearing a face covering could obstruct breathing or who are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance.

*****This is a summary document. A more detailed plan will be available prior to the school year.**

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