



COVID-19 SAFETY PLAN

Oklahoma City Public Schools
COVID-19 Safety Plan

2023-2024

Updated March 1, 2023

This safety plan is written for COVID-19 prevention, many of the layered prevention strategies in this plan can help prevent the spread of other infectious diseases, such as influenza (flu), respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and norovirus, and support healthy learning environments for all. COVID-19 remains an important public health threat, but it is no longer the emergency that it once was, and its health impacts increasingly resemble those of other respiratory viral illnesses, including influenza and RSV. Local conditions, advice from the Oklahoma City County Health Department (OCCHD), and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) 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.



Daily Self-Screening - Staying Home When Sick

CDC Viral Respiratory Guidance Update as of [March 1, 2024](#).

District Staff and Students are expected to self-screen before reporting to school or work for symptoms of infectious diseases including COVID-19, influenza (flu), respiratory syncytial virus, and gastrointestinal infections.

District Staff and student(s) should not report to school/work if:

- If you are ill with a respiratory virus, **STAY HOME** and away from others. **You do not need to submit testing.**
- You may return to work when symptoms have been getting better overall for **24 hours** and you are **FEVER-FREE**, without fever-reducing medication.
- IF a **FEVER** is present, **DO NOT** return to work until you are **FEVER-FREE for 24 hours without the use of a fever-reducing medication.**
- Once you have returned to work and/or resumed normal activities, you are **encouraged to take precautions for the next 5 days to curb disease spread**, such as enhancing your hygiene practices, wearing a well-fitting mask, and keeping your distance from others. *Enhanced precautions are especially important to protect those most at risk for severe illness, including those over 65 and those with weakened immune systems.*

If a student presents at school or during the school day and develops a temperature of 100.4, regardless of vaccination status, the student will be sent home.



Cleaning & Indoor Air Quality

One way 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. 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 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

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.



Masking, Hand Hygiene & Respiratory Etiquette

Masking

OKCPS welcomes the use of face coverings. Masks will be recommended when a staff member or student tests positive and returns to school on day 6-10 of their 10-day isolation period.

Universal indoor masking in schools, regardless of vaccination status, is a way to slow or stop the spread of COVID-19, especially when paired with other safety measures such as vaccines, 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).

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 staff 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.

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.
- In accordance with the CDC, after testing positive, students and staff should stay home until they are fever-free for 24 hours and their symptoms have been improving during their time of illness.
- 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.



Vaccination Access & Testing for OKCPS Staff & Students

Staying up to date on [routine vaccinations](#) is essential to prevent illness from many different infections. Vaccines reduce the risk of infection by working with the body's natural defenses to help safely develop immunity to disease. For COVID-19, [staying up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations](#) is the leading public health strategy to prevent severe disease. Not only does it provide individual-level protection.

OKCPS will continue to work with community partners to provide vaccination opportunities to our staff, students, and families. COVID-19 testing will be available to staff and students at every school through the Oklahoma Schools COVID Prevention Project, an Oklahoma

State Department of Education and Oklahoma State Department of Health partnership grant. Testing will also be available at other locations throughout the OKCPS school district based on demand. Please visit www.okcps.org/covid19 for more information.

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

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.

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>