

Boone-Apache Public School



“Return to Learn” 2021-2022

Introduction:

Boone-Apache Public Schools is very excited about starting off the 2021-2022 school year. As we look forward, we are reminded that the last 18 months have been challenging for our schools and our entire nation. While we continue using precautions to protect our students and staff, we are working to “return to normal” with as few interruptions to learning and activities as possible. As we all have learned through the current pandemic, things can change very quickly and our policies and procedures will change with the current situation. We will continue to follow the guidance from local, state, and federal health authorities and take all the necessary steps to maintain safe conditions for all.

Daily Screenings:

- Parents/Guardians will be the frontline defense as they should observe their students for COVID-19 related symptoms before sending them to school. A symptom assessment tool is provided in the next section. It was provided by the Oklahoma State Department of Health. It is imperative more than ever that our students or any staff member stays at home if they meet symptom scenarios of COVID-19.
- Students that get on the school bus, or arrive to school are to be considered as “certified healthy” by the parents.

Symptom Assessment Tool:

- The Oklahoma State Department of Health has developed a symptom assessment tool to help determine when someone should be kept home or sent home from school and/or tested for Covid-19.
- Boone-Apache Public School will use the symptom assessment tool to determine when a student must be sent home.
- Parents should use the assessment tool to determine when to keep their child home from school.

Assessing Symptomatic Persons for COVID-19

Checking students and staff for COVID-19 symptoms can pose challenges given the similarities between certain COVID-19 symptoms and seasonal allergies; challenges with younger persons recognizing when they are sick due to mild symptoms; and the fact that some persons may have COVID-19 and not have any symptoms at all.

OSDH has developed a symptom assessment tool to help determine when someone should be kept home or sent home from school and/or tested for COVID-19:

"A" Symptoms	"B" Symptoms
Fever ≥ 100.4 F	Nasal Congestion/Stuffy Nose
Sore Throat	Runny Nose
Cough	Muscle/Body Aches
Difficulty Breathing	Fatigue
Diarrhea or Vomiting	Chills
New Loss of Taste or Smell	Nausea
	Loss of Appetite
	Elevated Temperature < 100.4
	New Onset of Severe Headache
Recommend testing when:	
Person has 1 "A" Symptom OR	
Person has 3 "B" Symptoms <i>*that are not explained by an existing condition, such as asthma.</i>	

COVID-19 Symptoms at School:

Our number one priority is for the well-being and safety of our students and staff, and to prevent any potential spreading of COVID-19.

- If a teacher or staff member suspects a student may have a symptom(s) related to COVID-19, he/she will send that student to the office to be evaluated. If the student is experiencing such symptoms provided in the symptom assessment tool, they will be isolated and parent/guardian will be contacted immediately to pick up their child and highly encouraged to seek a medical opinion and/or get a COVID-19 test. The student may return to school upon a negative COVID-19 test or clearance from a physician, otherwise the student may not return to school for 24 hours after all symptoms subside.

Students and Staff with a Positive COVID-19 Test

- Any student or staff who tests positive for COVID-19 must isolate. They may return to school 10 days after symptoms started and at least 24 hours have passed since fever resolved (without medication) and symptoms have improved.
- Parents of a child that is positive with COVID-19 or staff members that are positive must contact the school so that the school may proceed with any necessary measures to keep other students safe. The district will maintain confidentiality for sick students or staff.
- As stated earlier, parent/guardians are the frontline defense and should not send their child to school if any symptoms are shown.
- For more information, visit the following website: <http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus>

Exposures & Contact Tracing

Should the school be made aware of a possible COVID-19 exposure in the building, the school administrator will contact trace as was practiced during the 2020-21 school year. The end result of that contact tracing will be a notification to the appropriate parents stating that their student had close contact with an individual who has since tested positive for COVID-19. We ask that parents who receive such a notification monitor their child's health and contact their family physician should the child develop symptoms.

Close contact is defined as being less than 6 feet for at least 15 cumulative minutes within a 24-hour period, kissing, hugging, or sharing food or drink with a person with COVID-19 within 48 hours prior to his/her onset of COVID-19 symptoms and/or for 10 days following onset of symptoms.

In regard to communication regarding contact tracing:

- If there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 with a staff member, parents of students at that school building will be notified ONLY in the event their child has had possible close contact with the affected staff member.
- If there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 with a student, parents will be notified only in the event their child has had possible close contact with the affected student.
- If there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 with a student or staff member within an extracurricular activity, parents will be notified only in the event their child has had possible close contact with the affected individual.

Vaccinations

- Vaccinations are available to anyone 12 years of age or older (parental/guardian consent is required for those who are below age 18). They are highly effective in preventing severe illness or death and significantly reduce the likelihood of becoming infected or spreading the virus. See [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov).

Face Coverings:

- Wearing a mask is highly recommended by federal and state health authorities as a major deterrent in the spreading of Covid-19.
- Current Oklahoma state law prohibits a school district from mandating masks.
- Boone-Apache Public School encourages masks in areas where social distancing is not possible, but will not mandate masks, per state law (Senate Bill 658)

Parents, Guests, & Visitors:

- Visitors and guests will be allowed in the building for programs, activities, and other special events, unless restrictions are placed on the school by the Caddo County Health Department or Oklahoma State Health Department. All other visitors will require prior approval from administration before coming into the buildings. We want to continue to be very careful with the amount of traffic inside each of the buildings. Our schools will remain locked for the security of our students and staff.

School Calendar & Instruction for Students:

- Boone-Apache School will have a regular school calendar beginning with student instruction on August 12, 2021 and continuing through May 19, 2022, which will include 168 student instructional days. The district will offer in-person instruction for the 2021-2022 school year. If there is a situation where a student becomes ill or has to miss school for days or weeks, the school can provide an online curriculum or alternative until the student is able to return.

Hygiene:

- Handwashing is one of the best means of protection against infection. Students will be reminded often to wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing their noses, coughing, or sneezing; going to the restroom, and before eating.
- Students and staff will have access to hand sanitizer throughout their school building.

Social Distancing:

- The school will do everything that it possibly can to practice social distancing. The administration and teachers will do everything they can to maintain social distancing, whether in the classroom, in the hallways, during breakfast and lunch, and/or traveling on school buses.

Bus Transportation:

- Masks are **highly recommended** for all students and staff while on school buses or in other school vehicles.
- Bus transportation will still be offered unless the district is advised not to any longer. Students who get on the bus will be deemed “certified healthy” by the parent.
- Windows to school buses will be open as much as possible to maximize air flow.
- Students will be separated as much as possible while on the bus.
- If necessary, due to the large numbers on a bus, some route riders may not be allowed if they do not meet the 1.5 mile limitation for school bus transportation.
- *It is highly recommended to parent/guardians to bring and pick-up their child from school to prevent large numbers on the buses.*

School Activities:

We know that extra-curricular activities are vital elements of a students’ total school experience. Responses to COVID-19 in these environments will vary, always with a keen eye to proven practices and prevention. The district will follow the guidance of the OSSAA (Oklahoma Secondary Schools Activity Association) in all activities associated with them.

Field Trips & Travel:

- Field trips and travel will be considered and approved by the administration as conditions allow.

School Attendance:

Because of this unprecedented time in our school, we want our students at school but if there any signs of sickness, we want student or staff to remain at home until symptom free so not to expose others. The student will NOT be counted absent if it is COVID-19 related. They will get their assignments and hand them in when they return. If a student has to be a home for a long amount of time due to COVID-19, the school may place them on our online curriculum or make other arrangements until the student can safely return to school

***This is an evolving document and with any new information from local, county, state, or federal officials, it could change immediately or as needed. Boone-Apache School appreciates your support, cooperation, and understanding during this unprecedented and challenging time. If there are any questions or concerns, please contact the school.**

***This document is open to public comment. To comment on this return to learn plan, please contact the administration office at (580)588-3358.**