

Weleetka Public Schools Return to In-Person Instruction Plan

This is a living document and subject to change. Weleetka Public Schools will make decisions on school closure based on the CDC guidelines, the Oklahoma State Department of Health, Okfuskee County Health Department and other health agencies. The purpose of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III Fund is to help safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impacts of COVID-19 on the nation's students by addressing students' academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs.

This plan describes how Weleetka Public Schools will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other school and division staff during and following the return to full in-person instruction. Success will require a group effort from parents, guardians, and school personnel. We will all have to stay conscious of our own health and the health of our children. Our goal is to have as much classroom instruction as possible. We can maximize classroom instructional time by complying with the rules and guidelines.

Introduction

Planning for and starting the 2021-22 school year has been and continues to be far different than the start of any school year in the past. The upcoming school year will likely have disruptions to instruction in response to COVID-19. Weleetka is a strong community and we can get through this if we stick together. Please show grace to our teachers and staff. It is important to remember that we all (teachers, staff, administrators, parents and community members) want the same thing. We want our kids to be safe, happy and learning in school. This document is a plan developed with input from members of our Weleetka schools and community. Our goal is to get kids back in our schools, keep them as safe as possible and provide them an excellent education. The most effective planning is subject to change as new information becomes available. We fully expect that this plan will change as we progress through the rest of the summer and school year. As the nation and world learn more about COVID-19, plans will change. As we learn what parts of our **Return to In-Person Instruction** plan work and which parts don't work, the plan will change. Please bear with us. We need to support each other now more than ever.

Mitigation Strategies

DAILY

- Students and staff will use hand sanitizer upon entrance of buildings and also entering and exiting of each classroom.
- The best practice is to bring your student(s) to school as social distancing on a bus is extremely difficult. Before arriving at school, we expect you to use the School Attendance Questionnaire attached to this document.
- Masks are recommended but not required for 4th through 12th graders and for all faculty and staff, as per the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Oklahoma State Health Department, the CDC and recommendations from the Oklahoma State Department of Education. For students' Pre-K thru 3rd grade, it will be up to the parents to decide what is best for their child. Students with a compromised immune system should highly consider wearing a mask. Wearing a mask is simply one of the most effective ways to reduce the spread of the virus. We will follow the recommendation of federal guidelines and in consultation with local medical professionals. We are not health experts and feel we should follow the guidance of the experts.

Weleetka Public School is a great school and in a fantastic community worth protecting. We ask that we all be respectful of one another during this difficult time.

- We will encourage social distancing whenever possible.
- Only students and Faculty/Staff will be allowed in the building. Visitors will arrive at the door and will be greeted there. We will bring your child to you at the front door or any items or papers you might need. We will have any meetings needed over the phone.
- Students will be assigned needed books or chromebooks to eliminate sharing.
- We will be diligent at teaching and participating in healthy hygiene habits. Our goal is to make each and every one of us responsible for keeping a clean workspace, learning space, eating space, and playing space.

Cleaning practices

Weleetka Schools wants our students and employees to feel confident and know that we are using all precautions necessary to prevent the spread of the virus. Some of those precautions include cleaning and disinfecting with an EPA approved disinfectant. Touchpoints are being cleaned throughout the day and nightly. Touch points such as door knobs and desks will be cleaned multiple times per day.

Employees and students are instructed to practice personal hygiene, including covering their mouth for coughs or sneezes and cleaning their hands thoroughly and more frequently. Employees are being trained on signs & symptoms of the COVID-19 Virus as directed in the CDC website. Employees who are ill, exposed to or have tested positive to COVID-19, or are running a fever are instructed NOT to report to work but immediately notify their Principal. Principals are to immediately remove employees and students who show symptoms of illness (coughing, sneezing, fever, respiratory distress, etc.) from the school and report it to the Superintendent. Employees have been instructed on proper hygiene, including frequent hand washing and practicing of social distancing. Employees and parents of students must report any potential exposure to people with COVID-19 virus to their Principal. Training will be provided for janitorial staff on the most effective means for cleaning to combat COVID-19.

Air Quality: Old AC units on the HS building will be replaced with new units with better air quality ability. Social distancing will also be implemented district wide. Windows may be left open if teachers desire.

Vaccinations: Vaccinations will not be required but we do encourage staff and students 12 and older to be vaccinated. A training over the COVID-19 weekly update from the Oklahoma Health Department, along with daily cleaning protocols and COVID -19 vaccination information was provided for all staff on May 21, 2021. We have also coordinated with the Okfuskee County Health Department to provide free vaccines for any person 12 years and older on July 12, 2021 from 9:30-3:30 at Weleetka Elementary School.

Mental Health Services: We will utilize Muscogee Creek Nation Behavioral Health Services along with Ann Moroney youth services to provide additional services for students and staff when needed. Muscogee Creek Nation Behavioral Health Services will provide Trauma Informed Training for teachers in August before school begins.

Students with Disabilities

Weleetka Public School does not want any student to suffer from any learning loss because of illness. To combat learning loss, we have implemented the following:

1. Hired additional staff to lower ADA in special education classes.
2. Scheduled organized math and reading remediation for students.
3. Pre/Posttest students to determine placement and to identify areas of need.

4. Maintain in person services.
5. Implement evidence-based Tier 1 instruction.
6. Provide Tier 2 evidence-based supports for unfinished learning.
7. Provide Tier 3 tutoring as needed.
8. Provide additional training for all teachers responsible for steps in the tier system.
9. Hire extra faculty/staff at each site to provide additional reading remediation.

Students and Parents will have 3 Options for Instruction

1. Traditional On-Site Instruction

Regular Face-to-Face instruction will be utilized. Any changes in the calendar will be communicated with parents as early as possible. Students and adults should stay home when they are sick. Distance Learning will be arranged as quickly as possible when a student is sick or quarantined. Students in distance learning will have to complete assignments to be counted present that day.

2. Distance Learning

Students must apply and be approved to take the Distance Learning Option. We know and understand that some parents may not feel comfortable sending their children back to school on August 11. For those parents, we will have an online learning option. Online learning will be just as it states....online, however, some grades and subjects might be viewing the teacher's class through recorded lessons or zoom classes. Online learning is for a semester at a time, and students cannot go back and forth in and out of this option. In online learning, a parent would check out a Chromebook (if needed), sign a contract for the use of the Chromebook, and teachers would send assignments to the student. Students must have connectivity at their home or access to connectivity. Grades will be taken in online learning. Attendance will be taken in online learning based on logging into the lesson. Students must remain in online instruction for the semester if they choose this option. You will receive more specific information from the individual teachers throughout the process. Packets could also be utilized if connectivity is an issue.

3. Blended Instruction

Students must apply and be approved to take the blended learning option. Students would take some courses traditional in person and some on-line. This option must be approved by the administration.

Cafeteria: Breakfast and lunch schedules will be altered to help reduce the number of students in the cafeteria at one time. Hand sanitizing will be required before a student is served. Cleaning will be increased during eating sessions to help reduce the risk of spread. Meals will be served during times of closure due to COVID.

Buses: Students will do their best to social distance while on the bus. Family groups may sit in seats together. Windows will be open when possible to increase air flow. Parents are encouraged to bring their child if possible.

Extra-Curricular Activities: We will continue to follow CDC guidelines along with OSSAA recommendations. Band and music will be done outside when possible. Guidance from the OSSAA on district and play-off contest will be followed.

Continuity of Services

Weleetka Public School administration, teachers and staff constantly are assessing what we are doing to provide for our students' education, social, emotional, mental health and other needs. Counseling and Food service personnel are evaluating the students' and adults' needs for health and nutrition. You, the parents/guardians are also partnering with us in our quest to provide for our students and we welcome your input.

What Parents Can Do to Help

We are asking that parents conduct a home check before sending children to school...see the form included in this. If at all possible, parents should transport their students to and from school as this is recognized as the safest way to social distance each student.

Parents please be patient with us. We cannot allow you or any visitor in our school. Our students and faculty/staff must be protected as much as possible. We want Weleetka Public School to be the safest place it can possibly be.

We will utilize the recommendation of the Okfuskee County and State of Oklahoma Health Departments, and the State Department of Education to determine if and when we need to quarantine students or faculty/staff and when we will need to close down school and go to distance learning. We will keep the parents/guardians in the loop. Education is a cooperative effort of the school, home, and the community. Please work with us in these challenging times and understand that we want the very best for each and every member of our school family.

Weleetka Public Schools

Daily COVID-19 School Attendance Questionnaire

In an effort to prevent possible exposure of staff and students to COVID-19, you are requested to review the following questions each morning and PRIOR to your child riding a school bus or entering school.

- 1 Does your child have a fever of 100 degrees ¹ or more?
- 2 Is your child experiencing (a) a new loss of taste or smell, (b) nausea or vomiting, OR (c) diarrhea?
3. Is your child experiencing two or more of the following symptoms of COVID-19?
 - Cough
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
- 4 Is your child experiencing ANY of the Emergency Warning Symptoms of COVID-19?
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
 - New confusion
 - Inability to wake or stay awake
 - Bluish lips or face
5. Has your child had, or do you think your child has, COVID-19?
6. Has your child tested positive for COVID-19?
7. Has your child been around a person with COVID-19?

If the answer to any of these questions is "YES," YOUR CHILD SHOULD REMAIN AT HOME and you should contact the attendance clerk at your child's school by phone or email. Students remaining home as a result of COVID-19 concerns will not be penalized regarding absences. Assignments, tests, or other school work can be made up by arrangement with teachers.

If your child is showing any of the Emergency Warning Signs listed in Question 4, seek emergency medical care immediately.

If your answer to Question 5, 6, OR 7 is "YES," please contact your physician and the Okfuskee County Health Department (405-379-3313) for specific guidance on the criteria to be met before your child returns to school.

¹This temperature is set per the OSDE Return to Learn Oklahoma, June 2020.

By sending your child to school, you are representing to the School District that the answer to each of these questions is "NO."

In the event that a positive case, or suspected case, is identified in the school:

If a staff member or student **answers yes** to one or more of the screening questions or ***begins exhibiting symptoms*** of COVID-19 during the school day, they should be isolated, sent home immediately and encouraged to be tested. These individuals should not return until they have met CDC's criteria for being around others. Anyone who is considered high risk or vulnerable should discuss when re-entry is recommended with their healthcare provider.

If a staff member or student has ***known close contact*** (defined as greater than 10 minutes of interaction less than 6 feet away) with an individual who has tested positive, they should stay home to quarantine, self-monitor for symptoms and be tested. The individual should not return to the school until completing a 10-day quarantine period (the average amount of time it takes for symptoms to appear) or get tested after 7 days and receive a negative test ***beginning with the date the positive individual began having symptoms or the date of a positive test result if the individual is asymptomatic.***

The quarantine period is required regardless of whether the individuals exposed were wearing a face mask. Anyone who develops symptoms during quarantine should contact their health care provider and be tested.

If a staff member or student test positive, schools should follow these steps.

- Immediately isolate the individual if they are at school. Send the ill staff member home and call families to pick up sick children as quickly as possible. Isolate individual in room or area until parents can pick up.
- Staff and other healthcare providers should use Standards and Transmission-Based Precautions when caring for sick people.
- Contact the local county health department to report the case.
- Identify and close areas of the school building where the individual spent more than 30 minutes. Wait for at least 24 hours, or as long as possible, before staff disinfect the area with approved cleaners in accordance with the CDC and Oklahoma State Department of Health guidelines.
- Work with health officials to determine if school closure is warranted and for additional measures the school must take to contain exposure.

Individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 and have had symptoms should not return until all of the following criteria have been met:

- 10 days since symptoms first appeared (the time it takes to shed the virus) and
- At least 24 hours of no fever without fever reducing medication and
- Symptoms improved.

Individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 but are asymptomatic should quarantine at home and not return until 10 days after the date of their positive test.

Individuals who believe they have COVID-19 and have symptoms should follow the same three criteria for returning as individuals testing positive listed above.