

LUTHER PUBLIC SCHOOL



COVID-19 SCHOOL SAFETY PROTOCOLS 2021-22



PUBLIC HEALTH PROTOCOLS

Protocols described in this staff framework are meant as a guide to each site in providing the safest and most healthy learning environment when students return to school. Guidelines are written to be the most practical, feasible and appropriate for the students' developmental ages. Recommendations outlined in this section of this document have been derived from research from resources including but not limited to the American Academy of Pediatrics COVID-19 Planning Considerations: Guidance for School Re-entry, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Oklahoma State Department of Education Return to Learn Oklahoma: A Framework for Reopening Schools and the Oklahoma State Department of Health: Reopening Guidelines for Schools and Day Camps.

MASKS FOR STAFF

Masks or face shields will be optional; therefore, all staff are allowed to have a face shield or mask available at all times. All staff will be allowed to wear a face shield or mask when working within six feet of students or colleagues. Staff and students will be required to provide their own masks.

MASKS FOR STUDENTS

Face masks will be optional for all students. If a student chooses to wear a mask, students will be encouraged to keep track of their own mask at all times. Masks, however, will not be provided by the school.

TEMPERATURE CHECKS

It will be the responsibility of parents to check their child's temperature daily through a self-screening process before they leave home each day. Faculty will only be checking temperatures if a situation occurs or is warranted.

LUTHER PUBLIC SCHOOL



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ACCOMMODATIONS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES WITH RESPECT TO HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICIES

Accommodations and modifications will be provided regardless of the educational setting. General and special education teachers will continue to collaborate in determining the appropriateness and success of a student's unique accommodations and modifications. The IEP team (general education teachers, special education, administration, related service providers, and families) will work collaboratively to identify alternative solutions if accommodations or modifications are not appropriate or successful in a particular setting.

ILLNESS OR EXPOSURE AT SCHOOL

If a non-vaccinated student or employee is identified with a temperature of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher or if either a non-vaccinated student or staff member begins exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 (shortness of breath, fever or chills, muscle or body aches, loss of taste and smell, cough.) while at school, he or she will be isolated, sent home immediately, and encouraged to be tested.

Non vaccinated Individuals found to have COVID-19 should not return to school until they have met the CDC's criteria for being around others. This criteria includes 3 days with no fever,* improved respiratory function and symptoms, and a 10-day period of isolation since symptoms first appeared. When non vaccinated students or staff are ready to return to school after a COVID related absence, the staff member (or student's parent/guardian) should call the school one day prior to returning for a COVID pre-return check-in.

This conversation will clarify the following: 1) No symptoms for 3 days without medication,* absent respiratory symptoms, and at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared; or 2) two consecutive negative COVID-19 tests 24 hours apart; or 3) a release from a physician stating the individual may return to school or work. Then, on the individual's first day back, he/she must check-in at the front office prior to reporting to work or class for a temperature check with the office.

In addition, non vaccinated staff or students who have had close contact with a person with COVID-19, even if they feel healthy, should quarantine until 14 days after the exposure, check their temperature twice a day, watch for symptoms of COVID-19, and stay away from people who are at higher risk for getting very sick from the virus. * By contrast, for non-COVID related absences, staff is required just 24 hours of fever-free body temperature.

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COVID-19 SCHOOL SAFETY PROTOCOLS 2021-22



VACCINES

The district will continue to encourage employees and students to get vaccinated. The district will also seek opportunities to partner with the Oklahoma County Health Department to provide vaccination pods for this area.

CONTINUITY OF SERVICES

The district is prepared to offer a continuity of services (academic, social/emotional, special services, and food) if a local COVID-19 outbreak were to occur.

SCREENING/COVID TESTING

As long as the state provides COVID screening tests, the district will not administer testing of students or employees. All test results of students or employees will be recorded through the Oklahoma State Department of Education portal.

STAFF ATTENDANCE

If you have not been vaccinated and develop any COVID-19 symptoms or feel you have been directly exposed to COVID-19, please contact your supervisor immediately to seek guidance on appropriate leave to take.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

For the school year of 2021-2022, any COVID-19 related absences will be considered "a significant medical condition" and be exempted from the count attributed toward a child's record under the chronic absenteeism classification. Medical documentation must be provided to substantiate the absence as COVID related.

LUTHER PUBLIC SCHOOL



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GOOD HYGIENE PRACTICES

Frequent and thorough handwashing practices have proven to be critical in the mitigation of any virus, especially COVID-19. Schools will plan and prepare for additional handwashing opportunities throughout the day. All students will wash their hands before eating breakfast or lunch. In addition to increased opportunities for handwashing, there will also be increased opportunities for students to use hand sanitizer in the classroom and at multiple hand sanitizing stations throughout the school building.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

By maintaining social distancing in the various settings that students will occupy, schools will decrease the threat of transmission of the virus. Teachers will be arranging students' learning environments in a manner that seeks to have all of the class facing the same direction and avoiding small group arrangements. Extra furniture and classroom displays that inhibit an appropriately distanced arrangement of student desks may be removed from the classrooms while the threat of COVID-19 remains in the community. When feasible, students will be separated by approximately six feet.

GUESTS

On the occasions that guests are deemed appropriate, they will be permitted to wear a mask while on campus and check-in through the school's office. As always, all guests must display their Driver's License prior to entering the school building.

WATER FOUNTAINS & RESTROOMS

Students and staff are encouraged to bring filled water bottles or other non-breakable water containers to school with them. Student restrooms will be cleaned multiple times throughout the day by the site custodial staff, who will use portable disinfectant foggers to sanitize the areas. Staff restrooms will also be disinfected periodically throughout the school day.

LUTHER PUBLIC SCHOOL



COVID-19 SCHOOL SAFETY PROTOCOLS 2021-22



SCHOOL BREAKFASTS AND LUNCHESES

Typical cafeteria meal settings make it difficult to social distance, thus increasing the possibility of exposure and transmission of the virus. For this reason, schools may choose to create alternate dining areas to include outdoor spaces, common areas, hallways, classrooms, or any other area that will offer a clean, spacious dining experience.

TRANSPORTATION

When possible, parents are encouraged to drive their children to school in order to reduce the number of students riding the school bus each day. This will allow for greater levels of social distancing among those who do ride the bus. When feasible, school bus windows will be down to increase ventilation and inhibit the virus contagion. In addition, students will be assigned seats on the bus to achieve optimal social distancing and to provide for contact tracing should a bus rider come down with COVID during the day or overnight. Parents of unvaccinated students riding the bus to school will be expected to check their child's temperature each day prior to them getting on the bus.

TEACHER AND STAFF PERSONAL CHILDREN

Before and after school children of teachers and staff should be where their peers are, following the same guidelines and procedures established for all students. Prior to and after teacher contract time, these children should remain in their parent's classroom or other designated area as defined by the site administrator.

ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL

As students arrive at school in the morning, they will be directed to go to a general area. Students will not be gathered in large groups to congregate and wait for their school day to begin as they may have been in the past. Parents will not be escorting their children into the building. All parents will be asked to remain in their cars and drive through the line to ensure health and safety precautions are followed. Adults and those assisting with arrival procedures will be directing students into the building. At the end of the school day, while awaiting dismissal, students will still follow guidelines by avoiding large groups, as much as possible.

LUTHER PUBLIC SCHOOL



COVID-19 SCHOOL SAFETY PROTOCOLS 2021-22



CLASSROOM ORGANIZATION

As often as possible, while the threat of COVID-19 remains in the community, students will stay in designated areas. Teachers and staff will keep students in cohorts to reduce the mixing of students. Keeping students in a cohort helps to minimize exposure and mitigate the virus. For grades that are departmentalized such as 4th and 5th grades, if the threat of the virus reaches a heightened level, students will stay in their homeroom to assist with keeping a common cohort of students together. Rather than having students transition to different classrooms for different subjects, the teachers will rotate instead.

MEDIA CENTER

Honoring the importance of reading for both pleasure and research, the school media centers will remain open for student use. While there may be some changes in routines and scheduling, it is our intent to keep our media centers open and available to our students and staff. Students will be allowed to check out books from the Media Center. As books are returned they will be sanitized prior to being placed back on the shelves for checkout again.

STUDENT CLUBS

The traditional format of student clubs will be gradually incorporated back into the sites. However, any club that can operate in a virtual manner or in a small group, social distancing, being outdoors, etc, will continue.

SCHOOL WIDE ASSEMBLIES

School Wide assemblies will occur through some in person learning opportunities. There may be large gatherings experienced in a traditional format such as building level assemblies, programs and fundraising events. Each site will develop procedures and protocols to carry on such events, when feasible.

LUTHER PUBLIC SCHOOL



COVID-19 SCHOOL SAFETY PROTOCOLS 2021-22



MUSIC AND PERFORMANCES

Depending on current COVID numbers, Music or PE programs or plays will gradually be incorporated back into each site's learning environment.

BOOK FAIRS

Depending on current COVID numbers, book fairs will gradually be incorporated back into each site's learning environment

FUNDRAISERS

Depending on current COVID numbers, fundraisers will gradually be incorporated back into each site's learning environment and follow all CDC guidelines.