



ODEM-EDROY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

2022-2023 School Year

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INTRODUCTION

Odem-Edroy ISD is committed to providing the best possible learning environment for all students and staff. The safety and well-being of all our students and staff has been at the forefront as we prepare for the 2022-23 school year. Much like last year, all instruction will be delivered face-to-face.

The safety measures and cleaning protocols that Odem-Edroy ISD established and implemented during the 2022-23 school year will continue. We will continue increased access to hand sanitizer stations throughout our facilities, increased opportunities of hand washing, social distancing when appropriate, and targeted cleaning protocols. The wearing of masks will be optional for both students and staff members.

Odem-Edroy ISD will effectively meet the challenges of COVID-19 to ensure our schools remain open and student in-person learning is not disrupted. This document outlines our plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services. It addresses both student and staff responsibility as it relates to COVID-19 safeguards in maintaining a healthy learning environment. The information includes the current best practices provided by federal, state, and local health officials for mitigating COVID-19 infections in the school environment. The plan will be reviewed at minimum every six (6) months and revised accordingly as mandated by the Texas Education Agency.

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR STUDENTS

Health and Student Safety

Student and staff health and safety remains our highest priority. As a result, OEISD will maintain safety measures that have proven successful in protecting our students and staff. Because COVID-19 has not been eliminated, it is important to remember how the virus is transmitted.

Transmission of COVID-19

The virus that causes COVID-19 is thought to spread from person to person through respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or can possibly be inhaled in the lungs. The spread of the virus is more likely when people are in close contact for an extended period.

People are thought to be contagious up to two (2) days before symptoms begin and are most contagious when they are actively sick. It may be possible to become infected with COVID-19 by touching a surface that has the virus on it and then touching your mouth or nose, but this is not thought to be likely.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website provides the latest information about COVID-19 transmission: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html> .

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities will follow the same guidelines and protocols with specific services and accommodations as needed to meet individual needs.

Close Contact

The definition of close contact continues to evolve. In general, close contact is defined as:

- a. being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on); **or**
- b. being within 6 feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period; however, additional factors like case/contact masking (i.e., both the infectious individual and the potential close contact have been consistently and properly masked), ventilation, presence of dividers, and case symptomology may affect this determination.

Either (a) or (b) defines close contact if it occurred during the infectious period of the case, defined as two days prior to symptom onset to 10 days after symptom onset. In the case of asymptomatic individuals who are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, the infectious period is defined as two days prior to the confirming lab test and continuing for 10 days following the confirming lab test.

Exception: In the K–12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) where both students were engaged in consistent and correct use of well-fitting masks; and other K–12 school prevention strategies (such as universal and correct mask use, physical distancing, increased ventilation) were in place in the K–12 school setting.

This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.

NOTE: School systems are not required to conduct COVID-19 contact tracing.

SCREENING, ISOLATION, AND NOTIFICATION

Self-Screening

- Everyone who enters an OEISD facility is expected to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms daily. Parents/guardians please screen your student(s) daily prior to drop off. COVID-19 symptoms include **fever** and as well as **new or unexplained conditions** listed below:
 - Fever
 - Cough
 - Breathing, shortness of breath, or wheezing
 - Fatigue
 - Sore throat
 - Chills, shaking, or exaggerated shivering
 - Diarrhea
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Muscles aches
 - Headache
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Loss of smell or taste

Social Distancing

- OEISD will continue to practice social/physical distancing of 3 feet when feasible and appropriate.
- Desks, tables, and seating arrangements will be arranged to maximize space between students.
- Desk dividers will be available

Social Hygiene

- Hand washing opportunities increased and monitored
- Hand sanitizer usage - touchless units
- Covering coughs and sneezes
- Kleenex and disinfectant supplies will be available

Students Displaying Symptoms

- Student will report to campus nurse for temperature check and evaluation
- Student will be isolated and monitored until parent/guardian arrives
- Student must be picked up within an hour
- Students released by nurse to parent/guardian to share return procedures
- Classmates will be relocated while classroom is properly disinfected
- Isolation area will be disinfected

Lab-Confirmed Positive – COVID 19 Cases

- Any person who is lab confirmed positive must remain off campus
 - Five days since positive test or on-set of symptoms: **and**
 - 24 hours fever free without fever reducing medicine.
- School nurse handles quarantine procedures for all students
- Human resources handle quarantine procedures for all staff
- Contact tracing – not required of schools
- Notification to all impacted staff and students
- School will notify the [local health department](#), in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations, including the confidentiality requirements of the [American with Disabilities Act \(ADA\)](#) and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Assumed positive based on Symptoms – COVID-19 Cases

- Any person assumed positive based on symptoms must meet the following criteria before returning to an OEISD facility:
 - Five days since on-set of symptoms; **and**
 - 24 hours fever free without fever reducing medicine.
- School nurse handles quarantine procedures for all students
- Human resources handle quarantine procedures for all staff
- Contact tracing – not required of schools
- Notification to all impacted staff and students
- School will notify the [local health department](#), in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations, including the confidentiality requirements of the [American with Disabilities Act \(ADA\)](#) and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Symptomatic students and staff with other conditions non-related to COVID-19 must:

- Obtain a medical professional’s note clearing the person to return based on an alternative diagnosis, **or**
- Obtain a negative PCR acute infection tests (at a physician’s office or approved testing location).
- School nurses handle these cases for students
- Human resources handle these cases for staff

Communication of Positive Cases

OEISD will continue to report cases to Texas Education Agency, Texas Department of Health & Human Services, San Patricio Health Department, parents, and staff.

TESTING & VACCINATION

COVID Testing

- Rapid testing available to all students and staff members
- Positive student test results reported to school nurse for quarantine procedures
- Positive staff test results reported to school nurse and human resources

Vaccinations

- OEISD continues to encourage staff, families, and students 12 years of age and older to get vaccinated against COVID-19. We will continue to provide vaccination opportunities for the OEISD community, publicized via Parent Square, District webpage, and social media pages.

FACE COVERING

- Face coverings are optional. OEISD is required to comply with [Governor Abbott's Executive Order GA-36](#) stating: "No governmental entity, including a county, city, school district, and public health authority, an no governmental official may require any person to wear a face covering or to mandate that another person wear a face covering."
- OEISD encourages all student, staff, and visitors who are not vaccinated to wear face coverings.

VISITORS

- Limited public access on campuses
- Visitors will not be allowed to attend lunch with student
- Visitors will not be allowed to walk students to classroom
- Visitors with scheduled appointments must:
 - Undergo Standard Clearance check
 - Maintain social distance to the extent possible

PROTOCOLS FOR DISINFECTING AND HAND SANITIZING

Cleaning & Disinfecting

- Classrooms, campus offices, and restrooms thoroughly cleaned & disinfected daily
- High traffic areas disinfected multiple times daily
- High touch surfaces disinfected regularly
- Cafeteria cleaned and disinfected between lunch periods
- Custodial & staff provided with PPE
- Staff access to disinfectant to sanitize working surfaces and shared items
- Disinfecting Mist – Evening Daily Application
- Deep cleaning schedule during student/staff holidays
- Staff training on social distancing and proper handwashing
- Staff training on disinfectant application

COVID-19 POSITIVE CASES

- Close off area(s) until cleaned and disinfected
- Disinfecting Mist – All areas of suspected or confirmed positive COVID-19 case

Additional Measures for COVID-19 mitigation

- Desks or tables socially distanced as much as possible
- Dividers installed in areas of high contact (front offices)
- Water fill stations used – water fountains not accessible
- Water bottles – encourage students and staff to bring their personal water bottle
- HVAC systems upgrades help maintain healthy indoor environments through adequate ventilation, sufficient air exchange, and appropriate building pressurization.
- Increased filtration (MERV-13 or HEPA)
- Added bipolar ionization
- Roof replacement to eliminate leaks and secure proper moisture barriers
- Carpet/ rug removal to eliminate collectors of germs, bacteria & other contaminants
- Ceiling Tile replacement to eliminate old moisture saturated tiles - improved air quality
- Lighting upgrades – improve student comfort and performance

WORKING AND LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Classroom Setup and Environment

- Desks or tables socially distanced as much as instructionally possible.
- Hand sanitizer – touchless in all classrooms and entrances
- Disinfectant access for staff to sanitize working surfaces.
- Shared supplies eliminated
- Technology be sanitized between use
- Limit shared manipulatives
- Outdoor learning space use when possible
- Maintain consistent groups
- Minimize cross-classroom grouping
- Maintain physical distance when possible
- Individual needs for special education students addressed on a case-by-case basis

Common Areas

- Common areas schedules and protocols - sanitize space between use
- Use personal supplies from the classroom
- Requiring the use of hand sanitizer when entering and exiting common areas
- Maintain social distancing to the extent possible

Flexible Learning Areas

- Classes sign up to reserve
- Limit number of students to allow for social distancing
- Common signage for hand washing and hand sanitizing – encourage and remind students
- Posted reminders for social distancing – floor markings
- Procedures to sanitize student spaces before and after usage.

Computer, Music, and Art

- Use personal supplies
- Shared tools sanitized between use
- Computer equipment will be sanitized and/or wiped down after each use

Restrooms

- Signage reminders to encourage students to wash hands
- Teacher reminders to encourage students to wash hands
- Students required to use hand sanitizer before reentering the classroom
- Modeling proper handwashing technique
- Scheduled whole class restroom breaks eliminate co-mingling – elementary school

Water Fountains

- Water fountains will not be accessible
- Bottle filling stations will be available – BYO bottle
- Bottled water will be available upon request

Technology

All K-12 students who need a device will check out a device for the 2021-22 school year.

- Schedule and guidelines will be communicated with students/parents.
- Signed “Terms and Condition” agreement of appropriate use/care of devices is required.
- Instructional software access will be provided to students.
- Tech support is available by sending an email to techsupport@oeisd.org or by calling 361-368-8121 Ext. 295 and ask to speak to Mr. Robert Rosales.

Arrival/Dismissal

- Designated doors and times – curbside drop off and pickup only
- Required hand sanitizer use at each entrance
- Required hand sanitizer to board school bus
- Report to designated classroom upon arrival
- Maintain social distancing in hallway/bus
- Designated staggered dismissal as needed

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Athletics/Fine Arts/Other Extra-Curricular:

Athletic, Fine Arts, and other extra-curricular practices and contests will be conducted following safety protocol provided by guidance from OEISD, UIL and TEA. This will include self-screening, sharing, and sanitizing of equipment, locker, and facilities usage.

The most recent guidance from UIL is available at <https://www.uiltexas.org/policy/2021-22-policy-info/2021-2022-uil-risk-mitigation-guidelines>

- Hand sanitizing stations will be in gym facilities
- Equipment will be sanitized on a regular basis
- Locker room use will to be determined by athletic director and OEISD
- Band hall use will to be determined by band director and OEISD
- Bus travel will follow transportation OEISD health protocols
- Spectator attendance may be limited based on TEA and UIL guidelines
- Concession stand sales may be limited to follow health and safety guidelines

FOOD SERVICES

OEISD is committed to providing students with nutritional meals.

- Free breakfast, lunch, and supper to ALL students for the 2022-23 SY
- Food Services staff will use personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Hand sanitizer available to students and staff
- Students will follow social distancing markers
- Tables will be cleaned and sanitized between lunch periods
- Cafeteria usage plan will be developed
- Customized eating arrangements to fit campus needs

TRANSPORTATION

OEISD will continue to provide safe, timely, and clean transportation services to all students qualifying for bus services.

Registration/Health Protocols

- Registration is required for route planning
- Transportation safety and behavior rules must be followed
- Health protocols must be followed
 - self-screen daily before boarding
 - use hand sanitizer upon entry/exit
 - cover sneeze and cough
 - stay seated
 - keep hands to self
 - sit in assigned seat
 - maintain social distance
- Parents are encouraged to transport their student when possible
- Students in quarantine require school nurse clearance – plan ahead

Cleaning

- Clean and Disinfect after each trip – Mist disinfectant used
- Deep cleaning and Disinfect after each route – Mist disinfectant used
- Monitor Capacity and Spacing
- Social distancing as much as possible (route dependent)
- Household members seated together

Sanitizer

- Hand sanitizer at each bus entrance to be used by staff and students upon entry/exit

Route Assignment

- Bus assignments strictly by address of record
- Emergency situations require administrative approval

OEISD Multi-Stage Approach to Managing COVID-19

The strategies described in this document describe the guidelines that will be used in OEISD to lessen the exposure to COVID-19. Additional strategies may be implemented as required or recommended by an executive order issued by the Governor, directives from the Texas Education Agency or local health officials, or with input from school health advisory council, staff, parents, and students as appropriate.

Strategies may include, but are not limited to:

- Increased health screenings
- Increased cleaning and sanitizing
- Limiting movement between classrooms
- Reducing large group gatherings
- Eliminating all visitors
- Adjusting school day schedule
- Eliminating student travel
- Adjustment to transportation
- Reducing or eliminating spectators at events
- Eliminating events

During the 2020-21 school year, OEISD returned to in-person instruction in October and operated under Phase 5 of these protocols. **Currently, OEISD continues to operate at Phase 5 of [Odem-Edroy ISD – Safe School Opening Protocol](#).**

CONTINUITY OF SERVICES

Odem-Edroy ISD will provide the best possible education to every enrolled student through on-campus in-person instruction. Learning loss due to the disruption of school during the COVID-19 pandemic is real. Student data has provided with information on the areas and students most affected. Our campus and district teams have strategically planned for intervention in four core areas. OEISD will allocate local, state, and federal funds to purchase materials and hire additional staff to address the individual learning needs of students. Individualized intervention efforts will be supported through:

- Addition of curriculum specialists to support teachers across the district;
- Addition of instructional staff to maintain small class size to support intervention;
- Addition of instructional leadership support for campuses;
- Addition of campus testing coordinator to free counselors to address social emotional concerns;
- Small group targeted intervention;
- Afterschool targeted intervention;
- Additional resources - instructional materials, technology, and software for remediation;
- Professional development on best practices to build the capacity of teachers; and
- Teacher retention stipends to provide continuity of quality and experienced staff

On-Campus In-Person Learning

The district recognizes the benefits of in-person instruction, and will maximize time with students during the instructional day, before and after school, and during the summer to ensure all students are provided with the supports needed to efficiently and effectively overcome the learning loss experienced during the pandemic.

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL & MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT SYSTEMS

OEISD acknowledges the importance of addressing the mental health and social-emotional development of all students, staff, and community by following best practices in the areas of school-based mental health services, behavioral support systems, family engagement and support practices, staff supports, and other key systems and supports. The district will allocate local and federal funds to provide mental health services and supports for students and staff through initiatives such as:

Social Emotional Learning

- Professional development for teachers to identify and understand mental health issues in students and colleagues;
- Professional development support for counseling staff regarding best practices in addressing the social and emotional needs of students and staff, including trauma;
- Counselors provide social emotional lessons and activities to support students;
- Counselor availability to students;
- Implement a research based comprehensive character education program; and
- Social emotional Learning lessons and activities to support students related to COVID-19 experiences, trauma, and school closure will be developed for all campuses.

PARENT COMMUNICATION

Parents are encouraged to stay connected by actively using the various avenues available to stay informed and engaged in their student's learning.

- Communications are designed specifically for OEISD parents to receive informational updates via School Messenger, Parent Square, District Webpage, and through official district social media accounts.
- Teachers will primarily use Seesaw, Google Classroom, Remind (101) to communicate with students and parents.
- Parents are encouraged to keep their contact information current, so they stay informed and engaged.
- Parent portal is used for student grades.
- Parents are encouraged to login in regularly and set alerts.