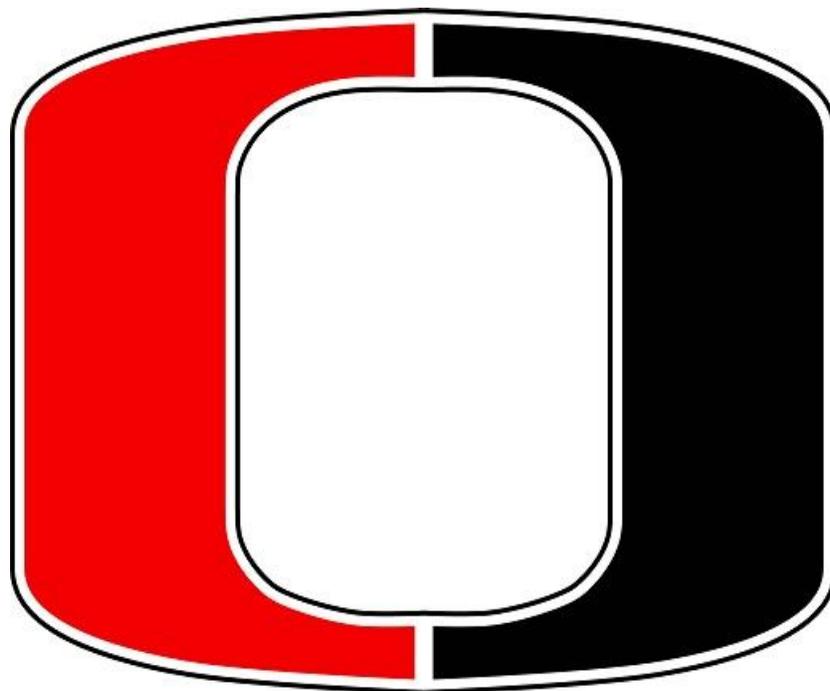


ODESSA R-VII SCHOOL DISTRICT



2021-2022 In-Person Instruction Plan

*This is the most recent update - January 11, 2022
With frequently changing guidance, this plan will be updated accordingly*

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Introduction

This document contains operating guidance that aims to provide clarity and consistency operating strategies. It is important to note that information contained in this document is guidance issued from the state and local level.

There are no state or local health mandates related to K-12 school operations issued at this time.

Proactive Strategies

The Proactive Strategies that the Odessa R-VII Schools will implement to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and best protect their students, staff members and communities, including minimum protocols regarding the following:

- Screening as Needed
- Physical Distancing
- Hand Washing
- Cleaning & Maintenance

Screening

Parents and caregivers are encouraged to screen children for symptoms (listed below) at home, prior to coming to school. Symptomatic students may be tested at school, free of charge, with parental consent.

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Headache
- Muscle aches
- Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea
- New loss of taste or smell
- New runny nose or congestion
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Sore throat
- Close contact with a person with COVID-19 in the last 5-7 days

This list is subject to change as new symptoms of COVID-19 are identified. It is important to note, however, that temperature screenings are of low sensitivity.

Students with symptoms should not attend school and parents should consult their healthcare provider and follow CDC considerations regarding their return to school. For students who are diagnosed with COVID-19, either by a laboratory test or based on their symptoms, return to school is permissible when the student is at least 5 days from symptom onset, has been without a fever for 24 hours and has improving symptoms. Return to school for children with an alternate diagnosis is at the discretion of their healthcare provider and/or the school nurse. Immunocompromised children and children

with severe illness may require a longer duration of isolation (e.g. 20 days) and should be discussed with the child's healthcare provider.

At-home screening helps to further protect other students, school staff members, and communities as a whole. Performing a daily screening before a student arrives at school also reduces the likelihood that a student will have to be isolated at school and sent home after experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.

Screening Students for COVID-19

Children should be visually inspected for signs and symptoms of illness as they enter the school and/or classroom. School leaders may choose to perform additional screening at school, but these measures have proven to be labor-intensive and often do not provide conclusive results.

Screening Staff Members for COVID-19

School staff members will self-screen at home, following the same protocol listed above for families screening students at home. School leaders may choose to perform additional screening at school, but these measures have proven to be labor-intensive and often do not provide conclusive results.

Screening Visitors for COVID-19

Visitors to the buildings will be limited, however if someone is visiting a school building, they will be subject to screening if determined by the administration of building health professionals.

A record of visitors inside the school will be kept, and it will include areas of the school that were visited and the time the visitor entered and exited the building.

Physical Distancing

Physical distancing is one measure that has been demonstrated to reduce the spread of the novel coronavirus. Distances of three to six feet may be effective in reducing viral transmission. However, a person is considered a "close contact" of a case of COVID-19 if they are unmasked within six feet of the case for more than 15 minutes. Close contacts will not be excluded from school, but families will be notified so children can be monitored for symptoms.

Throughout the course of the school day, teachers and other building staff will plan activities that foster distancing to the greatest extent possible.

Masks & Face Coverings

On December 9, 2021, the Board of Education adopted the following guidelines:

The Odessa R-VII School District continues to do all that we can to protect our students and staff from the COVID-19 virus and will continue to implement policies that the Board of Education feels is within our means to implement. After careful consideration, the Odessa R-VII School District will no longer require masking but will continue to strongly recommend students, staff and public wear appropriate face coverings, as recommended by the CDC, when entering any district facilities where distancing is not possible. Masking is still required on all school buses per federal mandate. When this requirement is rescinded, masks will no longer be required.

Students and Staff that have tested positive for COVID-19, regardless of vaccination or symptoms, should report this to the school and these individuals will be excluded for a period of 5 days after testing or onset of symptoms and have remained fever-free over the prior 24-hours. The School District will contact trace and notify parents if their child has experienced a close contact at school.

At this time, federal law mandates that anyone, regardless of vaccination status, who rides a school bus is required to wear a face covering.

Hand Washing

Students will have access to, and be regularly encouraged and instructed to thoroughly wash their hands throughout the school day. Additionally, students and staff are encouraged to use hand sanitizer. This helps prevent a variety of infections because:

- People frequently touch their eyes, nose, and mouth without even realizing it. Germs can get into the body through the mouth, nose, and eyes and make us sick.
- Germs transfer from unwashed hands to other objects, such as handrails, tabletops, or keyboards, and then to another person's hands.
- Removing germs through handwashing, therefore helps prevent diarrhea and respiratory infections and may even help prevent skin and eye infections.

Cleaning & Maintenance

The District will continue additional cleaning efforts each evening, in each building. Like throughout the 2020-2021 school year, these may include wiping surfaces with additional disinfectant products, fogging areas where suspected contaminants may have been in contact, etc. Where spacing allows, classroom seating will be spaced apart.

Vaccinations

Many individuals throughout the district have been vaccinated against the COVID virus. Students and staff are not required to be vaccinated, but have that individual option should they believe that is the best decision for them and their circumstances.

Anyone who has not been vaccinated but is interested in receiving a COVID vaccination can contact the Lafayette County Health Department for assistance in receiving the vaccination.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Any appropriate accommodation will be made for students in need of such. If a student has needs mandated by an Individual Education Plan, those needs will be met. Families should reach out to their child's building principal to discuss specific needs.

Reactive Strategies

Contact Tracing

Upon notification of a positive case within the district, district health personnel will take all necessary steps to appropriately identify students, staff or visitors who may have been affected. Those identified as Close Contacts will be notified so they are aware and can monitor for symptoms.

Symptomatic at School

All students and staff members who become symptomatic while at the school should immediately contact the nurse or health aide in their respective building. Appropriate steps will be taken to identify the illness of each individual.

Positive COVID Test Results & Isolation Guidance

The district will continue to follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance regarding the isolation of individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19. As updates are released, the district will adjust procedures to remain consistent with the current recommendations.

Academic Success

Students' academic success is of utmost importance each day. With many children having lost academic learning time throughout the 2020-2021 school year, each building will have additional learning opportunities available for students. Examples would include, but not be limited to: tutoring, online learning resources and scheduled time during the day to access additional resources.

Bus Transportation

School buses remain a place where physical distancing is not possible, additionally at this time, **federal law mandates that anyone, regardless of vaccination status, who rides a school bus is required to wear a face covering.** Specific details on this requirement can be found [here](#) on the US Dept. of Transportation website. If there is a concern with the lack of social distancing or the requirement to wear a mask, the district encourages parents to bring their child to school. Federal transportation guidelines may further dictate additional measures.

Attendance & Building Visitors

Visitors to the buildings will be limited, with precautions in place for those who are allowed access into the schools. Individuals should contact the building prior to visiting to check the current status of whether or not visitors are being allowed.

Social & Emotional Health

Student and staff social, emotional and mental health needs are taken into consideration with each decision made by the district. Without a healthy mind and balance in one's daily life, learning becomes difficult or impossible. The district has professional counselors and social workers available on campus every day if a student or staff member needs assistance.

Reopenings of Events

Student activities are open to spectators. Check the district website regularly for updates on dates and times of school events. [Click Here](#) for the most up-to-date information.

Resources

[Lafayette County Health Department](#)

[MO Department of Health & Senior Services](#)

[MO Department of Elementary and Secondary Education - COVID-19 Resources](#)

[When and How to Wash Your Hands](#)

[Symptoms of Coronavirus](#)

[How Coronavirus Spreads](#)

[COVID-19 Reporting Form](#)

If you, or someone you know, needs this plan translated or read to them, please contact Mr. Dave MacLean at the Central Office at 816-633-5316.

Stakeholders & Review Process

A group of stakeholders, including students, parents, teachers and administrators, will review and update the plan regularly, every six months at a minimum.

District Contact Information

Jon Oetinger, Ed.D.
Superintendent
joetinger@odessar7.net
816-633-5316

Roger Feagan, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent
rfeagan@odessar7.net
816-633-5316