



Oglala Lakota County School District

Back to School Plan

2023-2024

The Oglala Lakota County Schools will begin the new school year with full services and open to all students. Oglala Lakota County recognizes the benefits of students in school and will strive to ensure all safety protocols are in place for student and staff return to onsite instruction. Oglala Lakota County will continue coordination with the OST Tribal Ordinance 20-18: Shelter in Place COVID-19 Health Order and with the South Dakota State Health Department. In the event of an alert indicator change, Oglala Lakota County School District will move to the corresponding instruction method included in this plan.

Background

The purpose of the Oglala Lakota County School District (OLCSD) Back to School Plan 2021-2022 Plan is to identify and respond to COVID-19 related measures within the district's schools and district office. The Back-to-School Plan outlines the expectations of staff/faculty; roles and responsibilities; internal and external communications; and references defined by local, tribal, state, and federal entities.

Definition

Coronavirus COVID-19: On February 11, 2020, the World Health Organization announced the official name for the disease that is causing the 2019 novel coronavirus outbreak, first identified in Wuhan China. The new name of the disease is coronavirus disease in 2019, abbreviated as COVID-19. In COVID-19, 'CO' stands for 'corona', 'VI' for 'virus,' and 'D' for disease.

Symptoms

Fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle/body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion/runny nose, nausea/vomiting, diarrhea. Cases range from mild to severe. Some infected individuals experience no symptoms at all.

Essential Services

OLCSD's Back to School plan is designed to insure little to no interruption of essential services such as academic instruction, transportation, technology services, student feeding/food distribution, facility construction, facility cleaning and district and school maintenance.

Essential Employees

The employees of Oglala Lakota County School District are identified as Essential Employees within the Back to School plan.

Precautions - What we will do as school and district personnel:

- Reduce the risk and spread by encouraging physical distancing, proper hand hygiene, sanitization, wearing masks properly over both nose and mouth, hallway flow plans, adjusting lunch procedures, recess modifications and spacing of students in classrooms and buses.
- Be aware of illness/symptoms in the student body and contact a student's family immediately if a student exhibits symptoms.
- Monitor positive COVID-19 cases and its spread in the Oglala Lakota County School District and follow — as we would with any community health concern — the recommendation of health department officials regarding school closures, modified school schedules or in-school adjustments.
- Continue to provide face to face instruction and fulltime online instruction.
- In the event of a local concern, modify our method of delivery, however necessary, to ensure the health and well-being of students and staff.

Preparedness and prevention guidance

The South Dakota Department of Health issued the information below regarding COVID-19. Common Symptoms: Patients with COVID-19 have had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of fever, cough, and shortness of breath. It takes 2 to 14 days after a person gets the virus in their body to become ill.

How it is spread:

- Most often, it is spread from person-to-person via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes, similar to how flu and other respiratory pathogens spread. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. It's currently unclear if a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or their eyes. Often, with most respiratory viruses, people are thought to be most contagious when they are most symptomatic (the sickest).

Students, staff, and volunteers should seek medical evaluation for COVID-19:

- Sick with a fever, cough, or difficulty breathing;
- Sick with fever, cough, or difficulty breathing AND
 - Have been identified by public health officials as a recent close contact of a confirmed COVID-19 case; or
 - Have had recent close contact with someone who is being evaluated for COVID-19 infection.
 - Close proximity is longer than 15 minutes defined as any individual who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes within a 24-hour timeframe. The minutes are cumulative meaning that several, separate interactions combine and apply to the 15-minute threshold.

In the event, OLCSD is notified prior to the Department of Health or the Tribal Health Authority. OLCSD will initiate a call/email so contact tracing can proceed.

CLOSE CONTACT	POSITIVE TEST
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CLOSE CONTACT

Defined as any individual who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes within a 24-hour timeframe. The minutes are cumulative meaning that several, separate interactions combine and apply to the 15-minute threshold. When calculating close contact, the district will start 2 days before illness onset.

A Department of Health representative or the offices of the Tribal Health Authority will contact all persons identified as close contacts (or the guardian if the contact is a minor). Per Individual organizations COVID Guidelines

Staff

- Any staff notified as a Close Contact who *has not been* vaccinated or who is less than 2 weeks beyond the second dose of a two-dose vaccination plan or 2 weeks beyond the first dose of a one dose vaccination plan will not need to quarantine but would need to monitor temperature and well-being for up to 10 days per the Tribal Health Administration guidance.
 - Avoid Close Contact with others
 - Not share household items
 - Monitor symptoms daily
 - Wear a Mask

Staff

- In the event, the staff is two weeks past the 2nd dose of a two-dose vaccine or two weeks past the 1st dose of a one-dose vaccine, the staff would not need to quarantine but would need to wear a mask, monitor temperature and well-being for up to 10 days. The staff would continue normal duties.
- In the event, the staff is within 90 days of a personal positive test, the staff would not need to quarantine.

Student

- Any student notified as a Close Contact will need to wear a mask and continue to watch for signs and symptoms for the next 10 days.
 - Monitor symptoms daily

POSITIVE COVID19

Staff

- Any staff confirmed with COVID19 virus should follow the guidance of the doctor or health professional
- Staff will need to communicate their status to their supervisor as soon as possible/within 24 hours **and follow up with the Department of Health letter or Tribal Health Authority letter.**
- Staff will need to remain home up to the full 3 days per CDC and Tribal Public Health Authority guidance and will wear mask and monitor for signs and symptoms for 10 days.
- Up to 3 days administrative leave will be given upon submission of the documentation .
- If additional days are needed per provider recommendations and based on continued fever and severe symptoms. Staff will need to use personal leave.
- Only one episode of the 3-day Administrative Leave will be approved per year. Once the 3 days administrative leave is exhausted, staff will need to utilize personal leave for positive COVID results.

Student

- Any student confirmed with COVID19 virus should follow the guidance of the doctor or health professional.
- Guardians will need to communicate the status to the school principal as soon as possible/within 24 hours by phone.
- Students will need to remain home up to 3 days per Tribal Health Administration guidance and will wear mask and monitor for signs and symptoms for 10 days.
- **Student Athletes will need a Return to Sports document only if student had moderate to severe COVID Symptoms. This must be completed before returning to practice/games per SDHSAA.**

<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Wear Mask○ Limit Close Contacts with Others.● In the event, the student is two weeks past the 2nd dose of a two-dose vaccine or two weeks past the 1st dose of a one-dose vaccine, the student would not need to quarantine but would need to monitor temperature and well-being for up to 10 days. The student would continue normal duties.● In the event, the student is within 90 days of a personal positive test, the student would not need to quarantine.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">□ NOTE: If Tribal Health indicates High Level (Red). OLCSD will review and adjust if needed our 3 days administrative leave quarantine. This will be based on Tribal Health recommendations.□ Quarantine days will be reviewed based on the number of days in the High Level (Red) status as determined by Tribal Health.
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Employee Protocols:

- Vaccinated against COVID19 or provided a medical statement for not being vaccinated.
 - New employees are encouraged to utilize the IHS facilities in the communities for vaccines. The IHS facilities have daily clinics for vaccinations. Other school events will be shared as they are scheduled.
- Masks REQUIRED and worn correctly, when in high level (Red).
- Health Screening and temperature check completed at home
 - Early notification to OLCSD Supervisor by phone to ensure proper coverage
- Health Screening and temperature check will be available upon entry and exit from school site
- Employees that carpool are to use a mask in the carpool to minimize close contact spreading of the virus.
- Frequent handwashing and use of hand sanitizer and social distancing to the greatest extent possible.
- Participation in school based or health care based COVID19 testing as needed for symptoms or return to school/activities after exposure.

Student and Family Protocols:

- Self-monitoring for any COVID19 symptoms and staying out of school and activities/athletics when feeling sick. Contacting the school as needed for cases in the home.
- COVID19 Vaccinations encouraged.
- Masks REQUIRED and worn correctly while at school or in school vehicles., when in HIGH Level (Red).
- Health Screening and temperature check completed at home.
- Health Screening and temperature check completed upon entry and exit from school site.
- Students that carpool are asked to use a mask in the carpool to minimize close contact spreading of the virus.
- Frequent handwashing and use of hand sanitizer and social distancing to the greatest extent possible.
- Participation in school based or health care based COVID19 testing as needed for symptoms or return to school/activities after exposure and based on COVID School Plan.

Staff Social, Emotional, and Mental Health

- In-district school counselors and principals offer support for staff struggling with COVID19 or the effects of the pandemic
- Staff seeking additional assistance can contact the HR Department for additional resources for support
- Staff who test positive, are granted 3 days of administrative leave during the term of their isolation per documentation submitted.

Transportation

Bus Drivers and Bus Monitors will follow the CDC guidance for transporting students as follows:

- Bus will be cleaned and disinfected before the first run of the day and after any runs throughout the day.
- Bus Drivers will wash hands prior to driving the bus, use hand-sanitizer frequently, and will wear a mask when required.
- A window(s) will be open (weather permitting) on the bus or if an air-conditioned vehicle, set to non-recirculation mode to allow improved ventilation.
- Bus Drivers and bus monitors may designate seat spacing and will review all the COVID19 bus protocols with the students on the bus.
- Bus Drivers will have face masks when required, hand-sanitizer, and will be prepared to do temperature checks on students upon entry to the bus.
- Bus Drivers will load the bus maintaining the social distancing to the greatest extent possible.
- Bus drivers will report any student concerns with the COVID19 procedures to their supervisor.

Students will follow the CDC guidance for riding a bus as follows:

- Remain home if ill or exhibiting and symptoms
- Wash hands prior to riding the bus and use hand sanitizer.
- Wear mask upon entering the bus when required or immediately after receiving a mask from the bus driver.
- Maintain social distancing when loading the bus.
- Sit in designated seat and stay sitting in the space allocated. Students from the same family may be seated together.
- Remain seated throughout the full bus ride with mask on properly, when required and hands in lap to minimize touching objects on the bus.
- Upon delivery to the school, students will unload maintaining social distancing and may also be directed to temperature stations at the school.

Instructional Delivery Option are based on the OST Tribal Protocols and color-coordinated to match.

LOW

Full Return

School Protocols:

- Masks RECOMMENDED
- Normal capacity
- Hand-sanitizer stations and frequent handwashing and disinfecting
- Staff, student, and parent expectations
- Health Screening and temperature check completed at home:
 - Early notification to OLCSD Supervisor by phone to ensure proper coverage.
- Health Screening and temperature check completed as needed,

STUDENTS:

- Masks RECOMMENDED
- Health Screenings and temperature checks are completed as needed.
- Temperatures greater than 100.4 will be sent home through the nurse/health office.

IN-DISTRICT ONLINE DELIVERY K-8:

- 8:00 to 4:00 regular school schedule with assigned teacher.

FOOD SERVICE:

- On-site food service

APPROVED

MEDIUM

Full Return

School Protocols:

- Masks RECOMMENDED
- Social distancing
- Normal capacity
- Hand-sanitizer stations and frequent handwashing and disinfecting
- Staff, student, and parent expectations
- Health Screening and temperature check completed at home:
 - Early notification to OLCSD Supervisor by phone to ensure proper coverage.
- Health Screening and temperature check available upon entry and exit from school site.

STUDENTS:

- Masks RECOMMENDED, those not vaccinated are required to wear mask.
- Temperature checks conducted as need before entering bus or school and upon exiting the school.
- Temperatures greater than 100.4 will be sent home through the nurse/health office.

IN-DISTRICT ONLINE DELIVERY K-8:

- 8:00 to 4:00 regular school schedule with assigned teacher.

FOOD SERVICE:

- On-site food service

APPROVED

HIGH

OLCSD Schools will offer both in-person and online instruction based on school capacity and parent/guardian choice.

School Protocols:

- Meetings will be offered via Zoom.
- Temperature Screening stations at entrance door.
- Masks REQUIRED
- Social distancing, desk corrals, flow-charts, directional arrows, spacing dots
- 50% of the building/classroom capacity based on number of positive COVID results in school building/classroom at one time.
- Hand-sanitizer stations and frequent handwashing and disinfecting
- Based on OST Tribal Health Administration guidance.

STUDENTS:

- Masks REQUIRED.
- Temperature checks available before entering school.
- Temperature checks may be conducted as needed.
- Temperatures greater than 100.4 will be sent home through the nurse/health office.

IN-DISTRICT ONLINE DELIVERY K-8:

- 8:00 to 4:00 regular school schedule with assigned teacher.

FOOD SERVICE:

- On-site food service for onsite students.

PERCENTAGE OF RISK:

- In the event the percentage of students, staff, school, or district positive cases reach a substantial concern level in a facility or across the district. The School Administrators, Wellness Director and Superintendent will decide on how to proceed that best meets the safety of the students and staff.

CLOSURES

In the event the district or a specific school or classroom needs to close for cleaning or for the duration of a quarantine or isolation, the following protocols will be in place:

Classroom Closure: Students will work remotely and not attend school. Staff will follow COVID19 guidelines if in quarantine, isolation, or monitoring. Staff are expected to report to work onsite.

School or District Closure: Students will work remotely and not attend school. Staff will follow COVID19 guidelines if in quarantine, isolation, or monitoring. Staff are expected to work onsite.

APPROVED

Oglala Lakota County School District Athletics and Activities General Provisions:

- Overall guidance from the South Dakota High School Activities Association and the OLCSD Back to School Plan will be followed. Plans will be responsive to sudden changes and recommendations.
- Staff will ensure all Back-to-School plan protocols are followed (page 4) and will ensure only district equipment is used.
- Students will follow the Back-to-School Plan requirements (page 4), use district provided equipment and will participate in contact tracing and testing as conditions present. Students will be encouraged to bring their own water bottle or use disposable cups as provided.
- Practices, clubs, presentations, and sporting events will adhere to the same Back to School Protocols (page 4) and school administration will determine changes to schedules based on the risk level of the county.
- Games, Events, and Performances will be open to spectators based on the most current CDC recommendations. Additional restrictions will be in place when the risk level is at the red status for the county (see below). Back to School Protocols (page 4) will be in place and live stream options and radio broadcasts will also be provided to the greatest extent possible.
 - RED LEVEL additional precautions:
 - All spectators will wear masks and have their temperature taken at the door. Spectators need to provide their vaccination card for entry if requested.
 - Social Distancing as allowed
 - Concession stand options will include bottled beverages and individually wrapped options. The concession stand staff will be required to wear face coverings and gloves.
 - Frequent reminders during the game for visitors to mask up.
- Trips: OLCSD will follow this plan, the SDHSAA, State and Tribal guidelines for COVID19 precautions.
 - RED LEVEL additional precautions:
 - Overnight trips will be minimized as much as possible.
 - Overnight stays – up to 4 students in a room, with limited number of essential staff. No extras.
 - Sponsors/Coaches shall follow all district protocols for social distancing during meal times, social gatherings and while at the event and/or hotel.

In the event, Distance Learning will be used, information will be made available through the district website at www.olcsd.com

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Parents and students will be able to access the teacher page for directions on how to use distance learning options including Google Classroom, Zoom, Canvas, Clever and curriculums for math, reading, science, social studies, Lakota, PE, and CTE courses. Student attendance will be taken daily, and students will be required to engage in online work, discussions, and homework submissions. Phone calls will be made by the school to parents/guardians of students who are not engaging in the online work.

For families whose wifi is limited packets will be available and delivered and picked up daily so students can stay current on assignments. Phone calls will be made by the schools to the parents/guardians of students not participating in the packet work. Daily submissions will count as attendance each day.

- Parents are encouraged to continue as much education in the home as possible by providing books for children to read while at home.
- Parents will be encouraged to reinforce the homework in the packets that include library books for students to read at home.

Grading and Attendance

Oglala Lakota County School District uses quarters and semesters for elementary and high school grading. Report card grades for students will be based on student submission of work in school and in a hybrid or distance model, through either paper packets or electronic submission. Students not in class will be counted absent and normal student absentee protocols will be put in place following the student handbook.

Technology

OLCSD students will be assigned a device for their work. These will be site based and may be either an iPads or Chromebook based on grade level. Parents/Guardians will complete a form for check-out of the device for their child.

Special Education Services

Onsite Special Education services will resume. In the event, the district needs to return to hybrid or distance learning, the SPED department will utilize a variety of different service delivery options. Parents will receive a letter outlining service options. IEP Meetings will be held and State and Federal requirements will continue using technology resources.

Counseling Services

Onsite Counseling services will resume. In the event, the district needs to return to hybrid or distance learning, the Counseling department will utilize phone and zoom session when possible. Parents may sign a counseling form for 1:1 service at the school. All efforts will be made to ensure services continue while students are home-bound.

School Facilities

Disinfection and sanitation: In an effort to prevent and/or reduce the spread of COVID-19, the OLCSD has and continues to use disinfectants and sanitizers to kill viruses. All custodians will be instructed to clean and disinfect high-touch areas throughout the day. In the event of a positive case within a facility, the facility's daily disinfection and sanitation protocols will ensure a normal return the following day.

Air Filtration: All Oglala Lakota County schools have air filtration system installed in all facilities. The air filtration system provides another layer of protection by reducing airborne particles.

Update and Revisions to the OLCSD Back to School 2021-22 Plan

The Back-to-School plan will be updated with new guidance as it becomes available from the OST Tribal Health Authority, SD Department of Health, and SD Department of Education. This includes the dissemination of any news releases related to the COVID-19 virus.

Community Coordination: The Oglala Lakota County School district will coordinate with the following resources in an effort to detect, report, and reassess COVID19 impact in the schools:

- OLCSD will coordinate with the Community Health Resources (CHR) to plan for mass testing events using their COVID BINAX NOW Testing Protocol and
- OLCSD will work with the South Dakota Department of Health and Department of Education for in-school COVID19 testing procedures and will report positive results to the SDDOH and to the Tribal Health Authority to include testing kits for staff and students.
- OLCSD will provide At Home Quick Vue Over the Counter COVID19 Test kits to school staff and onsite students who are exhibiting symptoms by way of a South Dakota Department of Education and Department of Health program.

The staff member or family member can follow the directions on the box and on the attached QR tag. Staff who test positive are encouraged to follow up with and consult a health care provider. The school nurse or health para will be responsible for the test kits. The nurse or health para will notify the COVID19 District Point of Contact when the supply needs replenished. We will offer the kits as part of our collaboration with the Department of Education and Department of Health until it is no longer available.

What families can do:

- Understand that these guidelines are determined by health, educational and civic professionals commissioned to care for your child, considering the physical environment, time spent in school, and the potential risk to the health of our students, staff and families.
- Keep your child home if they have a fever, cough, cold or flu symptoms, and have them return only when these symptoms have subsided.
- Create a family plan in case your child is sent home from school due to high temperature or is required to be quarantined or isolated.
- Talk to your child about changes they may notice at school, reinforcing that these measures are in place to preserve their health, and the health of those around them.
- Prepare as much as possible to adapt to change. As evidenced this past spring, things evolve quickly, and schedule modifications and/or closures may be necessary.
- Recognize you can choose traditional face-to-face school or fulltime distance learning is available.
- Know that you as a guardian and parent have the right to keep your child home at any time as you assess risk as it relates to your family.

Precautions to avoid illness guidance:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Refraining from touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Clean frequently touched surfaces and objects.
- Individuals at higher risk for severe COVID-19 illness, such as older adults and people who have chronic medical conditions like heart, lung or kidney disease, should take action to reduce your risk of exposure.
- Create a family plan to prepare for COVID-19 and develop a stay-at-home kit with food, water, medication, and other necessary items.

If you develop symptoms:

- Call your health care provider immediately and tell them about any recent travel or exposure.
- Individuals who are concerned that they have COVID-19 should contact their healthcare provider via phone before going to a clinic or hospital to prevent spread in healthcare facilities.
- Avoid contact with other people.
- Follow the directions of your provider and public health officials.

Oglala Sioux Tribe Ordinances

- Ordinance 21-81 and 22-18 Student Vaccine Incentive Extension for 5–18-year-olds until funds are depleted
- Ordinance 21-55 Mandatory Vaccine of 12 and older who attend school face to face with exemptions for disability, medical or religious reasons
- Ordinance 21-57 Mandatory Vaccine or Exemptions of hardship, medical or religious reasons
- Ordinance 20-18 Shelter in Place
- Ordinance 20-57 Health Order

District and School Contacts

- District COVID19 Point of Contact, Laticia Decory, 605-454-1293
- Batesland Principal, Rianna Albers, 605-455-6675
- Red Shirt Principal, Brian O'Connor, 605-255-4224
- Rockyford Principals, Dr. Jennifer Sierra 605-455-6300
- Wolf Creek Principal, Melissa Iron Cloud, 605-455-6625
- Lakota Tech, Chanda Spotted Eagle, 605-455-6950
- OLCSD Virtual High School Principal, Melvin Sierra, 605-455-6693

Website Resources

- South Dakota Department of Health COVID-19 [Coronavirus updates and information](#)
- South Dakota Department of Health At Home COVID19 Test Kit Guidance <https://doh.sd.gov/COVID/Testing/Guidance.aspx>
- South Dakota High Schools Activities Association <https://www.sdhsaa.com/HealthSafety/COVIDReturnToPlay.pdf>
- OST Tribal Ordinance 20-18: Shelter in Place COVID-19 Health Order and OST Ordinance 20-57 Educational Institution COVID19 Health Order for Reopening Schools and addendums
 - [OST 20-18 Shelter In Place Ordinance](#)
 - [OST ED Health Order 20-57](#)
- CDC K-12 Schools and Childcare Programs
 - [CDC Updates](#)
- Hillyard COVID-19 Resources [Hillyard.com THE Cleaning Resource COVID19](#)

Paper Resources

- Fact Sheets, Handouts, and Poster Resources will be available in all facilities.

Previous Revisions and Updates

- UPDATED/APPROVED: 9-22-2020
- REVISED/APPROVED: 1-28-2021
- REVISED/APPROVED: March 24, 2021

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- 2021-22 Plan APPROVED July 26, 2021
- 2021-22 Plan REVISED and APPROVED 8-23-2021
- 2021-22 Plan REVISED and APPROVED 9-14-2021
- 2021-22 Plan REVISED and APPROVED 1-18-2022
- 2021-22 Plan REVISED and APPROVED 1-24-2022
- 2021-22 Plan REVISED and APPROVED 2-28-2022
- 2021-22 Plan REVISED and APPROVED 5-23-2022
- 2022-23 Plan REVISED and APPROVED 9-15-2022
- 2023-24 Plan REVISED and

APPROVED