

Asher Public School

Return to Learning

Return to School Plan

2023 -2024

COVID-19 Response



Introduction

Statement of Action:

The effectiveness of this plan relies strongly on each individual's personal responsibility to monitor his or her health. Coming back onto a school campus will mean students and staff may be exposed to the COVID-19 virus. Asher Schools will strongly encourage

routine daily self-assessment for individuals coming onto campus to include temperature and symptom checks. This plan will be flexible and reassessed continually as conditions change. .

How the Plan was Developed:

The Return to School plan was developed through collaboration with teachers, parents, administrators, support staff, board members, community leaders, and public health officials. A COVID-19 School Reopening Committee gathered on July 2, 2020 to provide insight into concerns about bringing children and staff back to school sites in light of the ever-changing COVID-19 conditions. To develop best practices for our reopening, model plans were consulted from national education organizations, multiple health and safety organizations, businesses and corporations as well as other public school districts.

The creation of this plan is based on two guiding principles:

1. Limit exposure where possible: Some suggestions provided by other plans are not reasonable for our specific conditions due to space, human behaviors, or budget constraints.
2. Learning must remain constant: Building on the experiences of distance learning during the school closure last spring, Asher School is ready to deliver instruction to students virtually or face-to-face. We know disruption during a public health crisis like COVID-19 is very likely. Although we can expect disruption during the school year, consistent lesson delivery from teacher to student will remain strong either through a more traditional face-to-face method or through virtual learning at home. Google classroom and Class Dojo will be the learning management systems for Pre-K through Grade 12. We have listened to parent requests for a streamlined virtual learning environment. Grades and attendance will be monitored and reported during the 2020-2021 school year.

Communication with Parents and Community:

All communication with parents and the community will be delivered through the district's Facebook and Twitter pages, text messages and Asher School website at asher.k12.ok.us. Asher School is committed to strong communication and responsive action. If you need assistance and cannot reach your site, you may reach out to Jason Alsup, Superintendent at jalsup@asher.k12.ok.us.

Back to School Tip: It is important to teach children proper hygiene all the time, but especially to remind them about good habits during a public health crisis like COVID-19. One habit is proper handwashing. According to CDC guidelines, follow these five steps every time you wash your hands.

1. Wet your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap, and apply soap.
2. Lather your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.
3. Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the “Happy Birthday” song from beginning to end twice.
4. Rinse your hands well under clean, running water.
5. Dry your hands using a clean towel or air dry them.

School Operations

General Operations in School Sites:

Temperature checks will not occur upon boarding buses or entering buildings unless staff believe it is necessary. We will rely on each family to conduct a self-assessment each morning before sending children to school.

Parents will find the self-assessment checklist and learn more about details of the Return to School plan through the district website and Facebook pages. Parents can expect the communications plan during the 2023-2024 school year to include:

- Updates on progress of planning
- Public health messages
- How to notify the district of a diagnosis

Self-Assessment Checklist:

Parents will be required to acknowledge the responsibilities and risks of sending your

child back to school by agreeing to conduct home self-assessments on a daily basis. The daily self-assessment checklist includes answering questions about

- Temperature and other symptoms
- Exposure to others diagnosed with COVID-19

The self-assessment checklist can be found on our district website. Parents are not required to turn in checklists at school sites. However, parents will be reminded regularly about completing the checklist at home before sending children to school.

Students who remain home due to symptoms will be able to access class assignments through Google classroom and Class Dojo. Teachers will assist students with questions while students are away from campus.

Students who become ill at school will be sent to a designated isolation room. School staff will follow an established protocol for assessing symptoms and notifying parents.

Masks:

Mask will not be required for 2023-2024 school year.

Cleaning Schedules and Protocols:

Asher School uses EPA recommended cleaning products and CDC recommended disinfecting procedures. Increased cleaning and disinfecting measures will be implemented in the following areas:

❖ Bathrooms

- Additional sanitization using disinfecting sprayers each day during the lunch period and end of day.

❖ Classrooms

- Sanitized using a disinfecting sprayers on Wednesday and Friday each week
- Each classroom will have disinfectant spray for teachers to disinfect as needed
- Each classroom will have hand sanitizer for students and staff to sanitize hands in classrooms where soap and water are not available
- Where available, students will wash their hands with soap and water when entering the classroom

- Students and staff will limit the sharing of supplies, utensils, devices, toys, books and learning aids
- ❖ Buses
 - Each bus will be sanitized daily
- ❖ Cafeteria
 - Students will practice social distancing as much as space allows •

Transportation:

Due to lack of bus drivers and the difficulty of creating multiple routes, we will not decrease the number of students riding the bus each day. Students will be encouraged to social distance on buses when possible; however, parents should not expect 6 feet of space between riders on school buses. **If parents can transport students to school, it will greatly help with social distancing on the buses.**

To protect drivers and students while riding the bus, we will

- Increase ventilation on buses by lowering windows when weather allows
- Students will have assigned seats on the bus
- Clean and disinfect buses daily

Cafeteria:

Social distancing will be implemented in the cafeteria when possible.

Athletics and Extracurricular Activities:

Procedures for athletics and extracurricular activities will be followed in conjunction with recommendations from OSSAA and our local health professionals. Information about practices and precautions will be posted through each activity's sponsor or department.

Facility Use by Outside Organization:

Facility use by outside organizations will be determined on a case by case basis. Consideration will be given for organizations able to commit to guidelines for limiting exposure to the COVID-19 virus. Additional cleaning fees may be required.

LEADS:

LEADS is the before and after school care program managed by Asher School. This program will follow the applicable procedures in the Return to School plan.

Return to Learn Tip: Parents should become familiar with the Asher School Self-Assessment Checklist found on our district website at <https://www.asher.k12.ok.us/>. Create a routine each morning to check your child's temperature and assess other Symptoms before sending your child to school. Asher School will not conduct routine temperature checks as students board school buses or when students enter buildings.

Academics and Growth:

Achieving our core mission to educate children is a tremendous challenge during the COVID-19 public health crisis. Asher School is committed to keeping learning constant throughout the school year, although we know we are likely to experience disruption due to possible positive diagnoses.

Our goals for the 2023-2024 year are to provide flexible learning pathways for families who may be impacted by health concerns either due to an individual who is immunocompromised or due to a short period where family members are experiencing COVID-19 related symptoms.

For these reasons, we pledge to

- ❖ Continue to deliver on grade level content through challenging and engaging lessons
- ❖ Provide interventions for students who fall below grade level
- ❖ Offer enrichment for students who are learning at a faster pace ❖
- Respond to parent questions or concerns about their student's progress ❖
- Create options for personal learning pathways

Learning Pathways:

Students and parents will be able to choose one of two Asher School Learning Pathways.

Lesson Delivery	Time, Place, Path & Pace	Curriculum
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1. On campus Face to Face	Students report to campus and attend classes in a traditional setting with access to online instruction through Google Classroom/OdysseyWare. Teachers will be present with students in the classroom to guide instruction daily. Students may participate in school sponsored extracurricular activities. All students are enrolled in on campus face to face learning unless parents request Option 2.	Challenging online curriculum Digital textbook resources Teacher created resources
2. At Home Full Time Virtual	Students learn from home for an extended period through Google Classroom/OdysseyWare. Teachers will be assigned to the student to deliver, guide and facilitate learning. Students may participate in school sponsored extracurricular activities. If students choose this option, full time virtual enrollment will be for a full semester or academic year.	Challenging online curriculum Digital textbook resources Teacher created resources Devices may be provided

Students with Special Needs:

Individualized Education Plans (IEP), 504 Plans and English Language Academic Plans will be followed with the assistance of site principals. District related services providers such as speech and OT/PT will be in contact with students and parents to arrange for continued services within the constraints of this public health crisis. IEP and 504 meetings will be held in person unless a request is made for a phone or video conference. All IEP/504 team members are required to participate. For information about IEP and 504 plans, contact Charilyn Milburn at cmilburn@asher.k12.ok.us.

Grading and Attendance:

Unlike what we experienced during Distance Learning last spring, new content will be delivered this school year. Students will be counted absent if not in attendance, even if a student is learning through a fully virtual pathway.

Whole Child & Family Supports:

Our mission is to ensure all students and their families feel welcome and safe at school. This mission is especially important during the COVID-19 public health crisis. Whether students are learning through on campus face to face instruction or virtually at home, we work to promote a feeling of community with all students and families.

In response to the increasing needs of families for the 2020-2021 school year, Asher School has the following available:

- Coordinated School Health Care Team, consisting of a school nurse, parent educator, school-based social worker and a counselor.

For information regarding any of these services contact Shawna Magby, Counselor at shawnam@asher.k12.ok.us.

Back to School Tip: The Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE) has Excellent family and community resources posted on their website at <https://sde.ok.gov/parent-community-engagement>.

School Personnel:

The safety of our school staff is paramount to our success. Taking care of all employees during the COVID-19 crisis will require flexibility and understanding in the event of a positive COVID-19 diagnosis.

PPE and Cleaning Kits:

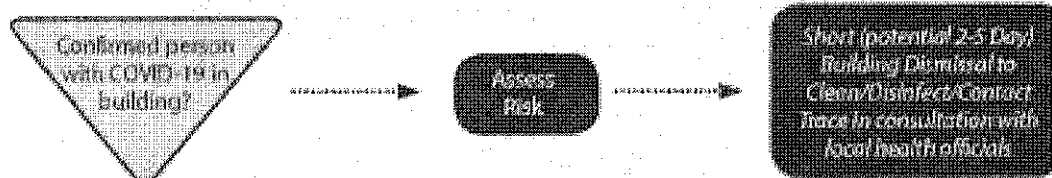
Staff at high risk for contracting the virus will be given special consideration and should work individually with district level administrators.

What happens if someone tests positive?

It is likely we will experience disruption in the school year due to a positive diagnosis of COVID-19. If a student or staff member tests positive, we will follow CDC guidelines for school site or district closure.

School Decision Tree

All Schools Regardless of Community Spread

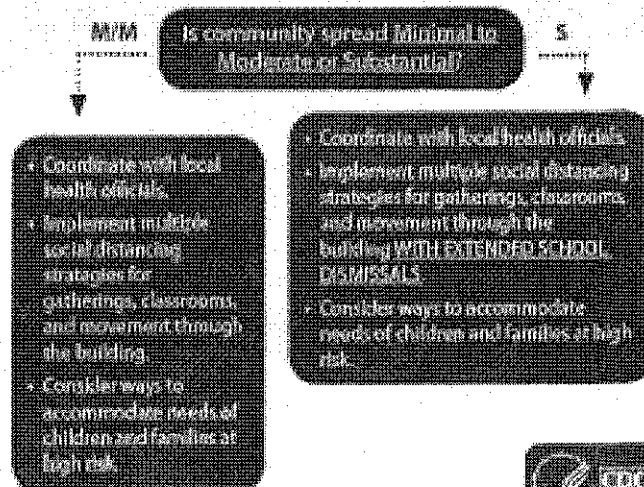


No Community Spread

- Prepare
- Teach and reinforce healthy hygiene
- Develop information sharing systems
- Intensify cleaning and disinfection
- Monitor for absenteeism
- Assess group gatherings and events – consider postponing non-critical gatherings and events
- Require sick students and staff stay home
- Establish procedures for someone becoming sick at school

Monitor changes in community spread

Minimal to Moderate OR Substantial Community Spread



A positive diagnosis does not necessarily mean shutting down a school site or the entire district. **Working with health officials will mean completing contact tracing and possibly suggesting students be tested for the virus. Because of changing and uncertain conditions, students, parents and staff should be prepared for transition to virtual learning at any time.**

Conclusion:

Bringing students, parents and the community together is what we do best. Our success in responding to the 2023-2024 school year during COVID-19 conditions will require a community mindset and strong communication feedback loops.

The Return to School Plan is subject to change with changing conditions of COVID-19.

For any assistance with this plan contact Jason Alsup, Superintendent at jalsup@asher.k12.ok.us. We encourage parents to stay engaged and responsive as we honor our commitment to educate all students in spite of these challenges. We thank you in advance for your flexibility and understanding.