

CHEROKEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Safe Return to Learn Plan
2023-2024

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Dear Cherokee Community,

Cherokee Public Schools are constantly evaluating safety protocols that are changing daily just like all aspects and research associated with COVID-19. The safety of our students, staff, and families is a top priority in every decision made. We have set forth guidelines and practices that may change as needed to reflect our community's standing with the pandemic.

This plan includes the safety precautions being taken as well as learning options for students during these ever-changing times. Cherokee Public Schools believes the safest and most productive setting for our students is in the classroom and in our school buildings. With that being said, we are taking safety precautions to work with each situation in the safest manner and to maintain a successful educational environment.

Cherokee Public Schools' Safe Return to Learn Plan will be updated every six months through June of 2024.

Bryce Schanbacher, Superintendent

CHEROKEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Traditional & Distance Learning

Traditional Learning Management System: Google Classroom or Zoom

- ❖ Remain a Cherokee Public Schools student.
- ❖ In-person instruction in a traditional classroom setting
- ❖ Social interaction with peers and staff
- ❖ Technology and the Internet are provided as needed in the classroom setting.
- ❖ Participation in school-sponsored extracurricular activities

Remote Learning Management System: Google Classroom or Zoom

Students are enrolled in Remote Learning who are required to complete distance learning due to a quarantine or temporary school shut down due to COVID-19 will:

- ❖ Remain a Cherokee Public Schools student.
- ❖ Will use the same learning management system used for Traditional Learning
- ❖ Continue instruction at home during the students' scheduled class time utilizing the learning management system.
- ❖ Students will check in each scheduled hour to receive credit
- ❖ Students will continue to receive two grades per week for each subject
- ❖ Participation in all school-sponsored extracurricular activities when student returns to traditional learning

Virtual Learning Management System: Edmentum

Students who have chosen to receive instruction through distance learning but not related to a COVID-19 quarantine will:

- ❖ Commit to distance instruction for at least one semester
- ❖ No in-person instruction. Coursework will be conducted through the Learning Management System
- ❖ Students will be monitored by district personnel
- ❖ Daily attendance in each course is required
- ❖ Students must meet with their advisor each week to review weekly progress
- ❖ Applies to Secondary Students Only: Participation in school-sponsored activities will require compliance with NCAA regulations for attendance

SCHOOL DAY OPERATIONS FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY

HOME HEALTH SELF-SCREENINGS

It is important that all families and staff partner with us in monitoring health. We ask that families and staff utilize the self-screening checklist on page 3 prior to coming to Cherokee facilities and events. No student or staff with a fever of 100.1 degrees or higher may enter the facility. No fever-reducing medication may be taken to reduce fever.

TEMPERATURE DEVELOPS WHILE AT SCHOOL

If a student or staff member exhibits a fever of 100.1 degrees or higher while at school, they must immediately be picked up from school or leave (if they are a driver). They cannot return to school until they are fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication.

ATTENDANCE

For the health and safety of all students, remote learning should be utilized on days when students have a fever or other symptoms of illness. Students who have a health reason that is verified by a parent/guardian or medical professional will receive an excused absence. When students are in remote or virtual learning, they are expected to actively participate in coursework daily.

TRANSPORTATION

Cherokee Public Schools transports students who live a distance from the school to and from school daily. Due to the large number of students who rely on transportation provided by the district, social distancing will be challenging and may not be possible. Therefore, transportation vehicles will be frequently cleaned and disinfected. When possible, windows will be down for air circulation, as recommended by the CDC and the Oklahoma State Department of Education. Parents need to take these factors into consideration when deciding if school transportation is the best option for their child.

RESTROOMS

Student and staff restrooms will be frequently cleaned and disinfected daily.

SCHOOL DAY OPERATIONS FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY

CLASSROOMS

Classroom desks and common seating areas (including tables) will be arranged to maximize space between students and classroom surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected daily.

ACADEMIC PROGRESS

Cherokee Public Schools will continue to monitor pacing guides to include academic standards that may have been missed due to COVID-19 school closures. The district will be establishing extended school-day activities for students as we move forward.

WATER FOUNTAINS & WATER BOTTLES

Students are encouraged to bring their own water bottles every day and they will have access to refill stations. The use of standard water fountains that individuals directly drink from will be discouraged to help prevent the spread of germs.

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH

Kitchens will meet health department standards for cleanliness and sanitation as required by law. If schools must be remote “grab and go” meals will be available.

CLEANING & DISINFECTING

Cherokee Public Schools developed new cleaning protocols for building custodians that include increased sanitation of high-contact surfaces throughout the school day. Aerosol disinfecting agents will be used only at night and only when proper time-lapse can occur for the dissipation of product so that students will not be in direct contact with the cleaning agent. Hand sanitizers have been installed throughout the building and are easily accessible throughout all schools.

LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

Google Classroom and Zoom are the Learning Management Systems that GPS students and teachers will use for all instruction. WenGage has a parent portal that provides access to student grades, tardies, and attendance. We encourage parents and guardians to become familiar with these products.

SCHOOL DAY OPERATIONS FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY

COMMUNICATION

Cherokee Public Schools uses School Messenger to call, email or text parents/guardians directly. This product offers multiple language support. Additionally, the district relies on its webpage at www.cherokee.k12.ok.us and social media (Facebook) for announcements concerning school events.

VISITORS, VOLUNTEERS, & SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

All visitors, volunteers, and substitute teachers are asked to use the health self-screening checklist before entering the facilities.

HALLWAYS & PASSING TIMES

Students will adhere to procedures and follow traffic patterns established to encourage social distancing in the hallways and passing times to minimize direct contact and possible exposure.

DEVICES – IPADS, LAPTOPS, & CHROMEBOOKS

In the event that schools must transition from Traditional Learning to Remote Learning students can be assigned a device to use at home.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

If school is moved to remote learning due to COVID or other illnesses, the IEP team can assist families with decisions for a learning plan and platform that best meets the needs of the student.

ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES

The Athletic Directors will continue to work closely with the Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association (OSSAA) to implement health and safety protocols for all practices and sanctioned sports events.

Please, check the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website often for the latest information and guidance:

www.cdc.gov/

KEY PREVENTION AND MITIGATION STRATEGIES

MASKS

Cherokee Public Schools will continue coordinating with local and state health officials concerning community spread and infection rates and masks will not be a school-wide requirement. Students will not be prohibited from wearing masks as a personal or family choice.

MODIFICATION OF FACILITIES

Facilities are marked to show proper distancing in standing areas wherever possible and proper hygiene techniques are posted throughout buildings. Classrooms and hallways are sanitized daily.

HAND WASHING & RESPIRATORY ETIQUETTE

Students are trained and reminded in classrooms about the health benefits of proper and frequent handwashing as well as respiratory etiquette of covering the mouth during coughs and sneezes. Signage is posted throughout the district with these reminders as well. Hand sanitizer is available in classrooms, offices, cafeterias, and anywhere students or patrons may pass.

CLEANING AND MAINTAINING FACILITIES

Cherokee Public Schools use industrial misting and fogging equipment to sanitize classrooms, buses, and cafeteria eating areas.

DIAGNOSTIC AND SCREENING TESTING

Cherokee Public Schools remains in close collaboration with the Alfalfa County Health Department which offers COVID support to our employees and students for screening and for vaccinations.

COORDINATION WITH STATE AND LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIALS

Cherokee Public Schools has worked in collaboration with the State, County, and Local Health Officials to develop contact tracing protocols, implementation of COVID prevention protocols, and vaccination schedules.

VACCINATION EFFORTS

Alfalfa County Health Department provided vaccinations to employees and community members. Vaccinations have also become available at local pharmacies.

KEY PREVENTION AND MITIGATION STRATEGIES

MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

It is important to remember that COVID-19 has affected and will continue to impact all students, staff, and families emotionally, mentally, and/or physically. The social, emotional, and mental wellness of our students and staff are essential to a successful learning environment. Cherokee Public Schools has a school counselor who is available to all students and is coordinating without outside organizations to provide access to mental health professionals.

CONTACT TRACING, ISOLATION & QUARANTINE

The Superintendent has attended meetings with the Oklahoma State Health Department to be informed on the status of infections, testing, vaccines, and CDC guidance for prevention habits, isolation, and quarantine in order to keep our students and staff to possible to maintain in-person learning for Cherokee Students.

SYMPTOMS OF CORONAVIRUS

People with COVID-19 can have mild symptoms or severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus.

A FEVER DOES NOT HAVE TO BE PRESENT TO HAVE COVID-19.

Symptoms are:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Muscle or body aches
- Fatigue
- Fever or chills
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose

The updated plan will be posted on the Cherokee Public Schools' website; www.cherokee.k12.ok.us, and on social media platforms.

Communication of COVID-19

- ❖ If there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 with a classmate or staff member within a classroom, parents will be notified of the possible exposure.
- ❖ If there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 with a teammate or staff member within an extracurricular activity, parents will be notified of the possible exposure.
- ❖ If there is confirmed close contact with a symptomatic person, affected students and staff will be notified.
- ❖ If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, they cannot return to Cherokee facilities until they are symptom-free and have completed the quarantine requirements. During recovery students will transition to Remote Learning and their teachers will work with him/her to complete missing assignments. Please, contact your school to alert them of your absence and health situation.
- ❖ If a family member tests positive for COVID-19, please contact the school to alert them of your health situation.

NOTE: Cherokee Public Schools believes that the safest, most productive setting for our students is in the classroom and in our school buildings. Cherokee Public Schools are taking safety precautions to deal with each specific situation in the most efficient way to maintain safety while maintaining a successful educational environment. We will update our plan and procedures as health recommendations and guidance from the CDC, the Alfalfa County Health Department, and local/state officials continue to evolve.