



**This plan is subject to change based on local, state, and federal recommendations for health and safety.*

Protection During a Pandemic

Dear Cardinal Family,

The past two years have been full of confusion, uncertainty, and obstacles. What lies ahead of us still remains challenging and unknown. As we prepare to head back to school, I encourage you and your family to have multiple discussions about how things may continue to be different and what steps can be taken to respond to the uncertainty.

The following protocols have been developed with the intent to create a carefully planned approach to re-opening the school. The guidelines and steps have been put in place in order to create a safe, positive, and flexible learning opportunity. Many of the measures taken are not one hundred percent guaranteed, however, our goal is to provide multiple layers of protection to help mitigate the transmission and spread of COVID-19.

As we have seen, coming back onto a school campus and into school buildings will mean students and staff may be exposed to the COVID-19 virus. Cleora School strongly encourages routine daily self-assessment for individuals coming onto campuses including temperature and symptom checks. A daily self-assessment sheet can be found within this Protocol Plan.

While the previous school year was overwhelmingly successful, we should all be prepared for possible disruption throughout the 2022-2023 school year. We will be doing the very best that we can to ensure the safety and well-being of every student and staff member. While we feel we have a truly effective plan in place that is proven, this pandemic crisis is constantly evolving, advice from health experts continues to change and develop, and vaccination efforts continue to rise. Therefore, our efforts and protocols will most likely change throughout the course of this year. We sincerely ask for your patience, understanding, and support through it all. We know we cannot completely eliminate the virus, but with educated decisions and cooperation, we can reduce the chance of spreading it throughout our school and community.

In closing, remember no matter the situation or the obstacle that lies ahead, we are Cardinals. We are a strong school with strong families in a strong community and we will get through this! It's always a great day to be a Cardinal and in a place "Where Learning Is #1."

Yours in education,

*Kenny Guthrie
Superintendent*



Response to Disease Levels

Full response steps and information can be found in our district “**RESPONSE PLAN**” document.

According to the Center for Disease Control

COVID-19 is mostly spread by respiratory droplets released when people talk, cough, or sneeze. It is thought that the virus may spread to hands from a contaminated surface and then to the nose or mouth, causing infection. Therefore, personal prevention practices (such as hand-washing, staying home when sick, monitoring your health) and environmental cleaning and disinfection are important principles that are covered in this guide. Fortunately, there are a number of actions school staff can take to help lower the risk of exposure to and the spread of COVID-19 during school sessions and activities (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], 2020).

One of the actions that can be taken to help lower the risk of exposure is the use of face coverings. Face coverings may be challenging for students (especially younger students) to wear in all-day settings such as school. Face coverings may be worn by staff and students (particularly older students) as feasible, and are most essential in times when physical distancing is difficult. Face coverings are welcome and strongly encouraged when proper distancing cannot be achieved. Mask may need to be required in our Safe Room when occupied for tornadoes and/or intruder lockdown situations. Individuals should be repeatedly reminded not to touch the face covering or their face and to wash their hands frequently. Information should be provided to staff, students, and students’ families on proper use, removal, and washing of cloth face coverings. Vaccinations are now available for adults and in some cases children under 18. Full guidance can be found in the following link: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>

The following are key takeaways:

- Students benefit from in-person learning, and continuing to safely return to in-person instruction in the 2023-2024 school year will continue to be a priority.
- Vaccination is the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. Promoting vaccination can help schools safely return to in-person learning as well as extracurricular activities and sports.
- Due to the circulating and highly contagious variants, CDC recommends universal indoor masking by all students (age 2 and older), staff, teachers, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status as a form of prevention.
- In addition to universal indoor masking, CDC recommends schools maintain, when possible, at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms to reduce transmission risk. When it is not possible to maintain a physical distance of at least 3 feet, such as when schools cannot fully re-open while maintaining these distances, it is especially important to layer multiple other prevention strategies, such as screening testing.



- Screening, testing, ventilation, handwashing and respiratory etiquette, staying home when sick and getting tested, contact tracing in combination with quarantine and isolation, and cleaning and disinfection are also important layers of prevention to keep schools safe.
- Students, teachers, and staff should stay home when they have signs of any infectious illness and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care.
- This guidance emphasizes implementing layered prevention strategies (e.g., using multiple prevention strategies together consistently) to protect students, teachers, staff, visitors, and other members of their households and support in-person learning.
- Localities should monitor community transmission, vaccination coverage, screening testing, and occurrence of outbreaks to guide decisions on the level of layered prevention strategies (e.g., physical distancing, screening testing).

Symptoms of COVID-19

People with COVID-19 have reported having a wide range of symptoms – from mild symptoms to severe illness. Children have similar symptoms to adults and generally experience mild illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus.

People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fever
- Chills
- Muscle pain
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell

This list is not all-inclusive. Other symptoms have been reported, including gastrointestinal symptoms like nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea (CDC, 2020).

School Operations

Transportation

We strongly encourage families who can, to drop off and pick up their children. This will limit our load of children on the buses and maximize our space.

Sanitize buses with sanitizing foggers to spray down surfaces twice a day. We have purchased a handheld for the buses for this.

Drive with windows down on buses, to help maximize airflow and prevent a high concentration of the virus within the bus.

Assign seats to families, in order to decrease the likelihood of contamination.

Spread out students as much as possible.

Reviewed/Revised: 6/20/21; 12/16/21; 1/6/22; 6/21/22; 6/22/23



Dismiss one seat at a time in the morning to keep from “piling up” in the isle.

Afternoon loading by bus # scheduled to eliminate hallway crowds and waiting.

Face coverings/masks are encouraged for students who choose to ride the bus.

The car rider system was revised and improved to reduce crowd waiting and multiple class interactions. All teachers will be on duty to monitor activity/interaction in designated staged areas.

Parents/Guardians/Family must remain in their car while waiting and during pick-up.

Screening/Precaution/Prevention Measures

Teachers will do student temp checks in the classroom when needed. We have purchased a touchless head thermometer for every room to help expedite this process.

In an effort to prevent the spread of communicable diseases, especially during a pandemic or public health crisis, the district has implemented protocols to control and restrict access to school property, activities, and events.

The district encourages parents, legal guardians, and all school employees to self-screen at home. If a student or employee has a temperature of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, the student or employee should remain at home until the individual has been free of fever for twenty-four (24) hours without the use of fever-reducing medication (Tylenol, Advil, ibuprofen, etc.), symptoms improved and without coughing or without medical documentation stating they may return. For a full description see our **“RESPONSE PLAN.”**

We may screen any individual who enters a school facility which may include taking temperatures, asking health-related questions, and isolating those that have symptoms of a communicable disease.

Vaccination efforts or opportunities may be available based upon need, request, and partnership with the Cherokee Nation Health Service or other local Health Services.

Pre-K/Kindergarten First Two Days

We understand that walking your child to their classroom on the first day of school is an important moment for families and children. We truly want to assist you in making these special memories. Parent participation and assistance is very important during this unprecedented time. Cleora teachers are fully prepared for the first two days of school. Please know your children are in the hands of loving teachers who truly care about your child’s wellbeing and will care for them and help them get through these first days.

In the coming days we will list the protocol that will be used for the first two days of school if you wish to walk your child to their class. Please understand that these extra steps are being taken for the safety of everyone involved and to help us with proper distancing measures and less interaction inside the main entrance and building.



Classroom/Building Procedures

- ✓ All Staff sanitize frequently used items. If there are items that are commonly used or touched frequently, those surfaces need to be sanitized frequently.
- ✓ Custodian already wipes down frequently touched areas, door handles, light switches, water fountains, student desks/chairs, etc. This occurs every morning. We plan to increase this throughout the day. Teachers/Staff will intermittently do this as well.
- ✓ HVAC units have an Ion UV light to help kill bacteria and spores in the recirculated air.
- ✓ HVAC fans running/circulating constantly in the “On” mode to refresh the air.
- ✓ Have individually assigned materials. (i.e. ensure students use their own pencil sharpener, computers, tablets, etc.)
- ✓ Maximize the distance between students. In most classrooms, it is nearly impossible to put six feet between students. The state epidemiologist stated that the highest possibility of spread is within three feet, so the extra three feet serve as a buffer zone. At times three feet can prove to be a challenge, but we will do our best to distance students.
- ✓ Alternate/schedule passing periods, bathroom breaks, class interchange, etc.
- ✓ Limit the number of students in the bathrooms at one time.
- ✓ Morning routine change from cafeteria arrival to classroom arrival instead.
- ✓ Staff will report earlier by 7:30 am.
- ✓ Teachers give constant reminders for hygiene etiquette. We ask parents to help us with this at home to teach and remind their children.
- ✓ Creation of an isolation area/room for when a student is running a fever and waiting to go home.
- ✓ Sanitizing stations throughout the school.
- ✓ Added water bottles to student supply list to eliminate water fountain use (water fountains will be turned off and students will use the fountain bottle fill station).
- ✓ Face coverings/masks are welcome.



PE/Sports/Recess

- Limiting contact by assigning athletes to small groups and partners. This could make it easier for contact tracing if someone does test positive.
- As students change activities the equipment is sanitized before the next group begins to use it.
- Coaches prepare class-specific equipment to cut down on time spent between class preparation.
- PE outside when possible.
- Recess will occur every day for all students.

Academics and Learning

- ❖ Onsite traditional learning will be the goal. Our efforts will be to keep the doors open as often and long as possible. When the time comes that a COVID-19 case dictates a school closure, we will conduct an adequate and necessary disinfecting of the school and will re-open as quickly as we can. However, safety will remain the priority and we will abide by any recommendations and guidelines given to us by the state health department.
- ❖ We may also include actual virtual days scheduled into the calendar where students stay home and teachers come to school and instruct students at home in order to practice in case of a school closing.
- ❖ Readiness in place to switch to virtual distance learning should there be any closure.
- ❖ Attendance and grades will be recorded through any virtual distance learning.
- ❖ A full description of our educational approach can be found in our “**CLEORA COVID EDUCATION FORMAT**” document.

Site Use by Outside Entities / Visitor and Volunteer Protocols:

- Visitors/volunteers may be allowed inside the hallways or classrooms upon screening and approval.
- Visitors must sanitize their hands upon entering the front entrance.
- We ask that visitors wait to enter during the morning rush time until all students have cleared the entrance area and not to enter at the end of the day, in order to allow adequate space for student departure.
- Visitors must buzz in so the secretary can conduct screening protocols.