

SHARON-MUTUAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS – 2023-2024  
RETURN TO SCHOOL - Plan for Safe Return & Continuity of Services

**Reviewed with Parents and Staff on August 7, 2023**

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III Fund is to help safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impacts of COVID-19 on the nation's students by addressing students' academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs. This plan describes how Sharon-Mutual Public Schools will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other school and division staff during and following the return to full in-person instruction. Questions about this plan should be directed to: Superintendent Jeff Thompson, 201 S. Third, Sharon, OK 73857; 580-866-3333.

Summary of Response to Covid-19: Sharon-Mutual Public Schools response to the Covid-19 pandemic has been and continues to be based upon the most up-to-date guidance from state and local health officials as well as the CDC. At the heart of our response has been our students' academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs. We have continued in-person teaching and learning as safely as possible and to maintain the level of health and safety necessary at school to continue in-person learning as much as possible while serving the needs of students virtually when necessary. At the beginning of the pandemic, our primary concern was to ensure continuity of instruction through the use of a digital learning platform and access to devices for all students. Throughout the school year, our concern has been prioritizing students' health and safety while providing rich and meaningful educational opportunities both virtually and in-person. Sharon-Mutual missed no days of school due to Covid-19 in 2020-2021. Our goal for the upcoming school year is to maintain in-person teaching and learning as safely as possible with the ability to protect the health of students, staff and community by being able to offer digital learning when necessary.

SECTION 2: MAINTAINING HEALTH AND SAFETY

Sharon-Mutual Public Schools has taken and will continue to take actions to ensure the health and safety of students, educators, and other school and support staff during the school year with full in-person instruction while maintaining the ability to safely provide quality digital learning when necessary. A description of actions already taken and additional actions planned is below. In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, Sharon-Mutual Public Schools purchased Personalized Protective Equipment (PPE), including a variety of masks and face shields, portable sanitizing foggers, hand sanitizer and wipes. We implemented procedures for dispensing and return of instructional supplies and resources safely. Touchless water fountains are provided throughout the school facility and thermometers (handheld and stand-alone) are provided to all school buses, building entryways, and select classrooms. We modified school schedules, entry and exit patterns in school buildings, modified bus routes, and beginning and end of day procedures. Additional signage in and around the buildings provided students and families with procedures and requirements of hygiene, safety, and social distancing. Laptops and iPads were provided to students to allow for the facilitation of digital learning.

In addition, Sharon-Mutual Public Schools has adopted policies on each of the following safety recommendations established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

- Universal and correct wearing of masks ~ Sharon-Mutual Schools will provide masks for students and staff. Sharon-Mutual Schools will follow state and federal mandates regarding wearing masks.
- Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding) ~ Many classroom settings were modified to allow for social distancing as well as the removal of any unnecessary furniture.
- Handwashing and respiratory etiquette ~ Hand washing and sanitizing stations are available throughout the building with proper signage and hand sanitizer available in every classroom and common area; training was provided for staff and students regarding proper procedures and respiratory etiquette.
- Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation ~ Sanitization and thorough disinfecting will occur every other day in classrooms; classrooms are disinfected daily between groups of students as well as the end of the day on Friday; when possible, students shall remain in one setting throughout the course of the day. Common areas are disinfected daily.
- Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments ~ Administrators will conduct contact tracing and Covid management; isolation rooms were established in every building for symptomatic students; we remained (and continue to be) in close communication with local health department officials.
- Diagnostic and screening testing ~ A daily requirement of self-screening, as well as school-based temperature checks, was implemented; a temperature of 100.3 or higher required additional screening.
- Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities ~ In coordination with the local health departments, all school staff members have had access to vaccinations with release time provided; communication regarding student vaccinations and locations within our school facilities has been established.
- Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies ~ Accommodations regarding mask-wearing will be provided on a case by case basis. The teaching staff is provided extensive PPE when working with students that could not be masked due to physical limitations. Modified bus routes to allow for space mitigation were in close collaboration with parents regarding mitigation, health needs, training and support.
- Coordination with state and local health officials ~ There has been extensive coordination with state and local health officials regarding school opening practices and procedures, school closings, mitigation strategies, and athletics and extra-curricular activities.

### SECTION 3: CONTINUITY OF SERVICES

Sharon-Mutual Public Schools has taken and will continue to take actions to ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs and students' and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs.

Academic Needs: Sharon-Mutual Public Schools will provide a summer school program for students in grades K-12 as needed in May, June, and July 2021. Summer professional development opportunities are planned for all staff focused on effective instructional practices as well as training and utilization of our learning management system. Plans for the 2021-2022 school year include expanded tutoring, remediation and intervention opportunities and the use of a progress monitoring tool to identify, diagnose and assess learning gaps.

Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs: Sharon-Mutual Public Schools has a counselor on staff to address social-emotional needs as needed. Sharon-Mutual Public Schools also plans to continue to provide educational opportunities for students to address suicide, bullying and substance abuse. Sharon-Mutual plans to continue to make referrals to outside counseling services as needed.

Student Health Needs: Sharon-Mutual Public Schools maintains a concern for student health and well-being. Sharon-Mutual Schools will continue to conduct training of all staff regarding COVID symptoms, PPE use, and symptom monitoring.

Food Service Needs: During the school year, all students will be provided the service to receive school meals.

#### SECTION 4: OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

In developing the ARP ESSER Plan, Sharon-Mutual Public Schools continuously sought public input and took such input into account. During the development of the School Opening Instructional Plan, Sharon-Mutual Public Schools sought input from faculty, staff, parents, students and stakeholders. Opportunities for parent and community input were provided during the Public Comment section of regular meetings of the Sharon-Mutual School Board.

#### SECTION 5: PERIODIC REVIEW AND REVISION OF PLAN

During the period of the ARP ESSER award (until September 2023), Sharon-Mutual Public Schools will periodically review and, as needed, revise its plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services. The school system will seek and take into account public input during the review process. Plan revisions will address updated CDC guidance on safely reopening schools if any are issued.

#### SECTION 6: MAKING THE PLAN AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC

Sharon-Mutual Public Schools has taken the following steps to make this plan available to the public:

- The plan is posted at [smmps.k12.ok.us](https://smmps.k12.ok.us)
- Upon request, a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA may be provided with the plan in an alternative format accessible by contacting Superintendent Jeff Thompson at 580-866-3333.