



## Justus-Tiawah Public School

### Return to Learn #4

2023-2024

Updated Aug 7, 2023

We are continuing to experience the unknowns of the COVID epidemic. The safety of students, staff and our families will continue to be of utmost importance. We will continue to take as many precautions as possible with limiting any disruptions from the normal business of schooling.

The following updated guidelines are shared with our school family, including students, families, and staff in an effort to mitigate the risk of transmission of COVID-19, provide for a safe return to school, and continuity of educational services as normal as possible. The past few years there have been constantly evolving literature from the education, medical, and public sectors. Our goal is to create carefully layered, flexible, and developmentally appropriate practices that will ensure the safest yet most normal school environment possible.

*Disclosure: This plan contains practices and procedures recommended/ or required to assist our school's reopening in the safest manner possible. Dealing with COVID-19 is a complicated and ever-changing challenge. Please understand that within these pages, we have designed what we feel is the best plan for our students, staff, and community given our current situation. Although, please keep in mind that our written plan may change as new information is known or as community spread changes.*

We will be all in-person/at-school learning for the 2023-2024 school year.

This will mean that all students will:

- Remain enrolled in Justus-Tiawah Public Schools
- Attend school daily in a traditional, face-to-face classroom environment
- Engage in a variety of learning experiences with teachers and peers
- Continue to access educational technology supports
- Continue to access all courses and activities offered at Justus-Tiawah Public Schools
- Continue to access guidance, media centers and other student programs as needed

\*\*\*It is not anticipated but should it be necessitated by COVID-19 conditions, At-School Learning will move to Distance Learning facilitated virtually via the Google Classroom Management Platform (4th-8th) and Class Dojo (PK-3rd). Teachers will continue to introduce new content and assess/grade student progress.\*\*\*

# Return to Learn at JT – General Guidelines for Staff, Parents and Students

The following information is shared to help everyone in our community understand how Justus-Tiawah Public Schools is mitigating the risks associated with COVID-19 and how staff members and families can help play a role.

## Criteria for Influencing Whether School Continues to be In-Person or Shift to Distance Learning

Justus-Tiawah School will use the status of COVID-19 cases identified in our district, the Oklahoma Risk Level published weekly by the Oklahoma State Health department as well as the recommendations by the Oklahoma Department of Education in determining whether in-person or distance learning will occur.

### Monitor Symptoms

Using the same guidelines below, staff members will be expected to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms prior to reporting to work each day.

**We will rely on parents/guardians to be the first help in monitoring possible problem areas.**

Families are expected to screen children every day for fever and/or other symptoms associated with COVID-19 prior to students' arrival at school each day. Parents should review the following checklist for each child in their household. By sending your child to school, you are telling Justus-Tiawah School that the answer to each of these questions is "No."

1. Has your child experienced any ONE of the following symptoms (Group A from the [OSDH COVID-19 Symptomatic Illness Assessment](#))
  - a. Fever of 100 degrees fahrenheit for more at any point in the last 24 hours,
  - b. Sore throat (*That you believe is not typically allergy related*),
  - c. Cough,
  - d. Difficulty breathing,
  - e. Diarrhea or Vomiting,
  - f. New loss of taste or smell
2. Has your child experienced any THREE of the following symptoms (Group B from the [OSDH COVID-19 Symptomatic Illness Assessment](#)).
  - a. Stuffy OR Runny Nose,
  - b. Muscle/Body Aches

- c. Fatigue,
  - d. Chills,
  - e. Nausea,
  - f. Elevated Temperature but less than 100 degrees fahrenheit, or
  - g. New Onset of Severe Headache
3. Has your child tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 10 days?
  4. Has your child been directed to be under quarantine by the health department in the last 10 days?
  5. Have you taken a COVID-19 test and are awaiting the results?
  6. Has your child been in close contact, as defined by 6 feet or less for more than 15 minutes, with a positive case of COVID-19?

**If your child exhibits any of these, they need to stay home. The success of our school year depends on everyone doing their part. Please make sure your student is fever free without the use of a fever-reducing medication for 24 hours before sending them back to school.**

If a student begins displaying COVID-19 symptoms at school, he/she should report to the office immediately. Parents will be contacted to pick up his/her child as soon as possible.

## Exposure and Return to School After COVID

Parents of students or staff who come into close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual; it will be *recommended* to wear a well-fitted mask in public for 10 days according to CDC current guidelines..

Students or staff who come into close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual at home will be:

- *Strongly recommended* to wear a well-fitted mask in public for 10 days.

What counts as “Close Contact?”

- You spent at least 15 minutes or more at a distance of six feet or closer.
- You had direct physical contact with the person (e.g., handshake, hugging).
- You shared eating or drinking utensils with them.
- You came into contact with their respiratory droplets (e.g., they coughed or sneezed on you).

Any student or staff member who tests positive will be *required* to isolate for:

- 5 days after they test positive if asymptomatic **OR** 5 days from the first sign of symptoms (without fever for 24 hours) **AND**
- *Strongly recommended* to wear a well-fitted mask in public for an additional 5 days.

Source: [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

## Masks/Face Coverings

The CDC recommends “universal mask” wearing as the first strategy to help stop the spread of coronavirus. We encourage face coverings for all students and staff while inside (including those fully vaccinated). Students and staff may decide to wear face masks outside but it is believed the spread of the virus is not as prevalent when people can properly social distance.

This will be reevaluated periodically, in consultation with the local health department and may be amended if COVID-19 case numbers increase in our *school/area* or the governor declares a state of emergency based on Senate Bill 658. Should cases increase the superintendent has the discretion to mandate masks with parents having the option of opting out. *If this mandate occurs, it will be re-evaluated at the next scheduled board meeting.*

## Addressing Learning Loss

Students will be assessed to determine individual strength and weaknesses using programs purchased for this purpose. These assessments may determine if students need additional support. Learning platforms will be utilized to supplement this as well. Tutoring and other aids will be provided as the year gets started. We will continue to keep class sizes as low as possible.

We have implemented a model in the elementary where students move into groups at the end of the day to work on specific learning that they need to work on. Students who are progressing at level will be assigned to a group for enrichment.

## Bus Transportation

Bus Drivers will follow the following guidelines regarding transportation:

1. We do encourage masks on the bus for safety because of the restricted space and airflow,
2. All bus drivers and riders will have masks available,
3. Bus windows will be left open for airflow when at all possible,
4. All field trips must be approved by the Superintendent of schools,
5. Daily cleaning of buses will be mandatory for each bus route,

Students riding the bus will be socially distanced to the extent possible. Windows will be opened on the bus when possible to maximize fresh air/ventilation. Based on current ODH guidelines, students are encouraged to wear face coverings when riding the bus. Masks will be available to students if requested. Buses will continue to be cleaned and sanitized daily.

## **Accommodations for Children with Disabilities**

Individual Education Plans (IEPs) and Section 504 Accommodation Plans will be reviewed for any specific needs that will need to be addressed by the team should there be a need to move into different learning formats and environments. Accommodations that work for students in the classroom may not be effective at home especially for students with disabilities. Many services can be provided virtually, including speech-language therapy, certain instructional interventions, and mental health counseling. There are also many options for providing services that must be done in person. In the event our school experiences a closure due to COVID-19, offering 1:1 or small group instruction and services to students in need may be an option while remaining in compliance with local health department directives.

## **Access to School Buildings for Parents and Visitors**

All individuals entering a school building or JT facility will be required to report to the office. Parents must remain in their cars and drive through the drop-off line. Staff members will be stationed outside of the school building to help direct students to their classrooms. Parents who wish to check their student out of school must only enter the main office. Visitors will be prohibited from walking down hallways, classrooms, cafeterias, gymnasiums, and other common areas unless approved by the building principal.

## **Activities and Athletics**

Extra-curricular activities, clubs, and athletics play an important role in a student's educational experience. All school-sponsored activities and athletic teams will continue to adhere to guidelines put in place by Districts, as well as recommendations from state and local health agencies. Please reach out to your child's coach or club sponsor with any questions or concerns.

## **Social, Emotional, and Mental Health**

Justus-Tiawah will continue to work with local agencies to provide counseling services when identified. We are happy to announce we have partnered with local mental health agencies to have counselors available to students during the school day should the need arise or should it be decided they need services. We also have behavioral coaches to work with all stakeholders.

## **Recess**

At this time, students will play at recess with their grade level peers unless the teacher decides to do otherwise.

## **Attendance**

A flexible attendance policy will again be in place this year as students, teachers, and staff are expected to stay home if they are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, have been diagnosed, quarantined, or are awaiting test results. Because of our online capabilities, it may be possible for a student to be at home due to those circumstances and not miss any instruction or assignments. Office staff and principals will work with families to ensure appropriate attendance codes are used for absences related to COVID-19. We will do everything we can to ensure our students' education.

## **Field Trips**

Principals/Superintendent will assess requests for field trips and will approve/deny based upon curriculum needs and the health environment.

## **School Assemblies**

Principals/Superintendent will make up-to-date decisions for the possibility of assembly activities.

## **Efforts to Provide Vaccinations to School Community**

Justus-Tiawah School worked with local health officials to hopefully provide the opportunity for every staff member and patron who wants to receive a vaccination a place for this to happen.

Otherwise, we will be working with local health officials and will provide information when options become available for staff and patrons.

## Additional Measures for Disease Mitigation

### Hand Washing/Sanitizing

Washing and/or sanitizing hands frequently is one of the easiest ways to protect against infection. The procedures will be practiced and emphasized throughout the year. Throughout the school day, students will be reminded to wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Students and staff members will also have access to alcohol-based hand sanitizer in classrooms and other common areas. Paper towel dispensers will be added to many restrooms and other areas. Staff will be expected to regularly wash or sanitize hands throughout the day.

### Social Distancing

When will encourage social distance when this is a concern for a student or family.

### Cleaning Protocols

During the school day, staff will clean commonly touched surfaces inside classrooms, while maintenance personnel will clean commonly touched surfaces in common areas. At the end of each scheduled event or school day, district staff will clean frequently touched surfaces and objects. A CDC approved disinfectant agent is also sprayed through rooms and coats commonly touched surfaces after cleaning.

### Classroom Seating

Classroom seating may be arranged to allow for as much distance between individual students as possible. However, classroom space and class sizes does not allow for a 6-foot distance between students.

### Meals at School

Students must wash hands or sanitize hands before going through a food line or sitting down to eat in the cafeteria. Students should socially distance while waiting in a food line. Hand sanitizer and hand-sanitizing stations will be added to cafeterias at all school sites.

Parents may eat with their child/children with permission of the school principal or designated person. Parents are encouraged to limit the times they check their students out for lunch and/or drop-off lunch.



## Supplies

Students will be discouraged to share supplies such as pens, pencils, markers, scissors, or crayons. We will work to sanitize any supplies or tools needed to be used by multiple students.

## Water Fountains

Each school site will be equipped with water bottle filling stations. Students and staff members are asked to bring non-breakable water containers to school every day.

*Updated Aug 7, 2023*