

Inola Schools Safe Return and Continuity of Services for 2023 - 2024

As you are aware, the guidelines for dealing with COVID-19 have changed frequently. Because of this, we assume there will be times we have to adjust our guidelines to adequately address these changes. When we do, we will update the information below.

As we did during the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years, Inola will be open for in-person school attendance. We hope the following information helps answer many of the questions you may have regarding this.

Our goal will be to provide an 'as safe as possible experience' while will include a rich educational experience, with opportunities for social interaction and extracurricular activities. IPS will, as far as is allowed by Oklahoma State Law, adhere to guidelines provided by the Oklahoma Department of Health and the CDC.

What is the first day of school for students?

School will begin on August 9, 2023. This date will only change if ODH sends updated guidance on the reopening, but this is not anticipated.

Who will be required to wear face coverings?

In accordance with state law, face masks are not currently required at Inola. We recommend that non-vaccinated adults and students age 10 and up wear face coverings when physical distancing cannot be achieved, particularly on school buses. Students are encouraged to wear face coverings in areas with a high concentration of students where social distancing cannot be maintained. In the event the Governor declares a state of emergency, face coverings will be required. The mask should fully cover the mouth and nose unless eating or drinking. Parents and guests would then be required to wear a mask upon entering the building. Masks will not be provided for parents and guests.

Do we need to provide masks for our student or will one be provided?

If the ODH or CDC begin requiring masks, parents are expected to provide their student(s) with a mask. If the student age 10 or over arrives at school without a mask, the district will provide one mask, one time for that student, then additional masks will be available for purchase in the school office as supplies allow.

Will bus transportation be provided?

Yes, the district will provide bus transportation for all students. Based on current ODH guidelines, students are encouraged, but not required, to wear face coverings when riding the bus.

Diagnostic and Screening Testing

Our goal is for your student(s) to have as normal of a school day as possible while we also provide as much safety as possible. While we will not begin the year with daily screenings, if active cases of COVID19 increase and it is recommended by the ODH, we will return to them. If this occurs, when

students arrive at school each day, either by bus or parent, they will have a temperature screening before entering public spaces such as the cafeteria or gymnasium. Upon completing the screening, students will proceed to their designated area. Students will not remain in the same classroom all day but will be able to transition from one class to another, following social distancing as much as possible.

Will students at Inola still have extra classes like athletics, art, music, guidance and library?

Yes, students will continue to participate in activity classes, check out library books, and receive guidance and gifted instruction. Sporting events will be held according to OSSAA and ODH recommendations.

Will social distancing guidelines be observed?

Social distancing will be observed as much as possible but at times students will be closer than the recommended 3 feet apart. When social distancing requirements cannot be maintained such as class exchange time, etc., students will be encouraged to wear face coverings. We will redesign classrooms and cafeteria spaces to increase the space between students but cannot always guarantee it will be 3 feet. We encourage students to wear a mask and to not touch or breathe on one another.

Positive Tests/Isolation

In the event that a student tests positive for the virus, we will follow the latest guidance from the ODH on how long isolation is required. As best we can, we will notify parents if their child has been exposed to an individual who has tested positive for COVID19. We ask that parents who receive such a notification monitor their child's health and contact their family physician should they develop symptoms. If the OK Department of Health begins to enforce quarantines again, Inola Schools will comply.

What are my options, if I do not want my child to return to the traditional classroom?

Inola Public School will provide a digital option for 9th Grade through 12th Students. This would provide a total online educational program for students who did not feel comfortable returning to onsite instruction. Students may also choose a blended program that offers some online and some traditional classes. Parents will be asked to sign up for the virtual education program and commit to a minimum of a semester. The fall semester is August 9, 2023 to December 20, 2023. There is another page on the HS Website that better illustrates these options.

Full-Time Virtual Students and Attendance:

If a student is enrolled as a full-time virtual student, they need to login to Edgenuity for 6 hours per day. This keeps the student on track to finish the class by the end of the semester. For a virtual student to remain on roll and not dropped as a student, they will need to log into Edgenuity for a minimum of 6 hours per week and complete 25 activities. **Failure to do so for two consecutive weeks will result in the student being dropped as an Inola student.**

If students choose to do full-time virtual, will they be able to participate in extra-curricular activities?

Yes, students participating in full-time virtual learning will be able to participate in extra-curricular activities but will have to adhere to OSSAA guidelines.

Will we have an open house?

Yes, we will hold a normal Open House. This will be held on Monday, August 7th from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM. and will be open to all.

Will students be able to participate in extracurricular activities and sports in the fall?

Yes, we anticipate sports activities in the fall with possible modifications as required by the OSSAA. All uniforms and practice equipment will be washed and sanitized after each use.

Special precautions implemented in regard to cleaning, sanitizing, and ventilation

Sanitation and cleanliness will be a high priority for our district as we return in the fall. Last school year we made a large purchase of electrostatic disinfecting sprayers for each building and will be using them as needed. We will be encouraging staff to frequently disinfect frequently touched surfaces (door knobs, light switches, etc.) on a continuous basis throughout the day. Students will be encouraged to sanitize and wash their hands each time they leave and enter a new space. They will be reminded to cover their mouth if coughing or sneezing. Inola Schools have recently replaced multiple AC/Heater units which we believe have improved our ventilation system.

What will happen if a student comes to school sick?

If your child has a temperature of 100, do not send them to school. If a student comes to school and feels bad, the office will screen the student and check their temperature. If their temperature is over the ODH guidance of 100.4 or they show other symptoms such as coughing or difficulty breathing, the student will be sent home and will need to be fever free for 48 hours without medication before

returning to school. The student will be isolated in a designated area until the parent or guardian gets there to pick them up. When the child returns to school they will check in with the school office/monitor and be screened for temperature before attending class or going to any public areas with a note stating that they are no longer sick or showing symptoms associated with the COVID virus. On our website we have posted the SDE guidelines we will follow when there are concerns that a student has been exposed. These pages are titled, "What Do My Test Results Mean" and "When Can I Be Around Others".

How will you help fill any gaps my student has from the previous year?

Students will be assessed to determine individual strengths and weaknesses using programs we have purchased for this purpose. These assessments may determine if students need additional support. Tutoring and other aids will be provided to students throughout the year who need it. We are adding Faculty members to decrease the size of each class in an effort to provide more one-on-one attention. We are adding counseling staff to help address social and emotional needs students may have.

What happens if we have school closures again?

If schools close again, a plan for at-home digital learning has been developed. Teachers and students will utilize Edgenuity, and Google Classroom to deliver virtual and online lessons. Students will learn how to use these Learning Systems by participating in lessons throughout the week while at school. We will include approximately one Virtual Day a month in our calendar to maintain the ability to move to their option more fluidly if needed for longer periods. Blended learning that includes both on-site traditional instruction and digital instruction will become the norm. This approach will allow students who might be ill or quarantined for a limited amount of time to continue their education even if they are not physically present in the classroom.

In the event of a temporary school closure, or the determination of the virtual program, how will the district serve students with special needs?

Parents of children with disabilities on a Section 504 Accommodation Plan or on an Individualized Education Program (IEP) will want to meet with their team to determine which program is best suited for their child. Inola Public Schools will provide services to meet the needs of the child according to their individual plan. A variety of methods will be used to meet these needs. Each family will be contacted to determine the best plan to meet their student's needs. For additional assistance, please contact Tracy Mootry at 918-543-3104.