

Reviewed: September 21, 2023

# Safe Return to Learn Plan

## Canadian Public Schools-**Final**



2021-24

Superintendent  
Michael Broyles  
Board Approved July 5, 2021

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## **Canadian Public Schools Safe Return to Learn Plan SY21-23**

Life changed for everyone beginning in March 2020 when the world experienced an event like no other we had ever known. The worldwide pandemic of COVID-19 caused us to rethink almost everything in our lives, including how we would educate our children. Our immediate and number one priority has always been to support our students, staff and our community. We have accomplished this by providing food in unprecedented quantities, internet access for distance and virtual learning, student and staff devices, improved cleaning protocols, personal protective equipment, in person instruction, and a variety of resources for social and emotional support. I cannot thank the staff enough for all of their efforts in the 2020-2021 school year.

As we navigated through the 2020-2021 school year with great success, we understand that there is still much to be accomplished as we prepare for the 2021-2022 school year and beyond. We will continue to rely on research and support from the Center for Disease Control, Oklahoma State Department of Health, and Oklahoma State Department of Education as well as our community.

As required by the receipt of ESSER III-ARP funds, stakeholder input is critical. We welcome the opportunity to continue this important work with our parents, students, staff and stakeholders. We greatly appreciate your feedback as we navigate this next phase of recovery from COVID-19.

Sincerely,  
Michael Broyles  
Michael Broyles  
Superintendent

The District will be required to have two plans as a condition to receive the \$1,269,322.15 of American Rescue Plan- Elementary and Secondary Relief Fund (ARP-ESSER III). The first plan is called the Safe Return to Learn Plan. The second plan is the ARP ESSER Plan. Each plan has various requirements with some overlap of requirements found in both plans. For convenience, the District will combine these two plans and make modifications as needed and/or required. The Safe Return to Learn Plan will be posted on the website by June 22, 2021 and the ARP ESSER Plan will be posted on the website by August 19, 2021.

The Canadian PS Safe Return to Learn Plan has three parts: Stakeholder Input, Safe Conditions for all Students and Staff, and Continuing Review and Input. Each section will be addressed in the plan separately for clarity and ease of revision as necessary. In the ARP Act, each LEA receiving ESSER funds is required to develop and make publicly available a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services on its website. The District shared the original Return to Learn Plan SY21 with parents, students, staff and other stakeholders several times last year as a guide for decision making throughout the year. As the conditions and circumstances changed, the plan evolved to include these modifications. The new Safe Return to Learn Plan and the ARP ESSER Plan will do much the same with the addition of how dollars are proposed to be spent.

The requirements for the ARP ESSER III Plan outline the use of the ARP ESSER III funds. The requirements of this plan must include the following:

- The extent to which and how the funds will be used to implement prevention and mitigation strategies that are, to the greatest extent practicable, consistent with the most recent CDC guidance on reopening schools, in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning;
- How the District will use the 20% of funds (\$253,864.43) reserved to address the academic impact of lost instructional time through the implementation of evidence-based interventions, such as summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, afterschool programs, or extended school year.
- How the District will spend its remaining ARP ESSER II funds;
- How the District will ensure that interventions will address the academic impact of lost instructional time, will respond to the academic, social, emotional and mental health needs of all students, and particularly those students disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, including students from low-income families, students of color, English learners, children with disabilities, students experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, and migratory students.

We will continue communicating the new plans for SY21-24 via the District website [www.canadian.k12.ok.us](http://www.canadian.k12.ok.us) In addition to the Safe Return to Learn Plan, the District must also develop a required ARP ESSER Plan. These plans may be combined into one, but each plan must describe how the District will ensure a continuity of services, including but not limited to



services to address students' academic needs and students and staff members' social, emotional, mental health and other needs, which may include student health and food services.

### **Part I- Stakeholder Input**

The District is required to seek public comment and take feedback into account during the development of the Safe Return to Learn Plan. The Safe Return to Learn Plan must be published to the District's website by June 22nd. This plan must be updated every six months and must seek and take into account public input for the plan.

### **Part II- Safe Conditions for All Students and Staff**

Canadian Public Schools elected to provide in person instruction for the entirety of the 20-21 school year. Families were also provided the choice of a full virtual option and/or blended learning models. As we move forward into the 21-22 school year, it will continue to be important to follow the guidelines provided by the [CDC for the safe operation of schools](#) and prevention of COVID-19. When making decisions about prevention efforts the school will take into account the number of cases among students, teachers and staff and number of people in quarantine, how well people have complied with prevention strategies and the levels of community transmission. While much more information is known about COVID-19, [variants](#) may impact schools in ways not yet known.

**A. Universal and correct use of masks** [CDC Guidance](#) for wearing a mask can be found at the link provided. The CDC recommends the use of multilayered cloth masks or surgical masks (one use and discard). More information regarding masks effectiveness can be found on the [CDC website](#) as well as [community transmission numbers](#). Canadian PS will follow the guidance of the [Oklahoma State Department of Health COVID-19 Alert System](#), local Emergency Manager, as well as district numbers of quarantines and isolation to determine when masks should be worn by students and staff:

- a. Alert Levels and mask requirements:
  - i. Green- Not required
  - ii. Yellow-Recommended, but not required
  - iii. Orange-Strongly recommended, but not required.
  - iv. Red- Strongly recommended, but not required. Social distancing will be required
- b. Students or staff that have medical conditions or disabilities that do not allow for the use of masks are asked to contact their building principal and necessary accommodations will be made.
- c. [Signs](#) will be posted recommending the use of masks and how to properly wear a mask.
- d. The school will provide a mask for any student or staff member who needs one.
- e. Staff members and students 12 years of age and older that have been [fully vaccinated](#), are not required to wear a mask on any alert level- barring any unusual circumstance with a variant of the virus.

**B. Modifying Facilities to Enable Physical Distancing and appropriate Ventilation-** the standard will be to remain six feet apart when possible.

- a. Rooms have been cleared of extraneous furnishings to make the most of floor space to socially distance students as much as possible.
- b. Individual student desks have been incorporated into many classrooms.
- c. Canadian PS will continue to monitor class sizes and minimize as much as possible.
- d. Grouping of students may be utilized to reduce the risk of exposure- particularly at the elementary level.
- e. Building upgrades are ongoing to improve air quality and ventilation.
- f. Cafeterias and floors have been marked for social distancing (3ft), grab and go/pre-packaged meals may be offered, staggered lunch schedules, cleaning between lunch services, and meals in the classroom are options used at this time.
- g. Clear shields and barriers are available for staff and office areas.
- h. Building capacity may be reduced in consultation with Oklahoma State Department of Health and local health officials.
- i. Recesses may be staggered to accommodate social distancing guidelines.
- j. Every effort will be made to increase outside air by opening windows and doors as long as it does not pose a safety or health risk to students and staff.
- k. Visitors to buildings may be limited as necessary to reduce the risk of exposure for staff and students.
- l. Screening protocols may be implemented if necessary due to increased COVID cases in the district. This would include symptom and temperature self checks before entering any district facility.
- m. Out of country travel may require quarantine up to 14 days for staff or students depending on the area travelled and the level risk associated with the location. Staff and eligible students that have been fully vaccinated will not be required to quarantine after international travel.
- n. Athletics and extracurricular activities will be adjusted as necessary.

**C. Handwashing and Respectful Etiquette**

- a. All students and staff are asked to [effectively wash](#) their hands frequently throughout the day to prevent the spread of disease. Procedures will be established for frequent hand hygiene.
- b. Hand sanitizer will be available in congregate areas as well as in classrooms for student and staff use.
- c. [Covering coughs and sneezes](#) with the elbow or a tissue are encouraged and washing hands or utilizing hand sanitizer afterward is advised. [Signs](#) will be posted instructing students and staff on how to properly cover coughs and sneezes.



- d. Wash hands after exposure to high touch surfaces.
- e. Sharing of devices, toys, utensils and supplies will be limited to the extent possible.
- f. Stay home when sick or when you have been in close contact with someone who is sick. If [COVID-19](#) is known or suspected and you have not received full vaccination status, you should self isolate for 10 days since the date symptoms first appeared.
- g. You should not come to school with a fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or above.

#### **D. Cleaning and Healthy Facilities**

- a. Canadian PS will continue to deploy enhanced cleaning protocols with atomizers and disinfectants in congregate settings and high traffic areas.
- b. Desks and common surfaces will be cleaned frequently throughout the day.
- c. Buses will be disinfected after each route in the mornings and afternoons.
- d. Classrooms will be provided with disinfectant spray for surface cleanings.

#### **E. Contact Tracing**

- a. The District will work with the local health department and conduct contact tracing on District property and transportation as much as possible. Cameras and seating charts will be utilized as necessary to determine close contacts.
- b. Someone is considered close contact if they were around the person within 6 feet for 15 minutes of time (cumulative) over the previous 48 hours. If a student (12 y/o and up) or staff member has been identified as a close contact, they will not be required to quarantine if they have reached [full vaccination status](#) (10 days since the last administration of the vaccine. This would be the second of two for Pfizer and Moderna or a single dose of Johnson and Johnson).
- c. Positive cases and exposures to COVID-19 will be recorded in the Oklahoma State Department of Education portal as required.
- d. Anyone suspected of having symptoms of COVID-19 will be asked to wear a mask and be isolated until they can safely leave the facility.

#### **F. Diagnostic and Screening Testing**

- a. Canadian Public Schools is unique in that our Administration Building houses the Pittsburg County Health Department. This proximity provides opportunity for students and staff to receive tests for COVID-19 at no additional cost.
- b. Choctaw Nation has also been a great community resource in offering free screenings for both citizens and non-citizens of Choctaw Nation.
- c. Students and staff should stay home if they are sick or have been exposed to COVID-19. The District encourages consulting with your physician and seeking out testing.



- d. Tiered approach of diagnostic testing
  - i. Person with COVID Symptoms-
    - 1. 10 days of isolation and,
    - 2. 24 hours with fever- without medication and,
    - 3. Other symptoms have improved.
  - ii. Close contact with COVID (within 6ft of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24 hour period)-
    - 1. Quarantine 14 days
    - 2. If fully vaccinated or can prove previous diagnosis with COVID-19 within 3 months, quarantine will not be necessary.
- e. Should screening testing become necessary, the District will consult with the Pittsburg County Health Department. No testing will be conducted without the express written consent of the parent/guardian.

**G. Efforts to Provide Vaccine for the Benefit of Students, Staff Members and the Community**

- a. According to CDC guidance, [fully vaccinated](#) people can resume activities without wearing a mask or physically distancing themselves.
- b. Pittsburg County Health Department and Choctaw Nation Clinic provide opportunities to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.
- c. The District will host a vaccination clinic for students 12 years and older as well as any adults in the community that wish to be vaccinated in conjunction with the Pittsburg County Health Department. Information on vaccination clinics will be communicated via social media, Google Classroom email and school district website.
- d. Any staff member wishing to receive a vaccination will be provided with the opportunity to do so and with no affect on personal leave time.

**H. Appropriate Accommodations for students with disabilities**

- a. Virtual learning options have been made available to accommodate students who have underlying medical conditions.
- b. Staff working with students in situations where social distancing is not feasible will be offered additional personal protective equipment.
- c. In the event the district must implement masks, students and staff with disabilities will be provided appropriate accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

**I. Coordination with State and Local Health Officials**

- a. Canadian Public Schools will coordinate our local Pittsburg County Health Department, as well as the Oklahoma State Department of Health.
- b. Canadian Public Schools will consult with The Oklahoma State Department of Education and comply with requirements set forth.

- c. Canadian Public Schools will consult with the Pittsburg County Emergency Management Office.

**Part III-Required Continuing Review and Public Input**

Canadian Public Schools will consult with District stakeholders including staff, students, parents and community members every six months during the months of June and December until the expiration of the plan. The plan will be shared widely and a survey will be conducted for stakeholder input. Email addresses and names will be gathered from respondents so that follow up questions can be asked if necessary and to document participation.