

Oneida School District School COVID-19 Plan

Overview:

Oneida School District's top priority is to ensure the overall health and well-being of our students. It is the District's intent to provide a traditional instructional model as long as it can be done while providing a relatively safe / healthy environment for students and staff. Many students benefit from face to face, structured classroom versus students participating in online education delivery methods. In order to have face-to-face instruction while ensuring the safest environment possible, it will be necessary to have safety and health protocols in place.

The purpose of the plan is to give an overview of safety protocols for various school settings and activities. To help with the transition back to school, we ask parents to review these safety protocols with their children. Teachers and staff will also review and monitor these protocols as students come to school. All teachers and staff will receive training on how to implement safety / health protocols. Some of the protocols will vary slightly from school to school to be age appropriate and activity specific.

There are three contingency levels. The School Board will move to different levels according to need and numbers of COVID cases/quarantines. This plan is subject to change as conditions change and new information becomes available.

Common Terms and Definitions:

Definition of Exposure: To be inside of 6 feet for a period of more than 15 minutes with a person who has been tested positive for COVID.

Quarantine of Students: Students who have been exposed (by definition) will be quarantined at home for 5 days from the time of exposure. If during that 5-day quarantine they have not demonstrated any COVID symptoms, they may return to school and are to wear a mask (even if mandatory mask wearing has been removed) and social distance and closely monitor their symptoms for an additional 9 days. If they have developed symptoms or tested positive for COVID, they are to quarantine for 10 days. If, on day 10, they have not had any symptoms for the previous 3 days, they may return to school. If they continue to have symptoms, they stay quarantined until doctors release them or they have 3 days without symptoms.

Quarantine of Employees: Employees of the school district are considered to be essential workers. If they have been exposed, they may continue to work if they remain free from symptoms (wearing a mask and social distancing). If they start to have symptoms, they must quarantine for 14 calendar days or receive a negative result on their COVID test. Essential workers can return on the 11th day of their 14-day quarantine IF these two conditions are met: The worker has been quarantined 10 full days - Ex: If you receive a positive test on a Friday, your first "full day" of quarantine begins on Saturday and If days 8, 9, and 10 of the quarantine remain symptom-free.

Physical Distancing Measures: The primary mode of transmission of COVID-19 is through respiratory droplets by persons in close proximity. Physical distancing (sometimes referred to as social distancing) is simply the act of keeping people separated with the goal of limiting spread of contagion between individuals. In many school settings, 6 feet between students is not feasible without limiting the number of students. Social distancing will be enforced to the extent possible.

Face coverings/masks: A covering that covers mouth and nose areas may be required depending COVID numbers, quarantines, or sensitive situations. Studies show it may not prevent or reduce the potential of an individual contracting COVID who is wearing the mask, but wearing a mask does reduce the amount of airborne moisture droplets. Thus mask wearing shrinks the size and number of moisture particles in the air. The moisture droplets are the primary means of the virus spread. It should fit snugly against the face surface areas. Touching masked areas is discouraged. Frequent washing (or renewal) of the mask is strongly encouraged. We ask all students to have their own personal masks. However, the District will provide one, if needed.

Hand Sanitizer: Hand sanitizer should contain a minimum of 70% alcohol. For classrooms with younger children, washing of hands is preferred. Hand sanitizer in lower grades should be dispensed by a teacher and kept out of the reach of children.

Contingency Level I (Low or No Spread): At this level, proactive and preventative safety and health protocols will be in place for students and employees to follow. Group activities will be held to a minimum or not take place. Social distancing will be honored to the extent possible. Face coverings/masks may be mandated in certain settings or based on COVID numbers. All school employees will be trained and monitor implementation of safety/health protocols.

Contingency Level II (Minimal / Moderate Spread): Schools will move to an A/B schedule with half of the students attending school on Monday and Wednesday and the other half attending Tuesday and Thursday. This configuration may be modified as conditions warrant. This level will minimize student numbers and increase social distancing. On days when students are not physically in school, students will work on assignments from home or view recorded instruction from teachers. Working with the Southeast Idaho Health Department, the local School Board will determine when the local risk of contracting COVID-19 is significant enough to move to an A / B schedule because exposure to COVID-19 is significant enough to take additional precautions. At this level, more intensive mitigation strategies will take place. Masks may be required in most settings.

Contingency Level III (Substantial Spread): Working with the Southeast Idaho Health Department, the local School Board will determine when the local risk of contracting COVID-19 is significant enough to close schools. This will be based on the number of confirmed cases in the school and community. At this closure level, all instruction will be done online. Please note that there may be a situation where one or more schools are closed while others remain open.

Infra-red “No Touch” Thermometers: These thermometers infer a person’s temperature from thermal radiation from the body, usually the forehead.

General Contingency Actions and Activities:

Please note that each school may have a different level of contingency. For example: Stone Elementary might still be on Level I while Malad Elementary might be on Level III. This will be determined by each local situation and in consultation with the Southeast Idaho Health Department and direction from the School Board.

Level I:

- The first line of defense is the home. We ask all parents to daily monitor the health of their children. Check for cough, fever, chills, muscle pain, shortness of breath, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell. If a student is tested positive for COVID, please keep your child home for 14 days or are symptom free and released from doctor’s care. They may return to school if the test is negative or all symptoms have subsided.
- All employees and students will be asked to follow proactive and preventative safety/health protocols.
- Desks will be arranged to provide physical distancing to the extent possible.
- Liquid hand soap, hand sanitizer with at least 70% alcohol, paper towels, and no-touch trash cans will be provided in all bathrooms, classrooms, and frequently trafficked areas.
- Signs will be posted in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread of COVID-19.
- Signage will be posted, and COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols will be discussed with students.
- Frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned/disinfected at least daily, and shared objects will be cleaned/disinfected after each use.
- Students (depending on age appropriateness) and staff will be allowed to bring hand sanitizer.
- “No touch” temperature checks will be available. If a student is found to have a temperature, they will be checked a second time in 30 minutes. If he or she still has a temperature of 100.3F or greater, they will be placed in a quarantine room until parents can arrange to have the student picked up.

- We ask all students to have their own personal masks. We ask that masks be cleaned at home at the end of each day.
- Face masks/coverings are strongly recommended, but may be mandates based on the number of COVID cases.
- Students will be encouraged to stay 6 feet away from teachers and staff.
- Employees are strongly recommended to wear a mask.
- Students and employees will be allowed to bring their own personal water containers.
- Students will be allowed to eat lunch and breakfast in other locations of the school, not just in the cafeteria. Lunch times may be staggered. There may be a “Closed Campus” restriction put into place based on COVID numbers.
- Air exchange systems will be monitored to ensure ventilation systems are operating properly. Circulation of outdoor air will be increased as much as possible, as long as this does not pose a safety or health risk to students or staff
- Deep cleaning of schools will be conducted prior to students/staff returning. Cleaning of high-touch surfaces will be scheduled during the day.
- For Special Education settings, a clear facemask, shield, gloves, portable Plexiglas shields, and additional cleaning supplies may be necessary. Attempts to meet physical distancing guidelines should meet the needs of the individual child and may require creative solutions, often on a case-by-case basis.
- Special Education speech students may use clear face shields so mouths can be seen by the teacher and students. The clear face shields will be provided by the District.

Level II:

- The School Board and District / school administrators will work closely with Southeast Idaho Health Department to determine when a shift to this level becomes necessary.
- All protocols described in Level I will be continued.
- At this level, more intensive mitigation strategies will take place. Masks may be required in more or all settings.
- All school campuses will be closed during lunch hours, i.e., students will not be allowed to leave school grounds.
- An A / B schedule will be implemented; this schedule will allow only one half of the students to be physically at school at any given time. Half of the students will come to school on Monday / Wednesday, and the other half will come to school Tuesday / Thursday. This schedule will allow more social distancing and minimize the risk of spread of COVID-19 due to smaller group size and less congregating. This configuration may change as the conditions dictate.
- On days when students are not physically at school, assignments and activities will be posted on their Schoology page or Google Classroom link.
- Parents are asked to monitor and support their children to stay current with classroom assignments.
- Teachers and administrators will work to design maximum classroom spacing.
- Music, PE and similar classes will use strategies to reduce transmission caused from virus-containing droplets.
- Nonessential visitors will have only limited access to the schools. The presence of volunteers for classroom activities, mystery readers, cafeteria support, and other activities will be limited.
- Recess times will be staggered, and/or separate recess areas will be assigned by class.
- Hallway use will be restricted. Access to lockers will be minimized.
- No touch temperature checks will be conducted throughout the day.
- Virtual group events, gatherings, or meetings will be encouraged in lieu of field trips, assemblies, special performances, spirit nights, etc., where possible. Social distancing of 6 feet between people will be enforced to the extent possible if/when events are held. The number of students allowed to gather at an activity may be limited to allow for social distancing.

- Special Education students may meet with aides on virtual days and attend core classes while physically at school. Elementary Special Education students may work with Special Educators when in the school setting. Secondary Special Education students may receive online instruction.
- All students requiring physical therapy will attend school on the same day at the same time.

Level III:

- School Board Members and District and school administrators will work closely with Southeast Idaho Health Department to determine when the shift to this level is necessary. We recognize that there are many limitations and problems with this delivery system. However, if it is necessary to move this direction for the safety of our students and employees, we may have to implement this plan.
- Schools will move to a soft closure with all instruction done online. Students will have Zoom instruction and find assignments on Schoology and Google Classroom pages.
- All students will be issued a Chromebook with which to participate in Zoom classrooms and to complete classroom assignments online.
- Parents are asked to monitor and support their children to stay current with classroom assignments.
- In some controlled situations, students may meet with a teacher for testing or to receive specific academic or emotional support.
- Student virtual attendance is expected and will be monitored. Turning in of assignments will be one way in which student attendance will be monitored. Attendance may also be monitored during virtual classroom time. Students will be expected to attend virtual classrooms during teacher instruction hours. In some cases, virtual instruction may be recorded so it can be viewed later.

Transportation of Students:

Level I:

- Students who can find alternate options to being transported to school by District buses will be encouraged to do so.
- Parents will be encouraged to check for symptoms of COVID-19 in their students prior to the students being dropped off at the bus stop.
- Social distancing will take place on buses to the extent possible. Students will sit every other row to the extent possible. Family members can sit together.
- Bus routes and schedules will run as in the past.
- Riders will be expected to wear face coverings while on the bus or during mask mandates.
- Bus drivers will be expected to wear masks or shields.
- Students will receive hand sanitizer when entering the bus.
- High-touch areas of the buses will be cleaned following each route.
- Field trips will be limited in scope and location.

Level II:

- The same safety / health protocols will be in place as described in Level I.
- Quarantine steps will be implemented for all students having potential COVID-19 exposure or showing any symptoms of COVID-19.
- Sport trips will follow Level I protocols. Some trips may be canceled due to high frequency of COVID-19 cases in some regions.
- Field trips will be eliminated.

Level III:

- No bus transportation will be provided.
- Delivering of meals to area drop offs may occur.

School Meals:

Level I:

- Students will be encouraged to wash hands before and after meal service.
- Standard operating procedures will be implemented while preventative measures as described in the safety/health protocols will be taken.
- Cleaning of cafeterias and high-touch surfaces will be done throughout the school day.
- Regular hot menu service will be offered in the cafeteria.
- Students will eat in the cafeteria to the extent possible.
- Lunch times may be staggered, and serving times may be expanded.
- Students may be offered the option of eating outside (weather permitting).
- Touchless hand sanitizer will be used by all students at the beginning of all serving lines.

Level II:

- All applicable Level I protocols will be implemented.
- Only disposable plates, utensils, etc., will be used.
- Spaced lines to enter the cafeteria and serving lines will be marked (to the extent practicable). Entrance and exit flow paths will be designated.
- Cleaning of cafeterias and high-touch surfaces will be conducted throughout the school day.
- Students will be allowed to eat meals in alternative areas of the school or outside, weather permitting.
- All school campuses will be closed during lunch times.

Level III:

- Meals may be offered on a pick-up basis at school or at meal drop off points.

Between Class Transitioning:

Level I:

- All general safety/health protocols will be followed, including social distancing where possible.
- All students and staff will be strongly recommended to wear face covering.
- Cleaning of hallways and high-touch surfaces will be conducted throughout the school day.
- The hallways will be marked with designated lanes to keep students separated, to the extent practicable.
- Locker use will be minimized, where possible

Level II:

- All applicable Level I protocols will be implemented.
- Face coverings will be required.
- Students will be separated, and congregating of groups of students will be minimized.

Level III

- School buildings will be closed
- In some controlled situations, students may meet with a teacher for testing or to receive specific academic or emotional support.
- Group gatherings, including sports and sport practices, will not be held or will be in line with state sanctioned guidelines.

Group Gatherings

Level I

- Large group gatherings will be discouraged. When a large group gathering becomes necessary, social distancing and mask guidelines are to be followed. Event and gathering times or dates will be staggered whenever possible.
- Participation in sporting events may take place when sanctioned by the Southeast Idaho Health Department. Some events may be canceled due to the high incidence of COVID -19 in the city/county where the event is to be held.
- Spectators will be expected to wear masks and will be encouraged to honor 6-foot spacing from those who are not immediate family members.

Level II

- Half of the student body will be at school at any given time.
- Southeast Idaho Health Department recommendations for group gatherings will be followed.
- Congregation of students in parking lots and school common areas will be discouraged.
- Groups will be encouraged to use large rooms and open spaces and maintain social distancing.
- Sporting events may occur if they meet guidelines of IHSAA and Southeast Idaho Health Department.
- Spectator numbers will be limited and will follow guideline restrictions

Level III

- Southeast Idaho Health Department guidelines regarding group gatherings will be followed.
- Sporting events will be cancelled or will be in line with state sanctioned guidelines.

Cleaning and Disinfecting Protocols:

- The main mode of COVID-19 spread is from person to person, primarily via droplet transmission. For this reason, strategies for infection prevention will center around this form of spread, including physical distancing, face coverings, and hand hygiene.
- Surfaces that are used frequently, such as drinking fountains, door handles, sinks, faucet handles, etc., will be cleaned and disinfected at least twice daily and as often as possible.
- Bathrooms will receive frequent cleaning and disinfection.
- Shared equipment, including computer equipment, keyboards, art supplies, and play or gym equipment, will be disinfected frequently.
- During the day, high-touch surface areas in classrooms, hallways, restrooms, and other commonly visited areas will be cleaned with a disinfecting spray or wiped at least three times daily.
- At the end of the day, high-touch surface areas in classrooms, hallways, restrooms, and other common school areas will be cleaned with a disinfecting spray or wipe.

- Students will be asked to wash hands a minimum of twice daily. Efforts will be made to encourage students to wash hands more frequently.
- If it is known that an exposure to COVID-19 has taken place, the area that individual visited will be closed and sanitized.
- Students will be taught safety/health protocols to follow when in the classroom, hallways, restrooms, and common areas of the school.
- Cleaning protocols will be posted in classrooms and hallways.
- Students will be expected to wear masks on the bus while traveling to and from school.
- Students will be asked to stay 6 feet from teachers and staff. In situations that might require closer proximity, employees and students may be required to wear face masks.
- Health screenings of employees and students for COVID-19 symptoms will be conducted daily upon entry to the facility, including a check for low-grade fever with no-touch thermometer and/or daily symptom checking.
- Staff and students will be encouraged to bring their own water and water containers to minimize use and touching of water fountains.

Protocol For Confirmed COVID-19 cases

If a student in a classroom is confirmed to have contracted COVID-19, exposed students and their parents will be notified. Students who have been exposed will follow the quarantine guidelines defined above.

Vulnerable Employees and Students

- Students who are high risk or have a high-risk home setting may opt to have educational services provided online. Online options will have set entry and exit dates set by each school.
- The District will make every effort to create a safe environment for all employees. Employees who have high-risk situations will have needs addressed on a case-by-case basis. Three intervention levels will be considered:
 - School Environment: Employees who have moderate risk levels may still be able to work in classrooms with greater safety/health protocols in place. Examples of these heightened protocols may include more frequent hand washing, high touch areas cleaned more frequently, hand sanitizer readily available, and all students in that classroom being expected to wear masks throughout the day.
 - Vulnerable students may be allowed to transition to other classrooms at times other than the main transition times.
- Unavailable Work Opportunity: Employees who have medical conditions that place them at high risk may qualify for the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA or Act), which may provide some financial compensation due to the work restrictions and high health risks.
- Some students may not be able to physically attend school due to health risks that exist with the student themselves or home health situations that would cause severe health risks to those living at the same residence. These students will be provided the opportunity to have online educational options.

Employees whose jobs require close student contact

- Masks (or face shields) will be required of both staff and students.
- In situations where the student may not be capable of wearing a mask, services may have to be delivered online.

Absenteeism of Students and Staff as Related to COVID-19

- Student virtual attendance is expected and will be monitored. Turning in of assignments will be one way in which student attendance will be monitored. Attendance may also be monitored during virtual classroom time. Students will be expected to attend virtual classrooms during teacher instruction hours. In some cases, virtual instruction may be recorded so it can be viewed later.
- Parents are asked to monitor and support their children to stay current with classroom assignments.
- Students will be given an excused absence if they have been exposed to COVID-19 during the quarantine period.
- Teachers and staff will follow the definition of exposure and quarantine. Teachers will use sick leave as defined by memo.

Communications Plan

- The Oneida School District (OSD) will work closely with the Southeast Idaho Health Department to help ensure students have safe and healthy learning environments.
- The OSD School Board will monitor local COVID-19 trends to guide response and actions. The Board may hold special emergency sessions to respond to changing conditions.
- The OSD Board, and employees will place the health, safety, and educational needs of students as its priority.
- Social media tools, such as emails, Swift Reach and Facebook, will be used to communicate with parents, students, and employees.

***Recognized Health Risk Categories:**

- People 65 years of age and older.
- Blood disorders (i.e., sickle cell disease or on blood thinners).
- Severe obesity (i.e., body mass index [BMI] of 40 or higher)
- Chronic kidney disease as defined by a doctor. Patient has been told to avoid or reduce the dose of medications because of kidney disease or is under treatment for kidney disease, including receiving dialysis.
- Chronic liver disease as defined by a doctor (i.e., cirrhosis, chronic hepatitis). Patient has been told to avoid or reduce the dose of medications because liver disease or is under treatment for liver disease.
- Compromised immune system (immunosuppression) (i.e., seeing a doctor for cancer and treatment such as chemotherapy or radiation, received an organ or bone marrow transplant, taking high doses of corticosteroids or other immunosuppressant medications, HIV or AIDS).
- Endocrine disorders (i.e., diabetes mellitus).
- Metabolic disorders (i.e., inherited metabolic disorders and mitochondrial disorders).
- Heart disease (i.e., congenital heart disease, congestive heart failure and coronary artery disease).
- Lung disease (i.e., asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, chronic bronchitis or emphysema, or other chronic conditions associated with impaired lung function or that require home oxygen).
- Neurological and neurologic and neurodevelopment conditions [i.e., disorders of the brain, spinal cord, peripheral nerve, and muscle such as cerebral palsy, epilepsy (seizure disorders), stroke, intellectual disability, moderate to severe developmental delay, muscular dystrophy, or spinal cord injury].