



## Justus-Tiawah Public School

### Return to Learn 2.0

2021-22

After successfully navigating the 2020-2021 school year in a traditional in-person format, we appreciate our JT family's support and understanding with our unprecedented situation. We are extremely grateful to have the opportunity to serve you and your children.

The following 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.

Over the past year or so there has 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 school environment possible.

*Disclosure: This plan contains practices and procedures recommended/ or required to assist our school's re-opening 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 offering the following delivery choices for the 2021-2022 School Year. These options were created to provide choice and flexibility for JT families.

## OPTION #1 – ALL IN-PERSON/AT-SCHOOL LEARNING (Option Available Pre-K – 8)

In this option 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

\*\*\*When necessitated by COVID-19 conditions, At-School Learning will move to Distance Learning facilitated virtually via the Google Classroom Management Platform. Teachers will continue to introduce new content and assess/grade student progress.\*\*\*

*Note: All students will be enrolled in Option #1 unless notified otherwise.*

## OPTION #2 – ALL VIRTUAL LEARNING THROUGH Wildcat Virtual PROGRAM (Option Available 2 –8)

Available to grades 2-4, in this option students will:

- Remain enrolled in Justus-Tiawah Public Schools
- Access learning activities via an online platform (We are in the process of reviewing platforms that will be utilized)
- Have progress monitored by a certified Justus-Tiawah Public Schools teacher
- Receive supplemental instructional support for coursework from a certified Justus-Tiawah Public Schools teacher
- Require at-home parental guidance and support during learning activities in grades K-6
- Have access to guidance services, media centers, and other student programs as needed
- Receive technology device and internet access support as needed

**\*\*\*All students will initially be enrolled in person students must opt-in to the Wildcat Virtual Program by contacting your child's respective office between July 16th and August 1st. Once a student has signed up for this option, the student will be locked into the Wildcat Virtual Program for the entire first quarter.\*\*\***

## OPTION #3 – BLENDED LEARNING (Option Available Grades 5th-8th ONLY)

In this option students will:

- Remain enrolled in Justus-Tiawah Public Schools
- Attend school daily for a portion of the school day while completing remaining courses via an online platform (We are in the process of reviewing platforms that will be utilized).
- Interact directly with teachers and peers
- Engage in a variety of learning experiences
- Be eligible to participate in school-sponsored activities and athletics
- Access guidance services, media centers, and other student programs as needed
- Receive technology device and internet access support as needed

**\*\*\*All students will initially be enrolled in person students must opt-in to the Wildcat Virtual Program by contacting your child's respective office between July 16th and August 1st. Once a student has signed up for this option, the student will be locked into the Wildcat Virtual Program for the entire first quarter.\*\*\***

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

At this time we are happy to announce that at this time we will start the school year on a more traditional date (August 12), attend school for in-person learning five day a week, and have four built-in snow days next year. [2021-2022 School Calendar](#)

The information presented in this document is shared so that we can begin school with a shared understanding of our responsibility in keeping our students and staff safe from COVID-19. Although it is impossible to eliminate all risk, the goal is to maintain a layered approach to reducing the risk of spread in our schools. These practices are flexible and can be adapted or changed quickly depending on the current nature of the pandemic and the latest information from state and local health agencies.

Guidance published by the American Academy of Pediatrics states, “all policy considerations for the coming school year should start with a goal of having students physically present in school.” The AAP also provides a variety of reasons why schools are fundamental to the overall health and development of children and adolescents. From the instructional aspect to social and emotional wellness, as well as providing meals, school services, and physical activity, schools play a critical role in the lives of students and in the overall health of a community.

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

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 for fever and/or other symptoms associated with COVID-19 prior to students' arrival at school each day. At Open House a checklist will be provided to parents for home use. It is imperative that students stay home if they have a fever or symptoms related to COVID-19. 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 their child as soon as possible.

People with COVID-19 have reported a variety of symptoms - ranging from mild to severe. Symptoms may appear anywhere from 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. Families should monitor children and should not send children to school if they have one or more of the following symptoms:

- Fever
- Chills
- Cough
- Headache
- Loss of smell or taste
- Sore throat
- Nausea or vomiting
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Muscle or body aches
- Congestion or runny nose

- Diarrhea

## Exposure and Return to School After COVID-19

Students or staff who come into close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual will be asked to self-quarantine. They may return to school after:

- 14 days and they are symptom free (Parent calls office to notify secretary of the choice for 14 day option) **OR**
- 10 days and they are symptom free for all ten days (No further action required) **OR**
- 7 days and symptom free for all seven days with negative test taken on day five, six or seven (Check in through office with copy of negative test result with valid dates). Note: At this time, in-home results are not accepted for school re-entry. PCR or Antigen tests performed by a physician or health care professional are the accepted tests for re-entry.

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).

No student who has proof of vaccination for COVID-19 will be quarantined. Neither will any student who has proof from a doctor that they have actually had the virus within the past three months.

Any student or staff member who tests positive or has COVID-19 symptoms may return to school after:

- 24 hours with no fever **AND**
- Respiratory symptoms have improved **AND**
- 10 days have passed since the first symptoms appeared

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

Any student or staff member who tested positive for COVID-19 but had no symptoms can return to school after:

- 10 days have passed since the test

[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 students and staff not fully vaccinated. However, due to the minimal current COVID-19 cases in our county, face coverings will be optional for students and teachers in the fall of 2021. This will be reevaluated periodically, in consultation with the local

health department and may be amended if COVID-19 case numbers increase in our area or the governor declares a state of emergency based on Senate Bill 658.

## **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.

## **Bus Transportation**

Students riding the bus will be socially distanced to the extent possible. Students will be assigned a seat on the bus should contact tracing become an issue. 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 are 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 to have temperature checked. Parents will not be permitted to escort children into the building. 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. Parents and visitors will be prohibited from entering hallways, classrooms, cafeterias, gymnasiums, and other common areas unless approved by the building principal.

**For the first two days of school only, pre-kindergarten, Kindergarten, and new students to JT parents *may, if absolutely necessary*, walk their student to class. However, after the first two days, adults will not be allowed to go to classrooms or be in hallways unless there are special circumstances.**

## **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 in the process of exploring social and emotional development programs to implement as we realize the even greater importance during this difficult time.

## **Recess**

At this time we are not planning on having any COVID restrictions on recess, however, should the need arise, recess schedules and/or areas may change due to limiting the number of students in any one area.

## **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.

## **Changes to Start of School Meetings and Activities**

Events such as Open House are still being discussed. Please continue to check your email, the school webpage, social media pages, and other communication methods for the very latest school-specific information on events such as this.

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

Justus-Tiawah School worked with local health officials in the spring to provide the opportunity for every staff member who wanted to receive the vaccination, and every staff member that wanted the vaccine is fully vaccinated.

We will be working with local health officials and will provide information when options become available for our school aged children

## **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 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 feasible, school sites will implement and encourage social distancing in common areas such as hallways, gyms, and cafeterias.

### **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, like last year, available classroom space and class sizes will 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. No guests will be allowed to have lunch on-site as long as there is still a threat of COVID-19 exposure. Hand sanitizer and hand-sanitizing stations will be added to cafeterias at all school sites.

Please note, at this time parents/visitors will not be allowed to eat meals with students in the school facilities but students can be checked out for meals. 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. Any supplies or tools needed to be used by multiple students will be sanitized between uses.

## **Water Fountains**

Common drinking fountains will be closed. Each school site will be equipped with water bottle filling stations. We are in the process of working to install additional stations. Students and staff members are asked to bring non-breakable water containers to school every day.

*Updated June 22, 2021*