



## Return to School Plan ~ 2021-22 School Year (2.0)

**August 4, 2021 update from July 23, 2021**

July 23, 2021

Oakwood C.U.S.D. #76 successfully navigated the pandemic during the 2020-2021 school year to provide an in-person and remote learning model for the entire school year. Like many, we had to navigate difficult challenges during the past school year but our staff and community rallied and demonstrated an extraordinary level of compassion, commitment, and cooperation to achieve our goals. The same level of dedication will be required of us again, and I have no doubt that together we will meet that challenge.

The education of our youth is a most vital responsibility even as we navigate through this unprecedented time in world history. Our collaboration in creating this plan reflects our best efforts to accomplish this while also adhering to protocols of health and safety. Even though school will look very different in some ways, our commitment to excellence remains strong. We thank you in advance for understanding that we will remain flexible and adaptable as details of this document change from time to time as the need arises.

The intent of this plan is to be able to put our students in the best position to learn. We are in the field of education and this plan emphasizes a return to the variables that are within our control that have shown success in the past in helping our students learn:

- In person Instruction.
- Providing opportunities for engagement in classrooms.
- Returning to our regular calendar days (Monday through Friday) and regular length of school days.
- Full return to student activities, lunch/recess, and field trips that allow for the social, emotional, and nutritional needs and opportunities for student growth and wellness.
- Allows focus for staff to be teaching and the focus for students to be on learning
- This plan allows our school to endorse safety recommendations made by CDC but will also allow for parental/community choice and local control as provided by the CDC and ISBE guidance.

As you carefully read through our 2021-2022 Health and Safety Plan, we once again ask for your unwavering and uncompromised cooperation. Our plan is based on consideration of our own internal data from the 2020-2021 school year, data and information from other schools, guidance from the CDC, IDPH, ISBE, and the local health department and other local entities. Assembled in a Q & A style document, you will see that our plan more closely resembles what we remember as a "typical school year." We have made adjustments to our previous health and safety plan as it relates to face coverings (masks), contact tracing, symptom reporting, and a few other issues...and yet there are other portions of our previous health plan that remain fully and strictly in place.

It remains our conviction that a responsible and adaptable plan accompanied with opportunities for parental choice will yield the best results. No different than any other year, we are ready and willing to pivot to lesser or stricter protocols if warranted. We appreciate your continued support and hope that you are as excited as we are about the upcoming 2021-2022 school year!

**Oakwood Strong!**

Larry D. Maynard, Superintendent



## **2021-2022 / Return to School Plan**

### **Illinois Governor Pritzker - Executive Order Statement (8/4/21)** **Illinois State Board of Education - Superintendent, Dr. Carmen Ayala**

*“Governor JB Pritzker announced at 2:30 p.m. today an Executive Order (Mandate to PK-12 Schools and Daycares) that supports safe in-person learning and requires that masks be worn indoors by all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status. This includes all individuals being transported on a school bus. This mandate goes into effect immediately.”*

*This mandate includes extracurricular activities and sports that are indoors. The Governor did allow for exceptions for individuals related to documented medical conditions of respiratory (i.e. 504 plan). Any school district that does not comply with this mandate will be held legally liable and remove their ISBE recognition status & funding.* (Gov. Pritzker: Press Conference Statement)

*“The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention strengthened its guidance last week for universal indoor masking in schools, and Illinois will continue to follow the science, data, and public health experts to keep students in school and keep communities safe. We know that consistent and correct mask use is the simplest, most effective way to keep students safely in school, where they can learn and grow to their fullest potential.”*  
*“The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and ISBE will issue updated guidance to reflect this change.”*

### **Illinois High School Association - Illinois Elementary School Association - Guidance**

*“On August 4, 2021, Governor Pritzker announced an update to the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) All-Sports Policy that will require masks to be worn for all indoor IHSA athletic events regardless of an individual’s vaccination status. This mask directive for indoor athletic events applies to student-athletes, coaches, officials, game personnel, and fans.”*

*“This masking mandate applies to all IHSA fall sport practices and contests that are conducted indoors. Swimmers and divers do not have to wear masks while competing, but must adhere at all other times. The masking directive also applies to any winter or spring IHSA sports that may be conducting open gyms, general conditioning, or weightlifting indoors.”*

*“There are no restrictions to scheduling or spectator limitations as a result of today’s announcement, nor are there any changes to the IHSA calendar for any sports.”*

*“Today’s announcement will not deter us from our mission of safely offering high school student-athletes in Illinois the opportunity to participate in sports and activities. Illinois high school student-athletes and coaches have been resilient in dealing with myriad mitigations and unexpected changes over the past year. We hope all Illinoisans do their part to stop the spread of COVID-19 so we can quickly move beyond this and remove masks from indoor athletic events.”*

**Safety: This Plan is subject to change based on any new Governor Executive Orders (Mandates) and ISBE guidance, and or local health department recommendations due to transmission rates**

**Oakwood CUSD #76**

- We will be adhering to the current Governor Executive Order(s)-Mandates and CDC/IDPH guidelines.
- We will follow all Centers for Disease Control (CDC) safety precautions for sanitizing and disinfecting our schools, classrooms, equipment, and supplies.
- According to the ISBE guidelines we must meet a minimum of 5 clock hours each school day.

**Will Oakwood CUSD #76 offer a fully remote learning option for the 2021-2022 school?**

- Yes, for medically documented COVID-19 related situations with an external online provider for a minimum of a semester.
- No. In accordance with the Illinois State Superintendent of Schools July 9, 2021 declaration, all schools will be open fully for in-person learning for the 2021-2022 school year. However, we will have a supportive and user-friendly education plan for those students who are under quarantine for an extended period of time as directed by the Illinois Department of Public Health.
- *Please note: A fully remote learning option is NOT the same as shifting to remote learning if needed as a result of inclement weather or outbreak in our facility. The district still may need to choose to temporarily implement remote learning in either of those scenarios.*

**Will Oakwood CUSD #76 contact trace during the 2021-2022 school year?**

- No. It is not our plan at this time to uniquely contact trace every student or staff member who was within 6' or 3' of a positive case. Contact tracing will be left up to the local health department to conduct. Please do not ask our school officials for this information.
- The school's administration or health care professional will inform the school community in the event that there is an outbreak, not individual cases. This is similar to procedures we have followed in previous years regarding influenza, strep throat, etc.

**Will Oakwood CUSD #76 require or track COVID-19 vaccination status?**

- No. However, families may choose to volunteer this information to school officials as it may prove to be helpful and beneficial information in discussions that center around your child's health.
- Vaccinations are not mandatory and are at the discretion of parents/guardians.
- The local health department will continue to make available information on vaccine clinics for the public.

**What if my child tests positive for COVID-19?**

- Please report all positive (and negative) tests results to
  - OGS Nurse Zindars at 217-354-4221, [zindarsm@oakwood76.org](mailto:zindarsm@oakwood76.org)
  - OJHS Nurse Brown at 217-443-2883, [browns@oakwood76.org](mailto:browns@oakwood76.org)
  - OHS Nurse Brown at 217-354-2358 [browns@oakwood76.org](mailto:browns@oakwood76.org)
- Upon reporting positive results to the school, you will receive specific instructions for your child, which may include isolation of your child and quarantine of others in your household. As a reminder, fully vaccinated individuals in the same household will NOT need to quarantine if they are without symptoms.
- *Please note: Students and staff who are not fully vaccinated should quarantine after a recent exposure to someone with COVID-19. Fully vaccinated individuals who were in close contact with someone with COVID-19 but do NOT have symptoms do not need to quarantine or be tested.*

- While your child or anyone in your household waits for test results, please stay home.
- Your child will be able to continue with their education during quarantine by working with your child's teachers/principal.

#### **What are the decision making procedures for Isolation and Quarantine?**

- The district will follow the current IDPH exclusion chart with the lead of the Vermilion County Health Department in regards to individuals needing to quarantine due to exposure or positive for COVID-19.
- Students and staff who have symptoms of infectious illness must remain at home until symptoms have improved. They are encouraged to seek medical advice.
  - Symptoms include fever (100.4 or higher), moderate to severe headache, shortness of breath, cough, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, loss of taste or smell, fatigue from unknown causes, muscle or body aches from unknown causes.
  - Students with a fever, vomiting, and/or diarrhea must remain out of school until they are symptom free for 24-hours without medication.
- Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 must remain out of school until they meet ALL of the following criteria:
  - Symptom-free
  - 24-hour fever free without fever-reducing medication
  - A minimum of 10-days must pass after symptoms first appeared (or 10-days after testing if asymptomatic) and released from the health department.
- Students who are excluded from school for COVID-related reasons will be given an excused absence. They will be provided with all school work and will be allowed to submit it for full credit. Teachers will be available to assist students via email, phone, or Google Meets as needed.

#### **Will Oakwood CUSD #76 offer screening/testing for COVID-19?**

- No. Students and staff who have symptoms of infectious illness, such as influenza (flu) or COVID-19 should stay home and contact their healthcare provider for testing and care.

#### **Will Oakwood CUSD #76 still be taking temperatures upon entry into the school or for entry on a bus?**

- No. It is even more imperative as we loosen restrictions, that our parents and students be strict in keeping sick students home—This will be the single most important part of our plan and key to our success and hopes for moving forward. We need everyone's cooperation!

#### **Will Oakwood CUSD #76 require social distancing (3-6 feet separation) in the 2021-2022 school year?**

- Every effort will be made to social distance students when feasible. However, it is understood that education is a collaborative process, and best educational practices sometimes call for students to be in closer proximity to each other.
- Students should make an effort to social distance from other students to the greatest extent possible.
- We know that our students learn best when they are engaged and it is very difficult to engage when hands-on learning, cooperative discussions, and student-teacher interaction is limited due to physical distancing.

#### **What about cleaning, disinfecting, ventilation, and hygiene protocols?**

- We will continue with district cleaning routines using approved and effective products.
- We will also continue to maintain our hand sanitizing stations throughout the building and encourage regular and proper handwashing. Good hygiene practices will be a regular topic with our students.
- School staff will continue to clean surfaces on a regular basis. Particular attention will be given to disinfecting areas where a known COVID-19 positive individual has been present.

- Windows will be kept open in classrooms and buses when feasible to improve ventilation.

**What is the length of the school day for the 2021-2022 school year?**

- We feel at Oakwood CUSD #76 that it is necessary to return to the “typical” school day in order to maximize our students’ education. School campus will open at 8:00 am and the school day will end at 3:00 pm.

**What about athletics and extracurriculars for the 2021-2022 school year?**

- We are anticipating full sports seasons this year through the IHSA and IESA. Any protocols for athletics will be directed by these organizations or by our respective athletic conferences.

**What about volunteers, visitors, and field trips for the 2021-2022 school year?**

- It is our intent to allow for volunteers and visitors to return to our campus, as well as to allow for field trips to be taken in the 2021-2022 school year.

**What should I expect regarding breakfast/lunch programs for 2021-2022 school year?**

- The USDA has again made it possible for **ALL** students to receive 1 free lunch in all three school buildings and 1 free breakfast (OGS and OJHS only) per day for this upcoming school year. However, if your student(s) should order beyond that, such as an extra milk/second meal/Ala Carte, you are responsible for the payment of that item.
- One of the changes as a result of the pandemic is that Oakwood CUSD #76 will once again extend the option of eating outside as much as possible for all K-12 students. The procedures and process will be clarified by the respective offices at the beginning of the school year.

**OTHER PREVENTATIVE MEASURES & INFORMATION:**

**Appropriate Accommodations for Children with Disabilities**

- Parents of students who need accommodations, modifications, or assistance related to COVID-19 safety protocols, disabilities, underlying medical conditions, or weakened immune systems should contact their building principal to discuss the need(s).

**Collaboration with Public Health Officials**

- District officials will continue to collaborate and consult with Vermilion County Health Department officials throughout a pandemic on various logistics and decision-making including, but not limited to school health and safety protocols, quarantine, and emergency school closings.

**Continuity of Services**

- The district will continue to provide the necessary services to meet the needs of students, including academic, social, emotional, mental, health, and nutritional needs.
- Students will be supported academically through each school’s Rtl process. Parents/guardians who feel their child needs assistance should contact their building principals.
- Social workers and counselors are available in every school to meet students’ social, emotional, and mental health needs.
- District nurses are available to help meet students’ physical health needs.

**Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment for fully remote (semester long) students**

- Students will attend school 5 full days a week (with the exception of pre-scheduled holidays and breaks)
- Students who are unable to attend school physically due to a semester (long-term) COVID-19 related documented medical condition may be provided learning opportunities through remote instruction provided by Edgenuity or another online platform. Remote instruction will not be provided by the Oakwood CUSD #76

classroom teachers. This instruction and the delivery platform may vary from grade-to-grade and from building-to-building. Every effort will be made to provide activities and instruction to allow students mastery of their grade level state standards and to prepare them for the following school year.

- We have the same high expectations for all learners! All school rules apply to in-person as well as remote learners.
- Remote learners are subject to progressive discipline as if they were in-person (i.e. plagiarism, cheating, etc.).
- All first semester remote learners will have the option to attend in-person for the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester.
- For our remote learners, a teacher of record supplied by an outside vendor will be in charge of communication with remote students and families.
- Expectations for long-term remote learners/parents:
  - Daily check-in and check-out with the online provider for attendance, curriculum, instruction, assessment, and progress.
  - Talk to your child regularly to make sure he/she understands work expectations.
  - Talk to your child regarding how he/she is feeling about returning to school. Be patient and understanding to help reduce anxiety for children.
  - Maintain a daily routine around school and schoolwork.
  - Monitor your child's academic progress. Grades will be assigned and posted as normal.
  - Encourage your child to seek assistance for emotional or mental health if necessary.
- Grading will be the traditional method but may have modifications to fit each plan in place. This will apply regardless of whether students are meeting in-person or remotely. All grades will count, have due dates, and will be expected to be completed in a timely manner.

#### **Quarantine Students**

- Students that are quarantined or ill due to a short-term COVID-19 related medical condition will be treated as an excused absence. Teachers will provide work for the student, and parents/guardians will be able to pick up/drop off work as needed. This will vary by teacher and by building.
- Grading will be the traditional method but may have modifications to fit each plan in place. This will apply regardless of whether students are meeting in-person or remotely. All grades will count, have due dates, and will be expected to be completed in a timely manner.

#### **Mental Health & Wellness**

- We are aware that all of our students and families have been impacted in some way by COVID-19, and we are prepared to continue to support our students when they return in the fall.
- Resources are available to assist your student with mental health needs. This ranges from direct support from our school counselors, social workers, psychologists, and school nurses as well as linking your child with community resources if needed.
- Teachers and staff will be carefully monitoring students and will notify parents/guardians of any child who may need additional emotional or mental health support.

#### **Physical Health & Wellness**

- COVID-19 Training is available to all staff upon request to the district (including transmission, prevention, and PPE) with opportunity for Q&A.
- Staff & students who are not fully vaccinated are recommended to wear masks indoors.
- District signage posted describing signs/symptoms, proper hand washing, social distancing, and when to stay home.
- Water fountains will be disabled with only the water bottle filling option available (please send a personal water bottle for your child).
- Inform the school as soon as a positive COVID-19 test result occurs with any members of your household.
- Follow health care provider or health department directives regarding the need for quarantine or isolation for you or your household.
- Screen your child daily and report illness concerns immediately.

- Adhere to the district procedures regarding student's exclusion from school and return to class after illness.
- Reinforce/educate your child on proper hand washing, covering his or her cough or coughing into a tissue, when to wear a mask, and how-to social distance.
- Speak with your health provider regarding the importance of flu and COVID-19 vaccination this season to avoid absences.
- Provide your school with current contact numbers, home address, and email addresses to assist in open communication between school and home.
- Encourage your child to eat healthy, exercise, and develop good sleep habits.
- Recommended to provide a personal mask for your children if they are not fully vaccinated and reinforce the washing of hands frequently, and follow good general hygiene practices. Educate your children to constantly self-regulate their behaviors in following IDPH and school guidelines for the safety of themselves, other students, and staff. Educate them about hand washing, social distancing, refraining from touching others, and refraining from touching their faces.
- Keep your children home if they are sick or exhibiting symptoms. Actively monitor your student's health daily for any changes or concerns.

### **Special Education**

- We are committed to providing free and appropriate educational opportunities for students with disabilities, to the greatest extent possible in alignment with public health guidelines. To address the unique needs of students with disabilities, staff will continue to work with families to collaboratively identify the most essential services for each student that can be provided. Individual Education Plan's (IEP's) will be reviewed for the circumstances of the child's learning environment and any needed updates to the IEP will be made as necessary
- We are committed to meaningful consultation and parent participation in the special education process. Whether in-person or an alternate format, such as videoconferencing or by phone, IEP teams will partner with families to determine the most practical format to conduct IEP meetings.
- General education/special education educators, related service providers and families will discuss students' individual needs and agree to a prioritized set of services that provide access to curriculum and enable progress toward IEP goals. Services for students with specific health or support needs will be addressed in collaboration with families on an individual basis
- IEP teams will have in place consistent data collection and service log procedures for use across all learning environments. Collecting data and tracking the provision of services will assist educators and families in determining the effectiveness of instruction provided, student performance on IEP goals/objectives, and will assist IEP teams in making any necessary adjustments to instruction

### **Transportation**

- Eligible students choosing to participate in school transportation will continue to receive transportation services similar to years past; however, some rural route student bus assignments may be changed to decrease the number of students on buses. We will be running our buses at normal capacity (allowed by CDC).
- All persons on the bus will be required to wear a face mask (both fully vaccinated and unvaccinated) while being transported and will follow seating charts that are established to enhance social distancing. Children from the same family will be seated together as much as possible.
- All persons on the bus will be required to wear a face mask including field trips, sporting events, extracurricular activities, and school sponsored activities.
- School buses will be sanitized daily.
- Masks, hand sanitizer, and tissues will be available on buses for student use.
- Return to providing transportation to Preschool students to and from school.
- Students are only allowed to ride the bus that they are assigned to ride.

## Technology

- We are in our 2nd year of having enough devices for all students.
  - We have upgraded additional technology for our staff to enhance curriculum, instruction, and assessment.
  - Many teacher and student online platforms and resources are available online and with Google Classroom.
  - We have performed upgrades on our internal network to facilitate the increased device usage by students and staff.
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## Plan Review

- This plan will be reviewed no less frequently than every six months.
- The district reserves the right to make changes to the plan as needed.

Thank you so much for your patience, support, and understanding as we work together to return our students and staff safely back to school. If you have any question, please feel free to reach out to the Superintendent and your building principals:

- OGS - [lapenasn@oakwood76.org](mailto:lapenasn@oakwood76.org) Nicole Lapenas, Principal
- OGS - [actonl@oakwood76.org](mailto:actonl@oakwood76.org) Lisa Acton, Assistant Principal
- OJHS - [burtona@oakwood76.org](mailto:burtona@oakwood76.org) Anne Burton, Principal
- OHS – [odlej@oakwood76.org](mailto:odlej@oakwood76.org) John Odle, Principal
- OHS - [sheltonk@oakwood76.org](mailto:sheltonk@oakwood76.org) Kyle Shelton, Assistant Principal/A.D.
- District – [maynardl@oakwood76.org](mailto:maynardl@oakwood76.org) Larry D. Maynard, Superintendent