



# **Oglala Lakota County School District**

## **Back to School Plan**

### **2021-2022**

The Oglala Lakota County Schools will begin the new school year with full services and open to all students. Oglala Lakota County recognizes the benefits of students in school and will strive to ensure all safety protocols are in place for student and staff return to onsite instruction. Oglala Lakota County will continue coordination with the OST Tribal Ordinance 20-18: Shelter in Place COVID-19 Health Order and with the South Dakota State Health Department. In the event of an alert indicator change, Oglala Lakota County School District will move to the corresponding instruction method included in this plan.

#### **Background**

The purpose of the Oglala Lakota County School District (OLCSD) Back to School Plan 2021-2022 Plan is to identify and respond to COVID-19 related measures within the district's schools and district office.

The Back to School Plan outlines the expectations of staff/faculty; roles and responsibilities; internal and external communications; and references defined by local, tribal, state, and federal entities.

#### **Definition**

Coronavirus COVID-19: On February 11, 2020, the World Health Organization announced the official name for the disease that is causing the 2019 novel coronavirus outbreak, first identified in Wuhan China. The new name of the disease is coronavirus disease in 2019, abbreviated as COVID-19. In COVID-19, 'CO' stands for 'corona', 'VI' for 'virus,' and 'D' for disease.

#### **Essential Services**

OLCSD's Back to School plan is designed to insure little to no interruption of essential services such as academic instruction, transportation, technology services, student feeding/food distribution, facility construction, facility cleaning and district and school maintenance.

#### **Essential Employees**

The employees of Oglala Lakota County School District are identified as Essential Employees within the Back to School plan.

#### **Precautions - What we will do as school and district personnel:**

- Reduce the risk and spread by encouraging physical distancing, proper hand hygiene, sanitization, wearing masks properly over both nose and mouth, hallway flow plans, adjusting lunch procedures, recess modifications and spacing of students in classrooms and buses.
- Be aware of illness/symptoms in the student body and contact a student's family immediately if a student exhibits symptoms.

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- Monitor positive COVID-19 cases and its spread in the Oglala Lakota County School District and follow — as we would with any community health concern — the recommendation of health department officials regarding school closures, modified school schedules or in-school adjustments.
- Prepare for face-to-face instruction and continue to refine our digital curriculum to meet the needs of distance learning.
- In the event of a local concern, modify our method of delivery, however necessary, to ensure the health and well-being of students and staff.

### **Preparedness and prevention guidance**

The South Dakota Department of Health issued the information below regarding COVID-19. Common Symptoms: Patients with COVID-19 have had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of fever, cough, and shortness of breath. It takes 2 to 14 days after a person gets the virus in their body to become ill.

### **How it is spread:**

- Most often, it is spread from person-to-person via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes, similar to how flu and other respiratory pathogens spread. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. It's currently unclear if a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or their eyes. Often, with most respiratory viruses, people are thought to be most contagious when they are most symptomatic (the sickest).

### **Students, staff, and volunteers should seek medical evaluation for COVID-19:**

- Sick with a fever, cough, or difficulty breathing;
- Sick with fever, cough, or difficulty breathing AND
  - Have been identified by public health officials as a recent close contact of a confirmed COVID-19 case; or
  - Have had recent close contact with someone who is being evaluated for COVID-19 infection.
  - Close proximity is longer than 15 minutes defined as any individual who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes within a 24-hour timeframe. The minutes are cumulative meaning that several, separate interactions combine and apply to the 15-minute threshold.

**Unvaccinated Staff who may have had close contact but have not received a letter from the state, and are not sick, should notify their supervisor and work out a temporary on-site work plan that is applicable to their position with as little contact to others as possible for 14 days. The employee is responsible to present documentation as soon as possible.**

**In the event, OLCSD is notified prior to the Department of Health or the Tribal Health Authority. OLCSD will initiate a call/email so contact tracing can proceed. OLCSD will research and provide any close contacts within the school setting and will complete the SDDOH Workbook for each identified case.**

CLOSE CONTACT	POSITIVE TEST
<p><b>CLOSE CONTACT</b> Defined as any individual who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes within a 24-hour timeframe. The minutes are cumulative meaning that several, separate interactions combine and apply to the 15-minute threshold. When calculating close contact, the district will start 2 days before illness onset.</p> <p><b>A Department of Health representative or the offices of the Tribal Health Authority will contact all persons identified as close contacts (or the guardian if the contact is a minor).</b></p> <p>Staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any staff notified as a Close Contact who has not been vaccinated or who is less than 2 weeks beyond the second dose of a two-dose vaccination plan or 2 weeks beyond the first dose of a one dose vaccination plan will need to quarantine for 14 days per the Tribal Health Administration guidance             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stay Home</li> <li>Avoid Contact with others</li> <li>Not share household items</li> <li>Monitor symptoms daily</li> <li>Work remotely                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instruction continues</li> <li>Non-instructional staff will be assigned to make calls to parents/guardians each day or other duties that can be accomplished from home.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the event, the staff is two weeks past the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose of a two-dose vaccine or two weeks past the 1<sup>st</sup> dose of a one-dose vaccine, the staff would not need to quarantine but would need to monitor temperature and well-being for 14 days. The staff would continue normal duties.</li> <li>In the event, the staff is within 90 days</li> </ul>	<p><b>POSITIVE COVID19</b></p> <p>Staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any staff confirmed with COVID19 virus should follow the guidance of the doctor or health professional</li> <li>Staff will need to communicate their status to their supervisor as soon as possible/within 24 hours <b>and follow up with the Department of Health letter or Tribal Health Authority letter.</b></li> <li>Staff will need to remain home a full 10 days per CDC and Tribal Public Health Authority guidance.</li> <li>10 days administrative leave will be given upon submission of the documentation with additional days determined by the Department of Health, Physician, and/or situation and additional documentation supplied.</li> </ul> <p>Student</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any student confirmed with COVID19 virus should follow the guidance of the doctor or health professional</li> <li>Guardians will need to communicate the status to the school principal as soon as possible/within 24 hours by phone.</li> <li>Students will need to remain home a full 10 days per CDC and Tribal Health Administration guidance.</li> <li><b>Student Athletes will need a Return to Sports document before resuming practice/games per SDHSAA.</b></li> </ul>

<p>of a personal positive test, the staff would not need to quarantine.</p> <p>Student</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any student notified as a Close Contact will need to quarantine for 14 days             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stay Home</li> <li>Avoid Contact with others</li> <li>Not share household items</li> <li>Monitor symptoms daily</li> <li>Distance Learning</li> </ul> </li> <li>In the event, the student is two weeks past the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose of a two-dose vaccine or two weeks past the 1<sup>st</sup> dose of a one-dose vaccine, the student would not need to quarantine but would need to monitor temperature and well-being for 14 days. The student would continue normal duties.</li> <li>In the event, the student is within 90 days of a personal positive test, the student would not need to quarantine.</li> </ul>	
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#### Employee Protocols:

- Vaccinated against COVID19 or provided a medical statement for not being vaccinated.
  - New employees are encouraged to utilize the IHS facilities in the communities for vaccines. The IHS facilities have daily clinics for vaccinations. Other school events will be shared as they are scheduled.
- Masks REQUIRED and worn correctly.
- Health Screening and temperature check completed at home
  - Early notification to OLCSD Supervisor by phone to ensure proper coverage
- Health Screening and temperature check completed upon entry and exit from school site.
- Employees that carpool are to use a mask in the carpool to minimize close contact spreading of the virus.

#### Staff Social, Emotional, and Mental Health

- Staff resources for COVID19 can be found on the district website which also includes a Staff Circle website for positive stories after COVID19
- In-district school counselors and principals offer support for staff struggling with COVID19 or the effects of the pandemic
- Staff seeking additional assistance can contact the HR Department for additional resources for support
- Staff who test positive, are granted administrative leave during the term of their isolation.

**Transportation**

Bus Drivers and Bus Monitors will follow the CDC guidance for transporting students as follows:

- Bus will be cleaned and disinfected before the first run of the day and after any runs throughout the day.
- Bus Drivers will wash hands prior to driving the bus, use hand-sanitizer frequently, and will wear a mask.
- A window(s) will be open at all times on the bus or if an air-conditioned vehicle, set to non-recirculation mode to allow improved ventilation.
- Bus Drivers will designate seat spacing for all students and will review all the COVID19 bus protocols with the students on the bus.
- Bus Drivers will have face masks, hand-sanitizer, and will be prepared to do temperature checks on students upon entry to the bus.
- Bus Drivers and Bus Monitors will maintain a record of elevated student temperatures upon entry to the bus. Any student with a temperature of 100.4 will not be allowed to enter the bus. Bus drivers will communicate elevated temperatures to the school principal.
- Bus Drivers will load the bus maintaining the six-foot distancing to the greatest extent possible.
- Bus drivers will report any student concerns with the COVID19 procedures to their supervisor.

Students will follow the CDC guidance for riding a bus as follows:

- Remain home if ill or exhibiting and symptoms
- Wash hands prior to riding the bus and use hand sanitizer.
- Wear mask upon entering the bus or immediately after receiving a mask from the bus driver.
- Maintain 3 to 6-foot distancing when loading the bus.
- Sit in designated seat and stay sitting in the space allocated. Students from the same family may be seated together.
- Remain seated throughout the full bus ride with mask on properly and hands in lap to minimize touching objects on the bus.
- Upon delivery to the school, students will unload maintaining 6-foot distancing and may also be directed to temperature stations at the school.

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**Instructional Delivery Options are based on the OST Tribal Protocols and color-coordinated to match.**

GREEN	SCHOOL OPEN WITH STUDENTS
	<p><b>Full Return</b>  School Protocols:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Masks REQUIRED</li> <li>• 3 to 6-foot distancing, desk corrals, flow-charts, directional arrows, 6-foot spacing dots</li> <li>• Normal capacity</li> <li>• Hand-sanitizer stations and frequent handwashing and disinfecting</li> <li>• Staff, student, and parent expectations</li> <li>• Health Screening and temperature check completed at home: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Early notification to OLCSD Supervisor by phone to ensure proper coverage.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Health Screening and temperature check completed upon entry and exit from school site.</li> </ul> <p><b>STUDENTS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Masks REQUIRED.</li> <li>• Temperature checks conducted before entering bus or school and upon exiting the school.</li> <li>• Temperatures greater than 100.4 will be sent home through the nurse/health office.</li> </ul> <p><b>PARENTAL CHOICE FOR ONLINE DELIVERY:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5:00 to 7:30 PM online instruction with daily assignments</li> </ul> <p><b>FOOD SERVICE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On-site food service</li> </ul>

YELLOW	SCHOOL OPEN WITH STUDENTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less than 50 in a gathering</li> </ul>	<p><b>Full Return</b></p> <p>School Protocols:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Masks REQUIRED</li> <li>• 3 to 6-foot distancing, desk corrals, flow-charts, directional arrows, 6-foot spacing dots</li> <li>• Normal capacity</li> <li>• Hand-sanitizer stations and frequent handwashing and disinfecting</li> <li>• Staff, student, and parent expectations</li> <li>• Health Screening and temperature check completed at home:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Early notification to OLCSD Supervisor by phone to ensure proper coverage.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Health Screening and temperature check completed upon entry and exit from school site.</li> </ul> <p><b>STUDENTS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Masks REQUIRED.</li> <li>• Temperature checks conducted before entering bus or school and upon exiting the school.</li> <li>• Temperature checks mid-day</li> <li>• Temperatures greater than 100.4 will be sent home through the nurse/health office.</li> </ul> <p><b>PARENTAL CHOICE FOR ONLINE DELIVERY:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5:00 to 7:30 PM online instruction with daily assignments</li> </ul> <p><b>FOOD SERVICE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On-site food service</li> </ul>

ORANGE	SCHOOL OPEN FOR 50% CAPACITY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Less than 10 in a gathering</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>Hybrid Return</b> School Protocols:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each school will be implementing a hybrid schedule for instruction. ½ the teachers and students will be online and ½ the teachers and students will be in person. Each school will determine the split to ensure all students are receiving daily instruction.</li> <li>• Meetings will be offered via Zoom.</li> <li>• Screening stations</li> <li>• Masks REQUIRED</li> <li>• 3 to 6-foot distancing, desk corrals, flow-charts, directional arrows, 6-foot spacing dots</li> <li>• 50% of the building/classroom capacity</li> <li>• Hand-sanitizer stations and frequent handwashing and disinfecting</li> </ul> <p>Staff, student, and parent expectations</p> <p><b>STUDENTS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Masks REQUIRED.</li> <li>• Temperature checks conducted before entering bus or school and upon exiting the school.</li> <li>• Temperature checks mid-day</li> <li>• Temperatures greater than 100.4 will be sent home through the nurse/health office.</li> </ul> <p><b>FOOD SERVICE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On-site food service for onsite students and food deliveries for students in the school district are modified to meet the needs of the students and each school.</li> </ul>



RED	SCHOOL CLOSED FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No gatherings of 10 or more</li> <li>• Distance Learning Only</li> </ul>	<p><b>Recommendation by School District School Board, OST Tribe, and the State of South Dakota based on current conditions, ordinances, and guidance.</b></p> <p><b>Distance Learning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instructional staff (teachers, paras, Lakota Instructors) teach from home.</li> <li>• Meetings will be held via Zoom.</li> <li>• Food service, custodial, maintenance, groundskeepers, security, clerical, Technology staff, VHS Coordinators, SRO, and administrators report to building sites and follow COVID19 Plan.</li> <li>• Bus Drivers and support staff helping with food deliveries report to building site and follow COVID19 Plan.</li> <li>• Instructional Delivery will be through Distance Learning to include both online and paper packets.</li> <li>• Students will not return to school except for individual needs related to their mental health or individualized plan.</li> </ul> <p><b>STAFF:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Masks REQUIRED.</li> <li>• Health Screening and temperature check completed at home:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Early notification to OLCSD Supervisor by phone to ensure proper coverage.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Health Screening and temperature check completed upon entry and exit from school site.</li> </ul> <p><b>STUDENTS</b> Not applicable, utilizing distance learning during closure.</p> <p><b>FOOD SERVICE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food deliveries for students in the school district.</li> </ul>

In the event, Distance Learning will be used, information will be made available through the district website at [www.olcsd.com](http://www.olcsd.com)

Parents and students will be able to access the teacher page for directions on how to use distance learning options including Google Classroom, Zoom, Canvas, Clever and curriculums for math, reading, science, social studies, Lakota, PE, and CTE courses. Student attendance will be taken daily, and students will be required to engage in online work, discussions, and homework submissions. Phone calls will be made by the school to parents/guardians of students who are not engaging in the online work.

For families who would rather have packets, those will be delivered and picked up daily so students can stay current on assignments. Phone calls will be made by the schools to the parents/guardians of students not participating in the packet work. Daily submissions will count as attendance each day.

- Parents are encouraged to continue as much education in the home as possible by providing books for children to read while at home.
- Parents will be encouraged to reinforce the homework in the packets that include library books for students to read at home.

### **Grading and Attendance**

Oglala Lakota County School District uses quarters and semesters for elementary and high school grading. Report card grades for students will be based on student submission of work in school and in a hybrid or distance model, through either paper packets or electronic submission. Students not in class will be counted absent and normal student absentee protocols will be put in place following the student handbook.

### **Technology**

OLCSD students will be assigned a device for their work. These will be site based and may be either an iPads or Chromebook based on grade level. Parents/Guardians will complete a form for check-out of the device for their child.

### **Special Education Services**

Onsite Special Education services will resume. In the event, the district needs to return to hybrid or distance learning, the SPED department will utilize a variety of different service delivery options. Parents will receive a letter outlining service options. IEP Meetings will be held and State and Federal requirements will continue using technology resources.

### **Counseling Services**

Onsite Counseling services will resume. In the event, the district needs to return to hybrid or distance learning, the Counseling department will utilize phone and zoom session when possible. Parents may sign a counseling form for 1:1 service at the school. All efforts will be made to ensure services continue while students are home-bound.

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### **School Facilities**

**Disinfection and sanitation:** In an effort to prevent and/or reduce the spread of COVID-19, the OLCSD has and continues to use disinfectants and sanitizers to kill viruses. All custodians will be instructed to clean and disinfect high-touch areas throughout the day. In the event of a positive case within a facility, the facility's daily disinfection and sanitation protocols will ensure a normal return the following day.

**Air Filtration:** All Oglala Lakota County schools have air filtration system installed in all facilities. The air filtration system provides another layer of protection by reducing airborne particles.

### **Update and Revisions to the OLCSD Back to School 2021-22 Plan**

The Back to School plan will be updated with new guidance as it becomes available from the OST Tribal Health Authority, SD Department of Health, and SD Department of Education. This includes the dissemination of any news releases related to the COVID-19 virus.

**Community Coordination:** The Oglala Lakota County School district will coordinate with the following resources in an effort to detect, report, and reassess COVID19 impact in the schools:

- OLCSD will coordinate with the Community Health Resources (CHR) to plan for mass testing events using their COVID BINAX NOW Testing Protocol and
- OLCSD will work with the South Dakota Department of Health and Department of Education for in-school COVID19 testing procedures and will report both positive and negative results to the SDDOH and to the Tribal Health Authority to include testing kits for staff and students. These saliva kits will begin once they arrive at the school sites. Weekly reporting to the SD Department of Health is required for the saliva kits.
- OLCSD will provide At Home Quick Vue Over the Counter COVID19 Test kits to school staff and onsite students who are exhibiting symptoms by way of a South Dakota Department of Education and Department of Health program.  
The staff member or family member can follow the directions on the box and on the attached QR tag. These kits do not replace an official test, so individuals who use the kit and have a positive test would need to follow up with a consult to a health care provider. The school nurse or health para will be responsible for the test kits and will keep a log of disbursements. Each box contains 45 kits. The nurse or health para will notify the COVID19 District Point of Contact when the supply needs replenished. We will offer the kits as part of our collaboration with the Department of Education and Department of Health until it is no longer available.

**What families can do:**

- Understand that these guidelines are determined by health, educational and civic professionals commissioned to care for your child, considering the physical environment, time spent in school, and the potential risk to the health of our students, staff and families.
- Keep your child home if they have a fever, cough, cold or flu symptoms, and have them return only when these symptoms have subsided.
- Create a family plan in case your child is sent home from school due to high temperature or is required to be quarantined or isolated.
- Talk to your child about changes they may notice at school, reinforcing that these measures are in place to preserve their health, and the health of those around them.
- Send your child to school with a mask if possible and understand that they are required to wear it.
- Prepare as much as possible to adapt to change. As evidenced this past spring, things evolve quickly, and schedule modifications and/or closures may be necessary.
- Recognize you can choose traditional face-to-face school or a home-based distance/online options and, as always, we are happy to assist you with your child's educational needs.
- Know that you as a guardian and parent have the right to keep your child home at any time as you assess risk as it relates to your family.

**Precautions to avoid illness guidance:**

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Refraining from touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Clean frequently touched surfaces and objects.
- Individuals at higher risk for severe COVID-19 illness, such as older adults and people who have chronic medical conditions like heart, lung or kidney disease, should take action to reduce your risk of exposure.
- Create a family plan to prepare for COVID-19 and develop a stay-at-home kit with food, water, medication, and other necessary items.

**If you develop symptoms:**

- Call your health care provider immediately and tell them about any recent travel or exposure.
- Individuals who are concerned that they have COVID-19 should contact their healthcare provider via phone before going to a clinic or hospital to prevent spread in healthcare facilities.
- Avoid contact with other people.
- Follow the directions of your provider and public health officials.

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### **Attachment**

- Oglala Sioux Tribe COVID19 Response: Risk Alert Level Chart

### **District and School Contacts**

- District COVID19 Point of Contact, Connie Kaltenbach, 605-455-6691
- Batesland Principal, Rianna Albers, 605-455-6675
- Red Shirt Principal, Brian O'Connor, 605-255-4224
- Rockyford Principals, Dr. Jennifer Sierra and Ray Rothe, 605-455-6300
- Wolf Creek Principal, Alicia Stolley, 605-455-6625
- Lakota Tech Principal, Dr. Justin Conroy, 605-455-6950
- OLCSD Virtual High School Principal, Melvin Sierra, 605-455-6693

### **Website Resources**

- South Dakota Department of Health COVID-19  
[Coronavirus updates and information](#)
- South Dakota Department of Health At Home COVID19 Test Kit Guidance  
<https://doh.sd.gov/COVID/Testing/Guidance.aspx>
- OST Tribal Ordinance 20-18: Shelter in Place COVID-19 Health Order and OST Ordinance 20-57 Educational Institution COVID19 Health Order for Reopening Schools and addendums  
[OST 20-18 Shelter In Place Ordinance](#)  
[OST ED Health Order 20-57](#)
- CDC K-12 Schools and Childcare Programs
  - [CDC Updates](#)
- Hillyard COVID-19 Resources  
[Hillyard.com THE Cleaning Resource COVID19](#)

### **Paper Resources**

- Fact Sheets, Handouts, and Poster Resources will be available in all facilities.

### **Previous Revisions and Updates**

- UPDATED/APPROVED: 9-22-2020
- REVISED/APPROVED: 1-28-2021
- REVISED/APPROVED: March 24, 2021
- 2021-22 Plan APPROVED July 26, 2021
- 2021-22 Plan REVISED and APPROVED 8-23-2021
- 2021-22 Plan REVISED and APPROVED 9-14-2021