

Navajo Public Schools

Safe Return Plan

2022-2023



Covid-19 Response August 11, 2020

*UPDATED October 12, 2021

*UPDATED December 14, 2021

*UPDATED June 28, 2022

Mitigation Efforts

Navajo is committed to creating an environment where the spread of COVID-19 is less likely to occur among students, faculty and staff by promoting recommended multilayered prevention strategies such as:

- *Recommendation of consistent and correct use of masks when physical distancing cannot be maintained.
- *Physical distancing and/or use of student/staff grouping (cohorting)
- *Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
- *Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities
- *Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine as advised from the County Health Department.
- *Recommend vaccination for all eligible staff and students
- *Daily symptom monitoring

Vaccination is the leading prevention strategy to protect individuals from COVID-19 disease and end the COVID-19 pandemic. Current COVID-19 vaccines authorized for use in the United States are safe, proven effective and widely accessible in the U.S. at no cost. A person is considered fully vaccinated two weeks after their second dose of Pfizer and Moderna or single dose of Johnson and Johnson. People who are fully vaccinated are at low risk of symptomatic or severe infection, and a growing body of evidence suggests that people who are fully vaccinated are less likely to have asymptomatic infection or transmit the virus that causes COVID-19 to others. Therefore, a fully vaccinated person with no COVID-like symptoms is not expected to quarantine if exposed to a positive case.

Navajo encourages individuals who are not fully vaccinated to wear a mask to protect others as well as themselves. Consistent and correct mask use by people who are not fully vaccinated is especially important indoors and in crowded settings, when physical distancing cannot be maintained. Although fully vaccinated persons do not generally need to wear masks, CDC recommends continued masking and physical distancing for people with weakened immune systems.

Recent legislation, Senate Bill 658 prohibits Navajo from mandating masks, however masks may be and will be a recommendation.

SB658 States:

(With the exception of a State of Emergency and communication with the Local Health Department)

A. A board of education of a public school district or a technology school district, the board of regents of an institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, the governing board of a private postsecondary educational institution, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, the State Board of Education or the State Board of Career and Technology Education shall not:

1. Require a vaccination against Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) as a condition of admittance to or attendance of the school or institution;
 2. Require a vaccine passport as a condition of admittance to or attendance of the school or institution; or
 3. Implement a mask mandate for students who have not been vaccinated against COVID-19.
- B. As used in this section vaccine passport means documentation that an individual has been vaccinated against COVID-19.
- C. Nothing in this section shall be construed to apply to any public or private healthcare setting.

State Law empowers the State Health Department with the exclusive authority to issue an isolation or quarantine order. (State Health Officials have not issued explicit rules or guidelines for schools on quarantines and are not expected to routinely issue quarantine orders that will affect school operations)

***Without a health department order, the district can encourage but not require students identified as close contacts to self-quarantine.**

***Schools can recommend/encourage quarantine based on close contact within the facility. (Outside the facility, the Health Department will recommend the quarantine)**

***A school can exclude a student from school and school activities who shows COVID-19 symptoms even if they haven't tested positive or been identified as a close contact through the state's administrative rules allowing a superintendent, teacher, or other official in charge of any school to exclude any child suffering from or exhibiting the following symptoms:**

- (1) fever alone, 100 degrees Fahrenheit;**
- (2) sore throat or tonsillitis;**
- (3) any eruption of the skin, or rash;**
- (4) any nasal discharge accompanied by fever;**
- (5) a severe cough, producing phlegm; or**
- (6) any inflammation of the eyes or lids.**

Assessing Symptomatic Persons for Covid 19:

People with Covid-19 have a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposed to the virus.

People with these symptoms may have Covid 19:

Class A (Person has one or more symptom, recommended testing and possible recommendation for exclusion from school)

- *Fever greater than 100.4 F
- *Sore throat
- *Uncontrollable Cough
- *Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- *New loss of taste or smell
- *Diarrhea or vomiting

Class B (Person has three or more symptoms, recommended testing and possible recommendation for exclusion from school)

- *Stuffy OR runny nose
- *Muscle/Body Aches
- *Fatigue
- *Chills
- *Nausea
- *Loss of Appetite
- *Elevated temperature (Less than 100.4F)
- *New onset of severe headache

School staff should use their best judgment to determine if symptoms can be explained by other causes (I.E. anxiety, missed meal, known medical condition, high stress activity). If all the symptoms Can be explained, the individual should be allowed to remain in school if feasible or sent home in accordance with existing school policy.

If the individual is exhibiting symptoms of Covid-19:

Per current Navajo School policy, students/staff exhibiting a fever of 100.0 or greater will be sent home and can return to school after being fever free for 24 hours without the use of medication.

If an individual is showing at least 1 Class A symptom or 2 or more Class B symptoms and the symptom cannot be explained by other causes, the individual will be sent home for a specified # of days , based on the most current CDC recommended guidelines, of isolation beginning at symptom onset.

Individuals that are sent home to isolate may choose to follow-up with a medical provider. If individuals receive an alternative diagnosis ruling out Covid-19 (I.E. Strep, Flu, Bronchitis) or receive a negative Covid-19 test result, they may return to the site 24 hours after symptom resolution or in accordance with existing school procedures. If choosing to return after an alternative diagnosis or negative test result, documentation must be provided to the office prior to or on the morning of return. No documentation is required if completing the specified isolation.

Students/Staff are encouraged to take temperatures and evaluate their health every day prior to attending school at Navajo. Students/Staff may be asked to stay at home and not enter the buildings if they have any symptom defined in Class A or three or more symptoms of Class B.

Students will be considered excused absence if under isolation or quarantine with proper documentation.

Employees will utilize sick leave in isolation or quarantine cases with proper documentation of infection.

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Quarantine Guidelines (Contacts to a positive COVID case)

We will contact parents and ask students to quarantine if identified as a close contact with someone who has COVID-19, unless you have been fully vaccinated. People who are fully vaccinated do NOT need to quarantine after contact with someone who had COVID-19 unless they have symptoms.

Close Contact is defined by

*being within 6 feet of a person with COVID-19 for 15 minutes or more and both individuals did not consistently wear mask over their nose and mouth OR

*within 3 feet of a person with COVID-19 for 15 minutes regardless of mask usage.

*If masks were worn over the nose and mouth by the positive case and the contact, the contact (if not having symptoms) can attend class and continue to wear a mask but should quarantine from any other school activities.

****Quarantine Recommendations are ATTACHED, based on CDC guidance as of June 28, 2022.**

****Isolation Guidelines (COVID positive or close contact with symptoms) are ATTACHED, based on CDC guidelines as of June 28, 2022.**

*****Navajo will be following the recommended guidance of the Jackson County Health Department
***All or any information is subject to change due to extenuating circumstances.**

Custodians will be sanitizing/disinfecting all areas of the building on a regular basis.

Students/Staff will be encouraged to practice good hygiene with hand sanitation stations set up.

Self-Reporting for any individual should be directed to the building Principal.

CDC GUIDELINES AS OF JUNE 28, 2022 CAN BE FOUND AT THIS LINK:

[Isolation and Quarantine Guidance \(oklahoma.gov\)](https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2022/s0628-covid-19-guidance.html)

CDC GUIDELINES CHART ATTACHED ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES:

COVID-19 Isolation & Quarantine Guidance for General Public



OKLAHOMA
State Department
of Health

This guidance is subject to change as more information becomes available.

Refer to [CDC Recommendations](#)

Find an isolation and quarantine calculator [here](#).

If you test positive for COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status - Isolate

If you have COVID-19 symptoms, stay home until:

- 5 days have passed since symptoms first appeared, **AND**
- Symptoms are improving, **AND**
- If fever is present, continue to stay home until 24 hours have passed since fever has resolved without the use of fever-reducing medications.

If you **never** have COVID-19 symptoms, stay home until:

- 5 days have passed since the date your COVID-19 test was collected, **AND**
- No COVID-19 symptoms have developed since you were tested.

If symptoms develop, it is recommended you follow the criteria for someone with COVID-19 symptoms.

Once you have met the above criteria, you are considered released from isolation and can resume normal activities, but it is recommended you **wear a well-fitting mask for an additional 5 days when around other people**.

Wearing a mask is very important for this updated isolation guidance to prevent spread in the community. We recommend individuals who are unable to wear a mask to isolate for 10 days or avoid situations that make it a challenge to wear a mask (e.g., gym, restaurants, lunch with co-workers, etc.).

Travel Recommendations

Do not travel during your 5-day isolation period. After you end isolation, avoid travel for an additional 5 days. If you must travel during the 5 days after ending isolation, wear a well-fitting mask when you are around others for the entire duration of travel. If you are unable to wear a mask during the 5 days after ending isolation, you should not travel.

K – 12 School Settings and Institutes of Higher Education

These recommendations do apply to K-12 school settings and institutes of higher education. The ability to wear a well-fitting mask for the 5 days after ending isolation is a very important part of these recommendations and preventing spread of COVID-19 in the setting. We recommend for individuals who are unable to wear a mask to isolate for 10 days or be exempt from the situations that prevent mask wearing (e.g., sports, choir, band, etc.). We recognize there are situations in which masks may not be worn: sports, choir, band, special needs classrooms, lunch time, and snack/break time. During these times it would be recommended to use other mitigation measures such as social distancing.

Severe COVID-19 and Weakened Immune Systems

These recommendations **do not** apply to people who are severely ill with COVID-19 or those with weakened immune systems. Isolation of at least 10 and up to 20 days is still recommended for these individuals. Consult with your healthcare provider about when it's safe to resume normal activities.

High-risk Congregate Settings

These recommendations also do not apply to certain high-risk congregate settings. See full recommendations for high-risk congregate settings [here](#).

Child Care Settings

Recommendations for child care settings can be found [here](#).

If you were exposed to someone with COVID-19 - Quarantine

If you have been in close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 and are **not** having any symptoms, it is recommended you choose one of the following actions based on your vaccination or previous infection status.

If you:

Are 18 years of age or older and received all recommended [primary vaccine doses](#) and a [booster shot](#)

OR

Are 18 years of age or older and received all recommended [primary vaccine doses](#) but are **not eligible** for a [booster shot](#)

OR

Are ages 5 to 17 and received all recommended [primary vaccine doses](#)

OR

Were lab positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days

It is recommended you:

- Wear a well-fitting mask around others for 10 days from your last date of exposure.
- Test on day 5 from your exposure, if possible.

If you develop symptoms, get tested and stay home.

OR

If you:

Are 18 years of age or older and received the recommended [primary vaccine doses](#) but have **not received** a recommended [booster shot](#) when eligible

OR

Have **not completed** all recommended [primary vaccine doses](#)

OR

Are unvaccinated

It is recommended you:

- Stay home for 5 days from your last date of exposure. After that, wear a well-fitting mask around others for 5 additional days.
- If you can't quarantine, it is recommended you wear a well-fitting mask, around others for 10 days from your last date of exposure.
- Test on day 5 from your exposure, if possible.

If you develop symptoms, get tested and stay home.

Calculating your Isolation or Quarantine start and end date:

- Isolation: Day your symptoms started, if ever symptomatic (day zero)
- Isolation: Day you tested, if never symptomatic (day zero)
- Quarantine: Last day of exposure (day zero)

[OSDH Isolation & Quarantine Calculator](#)