

ACTION STEPS FOR PROTECTING OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

The information presented in this document is shared so that our community can begin school with a shared understanding of each person's responsibility in keeping our students and staff safe from COVID-19. These plans are subject to change as new information becomes available or as new situations arise related to COVID-19. **We know we cannot eliminate the virus; but with wise choices, we can mitigate it.**

ACTION STEP 1 – DAILY AT HOME HEALTH SCREENINGS PRIOR TO ATTENDING SCHOOL

In an effort to prevent possible exposure of staff and students to COVID-19, you are responsible to review the following questions each morning and **PRIOR** to your child riding a school bus or entering school.

1. Does your child have a fever of 100 degrees¹ or more?
2. Is your child experiencing (a) a new loss of taste or smell, (b) nausea or vomiting, OR (c) diarrhea?
3. Is your child experiencing two or more of the following symptoms of COVID-19?
 - Chills
 - Cough
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
4. Is your child experiencing **ANY** of the **Emergency Warning Symptoms** of COVID-19?
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
 - New confusion
 - Inability to wake or stay awake
 - Bluish lips or face
5. Has your child had, or do you think your child has, COVID-19?
6. Has your child tested positive for COVID-19?
7. Has your child been around a person with COVID-19?

If the answer to any of these questions is “YES,” **YOUR CHILD SHOULD REMAIN AT HOME** and you should contact the attendance clerk at your child's school by phone or email. Students remaining home as a result of COVID-19 concerns will not be penalized regarding absences. Assignments, tests, or other school work can be made up by arrangement with teachers.

If your child is showing any of the **Emergency Warning Signs** listed in Question 4, **seek emergency medical care immediately.**

If your answer to Question 5, 6, OR 7 is “YES,” please contact your physician and the Payne County Health Department (918)225-3377 or (405)372-8200 for specific guidance on the criteria to be met before your child returns to school.

¹This temperature is set per the OSDE *Return to Learn Oklahoma*, June 2020.

Parents/Guardians, by sending your child to school, you are representing to all of our stakeholders – students, staff, families, community – who are counting on you to help keep our schools safe and healthy that the answer to each of these questions is “NO.”

Together, we can stay in school by keeping COVID-19 out. This daily screening is key in accomplishing that goal.

ACTION STEP #2 – MASKS/FACE COVERINGS

Cushing Public Schools will require masks for all adults including teachers and staff who enter CPS buildings. Students in grades 5-12 will be required to wear masks while Payne County is in the in yellow, orange, and red levels of the [Oklahoma School Safety Protocol](#) released by the Oklahoma State Department of Education. Students in grades PK-4 are strongly encouraged to wear masks. All students (Grades K-12) will be required to wear masks while they are being transported on a Cushing Public Schools bus as social distancing will be extremely difficult in this environment.

Cloth face coverings are recommended as a simple barrier to help prevent respiratory droplets from traveling into the air and onto other people when the person wearing the cloth face covering coughs, sneezes, talks, or raises their voice. This is called source control. This recommendation is based on what we know about the role respiratory droplets play in the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19, paired with [emerging evidence](#) from clinical and laboratory studies that shows cloth face coverings reduce the spray of droplets when worn over the nose and mouth. COVID-19 spreads mainly among people who are in [close contact](#) with one another (within about 6 feet), so the use of cloth face coverings is particularly important in settings where people are close to each other or where social distancing is difficult to maintain (U.S. Centers for Disease Control, 2020).

Mask Exemptions and Accommodations

- Persons who work or directly interact with individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, and who rely on lip-reading to communicate, may remove a face covering for the duration of time as is necessary to communicate or interact directly with the individual(s). In this situation, consideration should be given to using a clear face covering. If a clear face covering is unavailable, staff members should consider using written communication, closed captioning or decrease background noise to make communication possible while wearing a cloth face covering that blocks the lips.
- Persons with a medical condition or disability that prevents wearing a face covering must wear a face shield.
- Persons with a medical condition for whom wearing a face covering could obstruct breathing or who are unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance.
- Persons who are hearing impaired, or communicating with a person who is hearing impaired, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication.
- Persons for whom wearing a face covering would create a risk to the person related to their work, as determined by local, state or federal regulators or workplace safety guidelines. This includes people who work in a setting where cloth face coverings may increase the risk of [heat-related illness](#) or cause safety concerns due to introduction of a hazard (for instance, straps getting caught in machinery) may consult with an occupational safety and health professional to determine the appropriate face covering for their setting.
- Persons who are obtaining a service involving the nose or face for which temporary removal of the face covering is necessary to perform the service.
- Note: Persons exempted from wearing a face covering due to a medical condition who are employed in a job involving regular contact with others should wear a non-restrictive alternative, such as a face shield with a drape on the bottom edge, as long as their condition permits it.

ACTION STEP #3 – HYGEINE AND SANITATION

Handwashing is one of the best means of protection against infection. Students will be reminded to wash their hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing their noses, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating.

Students will be reminded to “cover” their coughs and sneezes.

Students will be reminded to limit touching their faces.

Students will have increased access to hand sanitizer. Hand sanitizer dispensers have been installed in every student restroom in addition to the hand sanitizing stations that were already present in our cafeterias.

Sharing of supplies such as crayons, markers, scissors and pencils will be discouraged.

Students will be reminded that sharing food is not a safe practice.

Snack procedures will be modified this year. All snacks must be pre-packaged and must be received at the school no less than 72 hours prior to their being served. Schools that serve snacks to students will provide additional information on snacks to parents.

Students are encouraged to bring filled water bottles or other non-breakable water containers to school with them. As school opens, students are encouraged to use the traditional “bubble up” water fountains only to fill their bottles – not to drink directly from the fountain. Please do not share water bottles. All water bottles should be taken home daily for cleaning.

Parents/Guardians, THANK YOU for reinforcing the aforementioned practices at home. Surface cleaning and disinfecting measures will be increased throughout the District. Ventilation in all aspects of school operations will increase.

ACTION STEP #4 – SOCIAL/PHYSICAL DISTANCING

Each site will be devising plans to provide for this precaution to the greatest extent feasible in the common areas of hallways, classrooms, cafeterias, gyms and buses. Outdoor time will be maximized as deemed most appropriate at each site.

Arrival/Dismissal routines will look different this year in an effort to allow students to maintain a safe physical distance from one another as they arrive and are dismissed. Each site will work with the layout and options in their specific building to maximize opportunities for distancing during arrival/dismissal.

Daily visits to school lockers will be reduced or eliminated in order to reduce the number of students in a hallway area at any one time. At every opportunity, students are encouraged to minimize unnecessary material and items being brought into the school. Middle school students should not bring shelves or other types of decorations to put into lockers.

Most back to school nights will not be held this year. Cushing Pre-K has already announced dated for modified Meet the Teacher events. Cushing Lower Elementary has offered school tours for new students. Cushing Middle School will be offering school tours for incoming fifth graders. Please check our website or social media accounts for information on upcoming events.

New student enrollment and student registration will be modified this year. All enrollment and registration will be done online using [SchoolMint](#). New enrollees can create an account on the SchoolMint site. Those who attended Cushing Public Schools during the 2019-20 school year should have received a text or email from SchoolMint with information on how to login to your account. If you did not, you can contact us at enrollment@cushingtigers.com

Schedule pick-up will be modified this year. Parents and students will need to login to TeacherEase in order to see their schedule/class assignment for the 2020-21 school year. Schedules and class assignments have not been finalized for the 2020-21 school year. Please check our website or social media accounts for information on when scheduling information will be available in Teacher Ease.

Social/Physical Distancing is excellent when feasible, but we must admit that it will just not always be feasible, thus the following action step.