

Oxford Township School District Reopening Plan Frequently Asked Questions

(This document will be updated as new information and questions arise.)

As of April 21, 2022

Watch for Symptoms – Please do not send your student to school if they have symptoms. If a sibling is ill, please keep everyone at home until we confirm it is not COVID-19. It is cold and flu season and in order to prevent an outbreak of COVID-19 here at OCS, we have to treat every illness as a potential COVID illness.

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. Anyone can have mild to severe symptoms. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- **Diarrhea**

Exclusion of students from school:

Parents should not send students to school when sick. For school settings, the NJDOH recommends that students with the following symptoms be promptly isolated from others and be excluded from school:

At least two of the following symptoms: fever (measure or subjective), chills, rigors (shivers), myalgia (muscle aches), headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion or runny nose;

OR

At least one of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new olfactory disorder, and new taste disorder.

Persons who test positive for COVID-19 and are symptomatic or persons with COVID-19 symptoms who were not tested or who are waiting for test results:

Stay home and isolate from other people for at least 5 full days (day 0 is the first day of symptoms).

If symptoms resolve (fever-free for 24 hours and other symptoms end), isolation can end after 5 full days (i.e., on day 6).

If symptoms persist (fever or if other symptoms have not improved), continue to isolate until fever-free or symptom-free for 24 hours.

The recommendation to parents would be for positive cases to wear a mask for days 6-10 in school.

Persons who test positive for COVID-19 but have no symptoms:

Stay home and isolate from other people for at least 5 full days (day 0 is the day of the positive viral test).

If no symptoms develop, isolation can end after 5 full days (i.e., on day 6). The recommendation to parents would be for positive cases to wear a mask for days 6-10 in school.

If symptoms develop within one week of the positive test, the 5-day isolation period starts over with day 0 being the first day of symptoms.

What if my child is considered a close contact or has symptoms?

As of this date, The Regional Risk Matrix is in Yellow, therefore:

Close contacts will be excluded, but could come back to school with a negative PCR or two days of negative at-home testing (done 24 hours apart) and with verification (pictures emailed to the nurse).

Exposed close contacts who have no symptoms in the following groups do NOT need to quarantine or be excluded from school:

- Age 5-11 years and completed the primary series of COVID-19 vaccines.
- Age 12 or older and have received all recommended vaccine doses, including boosters and additional primary shots for some immunocompromised people.
- Had confirmed COVID-19 within the last 90 days (tested positive using a viral test).

If a student in one of the above categories is having Covid-like symptoms, they should stay home, until they are symptom-free for at least 24 hours or get an alternate diagnosis from a physician.

If the Regional Risk Matrix moves to Green, our protocols will be based on the [School Exclusion Chart](#).

Alternate Diagnosis information can be found at:

https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/RecommendationsForLocalHealthDepts_K12Schools.pdf

Do I have to quarantine my children if we travel outside of New Jersey?

OCS TRAVEL GUIDANCE – February 11, 2022

The Oxford Township Board of Education recommends following the travel guidance from the CDC and the NJDOH (see below). However, the school board will waive the 5-day self-quarantine for domestic travel, and recommends that students test negative with a COVID-19 rapid test and are symptom free for at least 24-hours after they have returned from a travel destination.

Further CDC Travel Recommendations: [Travel Recommendations](#)

How can I get COVID Testing?

For information on how to obtain COVID-19 tests, please see the following link and information:

<https://covid19.nj.gov/pages/testing>

<https://special.usps.com/testkits>

OR

Visit the free COVID-19 testing site at the Goodwill Firehouse, 689 Water Street in Belvidere, **through March 24, 2022**. The testing site is open for walk-ins only, Monday-Thursday from 1:00pm to 7:00pm. Testing is for NJ residents.

Will my child have to wear a mask in school to begin the 2021-2022 school year?

As of March 7, 2022, masks are optional both in the school and on the school buses. If parents wish to have their student continue to wear a mask, it is the student's responsibility to follow the request of their parents. Administration will verify this request with families and remind the student privately.

What type of mask will staff and students be wearing IF they are opting to wear a mask after March 7, 2022?

- *What we do not wish to see worn are gaiters, scarves, handkerchiefs and other face coverings that do not serve to protect from transmission of the virus.*
- Make sure you can breathe through it
- Your nose and mouth should be covered
- Make sure your mask fits snugly against your face. Gaps can let air with respiratory droplets leak in and out around the edges of the mask.
- Pick a mask with two or more layers of washable, breathable fabric to keep your respiratory droplets in and others' out. A mask with layers will stop more respiratory droplets getting inside your mask or escaping from your mask if you are sick.
- To add layers, wear one disposable mask underneath a cloth mask. The second mask should push the edges of the inner mask against your face.
- Wash the face covering after use

Will the District be offering child care?

OCS will offer Child Care, both the Before School Care program and the After School Care Program. These two programs are available Monday-Friday. Before Care will begin at 6:30am and After School Care will begin at dismissal (3:00pm). After School Care will end at 6:00pm Monday-Friday, unless otherwise advertised. Due to space limitations, students must be pre-enrolled in either program. The 2021-2022 application is available on our website:

<https://www.oxfordcentral.org/admin/files/After%20Care.%20Before%20Care%2020-21%20Application%20%20v2.pdf>

Will there be a remote learning option for the 2021-2022 school year?

No. Instruction will be in-person at the Oxford Central School.

When will we know that the district may shift to full remote instruction?

If the NJDOH Regional Risk Matrix were to shift to Red (Very High Risk) or the NJDOH determines that we have an outbreak of COVID-19, we **may** shift to full remote instruction. If we were in the Orange (High Risk) Level, we would shift to remote **if**, after consultation with the NJDOH, the case rate in Warren County was high enough to warrant a move to remote instruction.

How does the NJDOH define an outbreak of COVID-19?

According to the NJDOH, an outbreak is defined as two or more laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases among students or staff, with onsets within a 14-day period. The cases must also have an “epidemiological link,” meaning that in both incidents, the individual has either been exposed to a confirmed case, or has had the same exposure as a confirmed case, as defined by the CDC and the World Health Organization.

Furthermore, if the students or staff who test positive do not share a household, and were not identified as close contacts of each other in another setting during standard case investigation or contact tracing, they are part of an outbreak.

What will the role of paraprofessionals be during the school year?

Our dedicated paraprofessionals will be in-person during the school year. Student IEPs that include paraprofessionals will be implemented to the maximum extent possible in the context of current State guidelines for re-opening schools. Program paraprofessionals will be assigned to classrooms based on State requirements.

Will there be a hybrid option for this school year?

At this time, there is no plan to implement a hybrid schedule. All students will be expected to attend in-person, five days a week. The school day will begin at 8:20am and will end at 2:50pm.

How are you maintaining social distancing?

Seating arrangements have been re-configured to ensure social distancing is achieved during instruction *i.e.* spacing of desks, tables, and other furniture. Transitions in the classrooms and the school will have specific traffic patterns that limit the amount of students transitioning between activities and throughout the building. In the cafeteria, we added a fourth lunch and remind students to maintain three feet physical distance.

What will the school bus look like to and from school?

Parents are expected to assess their children's health each morning and keep children at home if they exhibit any COVID-19 symptoms. Parents should remain at the bus stop with their children to ensure social distancing is followed. Face masks may be worn on the school bus. Parents may decide to drive their children to school.

Will students have separate entrances when they arrive at school?

Yes, Students will be entering the building using different doors (the same doors we used last school year):

Preschool/ Pre-Kindergarten, Grades 4 and 5 students will enter via the main entrance.

Grades 1-3 students will use Door J, under the portico on the Church Street side of the building.

Grades 6-8 students will use Door K, along the Church Street side of the school.

What happens when my child arrives at school?

As of April 21, 2022, students will sanitize their hands. Temperature checks have been discontinued.

Will the school provide masks and hand sanitizer?

Upon request, OCS will provide cloth masks or KN-95 masks for students. Each classroom will have hand sanitizer and there will be hand sanitizer stations for students when they arrive to school and before they depart for the day. All face coverings must follow our student dress code policy.

Will there be mask breaks?

Students will have mandatory mask breaks during the day. While seated during snack or lunch, they may remove their mask.

If a student or staff member gets sick while they are in school, is there a place for them to isolate until they can be picked up?

Yes. We will have a designated isolation area to keep anyone ill safe. This isolation office will not be in the nurse's office, so that any other student needing services or assistance can still enter the nurse's office.

Are the children and staff going to be asked if anyone in the household has COVID-19 or pending COVID-19 testing?

Student temperatures will be assessed upon arrival. It is vitally important to the health of all individuals that any knowledge of potential exposure to COVID-19 be disclosed to the school. Please contact the school nurse, 908-453-4101, x2106.

How will social distancing be maintained in the hallways and during arrival and dismissal?

Student movement in the halls will be closely monitored and limited. We have marked hallways to provide guidance to students as they move in the hallway, as well as place signage, as appropriate, to assist with hallway movements.

Will the bathroom be available for use and how will sanitary conditions be maintained?

Our custodial team have an increased rotation to enable higher frequency cleaning of bathrooms during the day. Students will need to maintain good hygiene and hand washing, to help maximize safety. Additionally, hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms. All student bathrooms will be open for daily use and bathrooms will be inspected on a regular basis.

Will students change classrooms every period?

At the middle school level (grades 5-8), we are following the typical schedule, however, movement between periods will be limited. Protocols such as hallway markings and monitoring the hallways will help to minimize student contact in the hallways. Middle school students will move to teacher's classrooms, following a schedule for movement in the hallways. The elementary grades are assigned to a specific classroom. Movement to special area classes will be allowed. Lockers will be utilized and student movement to the lockers will be scheduled and monitored.

What happens if a student in the class, teacher, or someone who has been in contact with my child tests positive? Does the school close? Are we instructed to quarantine?

We continue to work closely with the Warren County Health Department to determine what actions are necessary if a student or staff member becomes ill with COVID-19. Contact tracing and safety protocols will determine the extent of the response.

Could the school move to virtual, remote learning?

As of this date, we are in-person. Due to the close proximity of students and staff and the reality that siblings and families could be impacted, the chance of a quick closure of classrooms and/or school to ensure safety is possible. Parents need to be prepared to have their children home on remote learning in the event a quarantine is advised.

Where can I find COVID-19 information from the state?

[Are Schools Open?](#)

What precautions are taken to make sure the facility is well-ventilated?

We are following the recommendations of the CDC and NJ Department of Health regarding ventilation and sanitation. Our facility team follows rigid daily cleaning protocols. Our HVAC systems are designed according to the standards of the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) to provide proper ventilation and exchange of air. This may include the introduction of additional fresh air from the outside. We upgraded the HVAC controls to help us continue to provide the best air we can breathe!

Will lunch be available?

Yes! Lunch will be available FREE to every student who orders lunch. This option will be available every day that school is in session. This option will be available for the entire 2021-2022 school year. Students may still pack a lunch to eat at school.

What about snack?

The classroom teacher will provide further details on appropriate healthy snacks and the snack time for your child.

Will the water fountains be available?

We will only be using water bottle filling stations. Students should come to school with a refillable water bottle.

What about Chromebook insurance and Chromebooks?

All students in grades 3-8 will be issued a district Chromebook. The annual insurance is \$20.00 and covers accidents. It does not cover student damage and misuse. Students in grades 3-8 should also have a Chromebook cover that covers a standard 11.5-inch Chromebook. Students in KG-2 will have in-class access to Chromebooks.

Will students in grades 6-8 be changing for Physical Education classes?

Yes. They will be changing. Gym uniforms will be worn.

Will the playground be used and will there be recess?

Yes and Yes. Weather permitting, we are going outside for breaks and for recess. For recess, we are using 35 degrees as the deciding factor about going outside for a prolonged period. Students must dress accordingly!

What if my child has to quarantine?

As of this date, a student who is forced to quarantine by directive of the school due to illness will be considered for home instruction and asynchronous lessons will be provided for the student. *Home instruction, when needed, will be conducted remotely.*

Will there be benchmark/ state assessments this school year?

Yes. Here at OCS we utilized the New Jersey Start Strong assessments to begin the school year. Spring New Jersey Student Learning Standards Assessments are being given in grades 3-8. The assessment period is April 25-May 25.

Students were assessed mid-year through a variety of formative assessments. Please contact your student's teacher for information.