



PAWHUSKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Reopening Guidelines for Families

These guidelines are shared with our students, families, and staff, in an effort to mitigate the risk of transmission of COVID-19. We must all work together to safely return to school in the fall.

We also recognize that some families will prefer to enroll students in at-home/virtual learning environments via online classes, which allows students from ANY grade level to remain a Huskie and receive instruction from our highly qualified teachers with support services. Middle school and high school students in the Online classes can still opt to participate in on-site activities which include athletics, art, band, or other electives.

The information presented in this summary is shared so that all of our community can begin school with a shared understanding of our responsibility in keeping our students and staff safe from COVID-19. We know we cannot eliminate the virus; but with wise choices, we can mitigate it.

LAYERED MITIGATION PRACTICES

DAILY TEMPERATURE CHECKS - Each morning, families are asked to take their children's temperatures, as a fever of 100°F or higher may be an indication of an active case of COVID-19. Please keep a child with fever home to monitor for additional symptoms. District staff are expected to complete an on-site temperature check each day before entering the bus or building.

RESPONSE TO POSSIBLE SYMPTOMS - While many children will present with fever initially, many will not. Other symptoms that may develop at first include chills, cough, headache, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion, runny nose, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea. Any of these are cause for keeping a child at home and for staff to take sick leave.

FACE COVERINGS - There is strong evidence that face coverings for both the nose and mouth help interrupt the spread of COVID-19 by protecting both the wearers and those with whom they come in contact. This includes cloth masks, neck gaiters, face shields, and other CDC-recommended masks.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING - While it will be difficult to maintain distance between the students at school, each site will be devising plans to maximize distancing in classrooms, cafeterias, playgrounds and gyms.

HYGIENE - Hand Washing is one of the best ways to prevent infections. 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. They will also have access to hand sanitizer stations in the classrooms and throughout the school when hand-washing facilities are not readily available.



Precaution	Staff	Students	Details
 Temperature Screenings	Mandatory and Daily upon entering building	Mandatory and Daily upon entering the school bus or building	Temperature stations will be at each site and on the bus. No one with a temperature at or above 100° may remain at school.
 Symptom Screenings	Self-screening before arrival	Refer students with symptoms to the office.	Symptoms include: fever, chills, cough, headache, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion, runny nose, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.
 Face Coverings	<p>REQUIRED The district will provide a face shield to bus drivers. Bus drivers must have a mask on during loading and unloading.</p> <p>A washable cloth mask will be initially provided to all staff and students</p> <p>Bus students will be required to wear a mask while travelling on the bus.</p>	Face coverings will be provided initially to all students. It is required that students wear them during school and while on the bus.	<p>It is recommended that students and staff should have their noses and mouths covered whenever 6' physical distancing is not feasible & coverings are highly required at all times indoors except when eating or drinking. Staff are REQUIRED to comply, while younger elementary students will be steadily encouraged and trained to comply.</p> <p>Middle and high school students who forgot their covering will be offered an alternative when available: students who fail to comply may have their instructional environment altered to help protect them, other students and staff members.</p>



 <p>Physical Distancing</p>	<p>Remain 6 feet from others whenever feasible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facial coverings are important since 6’ physical distancing is frequently impossible in classroom settings. • Meals will be grab n go and sometimes eaten in large areas (e.g. gyms & cafeterias) with directions given for physical distancing. • No assemblies or field trips or guests; instead use classroom-based conferencing. • Playgrounds will be available with physical distancing encouraged and with mandatory hand-washing afterward.
 <p>Hygiene</p>	<p>Frequent handwashing is encouraged. Disinfection of surfaces is supported with a spray bottle/mist of disinfectant in each classroom daily as well as HEPA Filters, hand sanitizer stations, etc</p>

FACE COVERINGS FOR STUDENTS

Students are reminded that by wearing a face covering at school, they are protecting both themselves and those around them. At the beginning of school, every student will be supplied with a face mask. The optimal, safest situation to prevent viral spread is for all students and staff to wear face coverings over their mouths and noses at all times except when eating or drinking. When a student wears a face covering, it is a sign of respect for both classmates and teachers and by extension confirms that the wearer understands his/her responsibility to his/her immediate, extended, and school families and the greater community. For this reason, face coverings will be part of the dress code for elementary, middle and high schools. These are to be worn throughout the day - on school buses, in hallways, or in classrooms. Elementary school students will be steadily encouraged and trained to wear face coverings whenever social distancing is difficult or not feasible. We realize that safely and consistently wearing a face covering becomes more feasible as students mature into the upper elementary grades. We also recognize that some students have special conditions or may otherwise be non-compliant, which may necessitate reasonable and non-stigmatizing alterations in their instructional environments to help protect them, other students, and staff members. Face coverings will be needed for bus transport, with students expected to board wearing one or wear one provided by the driver. Coverings are to be kept on as students exit the bus and enter the school. A doctor’s note must be on file at the site office for a student or staff member to be exempt from wearing a face mask.

Traditional School Schedule

During the COVID 19 pandemic the traditional school scheduled on site will be Tuesday - Friday. Monday will be a virtual day for students. Teachers will have office hours during the virtual day for students to check in. All staff will report to school sites.



ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL

As students arrive at school in the morning, they will be directed to classrooms or general areas where social distancing is feasible. Students will not be gathered in large groups to wait for their school day to begin. Parents will not be escorting their children into the building. Parents will be asked to remain in their cars and drive through the drop-off line to ensure a safe exit from and entrance into their family vehicles. Dismissals may include releasing students in a staggered manner to avoid overcrowding corridors and following social distancing guidelines by not waiting in large groups.

RESTRICTED ACCESS

In order to limit the exposure in the school sites, access into the sites will be restricted to staff, students, support services, and emergency situations. Those wishing to drop off items, may leave them in the tub located at the building entrance. Be sure items are labeled with student first and last name and teacher name or grade. If you need to check your child out of school, please press the button on the intercom and someone will assist you. State the students name, grade, and your name and what information or student you are requesting.

BREAKFAST & LUNCH

Students will wash hands or use hand sanitizer prior to eating. As much as possible, students will have 6' physical distancing. Classroom space and district staffing may affect whether meals can be in a classroom or must be in cafeterias, gyms, etc. at marked locations. No guests will be allowed to have lunch on-site during the COVID-19 pandemic. Parents are encouraged to limit the times they check their students out for lunch to minimize unnecessary potential exposure.

Virtual students have access to both breakfast and lunch meals during the week at Elementary cafeteria.

SNACKS

Due to the threat of infection, no classwide snacks will be allowed or distributed at school except as provided by Child Nutrition. Students choosing to bring a snack to school may bring an individually wrapped snack for themselves.

SUPPLIES

Sharing of supplies such as crayons, markers, scissors, and pencils will be restricted. Students/teachers will keep their individual supplies separated from those of others in individually labeled containers, cubbies, etc. Manipulatives and other instructional items will be sanitized prior to use by another student.

RECESS

Sites with recess will develop schedules to allow daily outdoor playtime for students. Recess schedules may vary in order to limit the number of students in any one area. Students returning from recess must wash their hands.



SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Extra and co-curricular activities such as marching band, vocal music, STUCO, drama, and athletics of all descriptions are vital elements of a secondary school student's experience. Responses to COVID-19 in these environments will vary, with a keen eye to proven practices in prevention and protection. It is difficult to predict what the interscholastic sports seasons will look like. The district will continue to draw upon expert advice and guidelines for safe play from state and national organizations. It is equally uncertain what the high school and middle school fan experience will include. Our hope, especially for outdoor sports, is that fans will be able to enjoy activities by engaging in proper physical distancing and choosing to wear facial coverings. Face masks are required if social distancing is not available.

ASSEMBLIES

In-person assemblies and multi-classroom groupings will be suspended throughout community spread of the virus to avoid the likely possibility of exposure, which is especially acute when many students gather to chant, cheer, etc. Virtual assemblies may be utilized during the COVID 19 pandemic.

MEDIA CENTERS

Honoring the importance of reading and research, the school media centers will remain open for student use. There will be necessary changes in routines, scheduling, spacing, and sanitation.

WATER FOUNTAINS & RESTROOMS

We encourage students and staff to bring filled water bottles or other non-breakable water containers to school, since traditional "bubble up" water fountains will be disabled. Student and staff restrooms will be sanitized at least twice per day by site custodial staff.

TECHNOLOGY

Chromebooks will be provided for all students. Elementary students may take their chromebook home on Friday and return them to school on Tuesday. Middle School and High School students will have chromebooks daily to take home. Hot spots for families with limited or no Internet access will be available while available.

COVID-19 SYMPTOMS AT SCHOOL

If a teacher suspects that an elementary school student may have COVID-19 symptoms, he/she will contact the office to arrange for an adult to come to the classroom and escort the student to the office. Middle school and high school students will be sent or escorted to the office as is appropriate. Parents will be contacted immediately to pick up symptomatic students and seek a medical opinion.



EXPOSURES, DIAGNOSES, & RETURN TO SCHOOL AFTER COVID-19

In regards to exposures, diagnoses, and positive tests:

- Anyone who has had close contact with someone positive for COVID-19 should stay home for 14 calendar days after exposure, based on the time it takes to develop the illness. Distance learning will be provided whenever feasible. Due to false negatives, testing is not an easy way to end self-quarantine.
- Any child who tests positive or has apparent COVID-19 symptoms may return to school after three days with no fever and improved respiratory symptoms and ten days since symptoms first appeared or, if the child never has symptoms, ten days after a positive test sample is taken.
- Parents are required to report to the school any children who test positive for COVID-19 so that deep cleaning of affected areas and any required self-quarantines for close contacts can be performed.
- If a student/staff is in contact with an infected student/staff the school site will be on virtual instruction for 2 days so that the entire building can be disinfected and cleaned. If there is a second exposure, the school site will be quarantined and virtual instruction will take place for 14 days.