

Osage County's Guidance for K-12 Schools



Considerations and Recommendations for Osage County's Schools

With permission from the Georgia Department of Education and Georgia Department of Public Health, the following guidance has been adapted to support Osage County schools in determining their plans and strategies for continuing education throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. *Osage County's Guidance for K-12 Schools* provides a tiered approach with clear, actionable steps that are applicable throughout the 2021-2022 school year.

This approach is built upon the guidance and recommendations of health officials. It is strongly aligned to the reopening guidelines that have been provided by our state and federal leaders. It is designed to help Osage County schools prioritize the health and safety of students and teachers as they deliver instruction for the 2021-2022 school year.

The Osage County Health Department will continue to provide guidance and recommendations to schools on navigating the academic, social, and emotional effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on students and employees.

Osage County's Guidance for K-12 Schools provides considerations, recommendations, and best practices to ensure a safe and successful 2021-2022 school year. This guidance is not mandated, or state required. Schools have the authority and flexibility to meet their individual needs and be responsive to their school communities, which may include closing school buildings and/or classrooms

Definitions

Fully Vaccinated	A person is considered fully vaccinated 2 weeks after their final dose of COVID-19 vaccine.
Isolate	A positive case should stay home from school and isolate from others for 10 days from when symptoms first began. Return to school requires symptom improvement AND fever free for at least 24 hours without fever reducing medication.
Quarantine	<p>A person identified as a close contact can remain in school if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fully vaccinated (Recommend to mask indoors for 10 days following exposure). • Recovered from COVID-19 with a PCR/Antigen positive in the last 90 days (home tests not acceptable). • Tested antibody positive within 90 days before or immediately following (less than 48 hours) an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 <p>If none of the above apply, a person identified as a close contact should remain home after date of last close contact for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 days. The close contact may return to school/activities on day 11 if they meet the below *guidelines. <p>*Guidelines - to be followed through 14 days after close contact if returning to school:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No symptoms noted. • Continue to monitor for symptoms daily. • Wear a mask. • Social distance. <p>If any symptoms develop, they should immediately self-isolate.</p>

Practicing Prevention

- Teach and reinforce good hygiene measures such as handwashing, covering coughs, and face coverings.
- Provide hand soap and hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, paper towels, and no-touch trash cans in all bathrooms, classrooms, and frequently trafficked areas.
- Clean/disinfect frequently touched surfaces at least daily
- Recommend students and staff to bring hand sanitizer and face masks/coverings to use from home.
- Take steps to ensure all water systems and features are safe.
- Use social media and other communications to inform parents, students, and staff about COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures, good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols.

CDC Guidance

- [Reopening Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Schools](#)
- [How to Protect Yourself and Others](#)
- [Communication Tools](#)
- [COVID-19 Symptoms](#)

Missouri's COVID-19 Hotline

- Call: **877-435-8411**

Crisis Contacts

- Missouri Department of Mental Health Disaster Distress Helpline 800-985-5990, or Text "TalkWithUs" to 66746

Addressing Spread in K-12 Schools

Osage County's Guidance for K-12 Schools not only provides considerations for school leaders as they develop their own plans for restarting school this fall, but provides a flexible framework to address challenges that may develop throughout the 2021-2022 school year. Instead of a one-size-fits-all approach, this guidance provides instructional models and responses classrooms/buildings/schools can adopt to ensure the continued success and safety of students and staff members.

<p style="text-align: center;">Substantial Spread</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Large uncontrolled transmission within the school community.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Moderate Spread</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sustained transmission within the school community; potential for rapid increase in positive cases.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Low Spread</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Isolated cases within the school community; minimal exposure to others in the school community.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommend students/staff wear masks while indoors. • Classrooms or School buildings that are closed, implement distance/remote learning (see <i>Serving School Meals</i> and <i>Supporting Teaching and Learning</i>). • Eliminate field trips, student assemblies, and school-wide parent meetings. • Restrict or eliminate spectators at sporting events. • Establish a protocol for student pick up and drop off: staggered entry and release (by grade, class, or bus numbers), marked spacing for pickup. • Screen students and staff (to the extent practicable). • Alternative serving models include serving meals in classrooms and/or pre-packaged boxes or bags for each student. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify close contacts and notify parents of potential exposure. Quarantine close contacts. Implement at least 3 feet of social distancing measures (see <i>Transitioning, Large Group Gatherings, and Teaching and Learning</i>) • Isolate and deep clean impacted classrooms and spaces at least once daily • Recommend students/staff wear a mask while indoors. • In transit, utilize spaced seating (to the extent practicable) and minimize congregation of children from different households. • Limit field trips (to areas of limited/low transmission). • Restrict nonessential visitors and volunteers. • Recommend all spectators wear masks, social distance, and encourage congregation/seating within own household at sporting events. • Limit unnecessary congregations of students and staff. • Serve meals in cafeteria with spaced seating and serving lines. Limit mingling of students between tables. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain communication with local health officials. • Identify close contacts and notify parents of potential exposure. Quarantine close contacts. • Post signage to communicate how to stop the spread, COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols. • Establish a protocol for visitors.
<p>When moving to a higher level of spread, continue to follow recommendations from previous level(s) or whichever is more restrictive.</p>		