

BACK TO SCHOOL Question and Answer 2020- 2021

[OUSD Reopening Input FORM](#)

Frequently Asked Questions

OUSD leaders developed a plan for returning to school for the 2020-21 academic year, which was approved by the School Board at the Special Board meeting on July 27, 2020 meeting.

The plan is to welcome students back into our buildings with face-to-face instruction, resuming a mostly normal school day schedule. This would involve attentive cleaning protocols, a degree of physical distancing among students, some requirement of face coverings/masks, possible adjustments to how students enter and exit buildings, and changes to how we manage transitions between classrooms throughout the day.

**Traditional - Full-time enrollment in OUSD
(For students in grades Early Childhood & PreK-12) This will be the 'default' option for students, with the first day of school remaining September 1, 2020. If you want to choose the 100% option please fill out the return [preference survey](#)**

Traditional In Classroom Learning Option

We hope to use this page to provide you with current information the Oconto Unified School District has regarding face-to-face return to school for the 2020-21 school year. The procedures outlined allow for the District to decrease the risk of COVID-19 infection in students and staff to the largest extent possible and within reason based upon the current state of the COVID-19 pandemic. As information is added and/or updated during this ever-changing and fluid time, it will be shared out.

VIRTUAL LEARNING

Full-time enrollment in Oconto Virtual Academy (OVA) through Ed Options (For students in grades K-12)

Families that are concerned about a return to regular school day/schedule may request enrolling their child(ren) full-time in the School District of Oconto's Virtual School -- Students would spend their time engaged in online/virtual learning from their home.

NOTE: online instruction in Ed Options or with a Certified Oconto Teacher is a comprehensive educational program that is accessed by students from home is not the same as the online experience families had during the school closure from March-June of 2020. Choosing this option means full- time enrollment in the virtual school (taking courses from home). OVA serves students in grades Kindergarten through 12.

For both Oconto Virtual School Option either through Ed Options or through an Oconto teacher, please understand that the educational program requires a commitment of time very much like attending school in a traditional setting, but it provides flexibility for when students/parents are able to complete school work. Generally speaking, the required time for OVA courses is equivalent to being in a traditional school setting.

OVA values parents as partners. While OVA teachers deliver regular instruction, parents/guardians play an integral part in their student's education. Teachers are available for personalized, one-on-one instruction throughout the week as needed, however, younger students may require additional parental supervision and support in course navigation and progress through coursework. It is important for the parent to ensure their child is completing his/her own work so teachers know how to provide additional learning support.

Students enrolled in Oconto Virtual Academy may participate in grade/age appropriate athletics, clubs, and other activities. Further details can be provided by schools in which the student is seeking to participate in extracurricular or other club activities.

Seniors in 2020-21 that have attended Oconto High School and decide to enroll in OVA full-time for their senior year, and have completed the OUSD requirements for graduation, will receive their diploma from Oconto Unified School District.

PPE- Personal Protection Equipment

Will staff be required to wear masks at school?

At this time, following Oconto County Public Health Department guidelines, in the appropriate setting, the District will require staff, who are able to do so safely, to wear masks, face coverings, or other personal protective equipment (PPE) where adequate physical/social distancing is not able to be achieved.

Will students be required to wear masks at school?

Face coverings/masks are STRONGLY recommended for students per health guidelines. We will be working to physically distance students. If physical distancing guidelines cannot be accommodated masks will be required. Such areas where masks will be required because we cannot secure distancing will be bussing, upon entering and exiting the building, hallways,

lockers, and spaces considered common. Masks won't be required during physical activity or if a student has an underlying health condition. We will also be respecting teachers requests for masks in their classrooms due to personal health risks. Masks may become completely mandatory based on a state/local executive order..JK

***Physical/social distancing is defined per Center for Disease Control (CDC) as keeping a safe space between yourself and other people who are not from your household. To practice social/physical distancing, students and staff should try to stay about two arms' length away from each other or at least six feet. For example, small group or one-on-one instruction, hallway passing time.*

Masks will be available to students and staff who do not have their own mask to wear and wish to do so while in school. Staff will also be provided with a face shield if they wish to wear one in lieu of a mask.

The District is committed to fostering a respectful environment in which there are no stigmas associated with wearing masks. The District will continue to follow guidance and directives from the Oconto County Health Department regarding the use of PPE.

Will staff and students be required to have their temperature taken every day before entering school?

Students will be provided with a health assessment including temperature checks as necessary Staff will perform a self-screening. Staff and students showing visible symptoms of being contagious will be sent home for the school day and are expected to remain at home until symptom-free or cleared by a doctor to return to school.

Does the District have a symptoms policy?

Yes. Students and staff experiencing symptoms not consistent with COVID-19 should follow the "Too Sick for School" guidelines attached.

Students and staff experiencing COVID-19 symptoms who have not been clinically evaluated and cleared must:

- i. Stay at home until there has been no fever for at least three days, and
- ii. There is improvement of other symptoms, and
- iii. At least ten days have passed since the symptoms first appeared.

Will the District be tracking symptoms?

Yes. The District will be tracking symptoms of those students sent home. The District encourages parents/guardians who have an ill student at home to please inform the attendance office staff of the symptoms the student is experiencing to add to the District tracking form. Symptom tracking is confidential information that will strictly be used to monitor potential

classroom and building outbreaks of communicable disease, including but not limited to, COVID-19, flu, chickenpox, measles, and mumps. If parents/guardians are leaving a message, they are encouraged to leave symptoms on the confidential line they are calling. Reporting symptoms is a confidential method to ensure the health and safety of students, families, staff, and the community, but is not required. This confidential information will only be shared with your student's school nurse and health office to ensure appropriate tracking of symptoms.

What should students and staff do if they have been exposed to a person with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19?

If a student or staff member has been in close direct contact with someone who has been officially diagnosed with COVID-19, they should contact the Oconto County Health Department at 920-834-7000. The Oconto County Health Department will provide guidance on home quarantine practices and will help to determine when it is safe to discontinue isolation. The timeline for discontinuing isolation is different for each individual depending on many factors.

Any school absences due to self-quarantine or illness related to COVID-19 should be reported to the school as all other absences are reported.

What will happen if it is determined that a large number of students and/or staff have been exposed to COVID-19 in the same classroom or same school building?

There is no one single answer to this question. Due to a variety of factors, the District is prepared to analyze each individual situation with the assistance of the Oconto County Health Department. While it is possible that a single classroom or single building could be quarantined and/or closed for a short period of time, instruction would then take place by the regular classroom teacher(s) through a virtual learning model until it is deemed safe to return for face-to-face instruction. This option is just one example of many scenarios and options that could be implemented and arise with a face-to-face return to school.

How will buildings and classrooms be sanitized?

All needed building and classroom sanitizing supplies will be provided by the District.

Three highly effective disinfecting/sanitizing solutions are used by the District on a daily basis. Two solutions require a dwell time of at least ten minutes and one solution is a quick disinfecting/sanitizing rate typically used to wipe down tables between lunch shifts. All solutions are EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) approved in effectively eliminating viruses including COVID-19.

District custodial staff will complete a thorough cleaning at least once a day. If deemed necessary and needed, periodic cleaning may be completed throughout the day. At this time the Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends one thorough cleaning a day of high touch surfaces and frequented spaces, such as restrooms, as being sufficient to stop the spread of COVID-19 and other contagious viruses. The CDC highly advises against stockpiling cleaning

and disinfecting supplies. If supplies are not used in a timely manner, the ingredients may not be as effective in killing bacteria and viruses.

If a vaccine is developed for COVID-19, will staff and students be required to receive it in order to attend school and work?

While the District supports vaccinations and medical field recommendations for vaccinations, it does not, and will not, mandate vaccinations, including a future COVID-19 vaccination, in order to attend school or work. In certain cases, the Oconto County Health Department can mandate individuals without specific vaccinations to exclude themselves for an indefinite period of time from work or school if an outbreak occurs and an individual has not received proper vaccination.

How will the District handle student attendance if a student and the family do not wish to send the student to school because of concerns of COVID-19?

The Department of Public Instruction has not implemented changes to attendance at this time for the 2020-21 school year. If the District resumes a full return to school, all school attendance policies and procedures will be implemented. To respect students and families who have concerns of a full return to school, the District has a well-established, comprehensive virtual learning program students can be enrolled in, Oconto Virtual Academy (OVA). Families and students interested in this type of instruction can call their schools for information.

What if a parent determines that they no longer wish to have their student enrolled in the learning model they originally signed up for in July or August?

Due to credit attainment and grading, students will need to remain in the model chosen for at least a semester before moving to another learning model.

What if a parent does not want to enroll their student in any of the learning models the District is offering for the 2020-21 school year?

Parents are able to enroll their student(s) in homeschooling if they are not comfortable with any model the District has provided. Parents should go to the Department of Public Instructions Homeschooling Site (<https://dpi.wi.gov/sms/home-based>) and complete the required PI-1206 form and read about what enrolling in homeschooling entails for the parent and student. Parents are able to re-enroll with the District at any point and time throughout the school year, as well as, enroll or re-enroll their student(s) in homeschooling.

Will the District implement staggered start and end times for different groups of students to control traffic flow and student contact at the start and end of the day?

No. The District will have a consistent start and end times at all grade levels. Individual building administrators will communicate information to staff, students, and families on which door number students should enter and exit. Door number entrances and exits may be determined on criteria such as, but not limited to, grade level and first letter of the last name.

How will classrooms and other high traffic areas be socially distanced?

Classrooms and other high traffic areas will be socially distanced to the greatest extent possible. Traffic flow patterns may be taught to students, signage, and decals indicating social distance spacing, and other tools and strategies, such as adults providing verbal direction during passing times, may be implemented. The District will highly recommend that a mask or face covering be worn by students and staff, who are safely able to do so when social distancing is not possible.

Classrooms and other high traffic areas and spaces will also be required to remove non-essential and non-commercial grade furniture and materials in order to accommodate for social distancing. Vinyl, hard surfaces and flexible seating that can be wiped down can remain in classrooms and high traffic areas/spaces.

How will those who ride a bus to and from school be socially distanced?

Students eligible for Kobussen District Transportation will be physically spaced appropriately per each individual route based upon the size of bus and number of students per bus route.

The District highly requires that students using District transportation wear a mask while being transported to and from school.

Will breakfast and lunch continue to be served to students when school resumes?

The District will continue to provide breakfast and lunch to students on campus when school resumes. Breakfast and lunch may be served in the classroom, cafeteria, and/or other designated areas and spaces to allow for social distancing of students. Additional lunch periods may be developed. Menu options may be limited with almost all items being pre-packaged or wrapped.

Will high school students who qualify for open campus during lunch be able to leave?

No, we will close campus at this time. Administration will be in review of lunch policy throughout the pandemic.

Will students and staff be allowed to bring personal belongings with them to school such as backpacks and purses?

Yes. Students and staff will be allowed to bring personal belongings with them each day to school such as backpacks and purses. It is encouraged that any non-essential personal belongings do not come to school such as stuffed animals and toys. Students will continue to be assigned a locker space at school to use as needed.

Will middle & high school students enrolled in Oconto Virtual Academy, be allowed to participate in extracurricular and other club activities offered through Oconto Middle & High Schools?

Yes. Students enrolled in OVA may participate in grade/age appropriate athletics, clubs, and other activities. Further details can be provided by your school at which the student is seeking to participate in extracurricular or other club activities.

Will staff be allowed to participate in out of district professional development sessions, conferences, conventions, etc?

At this time, staff is not allowed to travel outside of the district, both in-state, out of state, or out of the country, for professional development sessions, conferences, conventions, etc. Staff can participate in virtual opportunities or within the District through opportunities that are offered.

Will there be changes in the visitor policy?

Yes. The Oconto Unified School District's Board Policy regarding visitors in the school setting allows District administration to make decisions on visitors that protect the health and safety of the school. Due to COVID-19, the Oconto Unified School District will implement the visitor protocols and procedures below. These protocols and procedures apply to all visitors, including but not limited to, parents, relatives of students, staff family members, community members, outside vendors, and sales personnel who are strictly soliciting with no appointment.

These visitor procedures do not apply to school district employees, district service technicians, such as CESA 8, law enforcement, and law enforcement agencies, such as Child Protective Services and Juvenile Justice Supervisors involved with investigations and/or ongoing student cases/case management.

i. All visitors must have an appointment by providing an advanced phone call, text, or email stating the reason for the visit. An advanced appointment will ensure the appointment is essential and ensure proper customer service upon arrival for the appointment. If the staff member taking the phone call, text, or email questions whether the visit is essential, the staff member should consult with their building administration to make a final decision.

ii. The appointment made must be considered essential for business or needs. Some examples of essential business or needs are:

1. Meeting with a staff member in the building
2. Dropping off materials a student needs for the day at school (i.e. lunch, device)
3. A vendor with an appointment (i.e. cap and gown orders, class rings)

iii. Some examples of non-essential business or needs are:

1. Solicitors
2. Parent or relative wishing to have lunch with his or her student
3. Parent or relative wishing to sit in on the student's classes

iv. All visitors are expected to adhere to standard visitor protocols already in place such as, but not limited to, signing in and out of the building and wearing an approved visitor badge/sticker.

Will students be participating in field trips?

At this time, all field trips that are not a virtual experience will not take place.

Will parent-teacher conferences still be held during the school year?

Yes. Parent-teacher conferences will still be held during the school year. Appointments will be made for conferences to limit the number of people in a designated building or space. Virtual parent-teacher conferences will also be a selection option for parents in lieu of a face-to-face conference.

Will events such as school band concerts, choir concerts, Grandparent's Day, etc. take place?

At this time, school-sponsored events with face-to-face audiences or guests will not take place. Virtual events may be showcased when face-to-face audiences cannot be accommodated due to COVID-19.

Will volunteers be allowed in the school setting?

The Oconto Unified School District recognizes the importance of volunteers in the school setting and the positive impact volunteers have on students, staff, and the school community in general. As a result of COVID-19, the District is temporarily suspending outside volunteers from entering District buildings.

When Is My Child Too Sick For School

HEALTH & SAFETY MEASURES

In anticipation of having students and staff back in our school buildings, the district will implement a variety of health and safety measures.

Health Check: All students and staff will be asked to do a health assessment (check temperature, check for signs of illness such as congestion, sneezing, coughing, etc.) at home in the morning prior to coming to school. Anyone with signs of illness should stay home. Anyone with a temperature of 100.4° F (38° C), or greater, should stay at home.

During the COVID-19 public health emergency, state and local health department guidance has changed with some frequency as more information is learned. Therefore, the Oconto Unified School District asks staff, students, and families to work together in taking extra precautions to keep everyone safe.

Before reporting to school each day, staff and students should check for the following daily symptoms:

If you think you may have a fever, please check your temperature. A temperature of 100.4° F (38° C), or greater, means you should stay at home.

Cough

Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing

Chills or Muscle pain

Sore throat

Nausea

Vomiting

Diarrhea

Change or loss of taste and/or smell

Staff and students experiencing one or more of the symptoms above should stay at home and follow District protocols for reporting absences.

District Administrators reserve the right to send any staff member or students with visible symptoms home from school if deemed necessary and appropriate.

[Health Checklist for Students and Staff](#)

Transitions Between Classes

Transitions Between Classes: To help avoid situations in which large groups of students are gathered in one place, we will adjust the way students move between classrooms and other spaces in our schools. Schools will provide more details as we get closer to the first day of school on September 1, 2020.

Drinking Fountains

Drinking Fountains: We will discourage students from using drinking fountains. We recommend that all students bring water bottles to school so that they can refill them at designated stations. Make sure your student's refillable water bottle is clearly labeled with their full name -- students should not share water bottles with others.

Entering/Exiting Schools

Entering/Exiting Schools: Each school may be modifying plans/procedures for families/students to follow for entering/exiting schools as well as drop-off/pick-up procedures. Schools will provide that information to families as we get closer to the start of school.

TECHNOLOGY ACCESS AND IT SUPPORT

The Oconto Unified School District believes in the power of technology to help engage students and expand learning for everyone. As such, each student will be assigned a mobile device. In general, students in grades K-12 will have a Chromebook. Every mobile device for students will have a case and a charger. For some students in virtual schools or in Special Education, they may have a different mobile device based on different needs, but every student will have a mobile device.

We have Chromebook cleaning stations in the media centers (Libraries) and static-free electronic wipes available in each classroom for students to wipe down their devices as needed. We recommend that students wipe down the device multiple times a day or at the very least daily. It is vital that parents help their children to properly care for their mobile device, including keeping it clean, and to use it effectively for online learning. If your child does not have internet access at home, and cannot get it from a local provider like Spectrum/Charter or AT&T, please discuss this need with your school principal.

ATHLETICS & EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

At this time, we plan to offer athletics and extracurricular activities beginning in the fall semester. However, activities, practices, and schedules may need to be modified to ensure students remain physically distanced and can maintain proper hygiene. Each activity will look a little different, and coaches and advisors will be able to provide you and your students with more information.

It remains possible that some or all of our athletic seasons may be restricted, shortened, or canceled. This will depend largely on decisions made by the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (<https://www.wiaawi.org/>) (WIAA) and state and local public health departments. These decisions are also subject to change during the season depending on the status of COVID-19 in our state and region.

BUSING & TRANSPORTATION

Parents should conduct a health assessment (check temperature, check for signs of illness such as congestion, sneezing, coughing, etc.) of their student(s) in the morning prior to sending their child to the bus stop or to school.

As one can imagine, ensuring students remain physically distanced on school buses is a significant challenge. Therefore, we require students wear a mask or other face-covering while on the bus when traveling to or from school. Masks won't be required if a student has an underlying health condition.

Kobussen, our contracted transportation provider will clean and disinfect buses on a regular basis.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Every child and adolescent with a disability is entitled to special education services based on their individualized education program (IEP). It may not be feasible, depending on the needs of the individual child and adolescent, to adhere both to distancing guidelines and the criteria outlined in a specific IEP. Attempts to meet physical distancing guidelines should meet the needs of the individual child and may require creative solutions, often on a case-by-case basis. IEP teams will meet to revise IEP's as needed.

What is considered close contact for contact tracing?

Close contact is someone who meets the following criteria in relation to a positive COVID case during the infectious period:

- Has had direct physical contact with the person (e.g., hug, kiss, handshake).
- Was within 6 feet of the person for more than 15 minutes (This includes single encounters of more than 15 minutes OR multiple encounters within a single day adding up to more than 15 minutes.)
- Could have had contact with any of the ill person's respiratory secretions (e.g. coughed/sneezed on, contact with dirty tissue, sharing a drinking glass, food or towels or other personal items).
- Lives in the same household with the person or has stayed overnight for at least one night in a household with the person (i.e., household contact).

Close contacts to a positive COVID-19 case will be contacted by Oconto County Public Health Department for any isolation/quarantine guidelines.

What is an Isolation room?

An isolation room is an isolated space within the district (away from the rest of the healthy population) in which a student will go to await parent/guardian pickup if he or she is ill or is suspected of having COVID-19.

Will students at OES & OMS still have recess?

Yes. Schools will only have one grade level outside at a time for recess at both little and big recess times with added supervision where needed. Students will wash hands/use hand sanitizer when they come in from recess. Each Grade Level will have specific playground equipment bins for limited supplies. Non-contact activities will be encouraged for students outside. Zones on the playground may be used if necessary, to limit interactions within the grade level. Indoor recess materials and supervision will be in the classroom with supervision from teachers and/or supervisors.

Will our school libraries be open?

A plan will be created to keep our library materials in circulation. However, it may be limited.