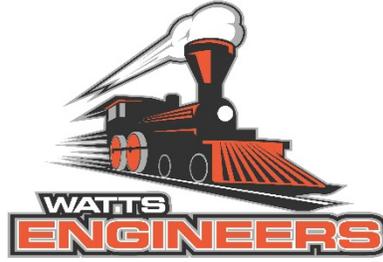


Watts Public Schools



616 6th Street, Watts, OK 74964



Safe Return and Continuity of Services Plan

Administration

Lisa Weaver, Superintendent
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Board of Education

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Safe Return and Continuity of Services Plan

INTRODUCTION

Districts across the state are required to develop plans for the safe return to school and the continuity of services in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This guide was developed with collaboration from many sources. Input from parents and staff, guidance from the state and county health department, multiple meetings with area leaders and state leaders, and constant guidance from the Oklahoma State Department of Education has been a crucial part of the process. Cherokee Nation has also assisted the district in planning and addressing the safe return to school. It is important to note that this document is subject to change depending on local, county, state, or national conditions or requirements or as directed by the Oklahoma State Department of Health, the Adair County Health Department, Oklahoma State Superintendent of Public Instruction Joy Hofmeister, and/or the Oklahoma State Board of Education.

As the title suggests, the objective is to provide for the safe return to school as well as to plan for the continuity of services for the entire school year. The goal is to keep the school doors open while keeping everyone as safe as possible for those who want and/or need traditional classes and to provide appropriate services for virtual students. By making operational adjustments and following protocols, we hope to avoid future closures due to COVID-19. As we developed the district plan, four main objectives served as guides in which everything else fell under in some way:

1. To safeguard to the best of our ability the health and safety of all students while at school, on school busses, or at school activities
2. To safeguard to the best of our ability the health and safety of all staff while at school, on school busses, or at school activities
3. To provide quality educational opportunities and services for each student
4. To be a responsible public entity and to do our part to help safeguard the health and safety of families and the community

At this time, our school calendar will remain the same and students are to report back to school on Wednesday, August 11, 2021. We will continue to offer both in-person and virtual learning options.

From Pre-K through Grade 12, our goal is to ensure students are well-educated and healthy. Our staff remains focused to prepare and encourage students to become the best version of themselves.

Educational Paths

The district will offer two educational paths of learning.

❑ Option 1: Traditional School

- Students will receive instruction at school directly from teachers/staff on campus Mondays through Thursdays
- To help prepare students to become independent and effective users of technology, school will be in session virtually on Fridays
- Students are invited to participate in extracurricular activities
- The district will move to distance learning as recommended or ordered by health department or other officials due to COVID-19

- School will move to distance learning as needed for inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances

❑ **Option 2: Distance Learning / Virtual Learning**

Students who are distance/virtual learning will receive all educational services virtually from a certified teacher.

- Depending on the lesson objective and assignment, this might include the use of Google Classroom, Acellus, Exact Path, Zoom, etc.
- Communication with the teacher will be through email, phone calls, Zoom meetings, and/or what has been arranged by the teacher and student/parent
- Students are invited to participate in extracurricular activities
- Appointments may be made for coming on campus for tutoring
- Students will be required to come to the school for all state mandated testing
- Must agree in writing to the Watts Virtual Program Guidelines upon enrollment
- Open to any student in grades five through twelve.
- Not recommended for students below the fifth grade. However, the parent may seek administrative approval for the program.

Academic Progress

Administration and Teachers continuously work to ensure the yearly curriculum pacing guides are adequate and appropriate. Students will be provided the opportunity to master any missed standards throughout the 2021-2022 school year.

Social, Emotional and Mental Wellness

The social, emotional, and mental wellness of our students and staff are essential to a successful learning environment. Guidance and curriculum will be part of the daily routine at the school. Multiple resources are available.

Special Education

Learning options for students receiving special education services are the same as those listed for all Watts Public School students. Families of students receiving special services through an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) are encouraged to contact the Special Education Teacher or the Principal at the school if they have questions and concerns regarding special education situations. The IEP team can assist students and families with making decisions for a learning plan and platform that best meets the needs of each student based on his/her disability.

Communications from the School

Messaging System - Important communications from the school, such as unexpected school closings, will be sent to parents through the district text messaging system. Phone numbers will be updated as we receive enrollment information. It is crucial for each parent to keep the school secretary informed of any changes of cell phone numbers to make sure messages are received. This is the most important method of quick communication from the district. Routine communications will also be sent through the text message system as well as announcements that are needed.

District Website - The updated website will also be a source of information and can be found at www.wattsschool.com.

Facebook - The district also posts information on our Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/WattsEngineers/>

Routine Communications - Routine information such as class newsletters, teacher notes, flyers, etc. will continue to be sent home with students.

COVID-19 - Communication regarding COVID-19 will require the district to follow state and county health department guidelines as well as FERPA laws. Specifics will not be made public if a closure is needed due to COVID-19. However, we will communicate as much as possible with safe health measures in mind.

Protocols

According to the Oklahoma State Health Department, COVID-19 is mostly spread by respiratory droplets that are released when people talk, cough, or sneeze. It is thought that the virus may spread to hands from a contaminated surface and then to the nose or mouth, causing infection. Therefore, personal prevention practices such as handwashing, staying home when sick, and environmental cleaning and disinfection are important principles. (Source: Oklahoma State Department of Health: *COVID-19 Guidance for Reopening Public Schools*)

Home Health Self-Screenings

It is important that all families and staff partner with us in monitoring health. We ask that students and staff take their temperature on a daily basis at home prior to coming to school facilities and events, and follow the self-screening checklist. No student or staff with a fever of 100.0 degrees or higher may enter any school facility. No fever reducing medication may be taken to reduce fever.

Stay Home When Sick

- When should students or staff stay home?
 - Has tested positive for COVID-19
 - Showing COVID-19 symptoms
 - Has not been vaccinated and had close contact with a person with COVID-19
 - Has a temperature of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or above

- What are the common symptoms of COVID-19?
 - Fever
 - Cough
 - sore throat
 - Chills
 - muscle pain
 - shortness of breath
 - difficulty breathing
 - new loss of taste
 - new loss of smell

Symptoms can range from mild to severe. *It is also important to note that some cases have been asymptomatic.*

- What about attendance and school work?
 - With parent communication to the school, a student can easily move to distance learning while at home during sickness or quarantine.
 - Staff have sick leave banks
- Other illnesses

Each student should be kept at home anytime he or she has diarrhea, is vomiting, or has another illness that might be contagious or generally makes it impossible for the student to function at school.

Note: The school is not allowed to distribute any medication unless a student has a prescription and the medication is in the labeled container with clear directions from the pharmacy. This includes aspirin, Tylenol, Pepto, etc.

The school will work with students and families concerning attendance and school work. Parent communication with the school is crucial.

Temperature Checks

One of the common symptoms of COVID-19, as well as many other contagious illnesses, is fever. This is something that is objective and easily measured. It is crucial that everyone involved with the school check temperatures. Any person with a temperature of 100 degrees Fahrenheit (100 °F) or above will not be allowed to come to the school or remain at school.

A medical grade touchless thermometer will be used to check temperatures before entering school buildings. Staff will check students' temperatures and then admit the students into the building. This will be conducted for each building. Students who arrive any time after school starts must report to the appropriate office or designated area.

Student Drop Off / Pick Up

As a virus prevention strategy, it is advised for parents to drop off students at school instead of students riding the school bus whenever possible.

- ❖ **Before School** - For students in Grades PK-4, parents who bring their students to school may walk students to the exterior door of the elementary building. Parents will not be allowed to enter the building or walk students to the classroom or to the cafeteria. For students in Grades 5-12, parents may drop off students either in the gym parking lot or in front of the high school.
- ❖ **After School** - For students in Grades PK-4, parents picking up students in the afternoon will need to remain in their cars. Parents will not be able to wait in the hallway. A staff member will escort students to the gym parking lot to meet parents. For students in Grades 5-12, teachers will release students to meet parents in the parking lot or the designated area.

Busses

Students' temperatures will be checked by school staff before the student enters the school bus. A student with a temperature of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or above is not allowed at school. It is crucial for parents to check students' temperatures each morning before the bus arrives at the bus stop so that there are no surprises.

Masks and Face Coverings

COVID-19 is mostly spread by respiratory droplets released when people talk, cough, or sneeze. Masks might help to prevent the wearer from getting sick, but the primary purpose is to protect other people in case the wearer is unknowingly infected but does not have any symptoms. The mask must cover the mouth and nose.

The district will make every effort to promote healthy practices and protocols. Students are encouraged to maintain social distance. At this time, masks are optional. We will continue to monitor state and federal requirements. Masks and face coverings must not include messages or images that distract from the learning environment as outlined for other articles of clothing in school dress code policies.

Hand Hygiene

One of the best protections against the virus is adequate handwashing. This requires washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Students will be encouraged to wash hands often. Staggered handwashing breaks will be implemented. If soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol can be used. Washing hands and the use of hand sanitizer will be frequent and routine requirements of the school day.

Social Distancing

It is difficult to social distance in a traditional school setting. However, adjustments will take place as the school year begins. Group sizes will be kept as small and static as possible. Meal time is a time when large groups are usually together. To alleviate this, certain classes will have meals delivered to the classrooms. Other classes will be divided into smaller groups for meals. The high school will utilize home rooms instead of a central gathering area. Modified layouts will be utilized. It is best practice for students to face the same direction in the classroom.

Cafeteria

Certain classes will have meals delivered to the classrooms. Other classes will be divided into smaller groups for meals. Parents or any visitor are not allowed in the cafeteria. We will not have any day when parents might come to eat lunch with their child this year.

Access to Buildings

Parents and other visitors will not have access to the school buildings this year except by appointment or scheduled meetings.

Parent / Teacher Conferences

All conferences will be held either over the phone or by means of Zoom, Google Meet, or other meeting application. Parents are encouraged to keep ongoing communication with teachers by email as well. Appointments may be made as the situation warrants for in person meetings by arrangement only. This is subject to change depending on the situation as the time nears for conferences so that we may be able to conduct in-person conferences. Our goal is to maintain an ongoing and open line of communication with parents, regardless of the whether meetings are in-person or virtual.

School Calendar

- ❖ School will move to distance learning as recommended or ordered by the health department or other officials due to COVID-19 in addition to what is planned in the school calendar
- ❖ School will move to distance learning as needed for inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances
- ❖ The 2021-2022 school year is scheduled to begin on August 11, 2021.

Cleaning and Disinfection

The school will be cleaned and disinfected each evening. Additionally, surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected frequently throughout the day. A sanitizing spray will be applied every evening as well. Door handles will be wiped down on a regular basis. School busses will be sanitized after each route.

Classrooms

The arrangement of classrooms will be guided by the recommendations of the state health department. All students will face the same direction if at all possible. Each class will have a seating chart. Students will be seated as far apart as possible. Shared items such as lab equipment, computer keyboards, exercise equipment, etc. will be cleaned with disinfectant cleaner or wipes after each use.

Busses

As advised by the state department of health and the state department of education, seats will be assigned on the school busses. Students from the same household will be assigned to sit together. Assigned seating will apply to all bus trips. Students will be seated as far apart as possible. The windows will be kept open as much as weather permits on the school busses. This is to allow fresh air movement and ventilation. The busses will be sprayed with a disinfectant after every use.

Water Fountains

Students will be required to drink from their own personal water bottle or from a disposable cup. Students will not be allowed to drink out of the water fountain in any building at any time. Students will not be allowed to share water bottles or cups.

COVID-19: Procedures When Someone Gets Sick

Parents or students should not come to the school if they become sick with COVID-19 symptoms, test positive for COVID-19, or have been quarantined by a doctor or health department. The school principal should be notified as soon as possible.

Staff should not come to the school if they become sick with COVID-19 symptoms, test positive for COVID-19, or if quarantined by a doctor or health department. The superintendent should be notified as soon as possible.

Should a student develop symptoms during the school day, the individual will be separated from others. The parents will be notified and must pick up the student immediately.

Should a staff member develop symptoms during the school day, the direct supervisor must be notified immediately. The individual will be separated from students and others. The staff member will be sent home.

Contact Tracing

Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine will be a collaboration between the school, and the state, local, territorial, or tribal health departments.

COVID-19 Testing and Vaccination

Testing is available through Cherokee Nation, Adair County Health Department, private medical clinics, and some area pharmacies. These agencies are also providing COVID-19 vaccinations. The school will assist in finding resources for district families as needed.

Continuity of Services

It is crucial for all students to have access to services for the entire school year. During district-wide distance learning, students will be provided with the technology needed to continue educational services. This will include during Friday virtual days. Students will check out computers and hot spots as needed to ensure disruptions do not take place.

<p>SYMPTOMS OF CORONAVIRUS</p> <p>People with COVID-19 can have mild symptoms or severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus.</p> <p><u>A FEVER DOES NOT HAVE TO BE PRESENT TO HAVE COVID-19.</u></p> <p>Symptoms are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cough• Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing <p><i>Or at least two of these symptoms</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Headache• New loss of taste or smell• Nausea or vomiting• Diarrhea• Muscle or body aches• Fatigue• Fever or chills• Sore throat• Congestion or runny nose	<p>WHEN TO SEEK EMERGENCY MEDICAL ATTENTION</p> <p>If someone is showing any of these signs, seek emergency medical care immediately:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trouble breathing• Persistent pain or pressure in the chest• New confusion• Inability to wake or stay awake• Bluish lips or face <p>*This list is not all possible symptoms. Please call your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning to you.</p> <p>CALL 911 OR CALL AHEAD TO YOUR LOCAL EMERGENCY FACILITY: Notify the operator that you are seeking care for someone who has or may have COVID-19.</p>
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THIS LIST DOES NOT INCLUDE ALL POSSIBLE SYMPTOMS.
For more information visit www.cdc.gov/coronavirus

This plan was posted on the school's website on June 21, 2021.