



RETURN TO LEARN PLAN

(SAFE RETURN & CONTINUITY OF SERVICES)

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2021-22

NOTICE: The details in this document are subject to change as guidance, directives, and recommendations from governing authorities and health officials respond to new information and developments.

Introduction

The 2021-22 school year will likely be just as challenging as the 2020-21 school year. The upcoming school year will likely have many disruptions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Briggs is a strong community and we will get through this together. We ask for your patience and understanding as we attempt to keep students, families, and staff safe and healthy. Our primary goal is the health and well-being of the Briggs family.

We are scheduled to return to school on Thursday, August 12, 2021. There will continue to be many changes to normal protocols and procedures due to the ongoing pandemic. We have secured personal protective equipment (PPE) for students and staff, and will intensify our cleaning and disinfection of facilities and equipment. The following pages provide the specifics of our Return to Learn plan. We fully expect that this plan will change as new information and situations unfold. Please bear with us as we attempt to navigate the uncertainty that each day seems to bring. Our goal is to keep your children safe while continuing to further their educational success. We will support our students and staff throughout this pandemic, and kindly ask for your support as well.

Instruction and Learning

Briggs is pleased to provide three learning options for students in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Students will have the option of traditional on-site learning, virtual/distance learning, or a blended model of both traditional on-site and virtual/distance learning. All students will be provided with a device to enhance their learning. We have MacBook Air, Lenovo 300e, and iPad devices that will be distributed to students at the beginning of the year.

We recognize the likelihood of school closures during the pandemic, so all students will receive instructions in the use of devices for learning. In the event of a school closure or quarantine, students will transition to the full virtual/distance learning format and receive instruction through teacher-directed instruction and/or the learning management system (LMS). Our LMS platform is Edgenuity/Odysseyware with supplemental learning in reading and math from Istation. In addition, we will continue our Success for All Whole School Reform Model with a focus on reading and the Getting Along Together (GAT) social-emotional learning program.

All students (on-site, virtual/distance, blended) will be familiar with the LMS or online learning platforms. Edgenuity/Odysseyware and Istation may be incorporated into student learning for on-site as well as virtual/distance learning students. Traditional, on-site students will not only benefit from the learning provided from these online learning platforms, but it will make the transition to virtual learning smoother in the event of school closures.

Successful virtual/distance learning is dependent on connectivity. Based on your input, we realize that many of our families lack internet access. With that in mind, Briggs will provide a Wi-Fi hotspot device for those households with a need for internet service. In addition, Briggs will cover the monthly fees for the unlimited, filtered service in your household during the school year. Please keep in mind that the hotspot devices are and will remain the property of Briggs School. Hotspot devices will need to be returned at the end of the school year or if a student leaves the district. In addition, the service plan will also be terminated. The district also reserves the right to remove the hotspot and discontinue service if used for unlawful or illegitimate purposes.

In some instances, Wi-Fi hotspots may have inadequate reception due to topography and terrain. Issued hotspots are mobile devices that can be used anywhere that a signal is available. If students are still unable to connect, we will provide transportation to school for virtual instruction. Students will report to their regular classroom where they will be supervised by their assigned teacher. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. If this option is not practical, the school will provide an alternate method of instruction that is equitable to virtual (internet-based) online offerings. This may include paper packets that are supplemented with direct contact with teachers.

Learning Options

- Option 1: Traditional On-Site Learning and Instruction
 - Technology Device Issued/Hotspot and Service Available.
 - Teachers provide face to face instruction.
 - Students attend regular, traditional classes.
 - Transition to virtual/distance learning in event of school closure.
 - Face coverings (optional), social distancing, limited groups, enhanced cleaning/disinfection at site.

- Option 2: Virtual/Distance Learning and Instruction
 - Technology Device Issued/Hotspot and Service Available.
 - 100% at home virtual schooling.
 - Briggs teacher will support instruction through Edgenuity/Odysseyware and Istation.
 - Participation in athletics and/or extracurricular activities may be possible upon request.
 - Expected minimum commitment of one quarter (nine weeks).

- Option 3: Blended Model (On-Site and Virtual/Distance)
 - Option available for unique situations that may need both formats.
 - Please contact the school to develop an individual plan.

Drop-Off and Pick-Up of Students

- Students are not allowed into the classroom buildings until 7:30 a.m. Students arriving before 7:30 a.m. are to report to the cafeteria.
- Student drop-off and pick-up procedures will be similar to the 2020-21 school year. PreK and K students will be dropped off curbside at the cafeteria. First through Fourth Grade students will be dropped off at the New Elementary Building. Fifth through Eighth Grade students will be dropped off at the main building. Staff will be stationed inside and outside of the drop-off points to assist students.
- In the event of an elevated temperature or COVID-19 symptoms, there will be rooms available for quarantine until a parent/guardian can pick up their student.
- Buses will load prior to parent pick-up. Please be respectful of this procedure. Pick-up for students will occur at the building location of the student. First through Fourth Grade students will be picked up at the New Elementary Building, PreKindergarten and Kindergarten students will be picked up at the Early Childhood Building, and Fifth through Eighth Grade students will be picked up at the Main Building. Pick-up vehicles will make a circular loop passing through Gym Parking lot and by the New Elementary Building, Early Childhood Building, and then the Main Building.

Contact Tracing in Combination with Isolation and Quarantine, in Collaboration with State, Local, and Tribal Health Departments

- **Monitor for Symptoms**

Checking students and staff for COVID-19 symptoms can pose challenges given the similarities between certain COVID-19 symptoms and seasonal allergies; recognizing when younger persons are sick due to mild symptoms; and the fact that some persons may have COVID-19 and not have any symptoms at all. The Oklahoma State Department of Health has developed a symptom assessment tool to help determine when someone should be kept home or sent home from school and/or tested for COVID-19. Parents/guardians are expected use the chart below to screen their child for COVID-19 symptoms each day prior to sending their student to school.

“A” Symptoms	“B” Symptoms
Fever > =100.4 F	Nasal Congestion/Stuffy Nose
Sore Throat	Runny Nose
New Cough	Muscle/Body Aches
Difficulty Breathing	Fatigue
Diarrhea or Vomiting	Chills
New Loss of Taste or Smell	Nausea
	Loss of Appetite
	Elevated Temperature < 100.4 F
	New Onset of Severe Headache
PERSON SHOULD BE KEPT HOME OR SENT HOME FROM SCHOOL AND/OR TESTED FOR COVID-19 IF THEY HAVE:	
ONE (1) OF THE “A” SYMPTOMS	
THREE (3) OF THE “B” SYMPTOMS	

Students exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 or who have a fever of 100.4 degrees or higher while at school will be isolated until parents can pick up the child and seek a medical opinion.

- **Positive Cases**

Oklahoma State Statute Title 63 Section 1-507, states, *no person having a communicable disease shall be permitted to attend a private or public school, and it shall be the duty of the parent or guardian and the school of such person to exclude from the school such person until the expiration of the period of isolation or quarantine ordered for the case, or until permission to do so shall have been given by the local county health department or the State Department of Health.*

In accordance with the Statute above, students who have tested positive for COVID-19 shall not attend school for a period of ten (10) days from the date of the onset of symptoms or from the date of a positive test if no symptoms are present. Parents/guardians should notify the school of a positive case.

- **Contact Tracing and Quarantine**

Contract tracing protocols will be deployed when the school is notified of a positive case. Parents/guardians will be notified if their child is in close contact with a person who tests positive for COVID-19.

What does “close contact” mean?

- Spent at least 15 minutes or more at a distance of six feet or closer to a positive case, or
- Had direct physical contact with the person, or
- Shared eating or drinking utensils with them, or
- Came into contact with their respiratory droplets (i.e., coughed or sneezed on you).

Students who come into close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual should quarantine for ten (10) days and self-monitor for symptoms. Students may return to school after the ten day quarantine period, or may return after day 7 after receiving a negative test that occurred on day 5 or later. Students will have no attendance penalty while quarantined, but should complete assignments from home. State, local, and tribal health departments and the CDC recommend quarantine for those who are in close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual. Quarantine is not necessary for vaccinated students, however, they should be monitored for possible symptoms.

Personal Health and Safety Mitigation Strategies

- **Masks**

It is a high priority of Briggs Public Schools to promote health and safety in our learning and working environments so that our students can remain in full-time, in-person learning with layered prevention strategies in place. Masks (or face coverings) are one of our best prevention strategies. A recent court ruling (Oklahoma County District Court in Case No. CDV-21-1918) halts enforcement of the mask mandate prohibition in Oklahoma State Statute Title 70 Section 1210.190 (SB 658). Therefore, effective September 7, 2021, all Briggs Public Schools students, employees, and visitors must wear a face covering that covers both the nose and mouth when inside Briggs Public Schools facilities and school vehicles. In addition, masks are required on school buses according to federal law. Briggs Public Schools will provide a mask to ANY student, staff member, or visitor that needs mask.

If a parent/legal guardian of a student indicates that compliance with mask use is not possible due to medical, religious, or strong personal reasons, the parent/legal guardian may request an exemption for the student by completing the attached Consent Form to opt-out of the mask requirement available. Forms are also available on the website and in school offices.

- **Temperature Checks**

Temperature checks will be performed randomly for students upon entering the school facilities, and random checks will occur periodically during the school day. Students with a fever of 100.4° or higher will not be allowed to attend school. Students should remain fever free for 72 hours before returning to school.

- **Visitors**

As an added layer of protection, only staff and students will have unrestricted entry into the buildings. Visitor access will be restricted. Visitors may call ahead to make appointments or will be greeted at the door or entryways prior to entry. If entry is necessary, visitors may be asked to wear a mask and/or have a temperature check performed.

- **Hand Washing/Sanitizing**

Washing and/or sanitizing hands frequently is one of the easiest ways to protect against infection. Throughout the school day, students will be reminded to wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds prior to eating, and especially after sneezing, coughing, or blowing their nose. Students and staff members will also have access to alcohol-based hand sanitizer in classrooms and other common areas and are expected to regularly wash or sanitize hands throughout the day.

- **Cleaning Protocols**

During the school day, staff will clean commonly touched surfaces inside classrooms, while maintenance personnel will clean commonly touched surfaces in common areas. At the end of each scheduled event or school day, the District's cleaning contractor will clean frequently touched surfaces and objects. An approved disinfectant agent is also periodically sprayed throughout school facilities to aid in sanitization.

- **Air Filters**

Improved heating, ventilation, and air conditioner filters have been installed in all District buildings. Filters will be periodically changed to improve air quality.

- **Water Fountains**

The school site is equipped with water bottle filling stations. Students and staff members are encouraged to bring and refill non-breakable water containers (water bottles). The school may provide water bottles if needed.

- **School Transportation (Busing)**

Briggs plans to resume traditional bus transportation with added health/safety precautions. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to transport students to and from school when possible to minimize exposure on buses and reduce the occupancy load on buses. Until the threat of COVID-19 is considered minimal, federal law requires masks while boarding, riding, and exiting the bus. In addition, some windows on buses will remain open to promote the circulation of

fresh air. Due to open windows, expect higher inside bus temperatures and the prevalence of dust in some situations.

- **Child Nutrition**

The cafeteria will remain open, but we will take additional measures to promote social distancing. Breakfasts will be delivered and served in classrooms as “grab-and-go” meals except for PreKindergarten/Kindergarten students who will receive their breakfast in the cafeteria. Lunches will be served in the cafeteria with expanded serving times. Students will still have three options for lunch on most days: entrée, power pack, or salad. The dining area and restrooms will be disinfected between group servings.

A waiver is anticipated to serve “grab and go” meals to virtual students. Weekly breakfast, lunch, and supper boxes will be available for pick-up at the gym lobby and/or cafeteria from 9:00-10:00 a.m. Meals can be picked up by parents/guardians – the student(s) does not need to be present in the vehicle to receive a meal. However, the name of the student(s) will need to be provided to pick up meals. Meal service is only available to enrolled Briggs students. We may provide delivery service to virtual students in certain circumstances. In the event of a school closure, all Briggs students will have access to meals for pick-up and we will attempt to provide delivery options. Supper will be provided to students in the After School Program.

- **Athletics and Other Extra-Curricular Activities**

The situation for athletics and other extra-curricular activities is fluid. Currently, athletics and other extra-curricular activities are scheduled as normal. Extra measures are being taken to ensure the safety of students and staff. Practices will continue unless it is deemed unsafe. We are monitoring the situation closely and will keep you abreast of any new developments. There is the increasing likelihood that some activities may be cancelled or rescheduled to a later date. There may be limitations placed on the number of events, the number of people allowed to attend an event, limited access to performing areas, or other safety measures as needed.

Modifying Facilities for Physical (Social) Distancing

- **Classroom Seating**

Social distancing is encouraged. Classrooms and common areas will be arranged to maximize distance between students as space allows, while also promoting collaborative learning and instructional best practices.

- **Cafeteria**

Students will eat in the cafeteria and resume normal lunches. Students may wash or sanitize their hands before going through a food line or sitting down to eat in the cafeteria. Hand sanitizer and hand-sanitizing stations are available in the cafeteria. Efforts will be taken to

maximize distancing while in the cafeteria by staggered lunch schedules and seating arrangements. Breakfast and lunch are free to all students for the 2021-22 school year.

Diagnostic and Screening Testing

The District will collaborate with local public health officials, in compliance with applicable privacy laws, including FERPA, IDEA, and PPRA, on such matters as recommending testing for those who are symptomatic and will communicate with families about checking their students for symptoms and positive cases where close contact may have occurred. District staff will maintain a list of local providers and are able to share locations to schedule appointments for diagnostic and screening testing as needed with staff, students, and families. Current testing sites include the Cherokee County Health Department, Cherokee Nation Health Services, and local health centers.

Efforts to Provide Vaccinations to School Communities

Oklahoma State Statute Title 70 Section 1210.190 (SB 658), effective July 1, 2021, restricts school districts from requiring a COVID-19 vaccine for students. State and local health departments and the CDC recommend COVID-19 vaccines for those eligible. Through partnerships with the Cherokee County Health Department and Cherokee Nation Health Services, on-site vaccination clinics will be provided periodically and available to students, staff, and members of the community. The first clinic has been scheduled for August 10, 2021, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Appropriate Accommodations for Children with Disabilities with Respect to Health and Safety Policies

Students receiving special education services will be provided modifications and accommodations per their Individual Education Plan (IEP). When necessary, District health and safety policies not addressed by a student's IEP will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Students' Individualized Education Plans will continue to include a contingency plan for extended periods of Distance Learning.

Coordination with State and Local Health Officials

Cherokee County Health Department, Cherokee Nation Health Services, and the Oklahoma State Department of Health provide support and resources to the District in areas of health and safety. The District remains in contact with the Cherokee County Health Department, Cherokee Nation Health Services, and the Oklahoma State Department of Health concerning COVID-19 guidelines and safety protocols enacted in our state and local area.

Mental Health and Wellness

Briggs Public Schools provides resources to help support the mental health and well-being of students and staff. Our students have access to counseling at school and by licensed counselors provided through a partnership with community mental health agencies. In addition, students

will participate in the Getting Along Together (GAT) social-emotional learning program from Success for All (SFA) as part of the SFA Whole School Reform Program.

Interruptions at School/School Closure

In the event of a COVID-19 positive test or outbreak, we will follow the recommendations of the Cherokee County Health Department. We will work with the Health Department to determine the proper response for cases and subsequent contact tracing. When made aware of a positive case, we will provide you with timely notification and the given recommendations while honoring FERPA (student confidentiality) and HIPAA (medical confidentiality). Excess COVID-19 cases or a local outbreak may result in full school closure or only a portion of the school being shut down depending on the situation.

Attendance

Briggs believes that attendance in regularly scheduled classes is a key factor in student achievement. However, it is important for those students who are ill to stay home when sick. Students who exhibit COVID-19 symptoms should not be at school or school activities. However, we recognize that the extracurricular program of the school also has educational benefit. Therefore, it shall be the policy of this board to minimize absenteeism from regular classes while providing students the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities.

Virtual/Distance Learning and Attendance

Students choosing the Virtual/Distance Learning option and/or students transitioned to Virtual/Distance Learning due to school closure will not be considered absent from school if:

- They are not physically present at school but are completing work in a distance learning program or virtual online program approved by the school district and are meeting the following attendance requirements:
 - The student has completed instructional activities for no less than ninety (90%) of the time that services were provided in a virtual or distance learning format. Instructional activities may include online logins to curriculum or programs, offline activities, completed assignments, testing, face-to-face communications or meetings with school personnel via teleconference, videoconference, email, text, or phone,
 - The student is on pace for on-time completion of the course as required by the school district,
 - The student has completed instructional activities within the time that services were provided in a virtual or distance learning format during the academic year; or
- They have a medical condition that incapacitates the student and precludes them from participating in instruction in a traditional school setting and the student is able to progress in instruction via alternative education delivery methods approved by the local board of education.

Conclusion

The previous recommendations in this document must not be interpreted as a substitute for close consultation with local, regional, and state health agencies and experts. Scientific understanding of the novel coronavirus is increasing rapidly, so efforts to mitigate transmission of COVID-19 will necessarily evolve with additional research and experience. Moreover, circumstances will vary from school to school and district to district, regardless of county alert level. Briggs School, OSDE, and educators across Oklahoma must remain vigilant, monitor data, and stay in close communication with public health experts. Briggs will make provisions as necessary for the safety of the life, health, and welfare of our students, families, and staff.

Briggs Board of Education

- Adopted: 08/11/2020
- Revised/Approved: 09/09/2020
- Revised/Approved: 11/10/2020
- Revised/Approved: 01/12/2021
- Revised/Approved: 05/11/2021
- Revised/Approved: 08/10/2021
- Revised/Approved: 09/08/2021



Today's Date: ___/___/___

CONSENT FORM TO OPT-OUT OF FACE MASK REQUIREMENT IMPOSED ON STUDENTS BY BRIGGS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

It is a high priority of Briggs Public Schools to promote health and safety in our learning and working environments so that our students can remain in full-time, in-person learning this school year with layered prevention strategies in place. Masks (or face coverings) are one of our best prevention strategies. A recent court ruling (Oklahoma County District Court in Case No. CDV-21-1918) halts enforcement of the mask mandate prohibition in Senate Bill 658. Briggs Public Schools may now require the wearing of masks by our students, staff, and visitors.

Therefore, effective September 7, 2021, all Briggs Public Schools students, employees, and visitors must wear a face covering that covers both the nose and mouth when inside Briggs Public Schools facilities and in school vehicles. Briggs Public Schools will provide a mask to ANY student, staff member, or visitor that needs mask.

Restrictions Negating Mask Use

If a parent/legal guardian of a student indicates that compliance with mask use is not possible due to medical, religious, or strong personal reasons, the parent/legal guardian may request an exemption for the student in writing. This form must be fully completed for any student seeking a mask exemption.

To Be Completed by Parent, Guardian, Legal Custodian, or Foster Care Provider

PARENT/GUARDIAN/LEGAL CUSTODIAN/FOSTER CARE PROVIDER INFORMATION

Legal Name:

First

Last

Address:

City

State

Zip

Cell Phone Number:

Email:

STUDENT INFORMATION

Legal Name:

First

Last

Address:

City

State

Zip

Date of Birth:

Grade

TYPE OF EXEMPTION

MEDICAL CONTRAINDICATION:

I hereby certify that the following medical condition(s) prevents the above named child from complying with the mask requirement:

State the diagnosed medical condition that would endanger the life or health of the child if they were to wear a mask.

Printed Name of Parent/Guardian

Signature of Parent/Guardian

RELIGIOUS OBJECTION:

I hereby certify that the mask requirement is contrary to the teachings of the above named child's religion.

Printed Name of Parent/Guardian

Signature of Parent/Guardian

PERSONAL OBJECTION:

I hereby certify that the mask requirement is contrary to my beliefs. As the parent or legal guardian of the above named child, I have written a brief summary of my objections in the space provided below. (See Next Page)

REQUIRED: Summary of Objections:

Printed Name of Parent/Guardian

Signature of Parent/Guardian

I, _____ by signing below, attest that:
(Print Name)

- I have signed this form freely and voluntarily, and I am legally authorized to make decisions for the student.
- I understand and agree that nothing herein shall relieve the parent, guardian, legal guardian, foster care provider, or student named from any liability associated with the student not wearing a face covering.
- I acknowledge that the CDC and state/county health department officials recommend universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students (age 2 and older), and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status.
- I agree on behalf of myself and the student to hereby release Briggs Public Schools from any and all liability associated with the student not wearing a face covering.
- I will notify the student's school in writing if I choose to revoke my consent.

Printed Name of Student's Parent/Legal Guardian

Signature of Student's Parent/Legal Guardian

Date Signed