



# **RETURN TO LEARN PLAN**

## **(SAFE RETURN & CONTINUITY OF SERVICES)**

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# **2022-23**

***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 2022-23 school year will undoubtedly have challenges, but operations for the most part will return to normal. The upcoming school year may still have disruptions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic but most likely not as prevalent as previous years. Briggs is a strong community, and we will continue working 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 11, 2022. School will resume normal operations, but health and safety protocols and procedures are still in place due to the ongoing pandemic. Personal protective equipment (PPE) is available for students and staff, and we will continue enhanced cleaning and disinfection of facilities and equipment. The following pages provide the specifics of our Return to Learn plan. The plan may change as new information and situations unfold. Please bear with us as we navigate continually updated guidelines and regulations pertaining to the pandemic. 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 as needed to enhance their learning. We have Lenovo 300e and iPad devices that will be distributed to students at the beginning of the year.

In the event of a school closure during the pandemic, all students will receive instructions in the use of devices for learning. In the event of a school closure, 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 introduced to 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 (or our partners) may provide a Wi-Fi hotspot device for those households with a need for internet service. In addition, Briggs (or our partners) may 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 (or our partners). Hotspot devices will need to be returned at the end of virtual instruction 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, they may come to the school campus for virtual instruction. Students will report to an assigned classroom where they will be supervised by their assigned teacher. Breakfast and lunch will be provided while on-site. 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 and/or log-in credentials issued.
  - 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
  - Based on need/circumstances. Administrative approval required.
  - Technology Device Issued/Hotspot and Service Available.
  - 100% at home virtual schooling.
  - Teacher will support instruction through Edgenuity/Odysseyware and Istation.
  - Participation in athletics and/or extracurricular activities possible by request.
  - Expected minimum commitment of one quarter (nine weeks).
  
- Option 3: Blended Model (On-Site and Virtual/Distance)
  - Based on need/circumstances. Administrative approval required.
  - Option available for unique situations that may need both formats.
  - Teacher will support instruction through Edgenuity/Odysseyware and Istation.
  - Participation in athletics and/or extracurricular activities possible by request.

## **Drop-Off and Pick-Up of Students**

- Students are not allowed into the classroom buildings until 7:00 a.m.
- Student drop-off and pick-up procedures will be the same as the 2021-22 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.
- 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.

## **COVID-19 Best Practices in K-12 Schools & Higher Education**

Briggs School will put in place a set of core infectious disease prevention strategies as part of our normal operations. Adding and layering COVID-19-specific prevention strategies that are tied to COVID-19 Community Levels to core disease prevention strategies will allow for a flexible plan that provides optimal protection to staff and students while increasing in-person learning. A comprehensive description of CDC’s layered prevention strategies is described below.

- **Major Updates to the CDC’s K-12 Guidance Include:**
  - It is no longer recommended that schools implement physically distancing strategies such as keeping students 3 feet or 6 feet apart.
  - Universal case investigation and contact tracing are not recommended. However, they can be useful strategies in responding to a school outbreak.
- **Key Best Practices**
  - **Promote COVID-19 Vaccination**
    - Staff and students who are eligible to be vaccinated can do so for FREE at their local county health department, tribal health centers, and many other locations. Review vaccination and booster recommendations on the CDC website ([cdc.gov/covid](https://cdc.gov/covid)).
  - **Stay home when sick and get tested.**
    - Daily symptom monitoring is encouraged at home and school. The school’s sick policy will be enforced.
    - The Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) has developed a symptom assessment tool to help determine when someone should be kept home or sent home from school for any communicable disease illness. Parents/guardians are encouraged to use the chart below to screen their child for symptoms each day prior to sending their student to school.

<b>“A” Symptoms</b>	<b>“B” Symptoms</b>
Fever > =100.4 F	Nasal Congestion/Stuffy Nose
Sore Throat	Runny Nose
Cough	Muscle/Body Aches
Difficulty Breathing	Fatigue
Diarrhea or Vomiting	Chills
New Loss of Taste or Smell	Nausea
Rash or New Unexplained Lesions	Loss of Appetite
	Elevated Temperature < 100.4 F
	New Onset of Severe Headache
<b>PERSON SHOULD KEPT HOME OR SENT HOME IF:</b>	
Person has 1 “A” Symptom <b>OR</b> Person has 3 “B” Symptoms	

- **Positive Cases**

Five full days of isolation at home is recommended for COVID-19. The day 0 begins on the first day of symptoms. If no symptoms are present, the day 0 begins on the day the positive test was collected. After leaving isolation, it is recommended to wear a mask in public for an additional five days. If a mask is unable to be worn, 10 days of isolation at home is recommended.

- **Contact Tracing and Quarantine**

In the event of a school outbreak, contract tracing protocols may be deployed. Close contacts would be provided with information to understand their risk, how to monitor themselves for symptoms, and what steps they can take to reduce the risk of transmission within the school setting, such as: quarantine, testing, and wearing a mask, depending on their vaccination and booster status or history of prior infection in the past 90 days. When the school is notified of a positive case, parents/guardians will be notified if their child was 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).

## **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 are one of our best prevention strategies. Consistent and correct mask use is encouraged when COVID-19 Community Levels are high. Briggs Public Schools will provide a mask to ANY student, staff member, or visitor that needs a mask.

- **At-Home COVID-19 Tests**

The District has obtained at-home COVID-19 tests that are available to students and staff. The at-home tests must be administered by an adult for students aged 14 and under. Parents are encouraged to request an at-home test for students from District staff if needed.

- **Temperature Checks**

Random temperature checks may be performed for students upon entering the school facilities and periodically during the school day. Students with a fever of 100.4° or higher will not be allowed to attend school.

- **Visitors**

As an added layer of security and protection, only staff and students will have unrestricted entry into the buildings. Visitor access may be restricted. Visitors may wish to call ahead and make appointments.

- **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 may 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 Transportaion (Busing)**

Briggs has resumed traditional bus transportation. In the event of a school outbreak, some windows on buses may remain open to promote the circulation of fresh air. Due to open windows, expect higher or lower inside bus temperatures and the prevalence of dust in some situations.

- **Child Nutrition**

The cafeteria will operate normally. Breakfasts will continue to 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, fast food, or salad. The dining tables are disinfected between group servings. Meal service is only available to enrolled Briggs students. In the event of a school closure, it is anticipated that 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**

Athletics and other extra-curricular activities are scheduled as normal. Extra measures are being taken to ensure the safety of students and staff.

### **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 follow normal procedures. 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 2022-23 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. The District has obtained at-home COVID-19 tests that are available to students and staff. The at-home tests must be administered by an adult for students aged 14 and under. Parents may request an at-home test for students from District staff.

### **Efforts to Provide Vaccinations to School Communities**

State and local health departments and the CDC recommend COVID-19 vaccines and boosters for those eligible. Through partnerships with the Cherokee County Health Department and Cherokee Nation Health Services, on-site vaccination clinics may be provided periodically and available to students, staff, and members of the community.

## **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 may include a contingency plan for extended periods of virtual/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 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

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