



ONEIDA NATION SCHOOL SYSTEM
Parent/Student Opening Plan Handbook
August 2021

Contacts:

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Purpose

The purpose of this handbook is to provide information to parents regarding their responsibilities as we begin FALL '21 school year, following CDC guidance for a safe and healthy school year. **The plan is be reviewed each quarter, with the first quarter ending October 25, 2021.** Please review the plan with your child/ren and tell them what has been updated to make the facilities safe for students to return. This handbook outlines expectations for students and lists what staff will be doing to assure a safe learning environment. Information in this handbook supplements the school's existing emergency plans. If a situation does arise, please contact School Nurse and the Superintendent's office immediately. In the event of a crisis, communication letters for parents and information flyers for staff members will be updated.

Goals

- Explain the opening program and Parent/Student expectations
- Outline the expectations for bus/transportation and meals
- Outline what teachers will be doing to be safe in the classrooms
- Outline athletic practices and spectator expectation
- Update families on the facilities and custodial cleaning upgrades

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ONSS FALL Opening Plan August 2021

Fall 2021 will open ONSS facilities with person to person learning every day, Monday through Friday. Although most of the staff have been vaccinated, they will continue to wear masks to practice the lowest risk of disease prevention practice. All students will be expected to continue to wear masks.

PARENTS /VISITORS will not be allowed in the building during the first quarter. Please call the school offices with any concerns: Elementary 920-869-1676 or ONHS 920-869-4308. This will be for the first quarter with review in October as we move forward.

If your child arrives after 7:30 AM, K-8 may call the office 920-869-1676 to be buzzed into school for the health check and escorted to their homeroom. ONHS please enter the side door and go to the office.

There will be a **regular schedule from 7:30 to 3:00 PM**. Drop off by buses will continue to be staggered. Parents are asked to drop their child off at those designated arrival doors to allow for social distancing and easy entrance to the closest classrooms.

The **FACE Center-based program** hours will be from 8:30 to 2:30. This will not interfere with the bus drop off and pick up schedules.

After the first quarter of face to face return, the plans will be updated for changes.

The COVID-19 rate will continue to be monitored, among staff, students and regional communities.

Layers of COVID-19 Prevention Measures

Oneida Nation School System will use layers of protection to limit spread of COVID-19. Layers can be adjusted, one at a time, as we monitor rates of COVID-19 infection and rates of COVID-19 vaccination in our community.

Physical distancing With other layers in place, we use 3 feet distancing so that students can be in school

Promoting COVID-19 vaccination

Masking All ONSS staff, students and visitors when in buildings, regardless of vaccination

Ventilation ONSS HVAC systems have been updated

Handwashing or sanitizing

Staying home when sick

Screening testing of athletes weekly This layer has been eliminated at this time

Testing and isolation when students sick in school

Contact tracing and quarantine for close contacts

Cleaning and disinfection

Temperature and symptom check when arriving

Cohorting Keeping same students together in own groupings

We are so excited children 12 years and older can get **COVID-19 vaccine**. You play an important part in building a healthy school community together. We need your help to ensure your child 12 years and older is protected against COVID-19.

- Fully vaccinated children and adults who have a known exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 do not need to quarantine. But they need to wear a mask in public indoor settings and should be tested.
- The COVID-19 vaccine protects against serious illness
- Getting the vaccine can protect your child from the virus and its variants and help stop the virus from mutating and spreading.

COVID-19 vaccinations are available at all area health systems and at several pharmacies. To learn dates and appointment times for COVID-19 and routine vaccines at Oneida Community Health Center, please contact our Community Health Nurses at 920-869-4840.

Oneida Nation School System

When to Send Your Child to School during COVID-19

Attention Parents & Guardians – To keep our students and staff safe, we ask that you:

1. Notify the school if your child is diagnosed with COVID-19.
2. Notify the school if your child had contact with someone you know who was diagnosed with COVID-19.
3. Do health screening each morning and keep your child home from school if they are sick.
4. If your child is tested for COVID-19, make sure they remain home until test results are known.
5. Encourage good habits: stay home as much as possible, avoid close contact with other people outside of your household, wash hands often, cover coughs and sneezes, use face masks in public and at school.

Daily At Home Student Health Screening

If you answer YES to any of the following questions, PLEASE KEEP YOUR CHILD AT HOME.

① Does your child have any of these symptoms?

- Fever – temperature 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Sore throat, runny nose or nasal congestion
- New or unexplained cough
- New loss of smell or taste
- Feelings of chills or sweating
- Nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea
- Muscle pain or body aches
- Unexplained headache

If your child has any of these symptoms, they should stay home, stay away from other people, and you should call their health care provider to request COVID-19 testing.

② Has your child had close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 in the last 14 days?

Close contact includes living in the same household, being within 6 feet for at least 15 mins, touching the person, etc. Or has a health care provider or public health staff advised you to quarantine?

③ Since they were last at school, has your child been diagnosed with COVID-19?

If yes, your child should not be at school and should remain at home until the isolation period has been completed. All other household members should remain at home to quarantine. This is mandatory. The School Nurse or Public Health will give guidance.

④ Is your child or someone in your household being tested for COVID-19?

If your child is being tested for COVID-19, they must stay home until test results are known. If the test result is negative, and your child is NOT a close contact, follow your health care provider's instructions for return to school. If your child's test result is negative, their symptoms have improved and they have not had a fever for 24 hours, they may return to school.

For more information, please contact the School Nurse
ONES Health Office (920) 869-4630 ONHS Health Office (920) 869-4487

Oneida Nation School System

COVID-19 Protocols at School

When students have suspect COVID-19 symptoms at school

At this time, all school staff are very cautious about monitoring students for any COVID-like symptoms. Teacher will send sick child to isolation room. School health staff will check for symptoms, including temperature. We will contact parent/guardian to recommend picking up from school. Siblings and other household members do not need to go home unless they also have symptoms.

New COVID testing option!

COVID-19 testing is available at Oneida Community Health Center, many health clinics and community testing sites. New this year: COVID-19 testing can be done at school, at the time of pick up from school. This will be done by trained school health staff, with lab services at Oneida Community Health Center. Results are typically available later in same day, although not immediately. Parents/guardians may choose any of these options for testing of their sick child.

If student's COVID-19 test is negative

Child may return to school when symptoms have improved and there's been no fever for 24 hours. Your child's health care provider will give guidance about return to school. See Close Contact section below.

Students with allergies and asthma

Parents/guardians should make sure that home treatment is being done to minimize symptoms, such as over-the-counter antihistamine medication. If a sick child has COVID-19 test with negative result, parent could obtain note from health care provider stating that child is being treated for allergies or asthma. This would prevent school health staff from isolating student and calling parent in future, depending on severity of symptoms.

If student's COVID-19 test is positive

Child must isolate at home for 10 days from date of start of symptoms, or from date of positive test. All household members must stay at home for quarantine period. Public Health will give guidance about length of quarantine period. Good news: Those persons who are fully vaccinated do not need to quarantine unless they also have symptoms.

If there's a positive COVID-19 case in school

Isolation period of 10 days for person with positive COVID-19. School health staff will determine close contacts at school. Any unvaccinated close contacts will be instructed to quarantine from school for 10 days. Oneida Public Health has approved this shortened quarantine period of 10 days for close contacts who develop no symptoms. Close contacts should be tested for COVID-19. School health staff will continue to monitor these persons as they return to school. Persons without close contact do not need to quarantine.

If there's a positive COVID-19 case in a household, but the child with close contact doesn't develop any symptoms

Isolation period of 10 days for person with positive COVID-19. The affected child is a close contact. Quarantine time for affected child will depend on vaccination status and household situation, with guidance from public health. Household should get tested for COVID-19. However, the affected child may not return to school until quarantine period is done, even if the test result is negative. In general, school health staff will enforce 10 days quarantine from the date of child's **LAST** contact with the person with positive COVID-19.

Questions? Call School Nurse ONES: 920-869-4630 ONHS: 920-869-4487



Student Expectations during FALL '21 OPENING

Students always need to wear masks, on the bus, in the schools, during recess. Masks will be taken off for mealtimes, when a shield will be in place on desktops, FACE – 5th grades for all students and staff safety. ONES 6-8 students will be socially distanced in staggered schedules for meals in the cafeteria. ONHS students will be socially distanced in staggered schedules in the NHC cafeteria.

Students will enter through different doors, to help keep any spread limited.

Students in grades 6-8 will enter DOOR 1 (unless there is a clinic, then enter through DOOR 3)

Students in grades 1-2 will enter DOOR 5

Students in FACE and Kindergarten, Grades 3rd - 5th will enter through DOOR 6

Students in ONHS will enter through the ONHS (side) door of NHC

FACE – 5th grade students will have their storage for classroom items separated and not shared, with outside storage for coats in cubbies, with staggered dismissal times in the hallways, during this FALL '21 OPENING time. Grades 6-12 locker use in hallways will be monitored by staff.

Students are expected to comply with safety protocols including social distancing, which will be clearly be marked in the hallways and classrooms.

Handwashing will be frequent with entering and exiting the classrooms, before and after mealtime, before going out and returning from outside.

If soap and water are not available, hand sanitizer stations with at least 60% alcohol will be used. These automated dispensers are available as students enter the building and also in the hallways by classrooms.



Bus/Transportation Precautions and Protocols

Buses will require masks for all students. Masks must be worn by students for the entire bus ride.

Families will sit together, with seating for others spaced out to allow for social distancing.

Hand sanitizer and masks will be provided to students as they enter the bus each morning.

Buses will drop students off at the predesignated staggered areas at ONES and at the ONHS (side) door, by the banner, of ONHS.

Meals during FALL '21 OPENING

Students attending school will be offered a healthy breakfast when they enter school facilities and lunches while at school. Desk barriers have been purchased for desks during mealtime, when masks are removed for FACE through 5th grade. Middle school will have grab and go breakfast items as they enter each morning, to be eaten in the classrooms, with staggered lunches, socially distanced in the cafeteria. ONHS will have staggered lunches, socially distanced in the cafeteria at ONHS.

Drinking fountains are turned off, but water bottles will be provided for students to have water to drink, during the school day, from the water fillers on the top of the drinking fountains.

Meals will continue for any virtual days we have scheduled.



School Staff and Classroom Protocols

Teachers will:

- Greet students at the door.
- Make sure students have a mask, stay socially distanced from each other and wash hands upon entering the classroom.
- Student temperatures will be taken with the Kiosk as they enter the building or with a thermometer, if they are late for school, as part of the daily health screening.
- Monitor all students and if any are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, that student will be referred to the health room for further evaluation.
- Travel with students in the hallways, as they go to recess, physical education class or exit to the busses at the end of the day, will be with one-way directions, with social distancing.

Classrooms have an extra level of safety protocols:

- Desk shields are provided for each student in Grades K – 5, cleaned daily for mealtime to put up on desks when masks are removed for meals.
- Student seating is separated as much as possible, to allow for social distancing.
- Class structure is organized for no sharing of materials.
- Specialist teachers will travel to classrooms to provide person to person instruction. RTI teachers will stay within their clan areas as much as possible.
- Special Education teachers will follow the students' IEPs to provide services.
- Cubbies for FACE – 5th grade will be separated, with small groups dismissed at once; lockers will be used, with staff monitoring hallways.
- The FACE Adult Education room has relocated to a computer lab area by Kindergarten to limit hall traffic for families.



ONHS Athletics

Athletic teams have scheduled practices. Fall sports include Football, Volleyball and Cross Country. Spectators will be allowed.

OTHER Extracurricular Activities:

Middle school athletics will also begin with fall sports.

No tutoring or after care will be held **during the first quarter of fall 2021**. Students will not be mixed from grade level to grade level. Students will stay within their clan areas during the day, as much as possible.

Specialist classes such as library, music, social dance, Oneida language and culture classes will **be taught homerooms** during the first quarter of FALL '21. Physical Education will be scheduled outside as much as possible.

Additional information for parents:

Practice with your child/ren wearing masks. They need to wear masks on the bus, in school hallways and bathrooms. Masks are only taken off to eat when a protective barrier will be placed on their desks (K-8) to protect themselves and others during mealtime. ONHS will be socially distanced in the cafeteria.

Parents may send students to school with cloth masks. If students need masks, buses will have disposable masks as students board the bus and classroom teachers will also have disposable masks for students.

Parents need to have updated contact information at school. You will be contacted by phone or email if your child is showing symptoms at school. You need to be available to pick your child up if they need to go home.

There may be a need to keep an entire class home for quarantine time if there was close contact with a person with COVID-19. School staff will be notifying parents should any COVID-19 related issues arise.

Parents do need to focus on their child's **ATTENDANCE**. Attendance is monitored either by being at school in person, or by logging into their google classes on the scheduled virtual school days. There have been five 'flipped' days scheduled for students and staff this school year, with assignments given for those days. More information will be communicated as they get closer.

Facility/Custodial Upgrades Completed for Safety

HVAC filters have been upgraded with additional sanitizing of air in both school facilities, equal to the nursing home and health center air quality upgrades.

Custodial staff will be available to wipe high surface areas and cleaning of restrooms.

Stickers label social distancing in classrooms and hallways with one-way direction stickers visible on the walls.

Signage has been posted on entry doors and throughout the buildings, reminding students/staff of safety measures needed, including wearing masks.

Plexiglass barriers have been put in classrooms and offices.

Water fountains have been turned off, but the bottle filling option on the top of the fountains work for students to get water, daily. Water bottles are provided for students. Appropriate sanitizing wipes have been purchased and distributed to all classrooms.

Gloves will be available for staff for classroom cleaning protocols.

