

PERKINS-TRYON SCHOOLS RETURN TO LEARN PLAN

In light of the continued concerns regarding COVID-19, it is appropriate and in the best interests of the health, safety and welfare of all members of the school community for the Perkins-Tryon School Board to adopt this COVID-19 Return to Learn Plan effective immediately. This plan will be reviewed at each monthly meeting as needed and at mandatory 6-month intervals. Public input is appreciated.

1. Perkins-Tryon public schools shall conduct all school activities consistent with and informed by applicable health orders, protocols and guidelines. These include the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Activities and Initiatives Supporting the COVID-19 Response, school decision guidance from the CDC, Governor Stitt's Executive Orders, the Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE) Return to Learn Oklahoma framework and COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions, as each is updated periodically. Additionally, the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) has developed the Oklahoma COVID-19 Alert System, a multitiered risk measurement tool with corresponding color categories that identify the current COVID-19 risk level on a county-by-county basis.
2. These designations, as modified below for purposes of school operations and which, at a minimum, all public schools shall conduct activities in accordance with, will be updated weekly each Friday based on updates to the Oklahoma COVID-19 Alert System. Depending on public health conditions, additional actions, orders or guidance provided By OSDE or OSDH may be necessary as a county's designation changes. Some counties may not experience a straight path from a red designation to a yellow and then a green designation. Instead, cycling back and forth among designations may occur as public health Indicators improve or worsen.
3. Finally, this Return to Learn 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. Perkins-Tryon Public Schools and it's administration will remain vigilant, monitor data and stay in close communication with public health experts. The information below provides minimum requirements to be applied across the district. Perkins-Tryon Public Schools may impose stricter requirements if the need arises.

4. Beginning with alert Level YELLOW, schools will shift to pod/cohorts to reduce the number of contacts each student will be exposed to at school daily.
5. Contact tracing will be done in association with the Oklahoma Department of Health and in compliance with CDC guidelines.
6. All educators and their families have been offered and opportunity to receive the COVID-19 vaccination.
7. **Universal and Correct Wearing of Masks:** Students and staff will follow state and local health department guidance as required by Oklahoma State Law 70 O.S. § 1210.190 which includes a requirement for the governor to declare a state of emergency.

GREEN

GREEN LEVEL (Fewer than 5 cases per 100,000)

Instruction: Schools are recommended to offer in-person, on-site instruction in accordance with their reopening plans and may begin the 2020-21 school year as determined by local boards of education.

Health Protocol: Follow all applicable health orders and required protocols, and adhere to district policies relating to:

- Screenings of staff, students and visitors prior to entry
- Policies for social distancing and gatherings on and off campus
- Additional mitigation techniques, including hygiene practices, proper ventilation and school cleaning practices

Masks:

- Masks are mandatory for staff within 6' of students and other adults and for students in hallways and common areas with large gatherings.
- Teachers can substitute protective face shields for masks in situations that require students to see teacher's mouth for instruction.
- Exceptions are allowed for the following: when eating meals, naptime, recess and during physical education if social distancing is possible.
- *See Mask Exemptions and Accommodations.*

Special Education Classrooms: Teachers and staff in special education classrooms are required to wear protective face shields and/or masks when social distancing cannot be practiced, or students are without masks. In addition, gloves and gowns are recommended for special education staff when providing services for medically vulnerable students.

Visitors and Service Providers: School visitations will be restricted and any visitors allowed on premises will be required to wear masks at all times. Temperature checks and symptom checks will be required for all visitors. In cases where schools and districts have partnerships with community organizations, health care providers and local government agencies that provide additional educational and wraparound services to students, staff of such partners should be allowed into buildings following the same procedures as for school personnel.

Extracurricular Activities and Group Assemblies: Schools should remain vigilant and plan with caution. Group gatherings, assemblies and spectators at indoor and outdoor events without PPE or social distancing can accelerate community transmission and a loss of **GREEN LEVEL** status.

YELLOW

YELLOW LEVEL (More than 5 but fewer than 30 cases per 100,000)

Instruction: Schools are recommended to offer in-person, on-site instruction in accordance with their re-opening plans and may begin the 2020-21 school year as determined by local boards of education.

Health Protocol: Follow all applicable health orders and required protocols, and adhere to district policies relating to:

- Screenings of staff, students and visitors prior to entry
- Policies for social distancing and gatherings on and off campus
- Additional mitigation techniques, including hygiene practices, proper ventilation and school cleaning practices

Masks:

- Masks are mandatory for staff within 6' of students and other adults and for students in hallways and common areas with large gatherings.
- Teachers can substitute protective face shields for masks in situations that require students to see teacher's mouth for instruction.
- Exceptions are allowed for the following: when eating meals, naptime, recess and during physical education if social distancing is possible.
- *See Mask Exemptions and Accommodations.*

Special Education Classrooms: Teachers and staff in special education classrooms are required to wear protective face shields and/or masks when social distancing cannot be practiced or students are without masks. In addition, gloves and gowns are recommended for special education staff when providing services for medically vulnerable students.

Visitors and Service Providers: Visitors will not be allowed past the main office. Temperature checks and symptom checks will be required for all visitors. In cases where schools and districts have partnerships with community organizations, health care providers and local government agencies that provide additional educational and wraparound services to students, staff of such partners should be allowed into buildings following the same procedures as for school personnel.

Extracurricular Activities and Group Assemblies: Schools will limit gatherings, assemblies and spectators at indoor events where social distancing guidelines are not possible to decrease community transmission.

ORANGE 1

ORANGE LEVEL 1 (More than 30 but fewer than 50 cases per 100,000)

Instruction: Schools may transition to alternative schedules (students will have the choice of face to face instruction or a distance learning model) in consultation with local and state health officials and OSDE to reduce the number of individuals in school buildings and ensure greater social distancing.

Students with disabilities who are unable to receive a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) solely through a distance learning environment (as determined by the IEP team) and those students who are unable to receive instructional services through distance learning may receive certain services at a school site that is closed or at an alternate school site or other location. Teachers and staff may be on campus as assigned.

Health Protocol: Follow all applicable health orders and required protocols, and adhere to district policies relating to:

- Screenings of staff, students and visitors prior to entry
- Policies for social distancing and gatherings
- Additional mitigation techniques, including hygiene practices, proper ventilation and school cleaning practices

Masks:

- Masks are required for all staff and students.
- Teachers can substitute protective face shields for masks in situations that require students to see teacher's mouth for instruction.
- Exceptions are allowed for the following: when eating meals, naptime, recess and during physical education, if social distancing is possible.
- See Mask Exemptions and Accommodations.

Special Education Classrooms: Teachers and staff in special education classrooms are required to wear protective face shields and/or masks. In addition, gloves and gowns are recommended for special education staff when providing services for medically vulnerable students.

Visitors and Service Providers: Visitors will not be allowed past the main office. Temperature checks and symptom checks will be required for all visitors. In cases where schools and districts have partnerships with community organizations, health care providers and local government agencies that provide additional educational and wraparound services to students, staff of such partners should be allowed into buildings following the same procedures as for school personnel.

Child Nutrition: Provisions for school meal programs will continue.

Extracurricular Activities and Group Assemblies: Buildings and campuses cannot be utilized by organizations not directly affiliated with Perkins-Tryon Public Schools. Schools will limit gatherings, assemblies and spectators at indoor events where social distancing guidelines are not possible to decrease community transmission.

ORANGE 2

ORANGE LEVEL 2 (More than 50 but fewer than 65 cases per 100,000)

Instruction: Schools will transition to distance learning until community transmission declines to less than 50 cases per 100,000 on the COVID-19 Alert System or as advised by local and state health officials and OSDE. Students with disabilities who are unable to receive a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) solely through a distance learning environment (as determined by the IEP team) and those students who are unable to receive instructional services through distance learning, not to exceed **twenty-five percent (25%)** of students enrolled at a site, may receive certain services at a school site that is closed or at an alternate school site or other location. Teachers and staff may be on campus as assigned.

Health Protocol: Follow all applicable health orders and required protocols, and adhere to district policies relating to:

- Screenings of staff, students and visitors prior to entry
- Policies for social distancing and gatherings
- Additional mitigation techniques, to include hygiene practices, proper ventilation and school cleaning practices

Masks:

- Masks are required for all staff and students.
- Teachers can substitute protective face shields for masks in situations that require students to see teacher's mouth for instruction.
- Exceptions are allowed for the following: when eating meals, naptime and recess.
- *See Mask Exemptions and Accommodations.*

Special Education Classrooms: Teachers and staff in special education classrooms are required to wear protective face shields and/or masks. In addition, gloves and gowns are recommended for special education staff when providing services for medically vulnerable students.

Visitors and Service Providers: Visitors will not be allowed past the main office. Temperature checks and symptom checks will be required for all visitors. In cases where schools and districts have partnerships with community organizations, health care providers and local government agencies that provide additional educational and wraparound services to students, staff of such partners should be allowed into buildings following the same procedures as for school personnel.

Child Nutrition: Provisions for school meal programs will continue.

Extracurricular Activities and Group Assemblies: Buildings and campuses cannot be utilized by organizations not directly affiliated with Perkins-Tryon Public Schools. Schools will limit gatherings, assemblies and spectators at indoor events where social distancing guidelines are not possible to decrease community transmission.

RED

RED LEVEL (65 or more cases per 100,000)

Instruction: Perkins-Tryon Public Schools may close buildings and provide distance learning until community transmission declines to less than 65 cases per 100,000 on the COVID-19 Alert System or as advised by local and state health officials and OSDE. Students with disabilities who are unable to receive a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) solely through a distance learning environment (as determined by the IEP team) and those students who are unable to receive instructional services through distance learning, not to exceed **fifteen percent (15%)** of students enrolled at a site, may receive certain services at a school site that is closed or at an alternate school site or other location. Teachers and staff may be on campus as assigned.

Health Protocol: Follow all applicable health orders, protocols and guidelines, including those relating to:

- Screenings of staff, students and visitors prior to entry
- Policies for social distancing and gatherings
- Additional mitigation techniques, to include hygiene practices, proper ventilation and school cleaning practices

Masks:

- Masks are required for all staff and students.
- Exceptions are allowed for meals.
- *See Mask Exemptions and Accommodations.*

Special Education Classrooms: Teachers and staff in special education classrooms are required to wear protective face shields and/or masks. In addition, gloves and gowns are recommended for special education staff when providing services for medically vulnerable students.

Visitors and Service Providers: Visitors will not be allowed past the main office. Temperature checks and symptom checks will be required for all visitors. In cases where schools and districts have partnerships with community organizations, health care providers and local government agencies that provide additional educational and wraparound services to students, staff of such partners should be allowed into buildings following the same procedures as for school personnel.

Child Nutrition: Provisions for school meal programs will continue.

Extracurricular Activities and Group Assemblies: Buildings and campuses **may not** be used for extracurricular activities, including spectator sports, where social distancing guidelines are not possible or for other group activities such as assemblies and performances. Buildings and campuses cannot be utilized by organizations not directly affiliated with Perkins-Tryon Public Schools.



MASK EXEMPTIONS AND ACCOMMODATIONS

- Persons who work or directly interact with individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, and who rely on lip-reading to communicate, may remove a face covering for the duration of time as is necessary to communicate or interact directly with the individual(s). In this situation, consideration should be given to using a clear face covering. If a clear face covering is unavailable, staff members should consider using written communication, closed captioning or decrease background noise to make communication possible while wearing a cloth face covering that blocks the lips.
- Persons with a medical condition or disability that prevents wearing a face covering must wear a face shield.
- Persons with a medical condition for whom wearing a face covering could obstruct breathing or who are unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance.
- Persons who are hearing impaired, or communicating with a person who is hearing impaired, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication.
- Persons for whom wearing a face covering would create a risk to the person related to their work, as determined by local, state or federal regulators or workplace safety guidelines. This includes people who work in a setting where cloth face coverings may increase the risk of **heat-related illness** or cause safety concerns due to introduction of a hazard (for instance, straps getting caught in machinery) may consult with an occupational safety and health professional to determine the appropriate face covering for their setting.
- Persons who are obtaining a service involving the nose or face for which temporary removal of the face covering is necessary to perform the service.
- Note: Persons exempted from wearing a face covering due to a medical condition who are employed in a job involving regular contact with others should wear a non-restrictive alternative, such as a face shield with a drape on the bottom edge, as long as their condition permits it.