



Oxford Preparatory School

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Nurturing Potential - Inspiring Excellence-Developing Leaders

2021 – 2022 COVID Mitigation Plan

Approved by the OPS Board of Directors (8/12/21)

As Oxford Preparatory School plans to transition back into the learning environment with full capacity for all grades, we are committed to provide facilities that are clean and safe for all with a physical setting that is appropriate and adequate for learning. In updating the OPS COVID Mitigation Plan, OPS is reviewing guidance from both the CDC and NCDHHS to inform decision making for the creation of this plan. OPS intends to meet most of these guidelines as they continue to be updated, to provide a safe, healthy environment for both employees and students within our school facilities, while also minimizing the risk of mass quarantines.

Our school is grateful for the vaccine priority status that was extended to educators and share in the excitement now that all staff students 12 and older have had the opportunity to receive vaccinations. As a school, we believe in the efficacy of COVID vaccines and encourage all faculty, staff, and students to be vaccinated. Given the Emergency Authorization Status of current COVID vaccines, we do not require vaccines as a condition of employment or student attendance at this time. However, once COVID vaccines are no longer subject to Emergency Authorization Status, or should OPS believe it is in the best interest of the school community, COVID vaccinations may be required with exceptions for those who are unable to be vaccinated due to health or religious belief protected by Title VII.

To begin the 2021 – 2022 school year, the following protocols will be implemented...

- Required universal use of masks for students, staff, and visitors while indoors. This includes all student athletes, coaches, and spectators during indoor athletic games/practices, in addition to bus/large group transportation. However, the OPS Board reserves the right to change this policy as needed to mitigate COVID spread or adjust to improved conditions.
 - Exceptions
 - Those with a medical condition(s) that may prevent them from wearing a mask, may receive exemption approval after submitting documentation from their medical provider to the school nurse.
 - Teachers have the option to remove their mask during classroom instruction, so long they maintain a minimum of 6 feet of distance from other staff and students.
 - When actively eating and drinking
- The Lower School multipurpose room capacity will be reduced to 50% for lunch, whereby 4th – 6th graders will eat in their classrooms or outside when appropriate.

- Students and staff that are demonstrating symptoms of COVID-19 will be subject to diagnostic testing via rapid test by the school nurse (with parental consent) and potential recommendation for lab based PCR testing with a community partner.
- Students and staff presumed to have or are diagnosed with COVID-19 must stay home until they meet the local health department's current criteria for return to school.
- Students and staff who are determined to be a close contact with someone else presumed to have or diagnosed with COVID-19 will be subject current exclusion standards established by the local health department.
- Teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and/or the safe use of hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol by staff and older children.
- Vaccination opportunities in the community for students and staff will be shared and promoted.
- Air purification units will be installed and utilized with each HVAC unit on permanent buildings on campus.
- Perform ongoing and routine environmental cleaning and disinfection of high-touch areas with EPA approved disinfectant for SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19). Paper-based materials, such as books and loose-leaf paper, are not considered high-risk for COVID-19 transmission, and do not need additional cleaning or disinfection procedures.
- Ensure students don't share water bottles or drink directly from water fountains.
- Arrange seating/desks to allow for physical distancing, at least 3 feet apart when feasible.
- Install motion activated paper towel and soap dispensers.
- Provide PPE stations that will include hand sanitizer, at every building entrance.
- Post signage at the main entrance requesting that people who have been symptomatic with fever and/or cough not enter.

Sincerely,

Andrew Swanner

Executive Director

Oxford Preparatory School