

Dear Olathe Parent/Guardian,

The goal of the Olathe Public Schools Health Services Department is to provide safe and accessible care to all students to support optimal learning. With consideration for the global COVID-19 pandemic, the department has developed a comprehensive plan for the delivery of health services to support the safe re-opening of schools. This plan has been developed in collaboration with state and local education and health officials to provide for the safety of students and staff as they return to the school setting. Many of these provisions have been communicated to parents to assist them in making the decision to choose remote versus in-person learning for the fall semester based on the individual needs of their child and family situation (See 2020-21 Return to School FAQ).

Supporting the health needs of all students remains a priority made possible by collaboration between parents and the school nurse. During this time, the collaboration between parents and the school nurse is even more important to protect the health and safety of all students and staff.

Following are reminders of some ways parents can support the school efforts to minimize risk:

- Parents play a vital role in the teaching and modeling of many health practices that are emphasized in the safe return to school procedures, including: social distancing, wearing a mask, hand-washing/hand sanitizer, covering coughs and sneezes with the elbow or sleeve.
- To decrease contagion risk and exposures, many personal hygiene issues can be handled in the classroom or restroom. Parents can assist this by providing a change of clothes, personal hygiene kits, etc. in student backpacks, along with a discussion with your student about appropriate use of these items. Items for hygiene kits could include lip balm, personal hygiene products, cough drops, a small quantity (travel size) of pain reliever, spare masks. **Please note, students cannot share over-the-counter-medicine with other students.**
- To help arrest the further spread of the virus, keep your child home when they are ill. Report symptoms (not just illness) with attendance information. If you have questions whether your child's symptoms may be related to COVID-19, discuss them with your school nurse. If your child must complete a quarantine, report this information with attendance as well.
- Prompt isolation of students who become ill at school is an important part of limiting the spread of COVID-19. Parents need to have a plan for prompt pick-up (within 30 minutes) if notified by the school nurse that their student is ill. This may include identifying additional emergency contacts who live in the area if parent work schedules are likely to prevent prompt pick-up. It is more important than ever to ensure that the school always has updated contact information!
- Olathe Public Schools will work in close collaboration with Johnson County Department of Health and Environment. Individuals in close contact with identified cases will receive notification that maintains patient confidentiality and provides instruction for further action needed. Parents can assist this contact tracing process by respecting confidentiality and providing accurate information for identification of potential exposures.
- Exclusion from school for COVID-19 illness or exposure will follow JCDHE protocol. Parents should discuss with the school nurse the appropriate return date for each individual circumstance.

Sincerely,