



Return-to-Learn Plan 2023-24

Community Strategies, Inc., dba Epic Charter School strives to provide an environment where students, families, and employees feel safe. With the end of the federal COVID-19 Public Health Emergency on May 11, 2023, this plan includes the most recent guidance for the endemic phase from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Oklahoma State Department of Health, the Oklahoma Health Care Authority, and others (collectively, "Health Officials"). The Community Strategies, Inc. Board of Education grants authority to the Superintendent of Schools to amend the plan as necessary based on the ever-changing nature of this situation.

Strategies to Reduce Risk of Exposure

- **Wellness Screenings**

Families are expected to screen children for illness prior to the student's arrival at school or teacher meetings each day. Employees are expected to do the same. Anyone with symptoms of respiratory or gastrointestinal infections, such as cough, fever, sore throat, vomiting, or diarrhea, should not enter an Epic facility or have an in person meeting of any kind. Staying home when sick can lower the risk of spreading infectious diseases to other people.

- **Positive COVID-19 Test**

Students or staff who test positive for COVID-19 shall not attend in-person school/work for a period of at least five full days based on [CDC guidelines](#).

- **Vaccinations**

Vaccinations are recommended, but not required, for eligible students and staff.

Below are helpful resources regarding COVID-19 vaccinations.

- [CDC: Vaccines for COVID-19](#)
- [CDC: Benefits of Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine](#)
- [CDC: What to Expect after Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine CDC](#)
- [CDC: COVID-19 Vaccination FAQs](#)

- **Face coverings**

In compliance with Oklahoma Senate Bill 658, masks will not be required unless the county of the facility is declared to be in a state of emergency and in consultation with the county and state health departments.

- **Hand Washing**

Hand-sanitizing stations will be located throughout each building and routine hand washing and sanitizing will be encouraged.

- **Cleaning/Sanitizing Protocols**

Our main office buildings and the VLC's will be cleaned daily. Microsites will be cleaned weekly. Disinfectant spray will be placed in meeting rooms so staff and teachers can disinfect surfaces before and after meetings.

- **Transition to Virtual Learning**

The VLC sites will meet in person unless the transmission of COVID makes it inadvisable to do so. We will also comply with the advice of local health officials regarding school closures.

- **Epic will follow the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control, Oklahoma Health Department, and Oklahoma Health Care Authority and make changes in the plan as warranted.**

- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention COVID-19 Prevention Actions](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Operational Guidance for Schools](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Endemic Declaration](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention COVID-19 Hospital Admission Levels](#)
- [Oklahoma State Department of Health COVID-19](#)
- [Oklahoma State Department of Health Endemic State](#)
- [Oklahoma Health Care Authority](#)

What to do if you are exposed to COVID-19

If you are exposed to COVID-19, here are some steps that you can take to protect others, regardless of your vaccination status or if you have had a previous infection:

- Monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 for 10 full days after being exposed.
- Get tested five full days after being exposed.
- To reduce risk of spread, a high-quality mask or respirator can be worn while around others indoors during the 10 days after your exposure.
- [For more details visit the CDC website](#)

What to do if you test positive or have symptoms of COVID-19

If you have COVID-19, you can spread it to others, even if you do not have symptoms. If you have tested positive, consider following these recommendations:

- Stay home for five full days after your symptoms start or the date of your positive test (even if you never develop symptoms). You should be fever free for 24 hours and your symptoms should be improving before ending isolation.
- To reduce risk of spread, a high-quality mask or respirator can be worn when indoors around others while symptoms last.
- Call your health care provider to learn about treatment options.
- [For more details visit the CDC website](#)

Notification Protocol

Students and staff are required to report via our website all positive cases and close contact with positive cases. The Epic Human Resources Department will submit the data via the Oklahoma State Department of Education portal. Epic will follow guidance from the CDC and the Oklahoma State Department of Health on notification protocols to ensure compliance with FERPA and HIPAA privacy laws and to protect the identity and confidentiality of individuals who test positive for COVID-19.

Covid Leave for Employees

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) expired Dec. 31, 2020, and has not been renewed as of the implementation of this policy. Therefore, the leave afforded by the Federal Government is no longer available to employees unless later required by law. Employees eligible for FMLA may reach out to Benefits Specialist Jamie Stewart to confirm if their situation meets the criteria. FMLA information can be found in the employee handbook.

For more information: www.epiccharterschools.org

To provide comment: [Return to Learn Plan Public Comment](#)

Contact us: 405-749-4550 or info@epiccharterschools.org

This plan is subject to change in the event of an emerging public health issue.