



SAFETY

Q. What kind of mask or facial covering will my student have to wear? Is a scarf or face shield okay to wear instead of an actual mask?

According to the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services, a face covering can be a scarf, bandana or other cloth material that has multiple layers of fabric and fully covers your nose and mouth. Medical grade masks need to be saved for use by health care providers. A face shield cannot be used in lieu of a mask.

Q: Can my child wear a protective screen instead of a mask?

No. The state of Michigan guidelines will not allow a student to wear a face shield in lieu of a mask.

Q. My student has a medical reason as to why they cannot wear a mask. What do I need to do?

According to the Governor's Executive Order, the requirement to wear a face covering does not apply to people who:

- **Are younger than four years old, though children two years old and older are strongly encouraged to wear a face covering; or**
- **Cannot medically tolerate a face covering such as people who have trouble breathing, are unconscious, incapacitated or unable to remove the covering without assistance.**

Therefore, in order for a student to be exempt from wearing a mask, each student would have to have a doctor's excuse stating they are "medically intolerable" of wearing a mask. That being said it would be difficult to require all students and staff in a building to wear a facial covering but also allow an individual student to not wear a mask. Therefore, we are strongly encouraging all students who are medically unable to wear a mask, to contact their school principal.

Q: Will my child be required to wear a mask?

Maybe. If we are in Phase four (4) of the Governor's "Safe Start" plan, all students and staff will be required to wear a face covering. The only exception to that rule in the State's Return to Learn Roadmap is for kindergarten through fifth grade students in a self-contained classroom.

Kindergarten - 12th grade students will be required to wear a mask on the bus and in common areas and shared spaces of the school such as hallways.

If we are in phase five (5) of the Governor's "Safe Start" plan, face coverings will be strongly recommended but not required.

Q: If my child does not wear a mask and is required to do so, what will happen?

If we are in Phase four (4) of the Governor's "Safe Start" plan, your child will not be permitted to attend school in-person without a face covering.

Q: Will the district be providing masks, gloves, etc.?

The district recommends the students wear their own facial covering. We will have masks available if a student needs one. Gloves will be provided to staff who will be doing any disinfecting duties.

Q: I'm concerned about the hand sanitizer. I know people with prolonged use of hand sanitizer can get liver problems from the alcohol content. Has that been taken into consideration?

The State of Michigan Return to Learn Roadmap requires the district to provide the supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors (including soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol) for safe use by staff and students, paper towels, tissues, and signs reinforcing proper handwashing techniques.

Q: If a parent chooses in-person instruction but their student or someone in the household has a positive COVID test result, will they have to go to online instruction?

Yes. Any student or staff that tests positive for COVID-19 will not be allowed to return to school until they have been medically cleared by a physician.

Q: What is the protocol if a student or teacher or household member tests positive for COVID-19?

The employee or student would be quarantined for 14 days and would also need to be medically cleared by a physician before they would be allowed to return to school.

Q: Will parents be notified if a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19?

Families will be notified of the presence of any laboratory positive or clinically diagnosed cases of COVID-19 in the classroom and/or school to encourage closer observation for any symptoms at home. In the event of a lab or clinically diagnosed case of COVID-19, immediate efforts will be made to contact any close contacts (those who spent more than 15 minutes less than six feet in close proximity to the student or staff member) so that they can be quarantined for 14 days at home. Students and staff should be closely monitored for any symptoms of COVID-19. At this time, empiric testing of all students or staff members in the class is not recommended.

Q: Will there be temperature checks before entering the bus and school?

The guidance from the Governor's Roadmap is that parents should be expected to take their child's temperature daily before they send or take their child to school. Temperature checks are not required, nor strongly recommended in the State's Road Map. As a recommended practice, families are encouraged to check their child's temperature at home every morning using oral, tympanic, or temporal scanners; students with a temperature of 100.4 or greater should stay home, consider coronavirus testing if

symptoms of COVID-19 are present and consult their doctor.

Q: Is Owosso going back to school five days a week or using an every other day schedule to allow for deep cleaning?

School will take place five days a week for in-person and online instruction. Procedures are in place to provide safe cleaning of surfaces throughout the school day and thorough cleaning and sanitation after school.

CURRICULUM/SPECIAL EDUCATION/ELECTIVE CLASSES

Q: What will an online class look like? Are teachers doing online videos for the lecture or Zoom meetings?

Teachers will use Google Classroom and Zoom to create online courses. (Google Classroom is NOT the curriculum - it is the method of communication between teachers and students. Curriculum will be very similar to what students attending in-person will receive.) The coursework will be Owosso-created and follow in-person instruction which will create an easy flow if we move to online only or if students move to in-person instruction at appropriate times. Teachers will create videos/demonstrations and already developed on-line resources.

Students will have assignments and assessments submitted through the Google Classroom platform. Teachers will provide feedback and give grades. Teachers and students shall maintain a minimum of 3 points of contact each week to monitor student progress. Contact methods may include: email, phone, or Zoom. However, further interaction may occur with additional email communication and live chats like Zoom. Students should expect to invest an hour each day for each subject/class period they are taking online. (6.5 hours of instruction daily)

Q: Will students in grades 5th-12th still be able to participate in band and choir?

Yes. Our principals and band/choir directors are working on processes and procedures to allow classes like band and choir to take place. These processes and procedures will be communicated by the building principal and classroom teachers once they are finalized.

Q: If I sign my student up for online classes, will they still be able to participate in band and choir?

Teachers will be working to develop online materials, lessons, and activities for online band and choir classes. Owosso Public Schools online students will be able to participate in extracurricular activities, similarly to students attending classes in-person.

Q: Will all elective courses be available to online students?

Our goal is to provide as many elective courses online as possible. Some electives such as Construction Trades or Woodshop will be difficult to teach and assess only online. Our principals will be working with our teachers to develop online activities that support the elective curriculum. If the elective your child has chosen cannot be delivered online,

alternative options will be provided so that students do not miss out on a credit needed for graduation.

Q. My student is an Early College student. If I sign them up for online classes, will they still be able to participate in the Early College program?

Yes, but they may have to participate as an online college student depending on the course and what the college is offering.

Q: If I choose online learning, will the teacher be available to interact with via Zoom? Or answer questions during school hours?

Teachers may interact with students virtually through Google Classroom or Zoom platforms; how frequently and when will depend on the course. In an online setting, the responses to questions are not as immediate as they would be in an in-person setting and teachers may also be teaching during the school day. Owosso Public Schools online classes will follow the 24-hour rule for responding to questions. Students or parents should receive a response within 24 hours except on the weekends. Teachers will have scheduled office hours/Zoom to be available to online students.

Q: Students who choose the online option will be expected to work 6.5 hours a day. What if the student gets the work done before the 6.5 hour time period?

Expectations for online learning will be dependent on the grade level of the student and how many courses they are taking online. Parents and students should plan on spending roughly 1 to 1.5 hours per day/per subject area.

Q: If a student does not complete the work on the day it is given, can they complete it the next day?

Students who choose the online option will be expected to follow the same guidelines as those students who attend in-person instruction. If an assignment is due on a certain day, it will be due regardless of whether or not a student is attending in-person or online. If a student is absent from school because of illness (either online or in-person), they will follow the same guidelines for make-up work.

Q: If we choose online, can my child still attend Baker College of Owosso for dual-enrollment?

Yes, but many if not all of the Baker courses may require a student to physically attend. If your student is scheduled to attend Baker College of Owosso, you can expect to be contacted by them with course requirements and expectations. You may also contact your high school counselor for additional information.

Q: Would an online student be marked as absent if they did not check in for the day?

Yes. Some form of two-way communication between the student and instructor must occur. The frequency of that two-way communication will vary depending on the student's grade level. Teachers and students shall maintain a minimum of 3 points of contact each week to monitor student progress. Contact methods may include: email, phone, or Zoom.

Q: How will this impact my child who has a special education IEP?

While ultimately the choice is yours as the parent/guardian on the option that you choose for educating your child, we know that there is no substitution for in-person learning. Owosso Public Schools' staff, in coordination with the service providers from the Shiawassee RESD, will make the best of this situation and meet the needs of your child. Special Education staff will be reviewing Individual Education Plans (IEPs), holding IEPs (when necessary), performing progress monitoring, and if additional testing is needed a formal Review of Existing Evaluation Data (REED) meeting will be held.

Q: Will IEP meetings be held during the school year?

The intention is to have IEP meetings in-person, but also understand that not all parents may not be able to make it in or feel comfortable to attend in person therefore we will offer their attendance via Zoom if they so choose.

Q: How will special education services be delivered?

The delivery method for services may be different depending on the option that you choose and will need to be discussed and handled on an individual basis with your child's special education providers. The key to success for your child in school will be open communication with staff.

Q: If my child has Speech, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, or Social Work services, will they still receive services?

Yes. All services will be provided through the SRES. Case managers will be in contact with special education parents and students to establish a schedule for both in-person and online options for students to receive instruction and services. Masks may be required to be worn if in-person options are selected. Online students may receive in-person therapy sessions that are scheduled with a provider.

Q: Has Owosso Public Schools made necessary adjustments for increased social work for social-emotional well-being of all students K-12?

Owosso Public Schools has worked with the Shiawassee RESD and increased social workers in the district over the past two years. Social workers will be prepared to work with all K-12 students by providing online social-emotional engagement strategies along with working directly with our in-person students. All IEP goals will be addressed.

BREAKFAST/LUNCH/RECESS

Q: Lunch and breakfast will be given to elementary students in the classroom. Will cold lunches be allowed during this time?

Our plan is to offer free breakfast and lunch to ALL elementary students if they choose to have it. Students would also still be able to bring their lunches from home. We are

working on the details of how those lunches from home will be stored as we need to make sure we keep our students with food/tree/nut allergies safe.

Q: How will breakfast and lunch look for the middle school and high school students? Will cold lunches be allowed during this time?

Our plan is to offer free breakfast and lunch to ALL secondary students if they choose to have it. Breakfast will be available at the end of the school day to take home for the following morning. Students would also still be able to bring their lunches from home. We are working on the details of how those lunches from home will be stored as we need to make sure we keep our students with food/tree/nut allergies safe.

Q: For recess, will it be one classroom at a time playing outside to make sure there is less exposure and since they already will be together throughout the day?

Students will have recess scheduled throughout the day. There may be more than one class at recess at the same time but students will be required to remain with their classmates in a designated area while on recess.

Q: Who will supervise kids in the classroom during lunches?

Teachers, Paraprofessionals, lunch monitors, aides, and possibly other school staff members may all supervise students during lunch in the classrooms.

Q: Will lunches be provided for students who choose the online option?

The District will provide Grab & Go breakfast and lunch to students. There will be additional information coming regarding meal distribution.

TECHNOLOGY/PROGRAMMING/OTHER

Q: I cannot remember how to login to PowerSchool to see my student's account. What do I do?

Students and parents in grades 3-12 can access PowerSchool. Each school will mail home PowerSchool login information prior to September 8.

Q: Will the district be able to provide WiFi/hotspot assistance for families?

Internet access is available now in the OHS parking lot and soon to be available in the parking lots at Emerson and Bryant. We do not want lack of access to the internet to prevent online academic success.

Q: Are Chromebooks being offered to students who opt for online learning and need access to a learning device?

Yes. All 6th-12th grade students will receive a Chromebook for online or in-person instruction. A limited number of Chromebooks will be available for K-5th grade online students.

Q: Why is the District not offering an every other day/week option?

What is now commonly referred to as the “hybrid” system where students attend school in-person part time and online learning part time, often in a day on/day off or week on/week off pattern, was considered. We are offering a hybrid option at the elementary, middle and high school levels where students attend in-person every day with shorter hours and then complete some coursework online at home.

In the parent survey in July, 72% of our parents indicated they wanted to send their students back for in-person instruction. We also knew we had to offer an online option for those parents who did not feel comfortable returning their students to school.

We all know that online learning is not as effective as in-person instruction, especially for elementary students. Children need the social and emotional benefits of school (routine, schedules, social interaction, consistency, etc.) and a lot of our students receive important services at school. For many of our students school is the best and safest place for them to be. For all these reasons our goal was to give all of our students the opportunity to return five days a week.

Q: If a parent picks the online option and there is a working vaccine offered for COVID-19 by the end of the year, will students be able to return to school or are they stuck online for the entire year?

Students will not be locked in for the entire year but if they choose online instruction they may need to continue that option for a full marking period. That being said, nothing is etched in stone and depending on the student’s grade level, the classes the student is taking and the enrollment in the in-person courses, it may be possible to transition an online student to in-person instruction but it is not guaranteed. Especially for middle school and high school students who have six or seven different classes on their schedule. It is easier to transition students from in-person instruction to online since there are no physical space limitations.

Q: If you choose online with teacher X then move to in-person instruction later in the year, will teacher X still be your teacher or will you be assigned an in-person teacher for the whole school year that stays the same?

As stated above, it is unlikely that a student will be able to move from online instruction to in-person instruction until September 30. Owosso’s plan allows for all students to have the same online and in-person instructors. By providing consistency, this allows our teachers to build meaningful relationships with their students, a point of pride amongst staff and students.

Q: Will there be an online option for preschool?

Yes. We do not recommend online learning for preschool children but there will be an option for at-home learning. Paper packets prepared by our highly-qualified preschool teachers will be provided weekly for parents who are uncomfortable with their children physically attending preschool. Students will also engage in online activities with their teachers via Zoom or Google Classroom. Teachers will be recording themselves

throughout the week and will share lessons via a variety of online learning opportunities through apps, YouTube, Zoom, Google Classroom, etc. with enrolled students.

Q: What is the difference between online learning and homeschooling?

With online learning, the student has a teacher that provides lessons, assignments, assessments, feedback and determines the student's grade or mark in a course or subject. If you choose to homeschool your child it is up to you to find or create the curriculum, assignments, and assessments. Your student will not earn credit or receive grades or marks from the district. There is no cost to participate in the OPS online program; however, many times there is a cost to the parent to purchase these programs if they choose not to enroll in the OPS online learning program. If you do choose to homeschool your child, you will need to register with the Shiawassee Regional Education School District.

Q: If I enroll in another online program, does that mean my student is no longer enrolled at Owosso?

Yes. If you enroll your child with any other program not offered by Owosso Public Schools, your child will no longer be considered an Owosso student. Before making the decision to enroll your student in another school or program we ask that you contact Owosso Public Schools to discuss your options. Please contact your student's building principal or the district's Director of Curriculum, Mr. Steve Brooks at brooks@owosso.k12.mi.us or 989-729-5701.

Q: What is the procedure for parent pickup/drop off?

School principals will communicate their individual parent drop off/pickup procedures with parents through their building newsletters and back to school information.

ATHLETICS/EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Q: Would there be extracurricular activities available if you choose online?

It depends on what Phase we are in as to whether or not extracurricular activities will be offered.

Q: If my student elects the online option, will they be allowed to participate in sports? ***Yes. Students may participate in athletics, if available, following MHSAA protocol and safety guidelines. Online students are still eligible to play sports at that school, so long as the online courses are for active credit/diploma at the school.***

Q: Will athletics be offered in the fall?

As of now, the MHSAA has not given us any indication that we would not have sports 7-12th grade. Fall middle school, freshmen, JV and varsity schedules have been created. We will continue to take the guidance from the MHSAA, which recently announced that as of right now, fall sports are planned to begin as scheduled.

WHO CAN I CONTACT?

If you have additional questions that are not addressed in this FAQ, please contact one of the following:

**Questions pertaining to your child specifically, or programming at your child's building -
Please email your child's building principal.**

Bentley Bright Beginnings Early Childhood Center, Amanda Rowell
Bryant Elementary, Michelle Collison
Central Elementary, Bridgit Spielman
Emerson Elementary, Jessica Anderson
Owosso Middle School, Rich Collins
Owosso High School, Jeff Phillips
Lincoln High School, Steve Irelan

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Questions pertaining to the curriculum, please contact:

Steve Brooks, Curriculum Director brooks@owosso.k12.mi.us 989-729-5701

Questions pertaining to Student Services (special education, CAP), please contact:

Steve Brooks, Curriculum Director brooks@owosso.k12.mi.us 989-729-5701

Other questions: Please call the Administration Office at 989-723-8131.

Thank you for choosing Owosso Public Schools!
Go Trojans!

