



EDMOND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Empowering all students to succeed in a changing society

March 13, 2020

Dear EPS Families,

The following FAQ has been updated to reflect the most recent information from the district concerning the COVID-19. Edmond Public Schools continues to closely follow the spread of COVID-19 and its potential impact on our school and community. It is important to be aware that there are currently no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Edmond Schools. As we move into spring break, we want to provide answers to questions you may have regarding the virus, travel guidance and potential school closure.

Frequently Asked Questions

Are Edmond Public Schools closing after spring break?

Our current plan is for students to return to classes on Monday, March 23rd. If that changes, we will notify our families and staff through our normal communication platforms. We have created a [webpage](#) to keep staff and families up-to-date regarding district-specific information. We also encourage our families and staff to rely on reputable sources of information, such as the [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#), the [Oklahoma State Department of Health \(OSDH\)](#)-which has established a COVID-19 hotline (877-215-8336), and the [OKC-County Health Department \(OCCHD\)](#).

How will the District determine if schools should be closed?

At this time, the Oklahoma State Department of Health and other public health experts, including the CDC, do not recommend large-scale school closures, however, this could change and individual districts or all districts in the state could close depending on specific factors. This is a rapidly developing situation, and if cases arise locally, Edmond administrators and the board of education will make decisions that are in the best interest of the safety and well-being of our students and staff. Edmond Public Schools will be closely monitoring student and staff health and absenteeism rates and will rely on the advice and guidance of state health officials before making any decision to close schools.

Will students receive virtual instruction if schools are closed?

Some teachers may choose to continue to provide virtual learning resources and opportunities for their students during school closure, but students will not be required to participate.

Will athletic and fine arts practices and competitions continue over spring break?

The district is canceling all competitions during spring break. Practices involving EPS students only will be allowed.

What happens if I voluntarily choose to keep my child(ren) home from school due to my concerns about COVID-19?

If school is in session, the student will be counted as absent. An exemption to this could be students who are medically fragile and on an IEP or 504 plan that states they cannot attend school. In that instance, homebound instruction and support could be applicable.

Will the attendance incentives be amended during this cautionary period?

In response to the health risks associated with the COVID-19 virus, the 2019-2020 second semester test exemption for high school students will be determined by the student's attendance record from January 7, 2020, through March 13, 2020. The opportunity to earn a semester test exemption will follow the same guidelines outlined in school board policy regulation #4210R; however, excused absences incurred after spring break will not affect the earned exemption. This decision has been made at the recommendation of the OK State Dept of Education's encouragement to eliminate attendance awards or incentives during this period of uncertainty connected with the potential spread of COVID-19. Thus, for the remainder of the spring semester, students will be expected to continue to practice responsible daily attendance as long as they are well, but also to stay at home to recuperate when they are exhibiting symptoms of illness.

Our family plans to take a cruise over spring break. What precautions should we take before our children return to school?

The Centers for Disease Control has recently released updated guidance on [cruise ship travel](#). They recommend travelers, particularly those with underlying health issues, defer all cruise ship travel at this time. If you are planning any cruise travel over spring break, you must let us know by filling out this simple [form](#). Families that travel to any country that the CDC has designated as a Level 2 or Level 3 Health Risk should also fill out the same form. Please check the [CDC Travel Advisory website](#) for an updated list of countries that qualify for these distinctions.

Individuals, returning from travel to China, South Korea, Italy, Iran, Japan or any other Level 2 or 3 country as identified by the CDC, must self-quarantine for a period of 14 days before returning to school. This applies to all students, teachers and other school or district staff.

What are the steps involved from families returning from Level 2 or 3 countries?

- Take your temperature with a thermometer two times a day and monitor for fever. Watch for a cough or trouble breathing.

- Stay home and avoid contact with others. Do not go to work or school for this 14-day period. Discuss your work situation with your district before returning to work or school.
- Do not take public transportation, taxis or ride-shares during the time you are practicing social distancing.
- Avoid crowded places (such as shopping centers and movie theaters) and limit your activities in public.
- Keep your distance from others (about 6 feet).

After the 14-day period, if your child is symptom-free, they may return to school. Our faculty will work remotely with your children to help them remain current in their studies during such time. We will work with individual families as needed on how to handle these absences.

Will the school share information about students, faculty or staff who have traveled internationally?

In compliance with state and federal health privacy laws, the district will not release names or identifying information of any student or employee unless required to do so by law. Travelers, returning from international travel, must comply with all CDC directions and guidance received from authorities at the point of re-entry to the U.S. When notified of an employee or student who has traveled, we will follow CDC recommendations to decide whether the employee or student should return to school and whether parents and others should be notified.

What do I do if I feel sick upon returning from spring break?

If you or a family member has been exposed to or diagnosed with COVID-19, immediately contact your personal physician and follow their advice. Please do not bring your children to school! After contacting your physician, please call or email the school to obtain further guidance. Teachers and staff who are ill with flu-like symptoms should stay home and contact their personal physician for further advice.

What learning services could be provided for a student who is quarantined for 14 days?

If students have internet access, we could provide their education virtually, and they would be considered in attendance as they worked from home.

What preventative measures is the district taking to ensure clean facilities?

Several preventative measures have already been put in place in our schools. Over spring break, crews will disinfect all buses and deep clean all facilities focusing on common hand-touch areas and shared spaces.

Additional Resources

For additional information about COVID-19 and what to do if you are exhibiting symptoms, please refer to the links below.

Links & Resources

- [World Health Organization](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control & Prevention](#)
- [Oklahoma State Department of Health](#)
- [OKC-County Health Department](#)

EPS remains in regular contact with local, state and federal health officials and will continue to provide updates to our school community as new information becomes available. You may send comments to our dedicated email: Covid19@edmondschools.net. We will read all emails and use the information obtained from the emails to assist us in preparing future communication for families and staff.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this unprecedented time as we work to ensure the safety of our school communities.

Respectfully,

Bret Towne
Superintendent