



2020/2021 Safety Protocols

Altus Public Schools shall conduct all school activities consistent with and informed by applicable health orders, protocols and guidelines. These include the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Activities and Initiatives Supporting the COVID-19 Response and the President's Plan for Opening Up American Again guidelines, school decision guidance from the CDC, Governor Stitt's Executive Orders and Open Up and Recover Safely (OURS) Plan, the Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE) Return to Learn Oklahoma framework and COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions, as each is updated periodically. Additionally, the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) has developed the Oklahoma COVID-19 Alert System, a multitiered risk measurement tool with corresponding color categories that identify the current COVID-19 risk level on a county-by-county basis.

1. These designations, as modified below for purposes of school operations and which, at a minimum, Altus Public Schools shall conduct activities in accordance with, will be **updated weekly** each Friday based on updates to the [Oklahoma COVID-19 Alert System](#). Depending on public health conditions, additional actions, orders or guidance provided by OSDE
2. or OSDH may be necessary as a county's designation changes. Some counties may not experience a straight path from a red designation to a yellow and then a green designation. Instead, cycling back and forth among designations may occur as public health indicators improve or worsen. Each school should account for changing conditions and include those scenarios in their local plans.
3. Finally, this School Safety Response document must not be interpreted as a substitute for close consultation with local, regional and state health agencies and experts. Scientific understanding of the novel coronavirus is increasing rapidly, so efforts to mitigate transmission of COVID-19 will necessarily evolve with additional research and experience. Moreover, circumstances will vary regardless of county alert level. The Altus Public Schools District must remain vigilant, monitor data and stay in close communication with public health experts.

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GREEN LEVEL

Instruction: Altus Public Schools will offer in-person, on-site instruction in accordance with their re-opening plan and may begin the 2020-21 school year as determined by the local board of education.

Health Protocol: Follow all applicable health orders and required protocols, and adhere to district policies relating to:

- Screenings of staff, students and visitors prior to entry
- Policies for social distancing and gatherings on and off campus
- Additional mitigation techniques, including hygiene practices, proper ventilation and school cleaning practices

Masks:

- Masks are **strongly recommended** for all staff and students. Teachers of students in PreK-3rd grade should consider protective face shields or clear-paneled masks.
- *See Mask Exemptions and Accommodations.*

Special Education Classrooms: Teachers and staff in special education classrooms are **strongly recommended** to wear protective face shields and/or masks when social distancing cannot be practiced or students are without masks. In addition, gloves and gowns are **recommended** for special education staff when providing services for medically vulnerable students.

Visitors and Service Providers: It is **recommended** that school visitations be restricted and that any visitors allowed on premises wear masks at all times. Temperature checks and symptom checks should be required for all visitors. In cases where schools and districts have partnerships with community organizations, health care providers and local government agencies that provide additional educational and wraparound services to students, staff of such partners should be allowed into buildings following the same procedures as for school personnel.

Child Nutrition: Provisions for school meal programs should continue.

Extracurricular Activities and Group Assemblies: Schools should remain vigilant and plan with caution. Group gatherings, assemblies and spectators at indoor and outdoor events without PPE or social distancing can accelerate community transmission and a loss of **GREEN LEVEL** status.

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YELLOW LEVEL

Instruction: Altus Public Schools will continue in-person, on-site instruction in accordance with their re-opening plan and may begin the 2020-21 school year as determined by the local board of education.

Health Protocol: Follow all applicable health orders and required protocols, and adhere to district policies relating to:

- Screenings of staff, students and visitors prior to entry
- Social distancing and gatherings on and off campus
- Additional mitigation techniques, including hygiene practices, proper ventilation and school cleaning practices

Masks:

- Masks are **required** for all staff and students in grades 4-12, with exemptions for adults and children who are physically unable to wear them.
- Masks are **required** for students in grades PreK-3 in hallways, common areas and during times of school transportation. Masks may be removed while inside classrooms **if** classroom cohorts remain grouped together throughout the day. During such time, teachers are still **required** to wear protective face shields and/or masks. Teachers may wish to wear both a face shield and a mask to provide an additional safeguard layer when students are not wearing masks.
- Exceptions are allowed for the following: when eating meals, naptime, recess and during physical education if social distancing is possible.
- Adults are **required** to wear masks around other adults.
- ***See Mask Exemptions and Accommodations.***

Special Education Classrooms: Teachers and staff in special education classrooms are **required** to wear protective face shields and/or masks when social distancing cannot be practiced or students are without masks. In addition, gloves and gowns are **recommended** for special education staff when providing services for medically vulnerable students.

Visitors and Service Providers: It is **required** that school visitations be restricted and that any visitors allowed on premises wear masks at all times. Temperature checks and symptom checks should be required for all visitors. In cases where schools and districts have partnerships with community organizations, health care providers and local government agencies that provide additional educational and wraparound services to students, staff of such partners should be allowed into buildings following the same procedures as for school personnel.

Child Nutrition: Provisions for school meal programs should continue.

Extracurricular Activities and Group Assemblies: It is **recommended** that schools limit gatherings, assemblies and spectators at indoor and outdoor events to decrease community transmission.

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ORANGE LEVEL

Instruction: Altus Public Schools will remain in-person, on-site instruction and will be preparing for distance learning in consultation with local and state health officials and OSDE.

Health Protocol: Follow all applicable health orders and required protocols, and adhere to district policies relating to:

- Screenings of staff, students and visitors prior to entry
- Policies for social distancing and gatherings
- Additional mitigation techniques, including hygiene practices, proper ventilation and school cleaning practices

Masks:

- Masks are **required** for all staff and students in grades PreK-12, with exemptions for adults and children who are physically unable to wear them. Teachers of PreK-3 grade students should consider protective face shields or clear-paneled masks.
- Exceptions are allowed for the following: when eating meals, naptime, recess and during physical education, if social distancing is possible.
- Adults are **required** to wear masks around other adults.
- *See Mask Exemptions and Accommodations.*

Special Education Classrooms: Teachers and staff in special education classrooms are **required** to wear protective face shields and/or masks when social distancing cannot be practiced or students are without masks. In addition, gloves and gowns are **recommended** for special education staff when providing services for medically vulnerable students.

Visitors and Service Providers: It is **required** that school visitations be restricted and that any visitors allowed on premises wear masks at all times. Temperature checks and symptom checks should be required for all visitors. In cases where schools and districts have partnerships with community organizations, health care providers and local government agencies that provide additional educational and wraparound services to students, staff of such partners should be allowed into buildings following the same procedures as for school personnel.

Child Nutrition: Provisions for school meal programs should continue.

Extracurricular Activities and Group Assemblies: Buildings and campuses **may not** be used for extracurricular activities, including spectator sports, where social distancing guidelines are not possible or for other group activities such as assemblies and performances. Masks will be required at all events for all non-participants.

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RED LEVEL

Instruction: Altus Public Schools will close buildings to students and provide distance learning until community transmission declines to ORANGE LEVEL on the COVID-19 Alert System or as advised by local and state health officials and OSDE. Students with disabilities who are unable to receive a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) solely through a distance learning environment (as determined by the IEP team) and those students who are unable to receive instructional services through distance learning, not to exceed fifteen percent (15%) of students enrolled at a site, may receive certain services at a school site that is closed or at an alternate school site or other location. Teachers and staff will keep regular hours on-campus.

Health Protocol: Follow all applicable health orders, protocols and guidelines, including those relating to:

- Screenings of staff, students and visitors prior to entry
- Additional mitigation techniques, to include hygiene practices, proper ventilation and school cleaning practices

Masks:

- Masks are **required** for all staff and students with exemptions for adults and children who are physically unable to wear them. Exceptions are allowed for meals.
- Adults are **required** to wear masks around other adults.
- See Mask Exemptions and Accommodations.

Special Education Classrooms: Teachers and staff in special education classrooms are **required** to wear protective face shields and/or masks when social distancing cannot be practiced or students are without masks. In addition, gloves and gowns are **recommended** for special education staff when providing services for medically vulnerable students.

Visitors and Service Providers: It is **required** that school visitations be restricted and that any visitors allowed on premises wear masks at all times. Temperature checks and symptom checks should be required for all visitors. In cases where schools and districts have partnerships with community organizations, health care providers and local government agencies that provide additional educational and wraparound services to students, staff of such partners should be allowed into buildings following the same procedures as for school personnel.

Child Nutrition: Operation Bulldog Thunder Mobile Feeding Program will resume.

Extracurricular Activities and Group Assemblies: Buildings and campuses may **not** be used for extracurricular activities, including spectator sports, or other group activities such as assemblies and performances. Buildings and campuses may not be utilized for public events and gatherings.

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2020/2021 Safety Protocols

MASK EXEMPTIONS AND ACCOMMODATIONS

- Persons who work or directly interact with individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, and who rely on lip-reading to communicate, may remove a face covering for the duration of time as is necessary to communicate or interact directly with the individual(s). In this situation, consideration should be given to using a clear face covering. If a clear face covering is unavailable, staff members should consider using written communication, closed captioning or decrease background noise to make communication possible while wearing a cloth face covering that blocks the lips.
- Persons with a medical condition or disability that prevents wearing a face covering must wear a face shield.
- Persons with a medical condition for whom wearing a face covering could obstruct breathing or who are unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance
- Persons who are hearing impaired, or communicating with a person who is hearing impaired, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication.
- Persons for whom wearing a face covering would create a risk to the person related to their work, as determined by local, state or federal regulators or workplace safety guidelines. This includes people who work in a setting where cloth face coverings may increase the risk of heat-related illness or cause safety concerns due to introduction of a hazard (for instance, straps getting caught in machinery) may consult with an occupational safety and health professional to determine the appropriate face covering for their setting.
- Persons who are obtaining a service involving the nose or face for which temporary removal of the face covering is necessary to perform the service.
- Note: Persons exempted from wearing a face covering due to a medical condition who are employed in a job involving regular contact with others should wear a non-restrictive alternative, such as a face shield with a drape on the bottom edge, as long as their condition permits it.

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		GREEN LEVEL	YELLOW LEVEL	ORANGE LEVEL 1	RED LEVEL
Instruction	In-person instruction expected	X	X	X	
	Distance learning required				X
Health Protocols	Masks strongly recommended for all teachers, staff, students	X			
	Masks required for teachers/staff		X	X	X
	Masks required for all students		X	X	X
	PreK-3 grade students may remove masks in class		X		
	Visitors Restricted	X	X	X	X
	Follow all health orders and protocols, and adhere to district policies (screenings, distancing, handwashing)	X	X	X	X
Activities	Buildings and campuses strongly recommended to limit public events		X	X	
	Buildings and campuses not available for activities where social distancing not possible			X	
	Buildings and campuses not available for public use or extracurricular activities				X