

## Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

Section 2001(i)(1) of the ARP Act requires each LEA that receives ARP ESSER funds to develop and make publicly available on its website, within 30 days after receiving such allocations, Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services plans for all schools, including those that have already returned to in-person instruction.

The following plan outlines how OLCHS District 229 will strategically implement the guidance from ISBE and IDPH in a manner that achieves the school's mission to provide high-quality, intellectually challenging educational experiences that prepare our students for future success during COVID-19.

### Mitigation Strategies

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) have highlighted specific mitigation strategies to reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection and transmission. Each strategy will be implemented per current guidance from IDPH and ISBE.

- **Face Coverings:** Individuals who enter OLCHS are not required to wear a face covering. Those entering may choose to wear a face covering. Face coverings will be available at entrances to anyone by request.
- **Hand Hygiene:** Hands should be washed often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or treated with hand sanitizer with a minimum of 60% alcohol. It is recommended that hand hygiene is performed upon arrival to and departure from school; after blowing one's nose, coughing or sneezing; following restroom use, before food preparation or before or after eating; before/after routine care for another person; after contact with a person who is sick. Additionally, appropriate hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms, offices, and other areas when hand washing is not readily available.
- **Respiratory Etiquette:** Students and staff experiencing symptoms are encouraged to stay home. Respiratory etiquette will be encouraged throughout OLCHS.

### Cleaning and Disinfection

During the summer of 2022, all classrooms, offices, and other spaces at OLCHS were thoroughly cleaned and sanitized. In addition, the following enhanced sanitation measures will be implemented for the 2022-2023 school year:

- Daily sanitizing protocols will be in place throughout the day using approved sanitizing solutions.
- Each classroom will be provided with a set of cleaning and sanitizing supplies.

- Frequently touched surfaces will be disinfected daily by staff members using appropriate sanitizing solutions. Cleaning of high-touch areas will include door knobs, stair rails, handles, and fixtures.

### Environmental Controls

The quality, flow, and circulation of clean air is crucial to providing a safe learning environment for students and staff. Therefore, the following steps have been taken to maintain air cleanliness throughout the school day:

- Ventilation: Modifications to building air handlers and exchange systems to ensure fresh air is exchanged with outside air from the building.
- HVAC systems are state of the art and well maintained. High-quality air filters are changed on a regular basis.

### Physical Environment

Modifications to the physical environment will be re-evaluated as needed.

- **Student Cafeteria:** Individual student desks are available in the lunchroom (spaced 6 feet apart) for students opting to eat in a socially-distanced setting.
- **Other Facilities:** Physical barriers, such as plexiglass may be installed in offices and other areas to protect students and staff from possible transmission.

### Health Office Protocols

OLCHS operates a Health Office staffed by a Certified School Nurse as well as additional trained nurses and support staff.

- OLCHS will follow all recommendations of the IDPH, ISBE, and our local health department. The most current guidance can be accessed [here](#).
- The Health Office has been expanded and reconfigured to allow for enhanced spacing and isolation, as needed. Students who demonstrate COVID-19 symptoms during the school day will be assessed by the Nurse's Office staff. The district has a limited number of rapid tests for use by staff and students.

### Special Education and Related Services

- **Related Services:** OLCHS will provide related services to eligible students during on-campus and remote instruction. OLCHS will maximize in-person services to the greatest extent possible. Remote related services may still need to be utilized on an as-needed basis.

- **Special Education:** OLCHS will provide instructional services to students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) during in-person or remote instruction. Individual student needs will be considered on a case-by-case basis when designing individual learning plans. Students with IEPs have a case-manager that will communicate with their teachers and increase the support given in the blended remote learning model. Case-managers monitor the individual needs of each student and assist with the delivery of special education services. All evaluations, reviews (triennial, annual), and other IEP meetings will continue to adhere to the timelines set forth by the Individual with Disabilities Education Act (2004). Facilitating meaningful participation by parents/guardians and students in these meetings continues to be a top priority for our district.
- **504 Plans:** Students with a Section 504 Plan have a case-manager that will communicate with their teachers and increase the support given in the blended learning model. Case-managers will contact families and teachers to review any special considerations regarding approved accommodations.
- **English Language Learners (ELL):** English Learners will receive instructional services based on their needs. When planning remote learning tasks, teachers will keep in mind the scaffolding and supports that English Learners need to meaningfully participate in the remote learning assignments that are provided to the entire class.

### Academic Supports

In addition to daily high-quality instructional activities, OLCHS will provide additional tutoring as needed when a student misses class time due to illness. Additionally, all students have access to additional support from teachers during the 160 minutes of Spartan Plus scheduled each week.

### Social Emotional Well-Being for All

Considerations will be given to the impact that COVID-19 has had on the mental health of faculty, staff, students, and their families. The outbreak of COVID-19 may have caused fear and anxiety for many of our students. The CDC cautions that the outbreak of an infectious disease may cause difficulty with sleep patterns and concentration, worsen mental health conditions, and lead to increased substance abuse. OLCHS believes that any proactive steps we can take together as a community to assist our students will have long-lasting impacts that will hopefully mitigate any of these potential negative impacts of COVID-19. Apart from COVID-19, OLCHS is committed to educating the whole student, which includes not only addressing the academic needs but the social and emotional needs of our students which will contribute to their development as responsible young citizens.

Students will receive regular social-emotional learning instruction and support. Social-emotional supports will help students develop self-awareness and self-management skills to achieve lifelong success. Additionally, OLCHS believes that social-emotional learning will help students use social awareness and interpersonal skills to develop and sustain positive relationships. Our ultimate goal is for students to demonstrate decision-making skills and responsible behaviors in personal, school, and community contexts.

OLCHS will monitor the mental and emotional well-being of students and staff members throughout the school year. Student Services staff and others will provide coping skills strategies and then check in with students to determine if they need further intervention. Access to school counselors, social workers, and psychologists will be readily available and communicated to students.

OLCHS has partnered with Care Solace to provide support and assistance in finding available mental health and substance use community providers. The service is at no cost and available to OLCHS staff, students, parents, and families. For more information about Care Solace and our other mental health services, please click this [link](#).

### **Technology Services**

As an Apple Distinguished School, OLCHS is committed to full student access to the technology needed to support them in school and during remote learning. All students are provided with an iPad device as part of our 1:1 technology model. Additionally, OLCHS will be moving all classes to Canvas as our universal Learning Management System (LMS). Through Canvas and the iPad, students are able to access all classroom materials and assignments, online meeting platforms such as Google Meets, and resources to complete work at home as well as submit assignments and receive teacher feedback. Families in need can request a hotspot that will enable student access to the internet. For student Canvas, Skyward, or other tech help issues, please email [ipadsupport@olchs.org](mailto:ipadsupport@olchs.org) or call and leave a message at **(708) 424-4740**.

### **Publication Authors**

Dr. Michael Riordan, Superintendent

Mr. Joseph McCurdy, Assistant Superintendent/CSBO

Dr. Jeana Lietz, Principal

Dr. Lauren May, Assistant Principal

Mr. Marcus Wargin, Assistant Principal