



Friend School

>>>> Safe Return Plan 2021-2022 >>>>

Friend School successfully returned to in-person learning during the 2020-2021 school year. The faculty and staff of Friend School are looking forward to continuing in-person learning for the 2021-2022 school year. As our new school year began August 12, 2021, Friend School continues to be committed to continuing to provide a safe and healthy learning environment for everyone.

Health and safety continue to be a priority. School procedures and operations are based on the current improved COVID conditions, understanding that this may change. Should such a change occur, some restrictions deemed necessary could be reinstated. We are very grateful for your support and patience as we continue to plan and work toward having safeguards in place to protect all our students and staff.

We will follow safety protocols from weekly information on active COVID cases in our county and school. An emphasis will continue to be on hand washing, social distancing, and sanitizing buildings and buses. In the event of a need to return to our previous safety protocols, plans are in place for masks being made available, temperature screenings, and limited access to the buildings including events. The school is also prepared to go to distance learning should the need arise.

Please know our plan will continue to be a work in progress as we will continue to stay current on the latest information from the Oklahoma State Department of Education, the Center of Disease Control, The World Health Organization, and our local health organizations in Grady County.



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COVID-19 Isolation and Quarantines

Positive Cases

If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status - **Isolate**

If you test positive for COVID-19 and have symptoms, stay home until:

- ✓ 5 days have passed since symptoms first appeared, **AND**
- ✓ Symptoms are improving, **AND**
- ✓ If fever is present, continue to stay home until 24 hours have passed since fever has resolved **without** the use of fever-reducing medications.

If you test positive and never have COVID-19 symptoms, stay home until:

- ✓ 5 days have passed since the date of your COVID-19 test was collected, **AND**
- ✓ No COVID-19 symptoms have developed since you were tested.
- ✓ If symptoms develop, follow the criteria for someone with COVID-19 symptoms.

Returning to School:

Option 1: Isolate for 5 days at home and return on day 6, **if you meet the criteria above AND wear a well-fitting mask for days 6-10.**

Option 2: Isolate for 10 days at home and return on day 11, if you meet the criteria above.

Wearing a mask is very important for this updated isolation guidance to prevent spread in the community.



Close Contacts

Unvaccinated:

Any unvaccinated student or unvaccinated staff member who has had close contact with an individual testing positive (which is defined in the CDC Guidelines as within 6 feet for 15 minutes) will be required to quarantine.

Returning to School:

Option 1: Quarantine for 5 days and return on day 6, if no symptoms are exhibited **AND** you wear a well-fitting mask for days 6-10.

Option 2: Quarantine for 10 days and return on day 11 without testing, if no symptoms are exhibited.

If you develop symptoms, get tested and stay home until results are received.

Fully Vaccinated or Positive in the last 90 Days:

If you have been in close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 and are not having any symptoms **AND:**

- ✓ Have been boosted, **OR**
- ✓ Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 6 months, **OR**
- ✓ Completed the primary series of J&J vaccine within the last 2 months, **OR**
- ✓ Were lab positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days

Returning to School:

Options 1: Students and staff may return to school if they wear a well-fitting mask around others for 10 days from the last date of exposure.

Option 2: Those unable to wear a mask will need to quarantine for 10 days and return on day 11, if no symptoms as exhibited.

If you develop symptoms, get tested and stay home until results are received.

Vaccinations are now available for ages 5 and up. For more information regarding vaccinations please contact your healthcare provider or the local health department.

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Communication

Calling in Sick: Please do not come to school if you have been exposed to COVID, are sick or begin developing symptoms similar to the self checklist below. Parents, please notify Ms. Kristi if your child is not feeling well and will not be in school.

Staying Up to Date: In the event of any COVID related updates and or school closure, you will be notified in the following ways:

- Automated Call
- Friend School Website
- Friend Facebook Page
- Local TV Stations

Checklist:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| » fever above 100 degrees | » shortness of breath |
| » loss of smell or taste | » sore throat |
| » chills | » headache |
| » muscle aches | » congestion |
| » cough | » nausea/vomiting, diarrhea |
| » fatigue | » loss of appetite |

Masks



- Masks will not be required unless there is an increased risk of community spread pending a state of emergency for Grady County. Friend will monitor the changing conditions of COVID-19, and our policy may change under advisement of health or state officials.
- Masks may be required for staff and students when the state or county is in a state of emergency. The determination will be made by taking into consideration the conditions in the county, such as whether the outbreak is isolated in one area or spread throughout.
- Masks must be worn correctly over the mouth and nose when required.
- Respiratory Etiquette, covering your mouth or nose with a bent elbow or tissue when coughing or sneezing, will be encouraged and practiced.

Buses



- Buses will run routes as normal as possible.
- Hand Sanitizer will be available on the bus.
- Students will have assigned seats.
- Buses will be disinfected after each trip.
- Students may be asked to wear masks on buses if Grady County is in a state of emergency.

The School Day



- Students will be socially distanced as much as possible.
- Multiple classes in our early childhood grades Pre-K- 3rd allows for more social distancing.
- Classroom seating charts will be made available for each class.
- Each student will have his/her own individual supplies.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms and used at various times throughout the day when hand washing is not available.
- It is the responsibility of instructors/students to disinfect frequently touched and shared spaces and objects.
- Delivery of educational services will continue to be provided for students with disabilities in the same manner as students without disabilities. IEP/504 teams will collaborate in determining the appropriateness and success of a student's unique accommodations and/or modifications outlined in the student's IEP/504. The IEP/504 team will work collaboratively to identify alternative solutions if it believes an accommodation and/or modification is not appropriate or successful in a particular setting.
- Assessments will be given to identify learning loss that may have occurred due to COVID19, so these may be addressed through extended learning opportunities such as tutoring, summer opportunities, after school programs, etc.



Lunch

- At lunch, students will be separated by classes at a safe distance. All tables and seats will be sanitized after each use.
- Lunch will be limited by class to maintain social distancing between students.
- Students will be assigned a seat in the cafeteria
- All condiments will be served by the cafeteria staff.
- Lunches are free to all students for the 21-22 school year.



Recess & Physical Education

- Recess times will be staggered to limit the number of classes and students on the playground at one time.
- No outside toys/equipment will be allowed at school or on the playground when Grady County is in Orange or Red.
- P.E. will be held outdoors as much as possible.
- Any equipment used during class will be disinfected after each class period.
- Students will bring water bottles with them and may refill the bottles at the fountains.
- All high traffic surfaces will be disinfected daily.



Cleaning & Preventing the Spread

- The building will be cleaned thoroughly each day. All high traffic areas will be disinfected daily.
- You should keep your hands clean by washing them throughout the day for at least 20 seconds each time.
- Hand Sanitizer stations will be located at each door/the entrance to each classroom as well as in high traffic areas.
- When possible windows will be opened for ventilation.
- Efforts will be made to inform students, staff, and families of opportunities available for being provided COVID19 vaccines within the community. Friend School will continue efforts in maintaining healthy facilities including improving ventilation.



Confirmed COVID Outbreak

- In the event Friend Public School or the Friend Community experiences an outbreak of confirmed COVID-19 cases, additional steps and precautions will be implemented. These precautions can range anywhere from meals in the classroom to school closure/distance learning for all students. These decisions are not taken lightly and all options will be considered. The health and safety of our students and community will continue to be our top priority. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we chart our way through these unknown waters.
- Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine will be used as directed by the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments guidelines.



Distance Learning & Virtual Learning

- If students need to be quarantined or if the school has to shut down due to the number of COVID-19 cases students would enter into distance learning with their current classroom teachers.
- The school has enough devices for each student to have access during distance learning.
- Virtual learning may be available in extenuating circumstances by semester only. Students will work with one virtual learning teacher. Extra Curricular activities will not be available for virtual learning students. For consideration please contact the office for a conference.

**Distance Learning is for students in quarantine or isolation.
Virtual Learning is for students learning from home by semester.**



Visitors

- All visitors may be screened and temperatures taken before they are allowed to enter into the building
- Only limited visitors will be allowed in the building when Grady County is in Orange 2 or Red.
- Parents picking up students during the day will need to call the office. The office will take the child outside to the parent when Grady County is in Orange 2 or Red.
- Parents are asked to stay in their vehicles during drop off and pick up.

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

I want to thank those of you who were with us last year either in school or virtually as we were able to remain open. We will continue our work to stay open for in-person learning. The pride, tradition, and teamwork that has made Friend the school it is today, will be a critical piece in moving us forward during this new school year.

Our Safe Return Plan continues to be a work in progress expanding on the original Return to Learn Plan in response to COVID-19. We are committed to continue work through any challenges that may lie ahead during this year. We will continue to stay current on information provided to us by the Center of Disease Control, the World Health Organization, Oklahoma State Department of Education, the Oklahoma State Department of Health, and the Grady County Health Department in regards to COVID19. In addition, we will work to close any learning gaps due to the previous effects of COVID19.

The Return to Learn plan has been updated with input from district stakeholders. The plan will continue to be reviewed and updated every 6 months. The Board of Education approved the most recent updates to our plan on September 9, 2021. We understand that this will be another year calling for flexibility, patience, and adjusting to meet challenges we may face moving forward.

The Oklahoma COVID19 Alert System has a designation assigned to each of our counties to update everyone on public health conditions. There is an alert level and course of action for each designation. These levels were presented on the previous page.

An all out effort is being made to do our part in keeping our county at a green level. Please help us in trying to stop the spread of COVID19 so that we can remain in school. Masks protocols for our district are based on a variety of factors, all designed to help keep our school open so that our students will continue to be able to enjoy the benefits that come from being in a classroom with their peers and teachers.

We look forward to having our students in school again at Friend and are very excited that they will have the opportunity to socially engage with other students. It continues to be our desire for our students to have the opportunity to dream, to imagine, and to be inspired. The challenges of the last year have provided many lessons learned for all of us. Our students are prepared to solve problems, be critical thinkers, and to be able to work collaboratively with others. With the amazing growth of these life skills and technology we are positioned for our best year ever. Thank you for your continued support. Together, we are Falcon Strong!

Cindy Schmidt
Friend School Superintendent

Updated 1-10-22

Questions



Please feel free to contact our school office with any questions, suggestions, or concerns you may have. Thank you for your patience and support as we work through the challenges we will be facing this school year.

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