



## **COVID-19 Acknowledgement of Risks and OES Community Agreement 2020–21 Approved July 22, 2020**

The global pandemic caused by the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2, referred to as COVID-19, has thrown the world into unprecedented circumstances. Every person has been asked to make tremendous changes to our lives in order to prevent the spread of the virus in our communities.

While the safest route to preventing the spread of COVID-19 would be to continue self-isolation and remote learning until a vaccine is available, staying at home has a significant impact on our community. Human beings are social creatures, and long-term abstinence from human interaction negatively impacts our social, emotional, and intellectual development.

With guidance from the Oregon Health Authority ([OHA](#)), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC](#)), World Health Organization ([WHO](#)) and the Oregon Department of Education ([ODE](#)), Oregon Episcopal School (OES) has developed plans to operate school in-person during the 2020–21 school year in a manner that mitigates and manages the risks of the spread of COVID-19. The success of our efforts, however, depend on the actions of everyone within our community. **Every community member (students, employees and parents/guardians) needs to commit to act in a manner that not only protects their own health, but that of the broader community.** *Those who do not uphold this commitment will be prohibited from campus for a specified period of time, as determined by the OES administration.*

We ask everyone to understand and acknowledge that:

- COVID-19 can cause fatal illness in people of all ages.
- The health of our fellow community members depends in large part on our individual actions.
- In order for us to have school in-person, we must all commit to acting in a way that protects each other.

Globally, our knowledge about COVID-19 and best practices to minimize risk of contagion and illness continues to evolve. OES will continue to monitor ongoing research and guidance throughout the school year, and we will update our practices accordingly.

**To mitigate the spread of COVID-19, Oregon Episcopal School will:**

- Follow guidance from the Oregon Health Authority, the Oregon Department of Education, the Centers for Disease Control, and the World Health Organization.
- Require all employees and students to complete a health screening survey each morning of on-campus learning, and deny campus access to anyone who does not meet the metrics of the health survey.
- Ask all community members to wash their hands frequently with either soap and water or hand sanitizer, and provide supplies and opportunities to do so while on the OES campus.
- Ask all community members to maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from each other whenever possible on the OES campus.
- Require all students and adults to bring and wear their own clean, multi-layered [cloth face covering](#) or surgical mask on campus except in the following circumstances:
  - While involved in solitary or athletic activities outdoors where distancing of at least 6 feet can be maintained;
  - When an individual is alone in a room or office;
  - When an individual has a documented medical condition that makes it difficult for them to breathe with a face covering or a disability that prevents them from wearing a face covering;
  - When an individual is unable to remove the face covering independently;
  - While sleeping.
- Assign students to small cohorts in the Lower School and to Reduced Density Groups (RDGs) in the Middle School and Upper School that allow for recommended physical distancing and reduce the potential pool of exposure.
- Ask students to avoid contact with individuals not in their cohort or RDG both while they are on and off campus.
- Open classroom windows and hold classes outside whenever possible.
- Limit students' access to a distinct group of indoor spaces.
- Limit students' exposure to shared supplies and equipment, and sanitize those supplies and equipment between uses whenever possible.
- Frequently clean and disinfect all high-touch and public areas, including disinfecting classroom surfaces after each use (if a new group of students will use the space).

## **Acknowledgement of Risk**

I understand that we are in a global pandemic of COVID-19, caused by the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2. I understand that this virus spreads easily between people through respiratory droplets, and that individuals can be contagious even when they do not exhibit or experience any symptoms of the illness. I acknowledge that COVID-19 can cause very serious illness in people of all ages and can be fatal.

I understand that OES will mitigate the risks of the spread of COVID-19 through the actions outlined above. I also understand that maintaining physical distance is challenging for all people, especially young children. I acknowledge that there will inevitably be times when my child will engage with other children within close proximity.

I have been given the opportunity to familiarize myself with the COVID-related recommendations and guidance from the Oregon Health Authority ([OHA](#)), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC](#)), the World Health Organization ([WHO](#)), and the Oregon Department of Education ([ODE](#)). With the criteria from these organizations in mind, I have reviewed, accept, and agree to uphold OES's COVID-19 risk mitigation practices.

I understand that there are inherent risks in participating in in-person learning at OES during the current pandemic. I have discussed these risks with my child(ren) and they understand the risks and agree to uphold OES's COVID-19 risk mitigation practices. I accept these risks and I want my child(ren) to participate in classes and activities at OES during the 2020-21 school year.

## **Community Agreement to Reduce the Spread of COVID-19**

Health authorities have reiterated throughout the global pandemic caused by the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2, referred to as COVID-19, that the health of every community depends on the actions of all individuals within that community. As such, we ask that all students, parents/guardians, and employees within the OES community commit to the following:

- I will monitor my child's health each day and complete the OES health screening survey each morning before leaving home.
- If my child has any [signs or symptoms of COVID-19](#), or my child has been exposed to someone with COVID-19, I will not send my child to campus.

- I will send my child with two clean multi-layered cloth face coverings or surgical masks to wear at OES each day.
- Both on campus and off, my child and I will wear a mask or cloth face covering in all public indoor spaces, and in all outdoor public spaces when a distance of at least 6 feet cannot be maintained from other people.
- If I or my child travels outside of the United States or to an area of high virus transmission within the United States, we will follow [CDC recommendations](#) for two weeks of quarantine at home before returning to the OES campus.
- I will minimize the spread of COVID-19 through my and my child's actions and activities outside of OES. If my child engages in activities that are considered [high-risk](#) for transmitting COVID-19, my child will stay away from campus for two weeks.

I understand that it is my responsibility to mitigate and manage the risks of my and my child's exposure to COVID-19 both while I am / my children are on campus and off. I have discussed this responsibility with my children, and we commit to managing our actions and activities in a manner that prevents the spread of COVID-19. I acknowledge that if I do not uphold this commitment my child may not be allowed on campus for a period of time as determined by the OES administration. I understand that these protocols may change as health experts' guidance about preventing the spread of COVID-19 evolves. I understand that the health of the community is the responsibility of every individual, and I agree to act in a manner that protects my health, my child's health, and the health of all community members.