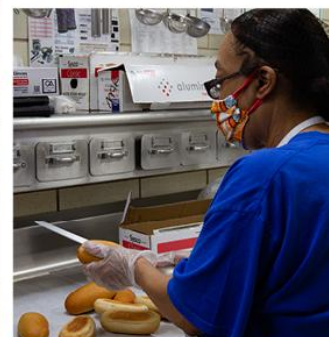




# 2020–2021



## BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

October 13, 2020

# TOPICS FOR TONIGHT

We dedicated the last week to continuing to learn from educational and medical experts. Tonight's discussion will include a refresher on the research, a review of the recommendation, and information about how we understand and assess COVID-19 risk.

- Dialogue with medical experts
- Recommendation overview
- Assessing COVID conditions weekly
- Board discussion and consideration





**DIALOGUE WITH MEDICAL EXPERTS**

# Welcoming our guests

- Dr. Bruce Dart: Executive Director, Tulsa Health Department
- Dr. Chris Smith: Professor & Daniel C. Plunket Chair, Dept of Pediatrics, OU-TU School of Community Medicine
- Dr. John Forrest: Regional Chief Medical Officer, Ascension St. John Health System



# Research Summary

- Research on the role of children in spreading SARS-CoV-2 is emerging and not yet fully conclusive.
- There is evidence that suggests that children under the age of 10 are less likely to be infected and less likely to transmit the coronavirus than teenagers.<sup>1</sup>
- Most reported SARS-CoV-2 infections in children aged <18 years are asymptomatic or mild.<sup>2</sup>
- Precautions such as requiring masks, social distancing and filtering the air can measurably reduce infection spread. Hybrid approaches where smaller groups of students wearing masks attend in person part-time dramatically reduce the total number of likely infections in a school.<sup>3</sup>
- Students who do not attend school in person also face health risks, including difficulty accessing health care services typically provided through school, social isolation, and limited physical activity.<sup>4</sup>

# Healthy Minds Policy Initiative Findings\*

## Oklahoma youth were already facing mental health challenges before the pandemic:

- 22% of Oklahoma high school students considered attempting suicide in 2019
- 70% of Oklahoma 6<sup>th</sup> graders experienced moderate or high depressive symptoms in 2018
- Of an estimated 44,000 Oklahoma youth who had a severe major depressive episode (MDE) in the last year, 66% did not receive treatment
- Children's wellbeing is impacted by adult wellbeing, and 1 in 5 Oklahoma adults has a mental illness

## The COVID-19 pandemic is exacerbating these challenges:

- Mental health issues in the family: 39.6% of Oklahoma adults experiencing symptoms of anxiety or depressive disorder in July
- Financial hardship: Rising unemployment, less stable food sources, family stressors
- Mental illness in children: 1 in 4 young adults having thoughts about suicide during COVID
- Rising domestic violence and child abuse

*\*Findings from the Healthy Minds Policy Initiative - Sept. 29, 2020. Full report available at [www.healthmindspolicy.org/covidreport](http://www.healthmindspolicy.org/covidreport)*

# Healthy Minds Policy Initiative Findings\*

**COVID-19 mental health impacts are more pronounced in ages 11–17 than the general population:**

- 9 out of 10 young people completing the Mental Health America screening are now screening with moderate-to-severe depression
- 8 out of 10 are now screening with moderate-to-severe anxiety
- Studies on past pandemics and natural disasters suggest young people strongly notice and react to stress in parents, caregivers, peers, and the community.

**Between April 2020 and April 2021, Oklahoma is at risk for:**

- 9,000+ new suicide attempts
- 14,000+ additional drug use disorders
- 260+ new deaths from suicide and overdose
- PTSD-diagnosable symptoms in quarantined children
- 94% higher risk of children's mental health issues

*\*Findings from the Healthy Minds Policy Initiative - Sept. 29, 2020. Full report available at [www.healthmindspolicy.org/covidreport](http://www.healthmindspolicy.org/covidreport)*





## RECOMMENDATION OVERVIEW



# Recommendation Overview

- Continue in-person learning for some small groups of students with exceptional needs;
- Implement a phased approach of returning all students to classrooms before the end of the calendar year; and
- Continue to monitor community infection rates, public health data, and the health and safety of our students, team, and families.



# Recommendation

	October 1-15	October 16 - 31	November 1-15	November 16-30	December 1-18	December 19 - Jan 3
Exceptional Student Services, Tier 3 and 4	Continue in-person instruction					Winter Break
PK-K			Intersession	11/9 Hybrid		
Elementary PK-5(6)				11/16 Hybrid		
Secondary 6-12				Care & Connect	11/30 Hybrid	
				Thanksgiving		

- Tulsa Virtual Academy students remain in virtual learning with the option to transfer at semester.
- Parents have the flexibility for students to continue in distance learning from home.





**ASSESSING COVID CONDITIONS WEEKLY**



# Monitoring and Evaluation Process for COVID Conditions

1. What data are we monitoring?
2. How will we use and interpret the data?
3. When and how will we respond?
  - a. For an individual school
  - b. As a whole system

# We will focus on conditions in our district.

- We have a set of **early warning indicators in our district**, and we look to these first to begin assessing conditions.
- Our **Rapid Testing Pilot** supplements these early indicators, and will help us preemptively identify possible exposures.

**COVID-19 rapid testing program:** The Tulsa Health Department (THD) and Tulsa Public Schools plan to launch a pilot at schools in November 2020.

- Goals are to reduce infection rates, keep educators in the classroom and guide the district's decisions to manage in-person instruction in the healthiest and safest way possible.

These testing capabilities will be a valuable resource to help us safely reopen schools and keep them open to in-person instruction. We will:

- Screen teachers and school-based support professionals
- Rotate testing by groups of schools (potentially feeder patterns)
- Leverage Abbott Rapid Antigen Point of Care Test or BD\* Veritor System + PCR\*\* (24 hour results) based on availability



# **We have partnered with the Tulsa Health Department and other researchers to create a data-driven process to assess COVID health conditions for Tulsa Public Schools.**

## **Early Warning Indicators at TPS Schools**

- These data will help us to monitor conditions that are more localized and specific to our context. These data will help us to be more sensitive to conditions within schools to know if cases are higher or lower than overall county averages. These metrics are:
  - ➔ Tulsa Public Schools rapid testing results
  - ➔ New case rates for team members and students (TPS contact tracing)

## **Foundational School System Metrics**

- These internal data measure our ability to appropriately respond to early warning indicators and enact the necessary safety precautions at our schools. These metrics are:
  - ➔ Availability of necessary PPE
  - ➔ Rates of quarantine
  - ➔ Staffing capacity

## **Foundational Health Care Metrics**

- These core metrics will help us understand overall rates of community spread. These data will help us to assess overall risk and changes in our greater community that may necessitate a change in our response. The core metrics are:
  - ➔ 7-day rolling average of new cases in Tulsa Public Schools boundary (*calculated from public data*).
  - ➔ 7-day rolling average of new cases in Tulsa County

In addition to the above metrics, we will consider variables such as active case rates by zip code, hospitalization rates, test positivity rates, and other data as advised by medical experts and best available research.

# Foundational & Contextual Data Monitored and Evaluated Weekly

Data Point	Metric Category	Suggested Threshold Monitored <i>(consistent during monitoring week)</i>	Additional Details
Tulsa Public Schools rapid testing results	Early Warning Indicators at TPS Schools	<i>TBD based on testing design</i>	Rapid and PCR Covid-19 testing results by schools and population (adults and students).
TPS Covid Exposure Protocol & Contact Tracing	Early Warning Indicators at TPS Schools	<i>TBD based on testing design</i>	New case rates for team members and students.
PPE Availability	Foundational School System Metrics	< 2 weeks	Number of days of available PPE remaining in the system.
Percent of Students and Staff in Quarantine or Isolation	Foundational School System Metrics	>= 10%	THD recommends to trigger discussion if a school reaches a situation where 10% of students or 10% of staff test positive or are in quarantine.
Staffing Capacity	Foundational School System Metrics	Varies by team	Systemwide vacancies and leaves/ staff attendance /work from home accommodations - Directly impacts ability to maintain support at sites
Tulsa County 7-day rolling average new cases per 100,000	Foundational Health Care Metrics	<1.43 <14.29 > 25 ≥ 50	Data Source: Harvard Global Health Institute and Brown School of Public Health: <a href="#">Pandemics Explained</a>
Tulsa County 14 day rolling average active case rate per 1000 (total and for 5-17 age group)	Foundational Health Care Metrics	Red >= 0.34 Orange >= 0.18 - 0.33 Yellow: .09 - .17 Green: <=.08	THD recommends use of this metric for area caseload and risk of exposure. Source: <a href="#">New metric from THD</a> . Also monitor ages 5-17 New Case Rate in addition to the overall new case rate.

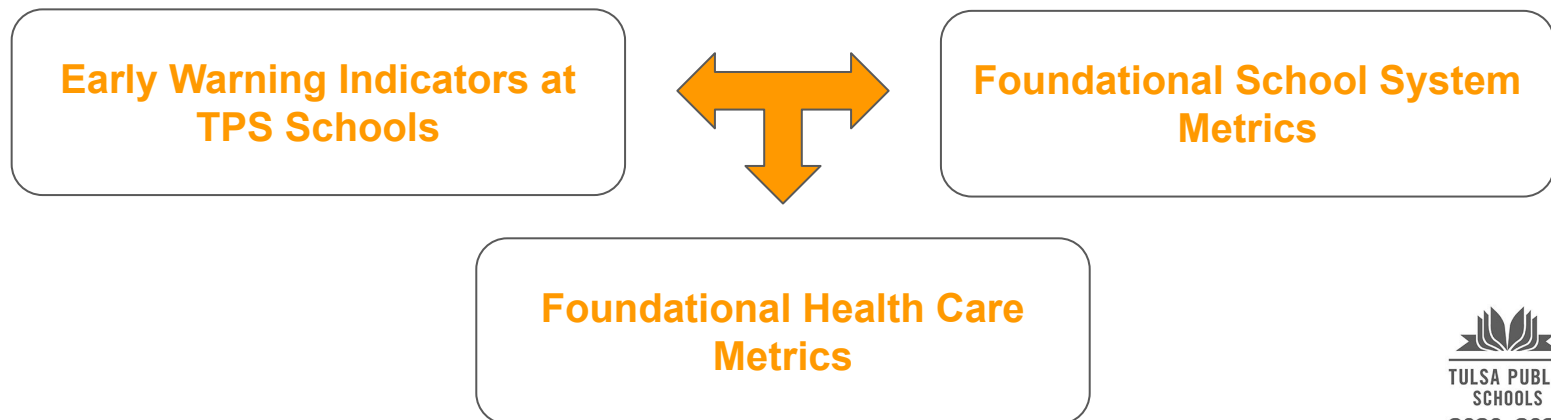
# How will we use and interpret the data?

The three categories of **metrics will be monitored weekly**, and if a foundational health care metric hits threshold, or we detect an early warning from one of our indicators, evaluation and discussion.

The **frequency of monitoring will increase** when metrics are close to thresholds, and or early warning indicators at one or multiple schools are changing.

The **approach for weekly assessment** anchors on the following:

- **Stability of trend** creates more stability for our system. We are using multiple weeks trend data minimize abrupt shifts for our students, families, and teachers.
- **Triangulation of data** brings greater confidence and accuracy. We are assessing Tulsa Public Schools boundary area data and early warning indicators (e.g. rapid testing and 5-17 age group data), Tulsa County data, and then state of Oklahoma data.
- **Using additional variables** allow us to see the system-as-a-whole. We also monitor active cases, PPE availability, staffing capacity, and hospitalization rates.





# When and how will we respond?

Once a full evaluation is triggered based on meeting a threshold condition, we will recommend one of **four types of potential actions** based on our assessment of the data:

**1. No changes necessary at this time.**

Based on current health and systems data, no changes will be made.

**2. Additional monitoring and through increased, targeted testing.**

Rapid testing efforts will be scaled up and/or targeted towards particular schools to ensure that potential cases are caught earlier, before widespread exposure or outbreak. Data will be re-examined for the following week.

**3. Suspend in-person activity at a specific school or multiple schools.**

If it is necessary to suspend in-person activity at a school, students, families, and staff will be notified shortly after a decision is made. **Notices will be sent by 5 a.m. day of, 10 p.m. day before, or 2 p.m. for mid-day.**

**4. Change the default mode of instruction for the entire district.**

After a full discussion and evaluation is triggered, a formal recommendation will be provided to the Board of Education reporting the suggested default mode of instruction. In emergency situations, the superintendent has the authority to execute individual school or district-wide closures as appropriate.

We will continue to leverage our **Covid Exposure Protocol** and **Contact Tracing** to trigger site specific actions to minimize exposure.



# DISCUSSION



# APPENDIX







**HEALTH AND SAFETY**

# Health and safety at-a-glance



**New building signage:** Our schools and sites will have signage about hygiene, safe distancing, and safe and healthy behaviors (i.e. minimizing contact, wearing masks)



**Sanitizing high-touch surfaces:** Custodians will have a focus on cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces and objects: tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, toilets, sinks, handrails, and water bottle filling stations



**Safe distancing:** Maintaining safe distancing (6' apart) between students and adults



**Child nutrition:** Meals will be served using the same grab-and-go system as the current Summer Café model



**Health checks:** We will require temperature checks for adults and ask parents to complete a health screening for students before school; anyone feeling unwell will be safely separated



**Ventilation:** Improved air filtration systems at each school to minimize the potential airborne transmission of the virus in schools



**Transportation:** Capacity on our buses will be reduced by approximately 30%; the buses will be disinfected, staff and students will wear face coverings and the windows open for ventilation



**Personal protective equipment:** We will be prepared to provide the appropriate personal protective equipment to our students and employees



**Enhancing personal hygiene:** All schools and buildings will have hand-washing stations and hand sanitizer dispensers, disinfectant cleaner and wipes in the classroom



**Intensified cleaning techniques:** Custodians will use backpack electrostatic sprayers and handheld electrostatic sprayers to increase effectiveness and efficiency in disinfecting procedures

**IMPROVED AIR FILTRATION AND/OR VENTILATION STRATEGIES AT EACH SCHOOL TO MINIMIZE THE POTENTIAL AIRBORNE TRANSMISSION OF THE VIRUS INCLUDE A COMBINATION OF:**

## WINDOW VENTILATION



## MERV 13\* FILTRATION EMS



## DEMAND RESPONSE SYSTEM



# Personal protective equipment and other safety enhancements

Key Safety Activities to Support Hybrid Model	Supporting Information	Key Challenge
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety guidelines and protocols established and communicated to all team members</li> <li>• Safety training for all team members</li> <li>• Appropriate PPE provided to specialized teams (health services and ESS)</li> <li>• PPE delivered to all locations for staff and students</li> <li>• Safety signage installed at all locations</li> <li>• Purchased new electrostatic sprayers for custodial teams, transportations and athletics</li> <li>• Schools have prepared classrooms, hallways and other spaces to accommodate the social and physical distancing guidelines</li> <li>• Screening stations have been created at multiple entrances to welcome staff and students when they arrive</li> <li>• Desk and counter shields have been installed where physical distancing is not possible</li> <li>• Isolation rooms established for staff or students who may start to exhibit symptoms while at school</li> </ul>	<p><a href="#"><u>Guidance for K-12 School Administrators on the Use of Masks in Schools</u></a></p> <p>Union Public Schools: Until the threat of COVID-19 spread is considered minimal, students and staff will be required to wear a face covering at all times while in a school building or vehicle UNLESS they are alone in the room or vehicle.</p> <p>Broken Arrow Public Schools: masks optional for pre-K-2, mandatory for grades 3-12, unless approval by site principal or student has a medical condition that prevents them from wearing a mask. Mask requirement for all staff, unless they are outside, alone in a room or in school-owned vehicle. All employees will be provided with a mask and face shield should they choose to wear both. Face shields cannot be used in lieu of a mask.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff and students not following the safety guidelines and protocols.</li> </ul>



# Response to exposure or confirmed cases

## IDENTIFICATION, CONTACT TRACING, AND NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES:

### HEALTH CHECKS



Temperature checks are required for adults, and we ask parents to complete a health screening for students



### IF STUDENTS & STAFF ARE SICK:

- For students: parents should keep their children home and notify their teacher/school(s).
- For staff: notify immediate supervisor and stay home.
- If a staff or student become sick with COVID-19 symptoms, test positive for COVID-19, or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 symptoms or a confirmed or suspected case, they should notify their health care provider, Tulsa Health Department (THD), their immediate supervisor, and school officials.

### SHOULD STAFF (AND/OR ANYONE IN OUR BUILDINGS) REPORTS THEY HAVE COVID-19 SYMPTOMS AND HAVE TESTED POSITIVE



Each location will identify an isolation room and will have information available to contact Tulsa Health Department for access to free testing.



Information will be logged to help monitor data and contract tracing.



District personnel will notify local health officials, staff, and families immediately of a possible case while maintaining confidentiality consistent with the ADA and other applicable federal and state privacy laws.



Areas used will be closed off immediately for 24 hours and will not be used until cleaning and disinfecting measures are performed.



People who test positive will not return to the building until they have met the criteria to discontinue home isolation according to CDC and Tulsa Health Department guidelines.



Inform those who have had close contact to a person diagnosed with COVID-19 to stay home and follow CDC and Tulsa Health Department guidance. If symptoms develop, and/or guidance for home quarantine. Staff will follow-up with Talent Management for guidance.

# Rapid testing screening support

The Tulsa Health Department (THD) and Tulsa Public Schools plan to launch a pilot COVID-19 rapid testing program at schools in November 2020.

- Goals are to reduce infection rates, keep educators in the classroom and guide the district's decisions to manage in-person instruction in the healthiest and safest way possible.
- Providing the necessary testing will allow district and health department officials to preemptively identify possible exposures.

These testing capabilities will be a valuable resource to help TPS safely reopen schools and keep them open to in person instruction.

## Approach

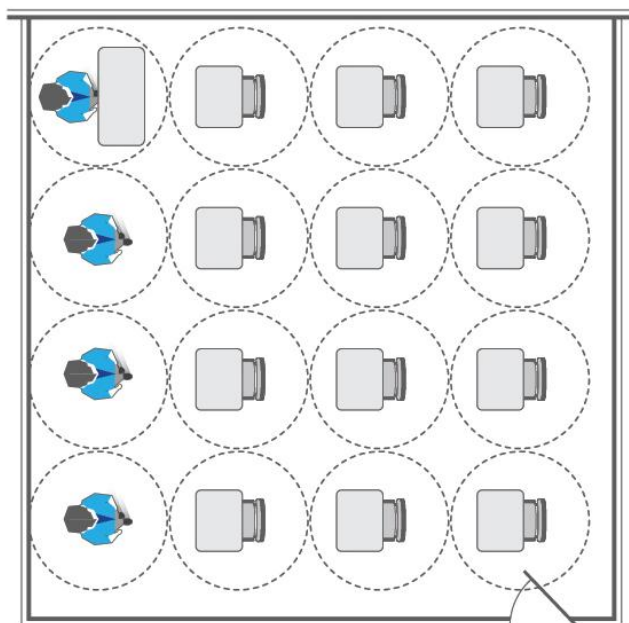
- Screen teachers and school-based support professionals
- Rotate testing by groups of schools (potentially feeder patterns)
- Will leverage Abbott Rapid Antigen Point of Care Test or BD\* Veritor System + PCR\*\* (24 hour results) based on availability

\*Becton, Dickinson and Company

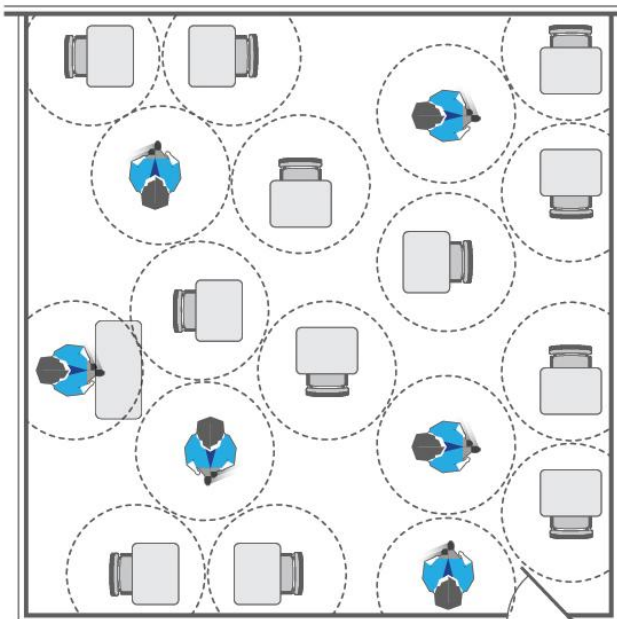
\*\* Polymerase chain reaction

# Classroom safety modifications

SMALL GROUPS

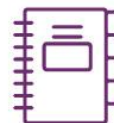


FACING SAME DIRECTION



## SOCIALLY DISTANCED

- Maximizes distance between students
- Allows paths for safe circulation of educators
- Limits physical modifications to furniture
- Follows guidance from health professionals



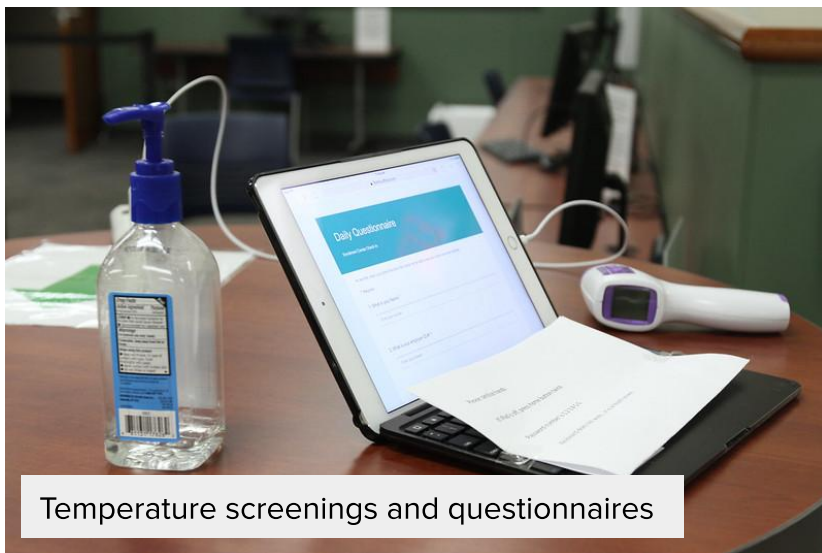
**Minimized contact points:** students will use only their own classroom supplies; classroom materials will be cleaned and disinfected; restrooms will be modified for safe distancing; and students will use refillable water bottles to avoid hands and mouths on water fountains.



**Safe distancing:** schools will have practices, routines, and related signs and markings in place to manage safe distancing during arrival, dismissal, and while students are moving through the building.



# Building safety modifications



Temperature screenings and questionnaires



Plexiglass shields where possible



Safety signage

# Cleaning practices in our schools and buildings

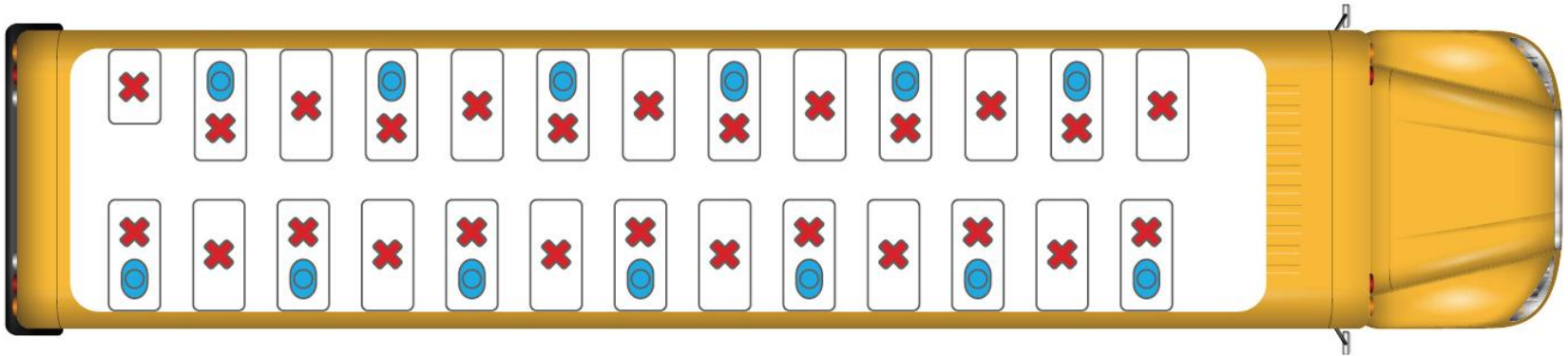
Key Safety Activities to Support Hybrid Model	Supporting Information	Key Challenge
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disinfectants from the EPA and CDC approved list are used to clean and disinfect all surfaces.</li> <li>Custodians will clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects repeatedly throughout the day</li> <li>Spray bottles of Virex 256 will be available in each classroom, clinic, office areas and other spaces for the teachers and other support professionals to use throughout the day</li> </ul> <p><b>If a case of COVID-19 is confirmed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Close off areas for 24 hours, before cleaning and disinfecting with the electrostatic sprayer</li> <li>Open doors and windows if possible</li> </ul> <p><b>Evening Custodians</b> will clean &amp; disinfect all surfaces during the evening shift, using the electrostatic sprayer as needed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If there are <b>multiple cases</b> reported, the BioSpray machines will be used throughout the entire building</li> </ul>	<p><a href="#">Reopening Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces, Workplaces, Businesses, Schools, and Homes</a></p> <p><a href="#">GUIDANCE FOR CLEANING AND DISINFECTING</a> (page 4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Broken Arrow Public Schools: All school sites, teachers and staff members will be provided with Tersano Stabilized Aqueous Ozone (SAO) to utilize throughout the school day to disinfect high touched surfaces, including desks. District uses the Clorox Total 360 system when there is an outbreak.</li> <li>Union Public Schools uses Spartan Super HDQ Neutral in secondary sites and Buckeye E23 Eco Neutral Disinfectant in elementary sites. The classroom disinfectants are provided for teacher use at their discretion.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Custodial staffing issues coupled with volume and scope of day to day sanitization needs.</li> </ul>

# Keeping students safe in transit to school

Key Safety Activities to Support Hybrid Model	Supporting Information	Key Challenge
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish protocols for number of students per seat (buses 30% capacity) using the CDC guideline for social distancing.</li> <li>Prepare school administrators for early arrivals and late departures.</li> <li>Some routes will be double scheduled resulting in early morning pick-ups and drop-offs at schools and force a later end of day pick-up schedule in the afternoons.</li> <li>Provide hand sanitizer for students and bus drivers.</li> <li>Face coverings required for bus drivers and students.</li> <li>Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces on each bus daily using electrostatic sprayers.</li> <li>Keep windows open as much as possible for fresh air flow.</li> </ul>	<p>Union Public Schools: Face masks required on buses; closing off first two rows in each bus</p> <p>Jenks Public Schools: Face mask required on buses; filling seats from back to front; some sites are staggering releases on loading and unloading; buses disinfected after runs; hand sanitizer dispenser on buses</p> <p>Owasso Public Schools: Face mask required on buses; distancing students as possible; keeping windows open; sanitizing between runs and cleaning at the end of each day.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Driver shortage resulting in extended working hours.</li> </ul>

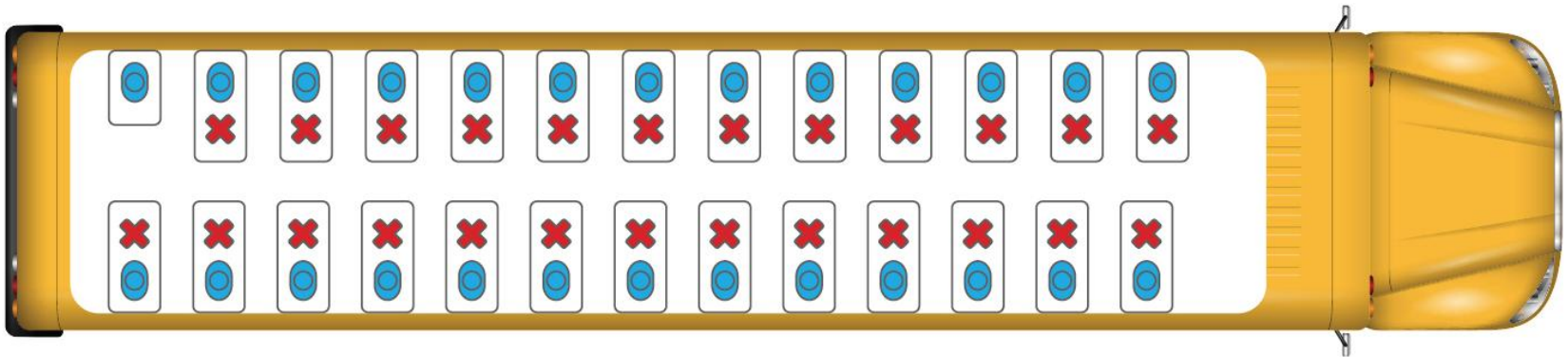
# Keeping students safe in transit to school

Examples of potential bus seating arrangements:






● 1 Student passenger per row maximum

✗ Passenger seat not available





# Safe and healthy outdoor spaces

Key Safety Activities to Support Hybrid Model	Supporting Information	Key Challenge
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Staggered times for groups of outdoor play</li> <li>● Limit the use of shared toys</li> <li>● Wash/sanitize hands before and after playground/outdoor space usage</li> <li>● Teaching and enforcing basic hygiene practices</li> </ul>	<p><a href="#"><u>CDC Guidance for visiting parks and recreational facilities</u></a></p> <p>Broken Arrow Public Schools maintains usage of playgrounds and also encourages playground handwashing before and after use.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Keeping the playground structures clean and sanitized between groups of students</li> <li>● Keeping large groups of students from gathering close together without masks for long periods of time (not socially distancing)</li> </ul>
		

# Ventilation and air circulation in our buildings

Key Safety Activities to Support Hybrid Model	Supporting Research / Benchmarks	Key Challenge
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved air filtration and/or ventilation strategies at each school to minimize the potential airborne transmission of the virus include a combination of window ventilation and Merv 13 filtration               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inspect and repair windows in all classrooms to insure at least one is operable in all rooms where possible</li> <li>Completed inspection and evaluation of every HVAC unit</li> <li>Installed MERV13 filters in HVAC in every building</li> <li>Install filter sensors on all capable systems</li> </ul> </li> <li>The district is also investing on expanding EMS demand response system to install “on demand” systems for automated forced air (in schools with EMS).               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upgrade newer HVAC units (2009 forward) with energy management systems tied into the outside air damper.</li> <li>Replace aging HVAC systems, pre 2009, with entirely new units, EMS, and “on demand”.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><a href="#">CDC Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers Responding to COVID-19</a></p> <p><a href="#">Technical resources from the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers</a></p>	<p>Time and fund availability to get all the necessary changes in place.</p>

# Protocols for safe meal services

Key Safety Activities to Support Hybrid Model	Supporting Information	Key Challenge
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students and children 18 and younger will continue to receive meals free of charge for the remainder of the school year.</li> <li>Elementary students will eat pre-packaged meals in classrooms</li> <li>Secondary students will eat grab &amp; go meals in designated areas (with safe distancing).</li> <li>Remote Learning and Virtual Learning Academy students and families can pick up breakfast, lunch and supper daily at any school location.</li> </ul>	<p>Proven success with Tulsa Public Schools safe meal services protocols used from March 2020-present</p> <p>Information from area districts is that students are eating lunch in cafeterias; one rural district provides lunch in cafeterias with distancing between students.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staffing to provide service if there is a reduced number of employees available and/or meal volume increases.</li> </ul>

