

Canute Schools

Safe Return Plan

2021-2022



COVID-19 Response

July 1, 2020

Introduction

The effectiveness of this plan relies strongly on each individual's personal responsibility to monitor his or her health. Coming back onto a school campus will mean students and staff may be exposed to the COVID-19 virus. Canute Schools will strongly encourage routine daily self-assessment for individuals coming onto campuses to include temperature and symptom checks ([Link to Assessment](#)). This plan will be flexible and reassessed continually as conditions change.

Everyone should prepare for disruption. The 2021-2022 school year will be like no other. We are doing the best we can to establish protocols and stability for students, staff, and families. However, this public health crisis is unprecedented and circumstance and advice from health professions continue to develop. Because keeping the community healthy depends on self-assessment, we are asking, but not requiring, individuals to be kind and respect others by wearing a mask when indoors and by staying home when experiencing symptoms.

Focus of the Plan

The Canute Safe Return Plan was developed through collaboration with teachers, parents, administrators, board members, surrounding schools, OSDE, and public health officials. The collaboration was intended to provide insight into concerns about bringing children and staff back to school sites in light of the ever changing COVID-19 conditions. To develop best practices for our reopening, model plans were consulted from national education organizations, multiple health and safety organizations, businesses and corporations as well as other public school districts.

The creation of this plan is based on two guiding principles:

1. Limit exposure where possible: Some suggestions provided by other plans are not reasonable for our specific conditions due to space, human behaviors, or budget constraints.
2. Learning must remain constant: Building on the experiences of distance learning during the school closure last spring, Canute Schools is ready to deliver instructions to students virtually or face to face. We know disruption during a public health crisis like COVID-19 is very likely. Although we can expect disruption during the school year, consistent lesson delivery from teacher to student will remain strong either through a more traditional face to face method or through virtual learning at home. Google classroom will be the learning management system Pre-K through grade 12. We have listened to parent requests for a streamlined virtual learning environment, and teachers have been preparing improved virtual learning with new content and accountability.

Grades and attendance will be monitored and reported during the 2021-2022 school year if a student is attending Face to Face or even if they select a Virtual Learning option.

The Canute Safe Return Plan was organized utilizing the Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE) [Return to School Plan](#) and CDC School Guidelines (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html>).

Procedures are categorized into four areas:

1. School Operations
2. Academics & Growth
3. Whole Child & Family Supports
4. School Personnel

Within each area, procedures are discussed with the understanding that conditions for each area are subject to revision depending on the changing circumstances related to COVID-19.

Communication

All communication with parents and the community will be delivered through School Messenger text, the district Facebook page, and the school website www.canuteschools.com. Direct communication with site principals and teachers through text and email will be used on a regular basis. Canute Schools is committed to strong communication and responsive action. If you need assistance and are not able to reach Mrs. Ronda Mendez or Mr. J.D. Beck, you may reach out to Jamey Cook, Superintendent cookj@canuteschools.org.

Phases for Return

The Canute Schools Safe Return Plan covers three phases:

Phase I will occur from June through July. During this phase Canute Schools is planning with teachers and staff in the areas of school operations, academics and growth, whole child and family supports, and school personnel. Administration is purchasing supplies for cleaning and disinfecting, aligning protocols to keep students and staff safe, and developing guidelines for learning. Teachers are engaged in professional development on face to face and virtual learning through Google Classroom and Exact Path. Administrators are building resources for social emotional learning and academic support for students and parents.

Phase II will occur in July. During this phase Canute Schools is collecting specific information from parents and students about learning options. Parents will complete a survey indicating each child's learning choice (see options of *Canute Schools 2021-2022 Learning Options* below). After survey information is collected,

school administrators will contact families to finalize enrollment for the start of school on August 12.

The *2021-2022 Canute Learning* options are:

1. On Campus Face to Face: Students report to school and attend classes in a traditional setting with access to online instruction through Google Classroom. Teachers will be present with students in the classroom to guide instruction daily. Students may participate in school sponsored athletic and extracurricular programs. **All students are enrolled in Face to Face learning unless parents request another learning option through the parent survey.**
2. At Home Full Time Virtual: Students learn from home for an extended period through Google Classroom. Teachers will be assigned to the student to deliver, guide, and facilitate learning. If students choose this option, full time virtual enrollment will be for a full semester or academic year. **Families must choose this pathway through the parent survey. Principals will contact families to complete enrollment based on survey responses.**

**Students who choose option 2 must remain in that learning pathway for a full semester or academic year. Parents may contact the superintendent to discuss any changes to a learning pathway. The administration team will determine the need for transitions to another pathway or options within a pathway upon parent or student request.

The Final Phase of the plan is students returning to school on all campuses on August 12. All sites will practice CDC recommended guidelines for proper hand washing and social distancing where we are able. Masks will be highly encouraged but not required. Visitors on campus will be limited. Parents will be asked to complete daily health self-assessments before sending your child to school. Teachers and staff are eager to welcome students back to school.

Important Tip: It is important to teach children proper hygiene all the time, but especially to remind them about good habits during a public health crisis like COVID-19. One habit is proper handwashing. According to CDC guidelines, follow these five steps every time you wash your hands.

Wet your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap, and apply soap.

Lather your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.

Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the “Happy Birthday” song from beginning to end twice.

School Operations

School Calendar

The school calendar, approved by the school board, is designed to allow district staff to make adjustments to COVID-19 related virtual learning needs. Because we are expecting possible multiple day disruptions during the school year, we will no longer plan for Snow Days. Students and staff will be expected to continue learning through a virtual platform in the event of school closures.

In the event Virtual days are needed, it will allow us to

- Limit exposure to the virus
- Conduct virtual learning in case of an extended closure due to exposure
- Provide additional cleaning
- Provide additional time for teacher professional development

The revised school calendar is published on our district website at www.canuteschools.com

General Operations in School Sites

Temperature checks will not occur upon boarding buses or entering buildings unless staff believes it is necessary. We will rely on each family to conduct a self-assessment each morning before sending children to school.

Parents will find the self-assessment checklist and learn more about details of the plan through the district website and Facebook pages. Parents can expect the communications plan during the 2021-2022 school year to include

- Updates on progress of planning
- Public health messages
- How to notify the district of a diagnosis

Self-Assessment Checklist

Parents will be required to acknowledge the responsibilities and risks of sending your child back to school by agreeing to conduct home self-assessments on a daily basis. The daily self-assessment checklist includes answering questions about

- Temperature and other symptoms
- Exposure to others diagnosed with COVID-19

The self-assessment checklist may be found on our district website. [Click here.](#)

Parents are not required to turn in checklists at school sites. However, parents will be reminded regularly about completing the checklist at home before sending children to school.

Students who remain home due to symptoms will be able to access class assignments through Google Classroom. Teachers will assist students with questions while students are away from campus.

Students who become ill at school will be sent to a designated isolation room. School staff will follow an established protocol for assessing symptoms and notifying parents.

Masks

We highly encourage staff, students, and parents to wear masks. Canute Schools will provide masks for all school staff.

Masks will not be required unless there is an increased risk of community spread. Canute Schools will monitor the changing conditions of COVID-19, and our policy may change under advisement of health officials.

Although masks will not be required, CDC guidelines provide scientific reasons why wearing masks can help limit the spread of the virus.

COVID-19 spreads mainly from person to person through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. [Studies and evidence](#) on infection control report that these droplets usually travel around 6 feet (about two arms lengths).

Wear cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain, such as grocery stores, pharmacies, and gas stations.

- Cloth face coverings may slow the spread of the virus and help people who may have the virus and do not know it from transmitting it to others.
- Cloth face coverings can be made from household items. (CDC, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>).

Cleaning Schedules and Protocols

Canute Schools have purchased electromagnetic sprayers and will be using EPA recommended cleaning products and CDC recommended disinfecting procedures. Increased cleaning and disinfecting measures will be implemented in the following areas:

- ◆ Bathrooms
 - Additional sanitization using disinfecting sprayers each day
- ◆ Classrooms
 - Sanitized using a disinfecting sprayers on Tuesday and Friday each week
 - Each classroom will have disinfectant spray for teachers to disinfect as needed
 - Each classroom will have hand sanitizer for students and staff to sanitize hands in classrooms where soap and water are not available
 - Where available, students will wash their hands with soap and water when entering the classroom
 - Students and staff will limit the sharing of supplies, utensils, devices, toys, books and learning aids
- ◆ Buses
 - Each bus will be sanitized daily
 - Students will be encouraged to wear masks while on the bus
 - Students will sanitize their hands with liquid sanitizer when entering the bus
- ◆ Cafeteria
 - Students will use wall mounted hand sanitizers located at the beginning of the serving line
 - Students will practice social distancing as much as space allows
 - Serving lines will be modified to minimize contamination of food being served
 - Acrylic shields will be used on the serving line as an additional barrier

Transportation

Due to lack of bus drivers and the difficulty of creating multiple routes, we will not decrease the number of students riding the bus each day. Students will be encouraged to social distance on buses when possible; however, parents should not expect 6 feet of space between riders on school buses. Parents are encouraged to transport students to school if possible.

To protect drivers and students while riding the bus we will

- Increase ventilation on buses by lowering windows when weather allows
- Encourage students to wear masks
- Encourage bus drivers wear masks when necessary
- Clean and disinfect buses daily

Cafeteria

Social distancing will be encouraged in the cafeteria when and where possible and the following protocols will be followed:

- ◆ Limiting the number of students in the cafeteria as schedules allow
- ◆ Students eating in classrooms, large classrooms or gyms, or in open air areas (as needed if there is an increase in cases)

Athletics and Extracurricular Activities

Procedures for athletics and extracurricular activities will be followed in conjunction with recommendations from OSSAA and our local health professionals. Information about practices and precautions will be posted through each activity's sponsor or department.

Facility Use by Outside Organizations

Facility use by outside organizations will be determined on a case by case basis. Consideration will be given for organizations able to commit to guidelines for limiting exposure to the COVID-19 virus. Additional cleaning fees may be required.

Campus Visitors

Campus visitors will be limited to essential business during the 2021-2022 school year. All campus visitors must check in at the office for clearance into the buildings. Visitors will be required to follow the procedures below when entering buildings.

- ◆ Highly recommend the wearing of masks when moving beyond the office. This is required for all outside vendors and highly recommended for members of the community visiting the campus.
- ◆ Must wash/sanitize hands when entering the buildings

Must complete a self-assessment [checklist](#) if moving beyond the office

Important Tip: Parents should become familiar with the Canute Schools Self-Assessment Checklist found on our district website at www.canuteschools.com. Create a routine each morning to check your child's temperature and assess other symptoms before sending your child to school. Canute Schools will not conduct routine temperature checks as student's board school buses or when students enter buildings.

Academics & Growth

Achieving our core mission to educate children is a tremendous challenge during the COVID-19 public health crisis. Canute Schools is committed to keeping learning constant throughout the school year although we know we are likely to experience disruption due to possible positive diagnoses.

Our goals for the 2021-2022 year are to provide flexible learning options for families who may be impacted by health concerns either due to an individual who is immunocompromised or due to a short period where family members are experiencing COVID-19 related symptoms.

For these reasons, we pledge to

- ◆ Continue to deliver on grade level content through challenging and engaging lessons
- ◆ Provide interventions for students who fall below grade level
- ◆ Offer enrichment for students who are learning at a faster pace
- ◆ Respond to parent questions or concerns about their student's progress
- ◆ Create options for personal learning pathways

Learning Options

Students and parents will be able to choose one of two Canute Schools Learning Options

The *2021-2022 Canute Learning* options are:

1. On Campus Face to Face: Students report to school and attend classes in a traditional setting with access to online instruction through Google Classroom. Teachers will be present with students in the classroom to guide instruction daily. Students may participate in school sponsored athletic and extracurricular

programs. **All students are enrolled in Face to Face learning unless parents request another learning option through the parent survey.**

2. At Home Full Time Virtual: Students learn from home for an extended period through Google Classroom. Teachers will be assigned to the student to deliver, guide, and facilitate learning. If students choose this option, full time virtual enrollment will be for a full semester or academic year. **Families must choose this option through the parent survey. Site administrative teams will contact families to complete enrollment based on survey responses.**

**Students who choose option 2 must remain in that learning pathway for a full semester or academic year. Parents may contact the superintendent to discuss any changes to a learning pathway. The administration team will determine the need for transitions to another pathway or options within a pathway upon parent or student request.

To enroll your student in one of these two options, parents will need to complete a survey by July 24. Parents may access the survey on our website, Facebook page and [here](#).

Students who choose option 2 must remain in that learning option for a full semester or academic year. Parents may contact the site principal to discuss any changes to a learning option. An instructional team will determine the need for transitions to another learning option upon parent or student request.

Student with Special Needs

Individualized Education Plans (IEP), 504 Plans, and English Language Academic Plans will be followed with the assistance of site principals. District related services providers such as speech and OT/PT will be in contact with students and parents to arrange for continued services within the constraints of this public health crisis. IEP and 504 meetings will be held in person unless a request is made for a phone or video conference. All IEP/504 team members are required to participate. For information about IEP and 504 plans, contact Hollie Pitzer at pitzerh@canuteschools.org. For information about English Language Services, you may contact Ronda Mendez at mendezr@canuteschools.org.

Access to Curriculum

As a result of feedback from Distance Learning in the spring, we have streamlined our learning platforms. Students and parents will be able to access lessons and resources through Google Classroom. Teachers have been planning all summer to create blended and virtual lessons to make switching to learning at home seamless when it occurs.

Teachers and principals have planned to assist students and families by

- Communicating clearly the learning goals for each lesson
- Providing resources for parent support when learning from home
- Communicating student progress
- Identifying learning loss and closing gaps in learning due to school closures

Access to Technology

Devices will be provided for students who need them. Teachers and principals will help identify students who need technology assistance and a checkout system will be utilized. Students who choose learning pathway 2 will have access to a device at the beginning of the school year.

Grading and Attendance

Unlike what we experienced during Distance Learning last spring, new content will be delivered this school year. Students will be counted absent if not in attendance, even if a student is learning through a fully virtual or blended flex pathway. Completing work will be mandatory and grades will be taken.

Important Tip: Google Classroom is designed to give students and parents easy access to assignments through an online format. Find out 6 things parents should know and more resources about Google Classroom here <https://www.commonsemmedia.org/blog/parents-ultimate-guide-to-google-classroom>

Whole Child & Family Supports

Our mission is to ensure all students and their families feel welcome and safe at school. This mission is especially important during the COVID-19 public health crisis. Whether students are learning through on campus face to face instruction or virtually at home, we work to promote a feeling of community with all students and families.

In response to the increasing needs of families for the 2021-2022 school year, Canute Schools will do the following:

- An onsite Counselor will be available daily for students
- Social Emotional Learning (SEL) curriculum has been added to our curriculum to assist students in building skills in self-awareness, self-regulation, and collaborative interaction
- Provide additional training for teachers in trauma-informed practices
- Provide health, wellness, and community resources for students and families

For additional information about mental health, contact Mrs. Teeter, School Counselor at teeters@canuteschools.org for information on Child Nutrition services contact Elissa Snowder at snowdere@canuteschools.org.

Important Tip: The Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE) has excellent family and community resources posted on their website at <https://sde.ok.gov/parent-community-engagement>.

School Personnel

The safety of our school staff is paramount to our success. Taking care of all employees during the COVID-19 crisis will require flexibility and understanding in the event of a positive COVID-19 diagnosis. In response to these concerns, Canute public schools are providing masks to all school employees, cleaning and disinfecting following CDC guidelines, and training employees on proper health and safety procedures.

PPE and Cleaning Kits

Masks are highly encouraged and recommended for all staff and will be provided for staff. Each classroom will receive sanitizing/cleaning kits including disinfectant spray, hand sanitizer and gloves. Staff will be trained in the proper use of disinfectants and hand sanitizers.

Staff at high risk for contracting the virus will be given special consideration and should work individually with district level administrators.

Ongoing Staff Support

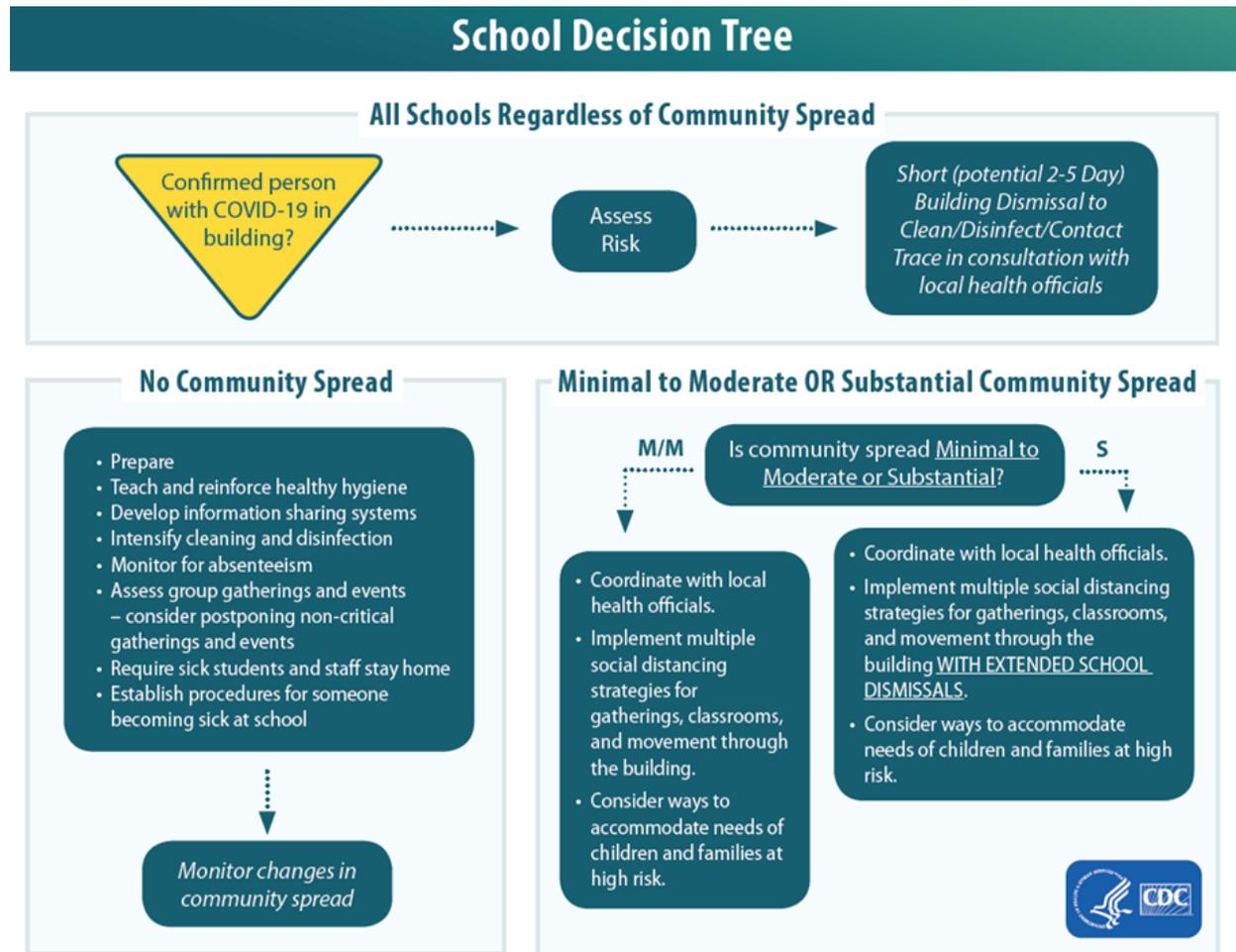
To provide the best support for our staff, we may need additional substitutes or bus drivers in times of increased COVID-19 cases or other illnesses. If you are interested in joining our team, contact Canute Public Schools for more information at 580-472-3295.

Additional training and support for staff will be provided throughout the school year as conditions change.

What happens if someone tests positive?

It is likely we will experience disruption in the school year due to a positive diagnosis of COVID-19. If a student or staff member tests positive, we will contact the Director of the district's regional

Health Department for further instructions as well as follow CDC guidelines for school site or district closure.



A positive diagnosis does not necessarily mean shutting down a school site or the entire district. **Working with health officials will mean completing contact tracing and possibly suggesting students be tested for the virus. Because of changing and uncertain conditions, students, parents, and staff should be prepared for transition to virtual learning at any time.**

Important Tip: Stay connected to Canute Schools information through FaceBook, School Website, School Messenger text, and the Parent Portal. Be sure your contact information, including email and phone number, is up to date in the parent portal. If you need assistance with your parent portal account, contact the school at 580-472-3295

Conclusion

Canute has an extremely supportive community with a focus on what is best for our children. Our success in responding to the 2021-2022 school year during COVID-19 conditions will require continued community support, everyone working together, and strong communication.

For any assistance with this plan contact Jamey Cook, Superintendent at cookj@canuteschools.org. We encourage parents to stay engaged and responsive as we honor our commitment to educate all students in spite of these challenges. We thank you in advance for your flexibility and understanding.

