

School District of Onalaska Reopening Plan

July 31, 2020





School District of Onalaska

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Dear Onalaska Community,

With about a month before the start of a new school year the time has come to establish a path forward that addresses the realities of our continued struggle to navigate a world where COVID-19 is still a public health emergency. Our hopes and planning for having students in school shifted dramatically when the county health department updated their guidance to include no in-person programming for PreK-12 schools while in the “red” risk category. The message associated with this change is that there is no method of holding in-person school safely while the COVID-19 risk category is “Severe”.

When we were confronted with the physical closure of our schools last spring we had two days to prepare for a remote learning environment. While we applaud our staff and families for adapting to a very difficult situation, we know remote learning is not what is best for most children. Given the current conditions in La Crosse County and the prospect that we will be in a similar situation again this school year the decision was made to focus on ensuring that our remote learning capabilities provide for a rigorous and engaging experience.

The most difficult decision I have had to make in my time in education is the one facing us today. Not having students in our buildings to begin the school year goes contrary to every instinct we have. Yet, my belief is it is the right thing to do given our circumstances. Within this document is our plan for a remote start of the school year, how we will determine to shift to in-person learning and the safety precautions necessary to ensure all of this can be done safely. We will be reviewing and revising this document as conditions change and more information is made available.

Knowing of the incredible burden being placed on our families, the District is working diligently with partner organizations and within the county health department guidance to support safe daytime programming for school age children. We also stand ready to support each and every one of our families to the greatest extent possible. As a community we need to lean into the work and lean on each other for support.

Sincerely,

Todd L. Antony
Superintendent

TA/kf

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County Health Department Guidelines

The La Crosse County Health Department has established the Coulee Compass as the measure of current conditions related to COVID-19. The county has also developed a corresponding guidance document aligned to the color coded quadrants of the Coulee Compass with the following general guidelines:

- Severe Risk (Red) - Virtual/Remote Learning Only
- High Risk (Orange) - Blended Learning
- Moderate Risk (Yellow) - Blended Learning with Easing of Restrictions
- Low Risk (Green) - Full Time In-Person Learning

A Phased Approach to Starting the Year

Given the current status of COVID-19 in La Crosse County as reflected by the Coulee Compass and the need for a timely decision concerning the start of the school year the District will be taking a phased approach to reopening. The first 30 calendar days of school will be remote learning for PreK-12. Current conditions will be monitored weekly in order to make an informed decision moving forward. The District would plan to move to the Blended Learning Model after two consecutive weeks in the “Orange” and in consultation with the county health department of a prediction of continued status of “Orange” the third consecutive week. Staff and families will be notified when the compass changes with an anticipated start date of blended learning. Families will have approximately 3 weeks lead time to make appropriate plans.

Daytime Emergency Services Programming

Pending County Health Department Review

Out-of-School Time Partner Programs

The District is working with multiple outside agencies who will have approved plans by the county health department allowing them to provide school age daytime programming. The intent of our collaboration is to assist in facilitating remote learning.

Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment

Instructional Programming

- In-Person Programming - All students back with normal programming
- Blended Learning - A combination of in-person and remote learning

Students will attend school in person in one of two groups. There will be Group A and Group B each consisting of about half of our student population. Across the district, we will keep families together so that they are on the same weekly schedule. Each group will be in person for two days per week and remote for three days per week. One day per week will be a virtual learning day for all students where students will get individual support or services, staff can collaborate, and/or professional development might be delivered.

- **Elementary** - Group sizes no larger than 18, no interactions between classes. Class size to allow for 6' distancing between all students. Classes of 18 or fewer students will not need to divide into groups (Group A/B) and have the potential to meet daily.
- **Secondary** – Class size to allow for 6' distancing required between all students. Limit intermingling of classes and students to the greatest extent possible.

Virtual/Remote Learning - All students learning remotely full time.

Your child's teacher will be providing the District curriculum in a common learning management system. Expectations include daily contact with students to provide an engaging experience that will build relationships and provide direct instruction in all curricular areas. Student work will be driven by a daily schedule but allow flexibility for unique family situations.

Coulee Region Virtual Academy (CRVA)

The CRVA is the result of a collaboration between the La Crosse County public school districts. This option is available to any student, K-12, who would like a virtual option for the duration of the year regardless of the current status of COVID-19 in La Crosse County.

Other Instructional Considerations

- Professional Development

The District is implementing a professional development schedule during the month of August to ensure all staff members are trained to provide a highly engaging and rigorous curriculum regardless of the mode of instruction. Instructions and support will be provided to parents and guardians in the implementation of virtual/remote learning. Additionally, clear expectations for teachers are being developed to guide instruction in any mode. While in the

blended learning mode, one day a week will be used for continued professional development and support.

- Special Education

Students with special education needs will continue to be served by their special education case managers and related service providers in all instructional programming options. A student's Individual Educational Plan (IEP) may need to be revised depending on the instructional program the student is in at any given time and to reflect how services may look different in a virtual/remote setting compared to in person. Some students may require in-person instruction. These decisions will be made on an individual basis with parental input and involvement and following county guidance.

- Section 504

Students with Section 504 Accommodation Plans will be served in all instructional program options. Case managers of students with Section 504 plans will continue to coordinate these accommodation plans and inform the student's teachers and other relevant staff of the necessary accommodations whether in the virtual/remote setting, blended learning option or in person.

- English Learners

Students identified as English Learners (EL) will be supported in all instructional programming options. English Learner teachers will continue to facilitate instruction and collaborate with regular education teachers to foster development toward English proficiency for EL students. These supports and services may look different depending on whether the student is receiving instruction virtually, in the blended learning model or in-person. Each student's Individual Language Plan (ILP) will reflect necessary services and accommodations and how they will be provided. Parents will be involved in these decisions.

- At Risk

Students identified as At-Risk will be served in all instructional program options. Case managers of at-risk students will support student's learning, coordinate any accommodation plans and inform the student's teachers and other relevant staff of any needs whether in the virtual/remote setting, blended learning option or in person.

Enrichment/Extension/Educational Options

Enrichment and extension of student learning will continue to be provided by our Challenge Program teachers at the elementary level in all instructional programming options. Middle school classroom teachers will provide enrichment and extension activities for identified students during the designated times in the daily schedule. All educational options for the fall semester will be available for approved high school students within the guidelines of each hosting higher education institution. (i.e. Early College Credit Program, Start College Now, Dual Credit Programs).

Social and Emotional Health

The social and emotional health of students and staff is as important as their physical health and safety. It will be important for all staff to focus on social and emotional health especially at the beginning of the school year as students are welcomed back to school regardless of their instructional setting. Universal social and emotional learning activities will be facilitated by the school counselors in all instructional settings. School counselors will also support individual students who are struggling with their social, emotional and/or mental health.

Grading

Grading will proceed normally no matter which mode of learning we are currently experiencing which means teachers will regularly assess students as part of their instructional planning to gauge proficiency and provide feedback. Progress reports and report cards will be issued at all grade levels. At the high school level, GPA and class rank in relation to grading will be calculated as they were prior to COVID-19.

Student Attendance

Different than last spring, attendance will be compulsory in the 2020-21 school year regardless of learning mode. In the blended instructional model, attendance will be a combination of face-to-face presence in classrooms and progress with work completion during remote learning days. Attendance in virtual/remote learning will require a daily check in for all courses/times for which students are scheduled each day as well as other required sessions as assigned to students.

Technology

We will ensure every student, PK-12, has their own device should they need one. The district will also make available hotspots for those families and staff members who need access to the internet.

Co Curricular/Extracurricular Activities

The District will facilitate student participation in co curricular/extracurricular activities as outlined by the WIAA and other guidelines and in line with the county health department recommendations.

Operations

Physical Spaces

- Physical Barriers
 - Installation of plexiglass barriers in public spaces where appropriate
- Floor Adhesives
 - Installation of separation markings in high traffic areas
- Safety Signage - To be placed at main entrances and key locations within the buildings
 - Hand hygiene
 - Protective measures
 - Symptoms awareness
- Drinking Water
 - Bottle filling only
- Space for Six Feet Social Distancing
 - Removal of furniture from classrooms
 - Reconfiguring learning spaces
 - Restricted access to common areas (Cafeteria, Staff Break Room, Playground etc.)

Cleaning

The Buildings and Grounds Department continues to work with our vendors to ensure we have the necessary products to sufficiently and safely clean and disinfect district facilities.

District cleaning guidelines will follow recommendations from the CDC, as well as learned practices during major flu outbreaks. This mainly consists of generalized cleaning with the additional disinfection of all hard surfaces and touch points on a daily basis.

Cleaning supplies and hand sanitizer will be made available in each classroom and other areas. The supplies will be safe and appropriate for the areas they are placed in and the head custodians will teach staff how to properly use the cleaning supplies.

Hand sanitizing stations will be located through common areas and hallways, including just inside entrances.

Heating and Cooling Systems

Per CDC guidelines, the District will provide the highest level of filtration possible and increase the outside air intake within the allowable constraints of each building's system.

Personal Protective Equipment

The District has an adequate supply of face masks to satisfy the face mask requirement. The District will make these available to those who do not furnish their own. Requirements for additional PPE have been identified and will be available as needed.

The front offices will have plexi-glass guards installed where deemed necessary. Stand alone plexi-glass shields will be used in certain areas throughout the building where social distancing may be difficult to maintain. However, the primary means of protection will be maintaining social distancing and the use of face masks.

Isolation Rooms

Each school building has a separate room dedicated for symptomatic students waiting to be picked up. This room will be stocked with gloves, surgical grade masks, gowns, and face shields as well as non-fabric covered chairs to allow for easy cleaning. Staff who enter the isolation room will be required to utilize appropriate PPE. The isolation room will be cleaned between uses.

Healthy Environments

Face Masks

Expectation - The School District of Onalaska is requiring students, staff and visitors to wear face masks following the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the La Crosse County Health Department Guidelines. This requirement applies to the riding of school provided transportation and during the school day.

- Severe Risk (Red, Orange, Yellow) - Masks required for students in grades K-12, staff and visitors
- Low Risk (Green) - Masks required when physical distancing is not possible

Education - Parents play a crucial role in preparing their children for wearing face masks on the bus and in the school buildings. Educational materials will be made available to parents as a resource for preparing their children for wearing face masks. Education on the proper use of face masks will be provided in school at the beginning of in person instruction and reinforced as needed throughout the time that they are required.

Exceptions - Exceptions to the requirement include conditions verified by a medical professional and will be allowed on a case-by-case basis. Personal choice is not a valid reason for seeking an exception.

Health Screening

Staff and Essential Visitors - All Coulee Compass Risk Levels - All staff and essential visitors entering school district facilities will be actively monitoring their symptoms including taking their temperature at the building and documenting this information in an online form daily. If the temperature is 100.4 or higher or the staff/visitor answers yes to any of the questions on the screener, they will not be allowed into district facilities. Staff will reach out to their supervisor and will enter the absence into the appropriate software to secure a substitute if needed during blended or in person programming. A flow chart has been provided to staff outlining return to work capabilities.

Students - All colors/risk levels of the Coulee Compass require active monitoring of students, staff and visitors. During any in-person programming, health symptoms of all students will be screened daily including taking and documenting temperatures and completing a screening questionnaire. This health screening may be completed using a direct active monitoring process upon entrance to a school building or a remote active monitoring process which would require parents or guardians to complete and document the screening prior to students coming to school using a district provided program. If the temperature is 100.4 or higher or any of the questions on the screener are answered "yes", students will need to stay home or be sent home and the La Crosse County Health Department protocol for symptomatic student exclusion will be followed.

Personal Hygiene Education

Hand Washing

Covering Cough/Sneeze

Symptomatic Exclusion Protocol and Return to School/Work (Staff and Students)

- Stay home when not feeling well and report the absence.
- If an individual is symptomatic at school they will be isolated and sent home with a recommendation to contact the primary care physician to inquire about testing.
 - Individuals who test positive are to follow the directions of the public health department
 - Individuals who test negative may return to school 24 hours after being symptom free without the use of medication to lower fever.
 - Individuals who are not tested should stay home until they are feeling better and all of the following has happened

- At least 10 days have passed since their symptoms started and;
- They haven't had a fever (100.4 F or greater) in at least 72 hours without using any medication to lower fever and;
- Their cough or breathing problems get better.

Contact Tracing

The District will work with the La Crosse County Health Department to assist with contact tracing when a positive case of COVID-19 is associated with the district. When conducting contact tracing, individuals will be identified who have been in close contact with the positively tested individual. Close contact means being within six feet of someone with COVID-19 for more than 15 minutes, sharing a drinking glass or eating utensil, physically touching the person or items that may have their germs on them or being coughed or sneezed on.

Individuals being identified as having been in close contact will be notified by the District and followed up with the County Health Department. Identified individuals should stay home for 14 days since the last time they were around the positively identified individual to see if they develop symptoms. If symptoms develop parents should call their doctor, ask for testing and follow the instructions for staying home while waiting for results. Other children in the home may continue to attend school unless the child who was in close contact becomes symptomatic, then other children should also stay home.

Isolated or quarantined individuals are able to continue with their schooling/work virtually as their health allows.

Intermittent School/District Closure

The District will work with the County Health Department when positive cases of COVID-19 are identified and/or when there is a substantial level of community spread to determine the need for periods of school/district closure. Virtual/remote learning will continue for all students affected by any intermittent school/district closure.

Communication Protocols

The District will use existing systems for communications related to positive cases, contact tracing and intermittent school closures with staff and families.

Confirmed Cases

Positive cases of COVID-19 are reported to the La Crosse County Health Department. The protocol requires the county to contact the school district when they have a report of a positive case that affects our student and staff population.

Notifications to families and staff will be sent out by the District based on contact tracing protocol and in a manner that maintains confidentiality.

Day to Day

Visitors

- Red/Orange/Yellow - Only visitors determined by administration needing to conduct essential business may be present in school buildings. Active monitoring for COVID indicators will be in place for all.
- Green - Active monitoring for COVID indicators will be in place for all people in district buildings.

Cohorts

- Identified groups of students will be separate from other groups to the greatest extent possible

Field Trips

- Red/Orange - Not Allowed
- Yellow - Local Destinations Only
- Green - Normal expectations with consideration of COVID-19 in destinations

Assemblies

- Red/Orange - Not allowed
- Yellow - Groups of less than 50
- Green - Groups of less than 100

Transportation

Self-Transport

The District is encouraging families to walk, ride bikes or provide transportation when feasible and safe in order to reduce the overall ridership on buses.

Bus Capacity

- Load the bus from back to front, unloading in the reverse order
- Siblings sitting together
- Social Distancing to the greatest extent possible
- Face masks required

Health and Safety

Increased daily and weekly cleaning protocols will be implemented.

School Nutrition

- Red - District will offer to provide meals for delivery and pickup for students at home through a pre-order system. Meals will be provided through the normal school-year National School Lunch Program. Families will be charged or fees waived based on eligibility status.
- Orange - For students in face-to-face learning, meals will be provided at school. Meals will be consumed in classrooms or other designated areas for distancing purposes. All meals will be pre-ordered for all grade levels. Self-service options, such as the salad bar, will not be offered.
- Yellow - For students in face-to-face learning, meals will be provided at school. Meals may be consumed in classrooms, other designated areas, or the cafeteria. However, students will be kept in groups of no more than 50. All meals will be pre-ordered for all grade levels. Self-service options, such as the salad bar, will not be offered.
- Green - For students in face-to-face learning, meals will be provided at school. Meals may be consumed in classrooms, other designated areas, or the cafeteria. However, students will be kept in groups of no more than 100. All meals will be pre-ordered for all grade levels. Self-service options, such as the salad bar, will not be offered.

For students attending the Coulee Region Virtual Academy, the District will offer to provide meals for delivery and pickup for students at home through a pre-order system. Meals will be provided through the normal school-year National School Lunch Program. Students would be charged or fees waived based on eligibility status.

Usage by outside organizations

Applications by outside organizations to utilize district facilities will not be approved while in Red, Orange, or Yellow categories.

Human Resources

All staff, including substitutes, will take the Coronavirus Awareness training through SafeSchools. Topics covered include symptoms and risk factors; what you can do to help reduce your chances of becoming infected; and where to find reliable news and information about the COVID-19 outbreak.

Staff that need an accommodation are asked to reach out to Human Resources in order to follow the normal accommodation procedures.

Resources

[Centers for Disease Control](#)

[Wisconsin Department of Education Reopening Guidelines](#)

[American Academy of Pediatrics](#)

[Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#)

[La Crosse County Health Department](#)