



## COVID-19 Mitigation Plan for the 2021-2022 School Year

The education of our students, and the health and safety of our students and staff, is Oak Grove's top priority for the 2021-2022 school year. It is the aim of this plan to keep our kids in school in a safe learning environment throughout the year. Therefore, there will be two sets of mitigation efforts: Static Mitigation efforts that will remain the same no matter the determination metrics, and Responsive Mitigation that may change due to determination metrics.

We anticipate that this plan will be fluid, and that regular communication is necessary to keep all families aware of the shifting situation that COVID-19 presents. Therefore, the COVID-19 Task Force will continue to meet weekly (Mondays) through the school year. We commit to communicate the key metrics and any directions taken each the week.

We are familiar with the community health recommendations from the [Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#), [American Academy of Pediatrics](#), [North Dakota Department of Health](#), [Fargo Cass Public Health](#), and the [World Health Organization](#). Note, while these organizations are very helpful in formulating mitigation efforts, the COVID-19 numbers for our Oak Grove community and immediate region may not support each of their specific mitigation recommendations, especially as it relates to masking. Please take this into account as you review this plan.

### Static Mitigation Efforts

Static Mitigation Efforts are efforts the school makes to reduce the risk and spread of the COVID-19 virus that will not change. Our most obvious effort is to make sure students or staff who are sick do not come to school. The following are a list of identified static mitigation efforts:

#### Wellness and Attendance:

- Students or staff who are sick should not attend school
- Parents will be asked to monitor children for COVID-19 symptoms: fever, headache, body ache, nausea, loss of taste/smell, etc
- Any individual with a fever of 100.4 degrees or greater will not be permitted in school

- Any individual experiencing a fever and 2 or more symptoms OR sudden loss of taste/smell, should be tested for COVID-19

ND Dept. of Health Attendance Guidance:

[https://www.health.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/Files/MSS/coronavirus/School%20Resources/Decision\\_Tree\\_Attendance\\_Guidance.pdf](https://www.health.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/Files/MSS/coronavirus/School%20Resources/Decision_Tree_Attendance_Guidance.pdf)

- We recommend contacting a health care professional immediately if:
  - You are experiencing symptoms as described in the self-assessment;
  - You have a known exposure to COVID-19; or
  - You have received a positive COVID-19 test.

Families should contact the school to report all absences, but it is especially important for students who are experiencing symptoms as described in the self-assessment.

This is a guide for determining if students should stay home from school, regardless of COVID-19 exposure:

[https://www.health.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/Files/MSS/Immunizations/School\\_Childcare/ChildCareandSchoolExclusionGuide.pdf](https://www.health.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/Files/MSS/Immunizations/School_Childcare/ChildCareandSchoolExclusionGuide.pdf)

#### **Cleaning and Disinfecting:**

- Staff and students will perform routine cleaning/disinfecting of classroom seating surfaces throughout the day
- Staff will perform routine cleaning/disinfecting of classrooms after school utilizing ionization tools

#### **Hand Washing/ Sanitizing:**

- Proper Handwashing techniques will be taught for grades PreK-5 and reinforced across all grade levels
- Handwashing with soap and water or hand sanitizer will be used when arriving at school, before and after eating, after using the restroom and other times when it is necessary
- Hand sanitizer stations will be up throughout the buildings, and students and staff are encouraged to use them throughout the day.
- Info on Handwashing: <https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/index.html>

#### **Air Handling:**

- All air handling improvements and implementation from the 2020-2021 School Year will remain intact for the 2021-2022 School Year

### **Respiratory Etiquette:**

- All staff, students, and visitors should cover their mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing, and to avoid touching their face, particularly their mouth, nose, and eyes, with their hands. All are expected to dispose of tissues in provided trash receptacles and wash or sanitize their hands immediately afterward. If a tissue is not available, one may sneeze or cough into his/her elbow.
- Here is more information on Respiratory Etiquette:  
[https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/hygiene/etiquette/coughing\\_sneezing.html](https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/hygiene/etiquette/coughing_sneezing.html)

## **Factors for Decisions on Responsive Mitigation Efforts**

Oak Grove Lutheran School's COVID-19 Task Force has been committed to cutting through the confusion and formulating decision factors throughout the summer and throughout the school year. In an effort to do this, there were decision factors identified as to whether all mitigation factors would be utilized. The list for the school year, in the order in which they will be evaluated is:

1. Oak Grove Lutheran School Positivity Rates/Absence Rates
2. New/Active Cases in Cass County
3. Positivity Rate in Cass County
4. Hospitalization Rate
5. Parent Risk Tolerance
6. Community Health Recommendations
7. Vaccination Rates

### **What is the tipping point?**

1. Increase in severity of illness – virulence
2. Spread within our OG community
3. Unmanageable classroom quarantine
4. Pediatric hospitalizations and overall access to healthcare
5. Increasing morbidity and mortality

## Responsive Mitigation Efforts

Responsive Mitigation Efforts are efforts the school makes to reduce the risk and spread of the COVID-19 virus that will change throughout the school year. In the case of noticeable change through the Oak Grove Community, determined in conjunction with the task force utilizing the outlined decision factors, responsive mitigation efforts will be utilized with regular communication on the efforts being utilized. The following are a list of identified responsive mitigation efforts:

- **Masking**
  - The 2021-2022 School Year will begin with masking optional for all staff, students, and visitors.
  - In a situation of noticeable change in tipping points, masking may become mandatory for a set amount of time. At an appropriate time, the COVID-19 Task Force will examine the data for determination on extending the masking time or simply letting it expire.
  - In the event of mandatory masking, all students, staff, and visitors will be expected to mask in all school buildings. Masking for all guests to any extracurricular activities will be mandatory within the time period, while student participant masking will be determined in conjunction with NDHSAA, area activities directors, and school administration.
  - We recognize people do not want to mask, but if it means masking will keep our kids in school, we may need to mask for a period of time.
  - The following is CDC guidance on the Delta Variant and Masking:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/delta-variant.html>
- **Large Group Gatherings**
  - The 2021-2022 School Year will begin with large group gatherings (Lunch, Chapel, events, etc) at pre-pandemic policies
  - In a situation of noticeable change in tipping points, all large group gatherings will require masking by all in attendance.
    - **Lunch and Chapel** may be limited to accommodate only students. Lunch may be controlled through distancing, requiring some grades to be in the cafeteria and some in the classroom, on alternating days.
    - **South Campus Dropoff/Pickup** may be staggered. If this is to happen, families will be notified through the school office of the procedures.
    - **Extracurricular events** mitigation will be determined by guidance from NDHSAA, area Activities Directors, and the Oak Grove COVID Task Force. Families attending away games/activities will need to be aware of and adhere to masking mandates for other regional schools.

- **Visitors** may be limited as the need may arise. If this is to happen, families will be notified in advance.
- **Distancing**
  - The 2021-2022 School Year will begin with moderate distancing efforts. Students will be spaced, but may not always maintain a social distance from another student. In addition, students will be allowed to work in groups and move between classrooms as necessary.
  - In a situation of noticeable change in tipping points, while students are masked, a 3-foot distance will be observed. Students may be limited to single classrooms on South Campus, but only as a last mitigation effort.
  - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/going-out.html>
  - <https://www.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/>
- **School Day**
  - The length of the school day will return to Pre-pandemic length.
    - ELC: Preschool 8:20-11:00 and Pre-K8:20-2:50
    - Elementary (K-5) 8:25-3:05
    - North Campus (6-12) 8:30-3:30
  - The school year will begin with no online academies being offered. If need should arise throughout the year, an online component may be offered to students who quarantine.
  - In the event of new guidelines or mandates from the state, Oak Grove Lutheran School may be required to go back into fully online education. Should that happen, more communication would be provided.

## Contact Tracing

Students, families, and staff are asked to self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms prior to coming to school or riding the bus for that COVID-19 positive individual. The school will follow the Fargo Cass Public Health guidelines when a positive case is identified. As the school's guidance is revised, information will be updated through the weekly COVID-19 Task Force communication.

Further, if students or staff are contacted and required by Fargo Cass Public Health to quarantine or isolate due to COVID-19 or any other contagious illness, Oak Grove will expect families to notify the school and quarantine as directed.

- Oak Grove will NOT be conducting dynamic contact tracing for the 2021-2022 school year.
- Students and staff testing positive for COVID-19 will be isolated for the period of time recommended by Fargo Cass Public Health.
- If a student tests positive for COVID-19 in a classroom where your child is also a student, you will be notified.
  - There may be no quarantine expectations; however, we do ask that you monitor for COVID symptoms, and if they exist, your child will need to stay home from school.
  - Oak Grove recognizes individuals exposed to COVID-19 should wear a mask while monitoring for symptoms.
- As a point of reference, the following post-exposure guidelines are recommended by Fargo Cass Public Health:
  - Mask to mask exposure: exemption to quarantine
  - Fully vaccinated contacts: if no symptoms, no quarantine. Should monitor for symptoms and encouraged to test at 3-5 days and recommend masking in interim.
  - Unmasked contacts: 14 day quarantine. Contacts may release from quarantine after day 10 if no symptoms of after day 7 with a negative test collected on day 5 or later.

## Other Resources

School Resources from ND Department of Health:

[https://www.health.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/Files/MSS/coronavirus/School%20Resources/K-12\\_School\\_Q\\_A.pdf](https://www.health.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/Files/MSS/coronavirus/School%20Resources/K-12_School_Q_A.pdf)

[https://www.health.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/Files/MSS/coronavirus/School%20Resources/COVID-19\\_Prevention\\_in\\_K-12%20Schools.pdf](https://www.health.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/Files/MSS/coronavirus/School%20Resources/COVID-19_Prevention_in_K-12%20Schools.pdf)

School Resources from CDC:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>

[https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html#anchor\\_1625661937509](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html#anchor_1625661937509)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>

School Resources from AAP and WHO:

<https://www.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/>

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/strategies-and-plans>

COVID-19 Data from North Dakota and Cass County:

<https://www.health.nd.gov/diseases-conditions/coronavirus/north-dakota-coronavirus-cases>

## COVID-19 Task Force

While the Oak Grove Lutheran School administrative team sets the mitigation plan, the following COVID-19 Task Force members give invaluable input from the medical community in Fargo/Moorhead. The Oak Grove Lutheran School community thanks the following for their tireless advisory work since March 2020:

- Dr. Paul Bilstad, parent, Emergency Medicine
- Dr. Stephanie Gruchalla, parent, Dentist
- Dr. Kiersten Juhl, parent, Internal Medicine
- Dr. Darin Lang, parent, Internal Medicine
- Dr. Samantha Perleberg, parent, Pediatrics
- Dr. Jon Ulven, parent, Psychologist
- Steph Bakken, parent
- Mike Slette, President, Oak Grove Lutheran School
- Josh Kading, parent, Elementary Principal
- Patrick Meyer, parent, Dean of Students
- Malarie Carlson, parent, Elementary Counselor
- Terri Kroll, Secondary Counselor
- Aimee Zachrison, parent, Academic Dean
- Marietta Wahl, CFO
- Leah Vogel, Executive Assistant