



The Ohio State School for the Blind
and Ohio School for the Deaf
COVID—19 Plan
As of March 11, 2020
(updates to be made as needed)

COVID-19 is a respiratory illness caused by a novel (new) virus, and we are learning more about it every day. There is currently no vaccine to protect against COVID-19. At this point, the best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to the virus that causes it. Identifying possible cases and stopping transmission (spread) of the virus through everyday practices is the best way to keep people healthy.

This plan was created to help identify possible risks, to minimize risk of exposure to the staff and students, to assist in making good choices and to help reduce the possible spread of infection in consideration of the well-being of everyone in the OSSB/OSD community.

Additional cleaning supplies and materials have been ordered for custodial services and OSSB/OSD staff to help maintain clean, sanitary student and staff areas.

This plan will be monitored and updated as necessary based on new information.

A. Prevention:

1. **Wash hands regularly for at least 20 seconds.** Washing hands often under clean, running water can help prevent the spread of germs. If not able to wash your hands, use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
2. **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.** Germs spread this way.
3. **Cover coughs and sneezes.** Use a tissue to cover coughs and sneezes, then dispose of the tissue. When a tissue is not available, cough or sneeze into your elbow. Staff who serve as sighted guides are not to cough into the elbow of the arm that is offered as a guide.
4. **Clean and disinfect surfaces or objects.** [Clean and disinfect \(https://www.cdc.gov/nonpharmaceutical-interventions/pdf/dont-spread-germs-work-item3.pdf\)](https://www.cdc.gov/nonpharmaceutical-interventions/pdf/dont-spread-germs-work-item3.pdf) frequently touched surfaces at home, work, or school, especially when someone is ill.
5. **Avoid sharing items when possible.** If unable to avoid sharing, disinfect between users.
6. **Maintain a distance of at least 3 feet between yourself and others, if possible.**

7. Student Health Services will monitor CDC website regularly for guidance and additional strategies to be used in minimizing risk associated with COVID-19. Student Health Services will work with ODH to manage the impact of COVID-19 or related symptoms.

B. Staff and Student Absence Notifications:

1. Staff and students shall follow their normal call-off procedures in the event they need to be absent from school/work.
2. Families and staff are expected to comply with any directives by the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) regarding reporting of illness. We will share any new information as it becomes available. Information can be found at <https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/Novel-Coronavirus/2019-nCoV>.
3. OSSB/OSD Student Health Services will continue to log pertinent information regarding student illness on a daily basis. Families will continue to be notified in the event a student's illness occurs at school. If you are concerned about your symptoms, please contact your health care provider.

C. Field Trips, Staff Travel, Events and Large Gatherings:

Student trips and events which involve large groups of visitors or the public being on campus as well as staff travel for conferences or other school-related business are cancelled or postponed until further notice. OSSB/OSD will make every attempt to facilitate technological access to said events whenever possible. The Superintendent or her designee has final approval as to whether such access is feasible.

D. Travel restrictions for staff are as follows:

1. Only travel that is in-state, pre-paid, and has been deemed mission critical by the superintendent or her designee may proceed at this time. When considering pending requests for mission critical travel, OSSB/OSD will exercise prudence and consider current Department of Health guidance. Travel that is in-state, pre-paid, and deemed mission critical may only continue if approved.
2. All other travel by OSSB/OSD employees must be postponed or cancelled. This includes pending requests and arrangements for both continental U.S. travel and international travel. This also includes non-essential meetings, gatherings, workshops, or training sessions.
3. Travel is defined as movement outside of what would be expected of an OSSB/OSD

employee on a normal workday. It does not include normal commuting from an employee's residence to his or her assigned work site or headquarters, or those positions that require OSSB/OSD employees to move between multiple, regularly assigned job sites.

E. Disruption to Programs and Services:

We will be working as a team to respond to any excessive staff or student absences due to illness and following ODE, CDC, ODH and local health department guidance regarding disruption of the school schedule.

1. In anticipation of a potential disruption of the school schedule, information and a distance learning plan will be provided for students that can be completed at home.
2. In the event the school is determined to be in a state of emergency, the following are considered critical functions that must have adequate staff coverage until students can be picked up: direct care to students, nutrition services, nursing services, security and facilities.

F. When Students Arrive to School Sick or Become Sick at School:

Families will be notified if a student exhibits symptoms of illness. Families will work with OSSB/OSD staff to coordinate how best to transport their children home.

G. Cleaning:

1. Frequently touched surfaces (e.g., doorknobs, light switches, countertops, faucets, hand rails, door pushes, etc.) will be cleaned daily with the [cleaning agents](#) identified by the US Environmental Protection Agency as being effective against Coronavirus.
2. Cleaning supplies will be made available by request to all staff with the expectation that commonly used surfaces (e.g. tables, keyboards, desks, remote controls, phones, etc.) are wiped down before use.

H. Communication Plan:

1. Coronavirus plan and updates will be shared through email, social media, and hard copies sent home with students.
2. In situations where more urgent communication is necessary, the school's phone alert system (eNotify) will be used to disseminate information.

3. An initial phone alert message will be sent to parents/families and staff making them aware of the following:
 - a. Coronavirus Plan has been developed and is/will be posted on website.
 - b. Plan will be updated as necessary based on current information and include necessary, required, specific protocols regarding symptoms warranting students/staff remaining at home.
4. Updates regarding COVID-19 and reminders to employ best hygiene practices will be provided to staff by email and to parents/families in hardcopy and email.

I. CDC Website Resources:

[COVID—19 Summary](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/summary.html) (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/summary.html>)

[COVID—19 Factsheet](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/2019-ncov-factsheet.pdf) (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/2019-ncov-factsheet.pdf>)

[COVID—19 Clinical Criteria](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/clinical-criteria.html) (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/clinical-criteria.html>)

[COVID—19 Infection Control](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/infection-control.html) (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/infection-control.html>)

[Healthcare Facilities Steps to Prepare Guidance for Schools](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-schools.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fspecific-groups%2Fguidance-for-schools.html)

(https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-schools.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fspecific-groups%2Fguidance-for-schools.html)

Other Resources:

https://rems.ed.gov/docs/REMS_K-12_Guide_508.pdf

<https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/Novel-Coronavirus/2019-nCoV>

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports/>

<https://openwho.org/courses/COVID-19-IPC-EN/items/5ZMmyYO6KImIVXm7Ep4MwE>

<https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/cfid-19-sprp-unctguidelines.pdf>