

Odessa R-VII School District Families:

The goal of the Odessa R-VII Board of Education and District Administration is for students to be in their buildings learning as much as possible, without interruption due to a quarantine.

Tuesday, August 17, 2021, the Board adopted the following mask usage language:

Regardless of vaccination status, Odessa R-VII Board of Education strongly recommends all persons inside district buildings wear a mask/face covering if unable to maintain 6 feet of social distancing. In non-classroom areas of Odessa R-VII buildings, masks/face coverings will be required to be worn by all persons unless 6 feet of social distance can be maintained.

When an Odessa R-VII building reaches 5% or more of students and staff absences for any reason, said building will institute mandatory mask/face covering wearing for all staff, students and visitors inside the building until the number of absences of staff and students drops to less than 3% in said building for 2 consecutive weeks. Absences will be reviewed on a daily basis by school administration; if thresholds are exceeded, the mask/face covering mandate will be instituted immediately.

Due to federal mandates, masks must be worn on school buses at all times. Specific details on this requirement can be found [here](#) on the U.S. Department of Transportation website.



The above information regarding masks has also been updated within the In-Person Instruction Plan, which can be viewed in its entirety if you [click here](#).

As this is a constantly evolving situation, such decisions will change accordingly with the current health considerations of the district and community. The mask recommendation/requirement process will be ongoing and communicated regularly by school administration.

In accordance with state and local health guidance, the attached diagram illustrates when a person is considered a close contact and would need to quarantine.

Sincerely,

Jon Oetinger, Ed.D.
Superintendent

COVID Positive Individual	0 - 3 feet 15+ minutes	3 - 6 feet 15+ minutes	6 feet or more 15+ minutes
<p>COVID Positive WITH a Mask</p> 	<p>Individuals WITH a mask are considered a Close Contact. They continue in-person learning but must quarantine outside of the classroom setting.</p> <p>Individuals WITHOUT a mask are considered a Close Contact and must quarantine.</p>	<p>Individuals WITH a mask are not considered a Close Contact and do NOT quarantine.</p> <p>Individuals WITHOUT a mask are considered a Close Contact and must quarantine.</p>	<p>Nobody is Considered a Close Contact</p> <p>Only the COVID positive must quarantine</p>
<p>COVID Positive WITHOUT a Mask</p> 	<p>All Considered a Close Contact</p> <p>All Close Contacts Quarantine</p>	<p>All Considered a Close Contact</p> <p>All Close Contacts Quarantine</p>	<p>Nobody is Considered a Close Contact</p> <p>Only the COVID positive must quarantine</p>