



Dear Parents and Staff,

Yesterday, state officials released statements regarding possible changes to school quarantining guidelines. Unfortunately, those statements are currently conflicting, and we are awaiting further clarification.

Duncan Public Schools' COVID policy requires us to follow Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) guidelines, but we have not yet received their guidance. As soon as we receive official OSDH information, we will share with you. Until then, we have no authority to change practice. My apologies for any confusion this causes. I hope to have more information for you soon.

By Grace,

Tom Deighan, Superintendent

Below is an excerpt from our COVID Policy identifying OSDH as our healthcare authority.

COVID POLICY 9000 Excerpt

Due to the uncertainty of COVID-19, DPS cannot responsibly predict future interventions or actions, but Duncan Public Schools can outline the general principles and structures guiding our decision-making for the 2020-21 school year. Furthermore, DPS can provide educational options for parents/guardians and students as well as safeguards and options for staff or students temporarily impacted by COVID-19. To provide our students with as much normalcy and safety as possible, we will rely on the following state authorities for guidance:

- 1. The Oklahoma State Department of Education (OKSDE) is our guiding educational authority as outlined in the Return to Learn Oklahoma document related to the areas of School Operations, Academics & Growth, Whole Child & Family Supports, and School Personnel. Each item outlined in the Return to Learn (RTL) document is specifically addressed by DPS and forms the basis for our 2020-21 COVID Mitigation Plan. It will be reviewed and updated as necessary. The OKSDE document is available online: <https://sde.ok.gov/sites/default/files/Return%20to%20Learn%20Oklahoma.pdf>*
- 2. The Oklahoma State Department of Health (OKSDH) is our guiding healthcare authority. All COVID-related health concerns will be addressed according to OKSDH guidelines and all incidents of suspected or confirmed COVID-19 cases will be reported according to the Stephens County Health Department guidelines.*

Any mandates by state, federal, or local authorities may supersede this document. Duncan Public Schools will comply with OKSDH and OKSDE mandates.

[Link to DPS Policies](#)