



### **Colleagues-**

You are officially back to school, preparing for the arrival of your students who you haven't seen in five months. No one knows what it will look like, but teachers will find a way to make their classrooms welcoming, student centered, and ready for the learning to start.

As you are begin to meet in your buildings, questions are asked and OEA is answering.

### **Can I remove my mask if I am in my room by myself?**

- Yes, if the door is shut and you are alone. If someone comes in, you need to place the mask back on.

### **What happens when students don't wear a mask?**

- Each building is left to identify the steps in reteaching the students on wearing a mask. It should be identified in your MTSS-B plan, with teacher input. It should not be punitive, but a reteaching opportunity.

### **Our building doesn't have hand sanitizer, wipes, spray bottles, or masks.**

- These items have begun to be delivered starting August 4th. There are no wipes, there is disinfectant spray and paper towels that are being used. Spray bottles are being collected for this purpose and delivered to the buildings. If you do not have them, ask your Principal if the materials have arrived. If you are told that the items are not there, let me know and we will ask about specific buildings. All items should be in the buildings/classrooms by Friday.

### **Is it 3 feet or 6 feet in distance from others?**

- OPS has been working with UNMC directly; their guideline is 6 feet. It's 6 feet.

### **If the district decides against fall sports, will I still be compensated?**

- This is same as spring sports. If you are designated as a coach, you will be compensated accordingly.

### **What if a student test positive for COVID?**

- According to HIPPA, the identity of the student will not be disclosed. Once a student has been identified, OPS and DCH will work with UNMC on tracing. They will contact the family; they will then notify those students who sat in proximity of possible exposure. If needed they will then notify others on the status. My suggestion is that you keep a detailed seating chart for each group of students. Also, keep in mind that you should not disclose the student names to anyone. You can ask questions for your safety and follow the needed protocols, but this should never be brought into any discussion with other teachers.

### **Can I decline covering for a class?**

- No, the district has the right of assignment. I would suggest having a building plan to be implemented in the event staff are asked to cover. Work with your administration to identify any concerns you may have.

### **If we go full remote, when will we know?**

- The district has been working closely with DCH and UNMC and monitoring numbers every day. The numbers continue to rise, and multiple plans are being adapted each day. I know teachers are planners, take one day at a time. Many individuals are working extremely hard on behalf of students and staff.

### **I was given a remote teaching position, but no further details.**

- Keep in mind this is something new and being developed as the days go by. You will be contacted by Ms. Leah Weeks. Direct all inquiries to her, but understand things change.

### **So, what can we do?**

- The district has been the leader when compared to surrounding areas. OPS knew that 100% in person instruction could not happen, so they started with the 3:2 Family Plan and have done a good job identifying ways to make it work for students, staff and the community. Has it brought additional questions? Yes, and they are being addressed.
- OPS sent a letter to the DCH and Omaha City Council urging a mask mandate. The mask mandate is now in the hands of the Omaha City Council. I would like you to contact your city council representative and ask them to vote YES for this mandate on Tuesday. Their email addresses are below.

[pete.festersen@cityofomaha.org](mailto:pete.festersen@cityofomaha.org)

[Ben.Gray@cityofomaha.org](mailto:Ben.Gray@cityofomaha.org)

[Chris.Jerram@cityofomaha.org](mailto:Chris.Jerram@cityofomaha.org)

[Vinny.Palermo@cityofomaha.org](mailto:Vinny.Palermo@cityofomaha.org)

[Rich.Pahls@cityofomaha.org](mailto:Rich.Pahls@cityofomaha.org)

[Brinker.Harding@cityofomaha.org](mailto:Brinker.Harding@cityofomaha.org)

[Aimee.Melton@cityofomaha.org](mailto:Aimee.Melton@cityofomaha.org)

[Adi.Pour@douglascounty-ne.gov](mailto:Adi.Pour@douglascounty-ne.gov)

[Mayorstothert@cityofomaha.org](mailto:Mayorstothert@cityofomaha.org)

**Helpful Resources:**

Documents created by a member as a helpful tool.

Advocating for Safe Schools-

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1P9PITV9d7soKASx\\_breqXmq95wWBxeiDiT6pZfmu\\_oU/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1P9PITV9d7soKASx_breqXmq95wWBxeiDiT6pZfmu_oU/edit)

Articles-

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/16lo8XZonRjXiZEYCIhP-ajRLjIUWqgXwVKrbql8lql8/edit>

**UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES JUST FOR YOU!**

**Thursday, Aug. 6, 8 PM** - Problem Solving for what School is NOW

*Join educators as they discuss problem solving for both in-person and distance learning.*

**Thursday, Aug. 13, 8 PM** - Establishing Community through Restorative Practices

*Learn about Restorative Practices and how they can help teachers, students, and parents build a sense of community and responsibility for one another.*

**Thursday, Aug. 20, 8 PM** - Building Student Rapport and Engagement

*Learn how the True Colors framework can help educators build relationships and increase student engagement in face-to-face and distance learning.*

**Monday, Aug. 24, 8 PM** - Preparing Now for Successful Parent Teacher Conferences

*Join other educators as together you prepare for successful conferences.*

**Tuesday, Aug. 25, 8 PM** - I am a Member, Now What? Engagement & Opportunities

*This is YOUR education association. Learn how to get involved in areas that interest you as a new member.*

**Thursday, Aug. 27, 8 PM** - New Teacher Panel Q & A

*Do you have lots of questions as a new teacher? Here's your opportunity to get answers and ideas from "previously new educators."*

**Monday, Aug. 31, 8 PM** - Rookie Rights

*Learn about your rights as a new teacher so that you are prepared for a successful school year.*

**REGISTRATION LINK:**

<https://www.nsea.org/NewEdLearn>

**Tuesday, Aug. 20, 5:30 PM** – NEA Member Benefits

*This workshop will help members learn how to save money on travel, shopping, restaurants and much more. Learn how these savings can pay for your membership!*

**Registration Link:** <https://www.nsea.org/nsea-benefits>

***\*All times listed are in Central Time***

**NSEA: #YouBelong**

**Membership Gift-**

- You should have received via school mail your member gift, an OEA face mask. If you have not yet received one, check with your building AR. We used the name of the AR on file to send them out. If your AR election has not happened, please have an election and update us accordingly. We appreciate your support; we are **STRONGER** with you!

We are working tirelessly on your behalf; your voices are heard and we are here to support you. This is a heavy lift for everyone, and we appreciate all that you do.

Continue to be great, be present and BREATHE.

Be well,

Robert  
OEA President