



FAQ with regard to safety protocols for students returning to buildings on October 26th, 2020
(10/12/20)

Within the next few weeks the District will be returning students to our buildings for in-person instruction. The blended format will be a 2 day onsite/ 3-day virtual concept for our students. We are continuing to follow the guidelines outlined by PHDMC and the ODH to ensure our young people come back as safe as possible. Here are some possible FAQ's that have been pulled directly from the District's comprehensive plan released by Dr. Cosby that will help both staff and student families understand some of the safety protocols that will be used during this time of transition back into the classroom.

Will students and staff be required to wear masks?

Yes, all staff, students and visitors will be required to wear masks while on campus. This has been the highest recommended preventative measure for the spread of COVID-19. We ask that students wear their own mask that they bring from home. If they do not have one, a disposable mask will be provided.

Will the buildings be taking daily health assessments of students and staff?

Staff will continue to self-monitor symptoms as they come into work each day. This includes a fever scan and personal symptom assessment. As far as students are concerned, students should be assessed at home prior to getting on the school bus or being dropped off to school. Any student showing symptoms, including fever or coughing should stay home from school.

Will sneeze guards or dividers be provided for student desks?

The District will be purchasing guards for the classroom at the K-5 level where individual desks may not be available. The dividers are mobile and can be moved into different set-ups. For our older students, where desks can be separated, they will not be provided dividers.

As stated before, the wearing of masks is the highest recommended preventative measure for preventing the spread of COVID-19.

What about the airflow of the building? Is the circulated air safe?

Yes, along with our standard filtration system and regular changing of the building HVAC filters during our preventative maintenance plans the District has also contracted to upgrade all HVAC

systems with a bipolar-ionization mechanism that filters 99.9% of all airborne pathogens including COVID-19. We are anticipating all of the units will be installed by the end of October.

Click this* link to get a better understanding of how this process works.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F1bRzIOvUY4&t=123s>

*For the record, Atmos Air Solutions is not a select vendor for our District. This is a video that is simply explaining the same process the District will be installing. We are not marketing them as a for-profit company.

How often will the buildings be cleaned/disinfected during the week?

The buildings will be cleaned periodically during the day. Most specifically high touch surface areas like countertops, door handles and some common areas. On a nightly basis each building will be disinfected using spray misters and mechanized purifiers. These machines work to disinfect all surface areas and airflow. Teachers and staff will also be responsible for daily cleaning of their immediate work space and student work areas. Getting the students involved in this process is essential for safety management of classrooms.

What additional safety precautions will be taken to ensure student and staff safety?

Hand Sanitizing stations have been installed in various areas throughout buildings. Social distancing will be enforced in all common areas and in the classroom as much as possible. In areas where social distancing is not possible, the reinforcement of everyone wearing a mask will be a must as this has been identified as the most effective avenue for the prevention of COVID-19.

In classrooms, capacity has been limited to half of the standard classroom and students will be socially distanced via the classroom configuration. Teachers have been provided sanitizer for their classrooms and students will take some of the responsibility for cleaning their own work area as they leave the classroom for the period or the day.

Will visitors be allowed to come into the building?

Yes. On an appointment-based schedule, or for pre-scheduled meetings. All visitors will be checked for symptoms and fever checks will take place before entering the building. For meetings and appointments, plexiglass dividers will be available if necessary.

How will students eat lunch? Will they all be in the cafeteria?

Lunch will work differently in each building. Our K-5 students will most likely have lunch in varied designated spaces with a few students going to the cafeteria in small groups. Our HS and MS students have a much larger space where they can be spaced out in smaller numbers. That lunch may look a little more traditional with simply less students, spaced out across the entire cafeteria.

How will students enter and exit the building?

Each building staff will develop standard arrival and dismissal procedures that take all safety factors into consideration.

What will the school bus ride look like for my student?

School busses will be at half capacity with social distancing taking place as assigned by the driver. Busses will be disinfected after each grade band route and at the end of each day as they prepare for the next morning.

Students should have a mask on as they leave the house and head to the bus stop. Students will not be permitted to board the bus without a mask. If they do not have on a mask one will be provided to them. Masks must stay on the entire time a student is on the school bus. Windows will be open on the buses for better air circulation as the weather permits.

What if a student or staff member is diagnosed with COVID-19, will the whole building shut down?

No, not exactly. The CDC and Public Health Department have very detailed guidelines for contact tracing. There may be an instance where a classroom or cluster of students are removed but an incident of COVID-19 exposure does not mean the entire building will be quarantined.

Please refer to the District plan as it goes into further detail about what that may look like.

If there is a COVID-19 case in my students building will I be notified?

Yes, as of September 15, by the order of Governor Dewine, all K-12 schools must report confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 to the local health department and in writing to the District stakeholders. This will be done via various platforms; Final Forms, email and social media. No specific information about the confirmed positive individual will be given as privacy rights have to be protected. The information will be general in nature with some relative details included.

Close contacts will be reached out to directly to complete the contact tracing process.

When will things be back to normal, where my student can go to school everyday with a full schedule and classroom of other students?

Unfortunately, we cannot give anyone a time table on this. Living with COVID-19 is going to be our new normal for the time being. The District, as many of you are, will stay current with the protocols that have been developed by Public Health for safely returning to school and will follow them to the best of our ability. When the time comes that all students can return to the District safely our staff will be ready. We know that these are some very difficult times, but if we follow the guidance we will all be able to stay safe together.

If you have any further questions please refer to the District plan released earlier by Dr. Cosby, Superintendent of Schools.

Other questions/concerns can be directed to your building administrator. Thank you.