



**Improving Behaviors
Empowering Learners
Cultivating Independence**

COVID-19 Re-start Plan

Dear Parents, Students and Staff:

This plan was developed following the recommendations coming from Governor DeWine, the Ohio Department of Health in conjunction with the Defiance County Department of Health and all other Defiance County Schools. The Defiance County Superintendents have been meeting on a regular basis with Jamie Gerken, Defiance County Health Commissioner, in an attempt to collaborate on what the safest route may be to return to school in the fall.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (2020) states "... that children learn best when physically present in the classroom. But children get much more than academics at school. They also learn social and emotional skills at school, get healthy meals and exercise, mental health support and other services that cannot be easily replicated online." The goal of Independence Education Center and NWOESC is to have everyone in school **all day, every day**.

However, we are also preparing for the possibility of the closing of school because of COVID-19. It is understood that even with a successful "normal" opening of the school year, schools may be required to close and we will need to be able to transition to an Extended Closure Online Learning Plan.

Remote Learning is an option in many districts for parents that have health concerns with their son/daughter returning to school on a daily basis. Please contact the IEC or your home district to discuss your child's options.

Reminders for parents:

1. Make sure that you establish best practice health routines at home for your child to include regular hand washing, daily bathing, using hand sanitizer routinely, and keeping clothes clean. We will be reinforcing these things at school as well.
2. Inform the school if your child has any COVID-19 symptoms and is running a fever of 100 or higher. Check for symptoms that include but are not limited to: fever/chills, cough, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle/body aches, headache, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion/runny nose, nausea/vomiting, diarrhea. Symptoms may vary, as this is a novel virus.
3. If possible, provide hand sanitizer for your child to carry with him/her at school.

Reminders for students:

1. Remember to bring a clean mask with you to school each day, as it may be required in certain settings or activities (examples: group work, common areas, safety drills, times when physical distancing is not possible, etc.).
2. Make a conscious effort to not touch your face and physically distance yourself whenever possible.

In closing, we promise you Independence Education Center will do everything possible to decrease the risks associated with contracting COVID-19. We understand that sending your child to school at this time is a family decision and not to be taken lightly. Thank you for your patience as we continue to forge ahead in this new era of student safety and education.

Sincerely,

Troy Slattman

IEC Principal



COVID19 REOPENING PROCEDURES

Temperate Checks

- Parent should check their child prior to leaving the house
- Student will be checked prior to entering the building
- Students exhibiting 100° or above or other COVID-19 symptoms will be isolated and sent home.



Transportation - Bus and Van

- Parents are required to take temperature prior to getting on the bus. Any student with a 100°F or above must be kept home.
- There may be 2 students per seat.
- All students, staff and drivers will be required to wear a mask.
- The use of hand sanitizer is required when getting on the bus.
- Students' temperature will be taken prior to transporting.



Face Covering

- All Staff will be required to wear face covering in the presence of others.
- Face Coverings are mandatory for all K-12 Students as of 8/4/20.
- There are some exemptions for students.
- Parents must provide the face coverings for their child.



Drinking Water

- All drinking fountains will be turned off
- Students will be able to fill their water bottles at the drinking stations.
- Students are encouraged to bring their own water bottle.



Classroom

- Small class sizes will allow for 6 ft. of social distancing most of the time
- Students will be required to use hand sanitizer when entering and leaving the room and restroom.
- Students may bring their own clear water bottle.
- Daily cleaning by staff.



Visitors and Volunteers

- Visitors will be restricted from entering the building.
- All visitors/volunteers will be required to have their temperature taken, wear a mask and answer screening questions.
- All volunteer positions have been suspended at this time.

**VISITOR
INFO**

Communication of COVID-19 Cases in School

- Students and Staff with Covid-19 symptoms will be referred to the County Health Department; communication will be done in conjunctions with the IEC and County Health Department
- Household members will need to be quarantine for 14 days
- Anyone testing positive must remain home for 10 days and be fever free for 3 days.



Hand Sanitizing Stations

- The IEC will provide Hand Sanitizing Stations throughout the school building, classrooms, vans and bus.
- Everyone will be required to use hand sanitizer when entering and leaving the building.
- Students and Staff will practice good hand washing and sanitizing throughout the day.



Recess

- Students will be required to use hand sanitizer before and after recess.
- Recess will be structured to practice social distancing and reduce the use of high touch equipment.
- All field trips are postponed at this time.



On-line Learning/Remote Learning

- On-line instruction may be available for anyone not wanting to send their student to school due to Covid-19.
- Please contact the IEC or your local district for more information.
- Remote Learning may take place if we have a number of cases. The Defiance County Health Department will determine the length of time.



Health Issues Not Related to Covid-19

- Please refer to the Decision Tree for people with Covid-19 symptoms.
- Students and Staff with any symptoms will be isolated and sent home.
- Students and Staff will remain home for 3 days fever free and/or be seen by a health care provider.



General Notes

- We follow all the guidelines established by the Defiance County Health Department.
- At this time face covering is required for all students K-12 during the school day. Some students may be exempt from this requirement.