



FAQs: School Reopening Plan

The following are common questions received from our school families regarding the School Reopening Plan. Please review this to further understand our reopening plan. The questions are broken down into sections: Blended Online Learning, Healthcare Procedures and Reporting, PPE, Curriculum, Building Procedures and Other.

Blended Online Learning:

- If we choose distance learning, can we change to in-person easily? We are planning to move to online as needed with a quick turnaround time should the State/Local Government move to Red phase. For students, we are asking to commit to a trimester at a time. This allows teachers to properly plan and prepare for their class. Extenuating circumstances do exist and will be possible with proper communication to administration.
- If we are doing distance learning, how does a typical day look for the child? We have created guidelines for our Virtual Blended Online Learning Option found [here](#).
- Is there a blended option, where the children can come to school a few days each week and for virtual learning the other days? This is considered hybrid learning and NO, we are not following this model at this time. We are a smaller community than our school districts and worked tirelessly to physically distance students in all settings to achieve in person daily instruction.
- Is there an online option for PK4? Yes, all teachers (except PE) will have video cameras available to live stream and record their daily instruction.

Healthcare Procedures and Reporting:

- The plan says that students with COVID symptoms require a doctor's note to return to school. Does this mean that every time a child has, for instance, a sore throat and runny nose that the child must stay home and return to school only after getting a doctor's note?
- IF they are to be kept home do you need a Dr's note for this if only one day? The answer is YES a doctor's note will be necessary. We know this is a significant change, but we must keep the safety of our teachers and other students a priority at all times. On the emergency form we are asking families to indicate regular health issues, for example a cough from asthma or allergies are routine. This is not something that removes a student from school. It is any NEW symptom that arises that MUST be reported and kept out of school until seen and cleared by a doctor.
- Children can have a cough for many reasons ie: allergies, asthma, acid reflux, infection, irritants from pollution, how will this be measured vs. COVID symptoms? On the emergency form we are asking families to indicate regular health issues, for example a cough from asthma or allergies are routine. This is not something that removes a student from school.

It is any NEW symptom that arises that **MUST** be reported and kept out of school until seen and cleared by a doctor.

- **Will there be a process for notifying parents if a student in the same class develops symptoms during the day, or a student in the class/facility tests positive?** Absolutely YES there will be communication when there are symptoms. Internally, we will have a daily health report to know the number of students absent and why. Privacy is maintained but numbers will be accounted for daily. If there is a positive or assumed positive case of COVID, Rediker will be used to communicate with families regarding the potential exposure. We are following the 6-15-48 rule. According to the CDC, close contact is defined as: being within approximately 6 feet of a COVID-19 case for a prolonged period of time (15 minutes). Close contact can occur while caring for, living with, or interacting with a COVID-19 case or having direct contact with infectious secretions of a COVID-19 case (e.g. being coughed on, sharing utensils/materials, keyboard, writing instruments). Close contacts who are symptomatic should self-isolate and contact their healthcare provider. If someone was not in close contact (6 feet for 15 minutes) they are to self-monitor for symptoms over the next 48 hours. To protect the privacy of employees and students, the names of individuals testing positive will NOT be released to the public.
- **Does symptoms of COVID automatically move the entire facility to blended learning?** If symptoms arise, you are to contact your doctor. Until a negative test and doctors note states as such, a student is NOT permitted to school or any school events. A student may flip to online learning if they are well enough to engage in learning. A call needs made to the school daily of attendance if online instruction is not occurring.
- **If a student is in contact with someone diagnosed (or is diagnosed) and attending the In-school instruction, will the entire class quarantine for 2 weeks since many children don't present symptoms and could become carriers?** If close contact, as described above, is determined, YES the individual(s) in close contact or Cohort will be isolated and flip to online learning if well enough to continue instructional learning. The Department of Health will be contacted for further direction and protocol. Contact tracing will be conducted to assess the extent of contact as well. Communications will be made to provide direction.
- **If an immediate family member of a student is diagnosed with Covid but the student appears healthy, is that child permitted to attend school?** Absolutely NO. If a family member or someone who was in close contact as defined above with a student, they are NOT permitted to attend school until cleared by a healthcare provider. They may attend online as able.

PPE:

- **Why are we going back to 5 days a week and not a blend of face to face and online to give the buildings time to be cleaned in between face to face instruction days?** We believe our students benefit best from direct in-person instruction. Our building is undergoing a daily cleansing routine that meets CDC guidelines to continue daily instruction. All maintenance and administration have been certified in these cleaning procedures.
- **Will the school still be providing face shields?** Yes, students will receive face shields the first day of school and are asked to disinfect them daily. We have enough for one per child to start school and will be ordering more as federal funds are released to our school.
- **Will mask wearing be enforced when 6 feet distancing can not occur?** Absolutely YES. In order for our school to operate and have open doors, we **MUST** meet this mandate.

- **With all the recent studies that are showing mask are doing more harm than good and there is no definitive evidence wearing a mask works, why make the kids wear them? We must follow state mandates and protocol to have direct in person instruction. We opted for the face shields as a way to reduce the stress and discomfort of a mask. Without a doctor's note stating the child is exempt from wearing a mask, all students must be wearing a mask or shield when transported by bus, in common areas, or 6 feet distancing can not be maintained.**

Curriculum:

- **How will LIU assistance or Learning plans be handled? We will continue to have services provided by our LIU. They have received our reopening plan and are aware of our building protocols. IST will continue as usual. Zoom meetings may be more frequent when a conference is scheduled.**
- **How often will kids get brain breaks? Teachers were trained in this area in August, 2019 and aware how to gauge a class and given a variety of tools to use.**
- **Will Google Classroom instruction be given during face to face instruction? Yes, Google classroom has always been a part of the learning environment at McSherrystown campus and now all grades are trained able to implement its use.**

Building Procedures and Other:

- **How do we pick up and drop off our kids from appointments that happen during the school day? In the green phase, the routine remains the same as before; however anyone who enters the school MUST wear a mask and report directly to the office. We will only be able to have a certain number of parents/guardians in the office at a time. You will be told at the front door, if you can enter or must wait. In the yellow phase, you will be met at the front door and your child will be brought to you at the front door.**
- **How will kids be taught to do a fire drill? Fire drills will still be held to plan for any possible events, immediate safety is priority. We have a plan in place for our drills.**
- **Will Kindergarten parents be allowed to escort our children into the building on the first day? No. Unfortunately, this can not be permitted. No one other than faculty, students, and individuals considered as essential will be allowed in our building except to report to the office in the green phase. We are holding the preK/K orientation in person to help with the transition for your child.**
- **Is the after-school program cancelled for the entire year? Yes, we are unable to handle the program under these current circumstances nor have the manpower to cover the needs it requires at this time.**
- **Will drinks be available for purchase from the school or should they be sent along in the lunches? Yes, drinks can be purchased for lunch. It will be delivered to the cohort classroom with other lunches.**
- **Will school districts still be providing bus transportation to and from school? By state law they are to provide you transportation. An email will be sent as a follow up to contact your state representatives if you have not heard from your school district as of yet.**
- **What happens if we can't find disinfectant wipes? You will be ok. We understand if you are unable to locate disinfectant wipes at this time. Your purchase helps to mitigate some of our costs. But, we will be using a bleach solution to wipe down our surfaces as directed by our certification for cleaning procedures.**
- **When/where/how often will students have opportunities to see students outside of their cohort? We are exploring creative ways to be involved with our community outside our cohort.**

- **We have a family vacation planned. I am concerned and would like to know if they will need to quarantine when we come back?** If you are travelling to a state or area that is high risk/hot zone, you are by state standards are highly recommended to quarantine for 14 days. If this is the case, your child(ren) will be permitted to flip to online learning.
- **Will students have travel restrictions during school breaks/holidays?** See answer above, we respect families to be mindful of their community and follow CDC/State directives and recommendations.
- **How will pre-K students be comforted when upset as they transition to a school setting without parents during these unprecedented times? Are teachers able to take them by the hand, comfort them, etc? Or have teachers been instructed to maintain social distancing with their students?** Very good question. We have PPE in each classroom (masks/shields/gloves) Human comfort is a primary need and dependent on a case by case situation we will use our best judgement.
- **Fall sports?** TBD based on PIAA ruling and CYO guidelines.