



Will distance learning be an option for parents who are uncomfortable sending their students to school during the pandemic?

Yes, distance learning will be offered to any student who elects the option, details will follow.

The new studies find that the six foot social distance is not effective. The pathogens can travel much farther and can also travel through ventilations. Therefore, special HEPA filters should be installed in the school.

With our current air filtration system we are changing classroom air at an average of 450 cubic feet per minute with clean filtered fresh air and venting all exhausted air. Due to our rate of air exchange, the filter would not be necessary.

What happens if teachers and students start contracting the virus at a high rate?

Our plan calls for short-term closure of part of a building or the entire building with one positive test to allow time for thorough sanitizing and contact tracing by DPH. If there was a higher rate of infection, we would move to a hybrid model with greatly increased social distancing or in all likelihood, we would close schools and put our distance learning plan into place. Any decision about moving to a hybrid or fully distance model would be made in collaboration with the state and our local DPH. We have designed three plans so that we can move flexibly between them as needed.

How can the entire school be wiped down and disinfected daily and be effective?

We plan to add 28 hours per day of custodial staff spread across the schools to allow for more increased daily cleaning. We are actually practicing right now such things as how many minutes it takes one person to wipe down all the desks and high touch surfaces in a classroom to ensure we have the necessary time and staff.

How will school lunches happen safely? How can I ensure my child's food does not get coughed on or sneezed on? And, if my child discovers someone did cough or sneeze toward their food are they now allowed to go get a free served meal?

Lunches will all be pre-packaged for grab and go. Students in all grades will place orders first thing in the morning (or maybe once each week) and they will proceed quickly through the line, spaced 3 ft apart, to pick up their individually packaged lunches. We have increased the number of lunch waves at the elementary level (6 lunch waves, one per grade) and will be serving lunch to students at Tyl and MHS in both the cafeteria and the gym. All students at lunch will be 6 feet apart. At any time when they are seated facing one another (e.g. at the large 6 foot round tables at Tyl and MHS), they will be seated two at a table with a Plexiglas barrier between them. If at any time a student thought his meal might have been contaminated, he would certainly be provided with another meal.

What happens if my child loses their mask during the course of the school day or on the bus?

The district has purchased enough disposable masks to provide every student and staff member with one mask per week for 12 weeks in the event that a student loses his mask, forgets it, or it gets contaminated in any way. We are prepared to order more if that is not enough. We will ask that parents provide masks for their students, but we will be prepared to accept students on the bus or at school who do not have masks by using these spare masks. Every bus will have spare masks.

My thoughts also are that children will not adhere to the social distancing or even wear their masks properly. I see it enough in many adults who are refusing to wear them at all.

We will work hard to educate students about the need for safety protocols and will be vigilant about addressing students who do not. We think that most students will respect our staff's requests, especially when they hear personal stories from staff members who are going home to high risk relatives. Reports from other countries where schools have reopened indicate that compliance is not as difficult as one might think. We have identified videos that we will ask parents to watch with children this summer and we will ask parents of young children to practice these strategies with their children.

These are tough and scary times and my biggest concern is one of us dying or obtaining huge amount of medical expenses if we contract this dangerous virus.

We certainly understand and share your concern; it is why we are taking this planning process so very seriously. We have 8 teams of over 70 staff members who are carefully thinking through every possible detail! We are also thinking that the first several days of school should be half days so that we have time to monitor and adjust our plan once we see it in action with students here.

Can my student elect to take some classes in person and some as distance learning classes?

We will work with high school students who elect distance learning in the fall to revise their elective courses so they select classes which are more feasible for online learning.

One we have all the students signed up for distance learning, we will start that process.

Students who elect distance learning will not be able to choose to take some courses in school and some out. The purpose of offering distance learning is to provide an option for students who have COVID-related concerns which make them believe in-person learning is not safe for them or family members. If students are in-person all day, we cannot accommodate students who choose to participate in only part of the day; we simply can't effectively manage different plans for every student. We will try to give you as much information as we can to help you make the best decision possible for your family.

Attendance during the pandemic; if parents are keeping kids home sick more often than maybe they would have in prior years, would distance learning be available on a day by day basis like that? If not, will school policy for absences be excused for these circumstances?

We do understand that children may be absent more frequently next year than usual, and we will make accommodations for that. All teachers will be posting their assignments on Google Classroom so that absent students can easily pick up their assignments from home. We are waiting for guidance from the state about how they will handle absenteeism, but at the district level, we are prepared to make exceptions based upon circumstances.

Why are you requiring students to wear masks all day?

Masks all day is a state requirement, districts do not have any latitude in that at all. We will give them "mask breaks" during the day and try to take them outside where they can take masks off.

What is my student is unable to wear a mask?

Students with doctors' medical exemption forms will be exempt from mask requirements. All other students will need to wear masks; we suggest that parents ease into mask-wearing by starting with short sessions at home this summer. We will probably start the school with half days so that students have time to get used to the masks before attending for a full day. And of course our teachers will be patient and help students learn to adjust. We will make the form for medical exemptions available as soon as the plan is approved by the state.

Will temperatures be taken daily? Are they required to put hand sanitizer at the door?

Temperatures will not be taken. The CDC has determined that is not an effective predictor of infection. We WILL be requiring frequent hand washing and hand sanitizing throughout the day, including upon entry to school and entry to classes. Hand washing

and mask wearing have been shown to be the two most effective methods for mitigating spread of COVID-19.

Is the district considering a split schedule where students alternate days of in-person learning with days of distance learning?

The split schedule is not an option that the state is allowing us at this time. They are requiring all students back in school all day unless parents opt for a full distance learning program.