



# Fairlawn Local School

## Return to School

### Frequently Asked Questions

Fairlawn Local School (K-12) plans to return to school with classes five days a week using face to face lessons on August 26<sup>th</sup>. We believe it is extremely important for the mental and physical well-being of our students that they be in school. The American Academy of Pediatrics strongly advocates that all policy considerations for the coming school year should start with a goal of having students physically present in school. As school starts to reopen, the health and safety of students, staff, volunteers and community is paramount. The following questions address areas of how we will accomplish a “normal” educational delivery model while adhering to Ohio Department of Health, Center for Disease Control and American Academy of Pediatrics guidelines to the best of our ability.

#### **What are the areas of focus from the leading experts in health and medical fields for schools returning this year?**

ODH guidelines ask that schools focus on five areas - Assessing symptoms, washing and sanitizing hands, thoroughly cleaning and sanitizing school environment, practice social distancing, and implement face covering policies.

#### **What does assess symptoms look like for the Fairlawn Local School during this return to school period?**

We are asking that ALL parents check EACH student prior to their arrival to school for an elevated temperature. This should be done daily. Any student who has a 100 temperature or higher will not be permitted in school. That student will have to be fever free without medicine for 24 hours prior to their return. On top of the daily checks parents will conduct, school personnel will spot check students on a regular basis. This will be done with no touch infrared forehead thermometers. If a student is found to have a fever at school they will be isolated from other students until an adult can pick them up.

Staff will watch students for the following COVID-19 symptoms – Fever, chills, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle or body aches, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion, runny nose, vomiting, etc... Any student who has symptoms of COVID-19 will be encouraged to see their physician. Again we are asking that students be symptom free without medication for a minimum of 24 hours prior to their return to school.

### **What will hand sanitation look like for Fairlawn students?**

All Fairlawn Local School students will be encouraged to wash hands regularly for 20 seconds with soap. We will continue to educate all students on the important health benefits and disease prevention washing hands creates. This will be done multiple times daily. Fairlawn Local School will also provide hand sanitizer in common areas and in each classroom for students to use. We encourage any parent who wants their child to have personal hand sanitizer to buy this and it can be kept in your child's desk. Hand sanitizer or hand washing will be recommended prior to recess and when students return from recess per ODH guidelines.

### **What does thoroughly clean and sanitizing the school environment look like for the Fairlawn Local School?**

Daily cleaning and disinfecting of all areas in the school will be mandated. We will pay special attention to high common touch areas such as doorknobs, handrails, keyboards, cafeteria, buses, etc... We will also disinfect by using the Clorox 360 misting machine daily. Following CDC guidelines and making sure areas are cleaned and sanitized daily helps stop the spread of all diseases. Fairlawn will also daily clean and sanitize our bus fleet.

### **What does social distancing look like for our students as they return to school?**

It is important that parents understand that safety protocols will be put in place and carried out to the best of our ability. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommend 3 to 6 feet of space between desks when feasible. We will social distance to the best of our abilities following AAP guidelines. We will talk to students about being considerate of others space and keeping hands to themselves. We will utilize larger spaces when possible, such as outdoor spaces and larger classroom space.

### **How will lunches be handled at Fairlawn this school year?**

Lunch will be provided daily. K-12 lunches will take place in the cafeteria with social distancing guidelines. Fairlawn will allow 50% capacity in the cafeteria this school year. As well, tables will be sanitized in between each of the four lunch periods daily.

### **What will be the Fairlawn Local School face covering policy?**

Fairlawn Local School will mandate all staff to wear face coverings as directed by the Governor of the State of Ohio and the Ohio Department of Health anytime they are in contact or around students and other adults.

Students will be highly encouraged to wear masks on school buses, or other areas where social distancing is difficult, but will not be mandated. Masks for students in the school building K-12 will be optional. Wearing a mask will be a parents' choice.

### **What about visitors to the school building including parents?**

Visitors will be generally discouraged from coming to the building. Parents who need to talk to or drop off items to their students will be allowed in the office areas only. Masks are not mandatory for parents in the office area, but all visitors entering the school building are mandated to wear a mask and be screened by office personnel. Volunteers that help in the school each day will follow all staff safety guidelines. These are volunteers that assist teachers on a regular basis throughout the school year.

### **What happens when a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19?**

When this occurs, we will work directly with the Shelby County Board of Health to develop a plan for that individual and any other student who has been deemed to be in close direct contact with an infected individual. Education will be provided for students during any quarantine. We will follow all guidelines set for us by the Shelby County Health Department during an exposure.

### **Will buses be running normal routes during the start of school?**

Yes, we will run normal bus routes during the start of school. We highly encourage any student riding the bus to wear a mask, but it is not mandatory. We would also like to encourage any parent who can bring their child to school, to help us greater social distance on a bus, please do so. Drivers will wear face coverings as students get on the bus. Buses will be cleaned and sanitized daily.

### **What happens if the governor shuts us down again or we have a large community spread occur?**

Fairlawn Local School is well prepared to provide remote learning opportunities online if this situation were to occur. Last school year our teachers and staff did a tremendous job in a short amount of time providing quality instruction for our students. Online learning expectations will be much higher for students and staff because of the experience gained during the Spring of 2020.

### **What about events, field trips, and athletics?**

All events that involve large gatherings will be decided as we get closer to those events and can assess what is the current climate of COVID-19. We will do our best to balance early notification of event cancellations with giving the situation as much time as we can to potentially host the event.

Field trips will also be evaluated on a case by case basis. It must be as safe as possible for us to take students to an area outside of the school.

Athletics – we will follow Ohio Department of Health and Ohio High School Athletic Association guidelines for athletics. Unfortunately the decision for sporting events for the most part is out of our hands. We will advocate for our student athletes with these state associations and if allowed to host sporting events for the 2020-2021 school year we will conduct them in as safe a manner as we can.

**Are all these policies set in stone or is this return to school plan flexible?**

This plan is very flexible in the aspect we will adjust to best serve our students educationally and in a safe manner. We also understand that the Ohio Department of Health, the Ohio Department of Education and the governor’s office could restrict, change or loosen guidelines for schools and we will adjust accordingly.

**When will a detailed Fairlawn Local Schools plan and come out?**

We are working with the Shelby County Health Department to finalize and get approval on the Fairlawn Plan. We are hoping to post the back to school plan to our community very soon. As well, we hope to host at least one meeting for parents to discuss the return to school plan and be able to ask questions that may ease concerns.