

Montgomery County Schools Reentry July FAQ

ATTENDANCE

What will the school calendar and schedule look like?

Currently, we anticipate that our school calendar will look “normal.” We anticipate school will be conducted with in-person learning in classrooms five days a week using normal school hours for a full day. If the situation changes, we will, of course, provide you with updates as soon as possible.

TRANSPORTATION

How will masks on the bus be monitored?

Students will be responsible for wearing a mask on the bus. Bus rules are in place so that drivers can focus on safety. If a student is not following bus rules, there would be consequences which may include suspending bus riding privileges.

MEAL SERVICE

How will meals look different?

- **We will continue to ensure that the meals we serve meet all state and federal nutrition standards.**
- **If you have questions about free and reduced meal applications, contact your school office.**
- **Please remember that while students are welcome to bring lunch from home that microwaves will no longer be available for student use.**

EXTRACURRICULAR, ATHLETICS, PLAYGROUND AND PE

Will students still be able to participate in PE at all levels and have recess at the elementary level?

Yes! While there are some changes in place, we realize that movement and normalcy are important for students and our community.

- **Physical education classes and recesses will meet outdoors for as long as weather conditions allow and will practice social distancing.**
- **Equipment used during PE classes and recesses will be sanitized frequently. Students will wash their hands before and after using PE or recess equipment.**

Will sports, clubs and afterschool activities be available?

Yes, we look forward to welcoming our students back to the classroom and to the activities they enjoy.

- **We will follow guidelines issued by the Indiana High School Athletics Association for athletics.**
- **We will follow any other state or national organizations overseeing other activities or clubs in our schools.**

INSTRUCTION, CLASSROOM AND STUDENT SERVICES

How will you support students?

We are truly looking forward to welcoming back our students. We realize that all of the changes that have taken place affect our students differently. We will

continue to provide educational and social-emotional support for our students. Our teachers, counselors, administrators and staff are already preparing for the changing needs of students.

How will my child's classroom or school look and operate?

At this time, we would like to share some things that our schools will do commonly.

- We will promote social distancing to the maximum extent possible. For example, in a classroom, desks will be spread out with extra furniture removed. Student furniture will face forward in rows and be distanced to the maximum extent possible**
- Pickup and drop off may look different to allow time for students to exit and enter the building using social distancing.**
- Daily schedules for lunch or other activities may look different to allow for additional time for handwashing and sanitizing.**

Staff members at each school are currently working on plans for re-entry. Principals and teachers will provide information about specific classroom practices and expectations as they usually do. Look for more information as we approach the start of school.

Can I get more information about distance learning?

We understand that not all students are ready to return to in-person instruction. At this time, we anticipate that distance learning would be an option for all students K-12, and we want to provide some information. Distance learning will take place during the normal school day and follow the normal school schedule. Families will want to ensure that they have reliable internet access so that students learning remotely can “attend” classes and participate in the learning experiences. We will send a separate communication that details information and provides families with an opportunity to sign up.

What will special classes or non-traditional classes look like (art, music, etc...)?

We believe that special classes (like art, music, cooking...) are important. Each school and teacher will be able to share how special classes will look closer to the start of the school year. Arrangements for each school may look different.

Will we have to return to schoolwide distance learning?

We will follow the direction of the Governor and state or local officials. A schoolwide return to distance learning

would likely be structured much differently from this past spring based on the lessons we have learned through experience.

What about shared supplies or resources in classes like preschool, art or band?

Principals and teachers are working together to minimize the need for students to share items.

- We ask that you write your child's name on supplies so they can be identified easily.
- Classrooms will have spaces for individual supplies as appropriate
- In cases where resources might be shared (band, playground, etc...), time will be included in the school for sanitation.

HEALTH & SAFETY

How will illness be monitored?

Families, we ask that you keep your children at home if they are sick, and we ask our staff members to remain at

home if they are sick. We realize it is important to monitor illness rates and will have procedures in place to do so.

- Students and staff members who call in sick will be asked a few questions about their symptoms
- Schools will track daily absence rates due to illness
- Students and staff members who report to the clinic due to potential illness will be screened.
- Students and staff members who show symptoms of COVID-19 will be treated in a separate area from those who come to the clinic for daily treatment or medications.
- All students or staff with fevers or other symptoms associated with COVID-19 will be encouraged to seek medical attention for further evaluation and instructions.

When and where will masks be required?

We will continue to work with the Montgomery County Health Department to monitor local needs, and we will continue to comply with guidance given to us by the Indiana Department of Education and the Office of the Governor.

- We will supply a mask for students and staff members. Students and staff members may also bring their own preferred mask for comfort or choose to

purchase another mask if a supplied mask is lost or damaged.

- **We currently anticipate that students and staff will be required to wear a mask on the bus.**
- **We currently anticipate that students and staff will be required to wear a mask while in common areas or in the halls entering or exiting the school.**
- **We currently anticipate that students and staff will be required to wear a mask when social distancing is not possible.**
- **We currently anticipate that students and staff will NOT need to wear a mask when playing, during lunch times and when social distancing is possible.**
- **We ask that you contact your school office if you have medical concerns related to your child wearing a mask.**

What types of cleaning precautions are in place?

We have extra measures for sanitizing in place

- **Our cleaning protocols adhere to Centers for Disease (CDC) guidelines and recommendations.**

- We will have additional cleaning tools and resources in our schools to clean and sanitize should there be concerns of viral spread.
- Cleaning products meet hospital-grade standards for disinfection.
- Our building leaders are adjusting schedules to allow additional time for cleaning and sanitization during the school day.

What will happen if someone in my child's school tests positive for COVID-19?

We will work with the Montgomery County Health Department to follow all guidelines particular to the circumstances of the confirmed case. If there is a confirmed case in your child's school or classroom, this is what you can expect from us.

- We will follow guidance from the Montgomery County Health Department.
- We will close off, sanitize and disinfect all potentially affected spaces.
- Parents and guardians of children who have been within close proximity of the individual as defined by the health

department will be notified separately as part of contact tracing.

If your child has had close contact with or has been impacted by a confirmed case, you will be notified and provided with additional information.

What about visitors and all-school programs?

Visitors will be limited to the office areas for the health and safety of our office staff.

We will look for the best ways to continue to host student and family programs while limiting school visitors during the school day and promoting social distancing.

This might mean that programs would look different as we find ways to continue and recognize and honor our students and traditions.

What will happen if there is another outbreak?

We will follow the direction of our local, state and federal officials. We will continue to promote the best interest of our students with respect to safety and excellence in education.