

2022-2023
Opening Plan



FAIRFIELD

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

The Fairfield Community Schools COVID-19 Safe Learning Plan will serve as a framework for providing the maximum amount of in-person instruction, while continuing to follow public health agency requirements to ensure the safety of students and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic. The wellbeing of students and staff has been, and will continue to be, our top priority.

All aspects of this plan were developed using the current Indiana Department of Education's Communicable Disease Reference Guide for Schools. The IDOE recommends our planning considerations include the following two key points: 1) Our district's ability to keep our students and staff safe. 2) The amount of spread in our local community. This plan was updated in June 2022 to reflect updated policies and procedures that will carry through to the 2022-2023 school year. More details about the optional wearing of masks, guidance for close contacts, and ongoing mitigation practices can be found within this updated plan.

We are committed to continue to work with local and state health officials, as well as neighboring school districts, to evaluate the conditions in Elkhart County and will adjust the plan as needed. This plan is subject to change.

On August 10, 2022 Fairfield Community Schools will open for the 2022-2023 school year. We anticipate a normal school year, and will continue to monitor the spread of COVID-19 in our community.

- All students will attend school in-person 5 days per week.
- Masks will be optional.
- Students or staff who test positive for COVID-19 should isolate for 5 days, but may return so long as they are fever-free for 24 hours and have improved symptoms.
- All students and staff will continue to respect each other's personal space.
- Cleaning and mitigation strategies will remain in place as we work together to ensure the wellbeing of students and staff.
- We will continue to monitor the spread of COVID-19 in our community and will put mitigation practices in place as needed. Monitoring and mitigation will be based on local data, in consultation with local health officials.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

SOCIAL DISTANCING

- All students and staff will continue to respect each other's personal space.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

- Hand sanitizer will be available in high-traffic locations such as cafeterias, restrooms, and gymnasiums.
- Students may bring their own PPE, including face masks and sanitizer.
- Staff will teach and reinforce good hygiene measures such as techniques for proper handwashing and covering coughs.
- Nurses, custodians, and bus drivers will have specialized PPE equipment to use as needed.

SCHOOL BUILDINGS

- Classrooms will be cleaned and disinfected regularly.
- High traffic areas such as restrooms and health stations will be cleaned and disinfected throughout the day.
- Frequent contact areas will be cleaned and sanitized daily.

TRANSPORTATION

- Transportation staff will receive training on safety protocols, including COVID-19 mitigation strategies.
- Frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned with approved cleaning supplies.
- Students will have assigned seats. Students may be assigned to seating arrangements with family members.
- Safe and proper use of open windows and hatches along with fans will be encouraged when reasonable to allow for increased ventilation.

FOOD SERVICE

- Surfaces will be wiped and disinfected frequently.
- Tables will be cleaned prior to food being served.
- Surfaces will be cleaned between each lunch period.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided in cafeterias.

HEALTH SERVICES

- Students who test positive for COVID-19 will be asked to isolate for 5 days, but may return so long as they are fever-free for 24 hours and have improved symptoms.
- A separate health station may be established in each building for students known

to be ill to mitigate cross contamination as necessary.

- Children who present COVID-19 symptoms while at school will be cared for by nursing staff, and, if necessary, separated from the general student body with parents/guardians contacted to pick them up from school.
- Additional mitigation strategies may include closing a classroom, a school wing, or a school building.

STUDENT LEARNING CONSIDERATIONS

IN-PERSON LEARNING

Fairfield Community Schools will resume in a traditional format, with students attending classes in person, five days per week.

POSITIVE TEST RESULTS

Students or staff who test positive for COVID-19 should isolate for 5 days, but may return so long as they are fever-free for 24 hours and have improved symptoms. Teachers will work with parents and students to establish how lessons and assignments will be completed.

CLOSE CONTACTS

Students and staff should share documentation with the school nurse that they have tested positive for COVID in the past 90 days or are fully vaccinated.

HEALTH SERVICES

A separate health station may be established in each building for students known to be ill to mitigate cross contamination. Children who present COVID-19 symptoms while at school will be cared for by nursing staff and, if necessary, separated from the general student body with parents/guardians contacted to pick up them up from school.

ADDITIONAL MITIGATION

Additional mitigation strategies may include closing a classroom, a school wing, or a school building.