

## Lancaster City Schools –Frequently Asked Questions School Reopening Plans 2020-2021

The following list contains answers to many of the questions we have been asked about our reopening plans for the 2020-2021 school year. The items include responses based on all three LCS educational models as well as a full-time learning model if this option is necessary.

The list will be updated frequently as we have additional information or questions that need to be addressed.

You can submit questions directly to Nathan Hale, Assistant Superintendent, via email @ [n\\_hale@lcsschools.net](mailto:n_hale@lcsschools.net).

**Does the Lancaster City School District plan to open on [September 1st](#) with all students attending school five days per week?**

We have three educational models developed to work through this school year along with a full online option. All models are based on a variety of factors for Fairfield County and the Lancaster City School District as outlined in our [LCS Reopening Plan](#).

- **Traditional - 100% in person learning 5 days a week**
- **Blended - Two days in, Two day remote, One day Virtual**
- **Virtual - Five days Virtual**
  
- **Full-Time Online Option - this model would only be made available if the district is operating in a Traditional or Blended Model.**

**[Are other factors used in addition to the Ohio Public Health Advisory System \(the county color code system\) for determining which model the district operates? 7/29/2020](#)**

Yes, as stated in the reopening plan, in addition to the Ohio Public Health Advisory System, the will work with the Fairfield County Health Department concerning the caseload specific to the District to make this decision. The Ohio Public Health System is used as a guideline to set limits on the number of students attending in person education. Additional factors are used to determine whether the district will operate at the highest level of in person education based on the Ohio Public Health System.

**[Since Fairfield County improved to level 2 \(orange\) in the Ohio Public Health Advisory System, does that mean the district will be moving to the traditional model? 8/25/2020](#)**

As written in the plan, we include local and district data to make our decision. We need at least a few weeks under the blended model to monitor the number of cases we have among students and staff before we can consider moving to the traditional model. Of course, this is all with the assumption that the county remains orange or moves to yellow.

### **Virtual Learning Model:**

**Will the virtual schooling be taught by Lancaster teachers or someone else?**

LCS teachers will provide the instruction using our curriculum for the online schooling model.

**Will virtual instruction actually be a teacher instructing and supervising the class?**

Yes. The teacher will be interacting virtually with students using technology resources.

**What resources will be available to students who struggle with virtual instruction?**

LCS staff will provide support for students who have difficulties with the virtual instruction. This would include additional support for students with disabilities.

**Will there be orientation for kindergarten, especially to learn how to use the Chromebook?**

We are planning staggered entrance days for kindergarten students which would include an introduction to all technology tools and resources.

**How many students per teacher ratio (virtually)?**

Class size limits are the same as in person schooling.

**How do I help my child with his Chromebook, LEXIA, Seesaw, St, Math, Etc.?**

We will be developing a full "LCS Help Desk" page on our website to support students and families with technology issues.

**How would you see PTO supporting the schools during this time when volunteers can't enter the building?**

Volunteers may continue to support staff through virtual or online meetings. We may be able to ask volunteers to complete tasks at home versus in a traditional setting.

## **Blended Learning Model:**

**If the district operates in the Blended Plan would siblings at different schools attend on the same A/B days even if they have different last names?**

We are planning to keep all family groups together as much as possible.

**When will the district notify families about the A and B groups?**

See the [LCS Reopening Plan](#) for A/B Groupings.

**With the blended plan, why not have them attend consecutive days....Mon, Tues vs Mon, Wed?**

We believe that alternating days provides a better educational experience for students. On the consecutive day plan, the students may not have direct contact with a teacher for up to five days.

**What is the difference between remote learning and virtual learning in the blended version?**

In the blended learning model, the virtual days would be more teacher directed through online sessions or via direct virtual contact with students. During the remote days, students would be working on independent assignments and activities

## **In School Information:**

**What is the LCS Face Coverings (Mask) policy?**

- All staff members, visitors, and volunteers (K-12) will be required to wear a face covering/mask. Staff members meeting one of the conditions recognized in State guidelines may be exempt from wearing a face covering/mask
- All students (K-12) are required to wear a face covering/mask during the school day and on school transportation unless a medical exception is provided (physician's orders)
- Face Coverings are recommended for students in preschool.

**If an individual has already had COVID-19 do they still need a mask?**

Yes, unless they meet an exemption described in the previous question.

**Who will supply the mask for students returning to school?**

Parents need to provide face coverings for their students.

**If students are required to wear a mask all day, will high temperatures be considered in non-air-conditioned buildings (LHS / Stanbery)?**

We will consider the heat index as part of our plans at these buildings. Early dismissals or virtual learning days may be utilized to avoid extremely hot classrooms.

**Where will students eat lunch? What about kids with food allergies? And will you provide hot meals?**

Students will eat in the cafeteria. Additional areas will be utilized to provide for the social distancing guidelines of each model. Hot meals and food allergies will be handled the same as in the past. Curbside pickup lunches will be available for students at home in the blended and virtual models.

**What will we do with school supplies, and will kids share them?**

School supplies would not be shared with other students. In classes where sharing of items is unavoidable such as art and career & technical classes, cleaning and sanitizing measures will be implemented between student uses. Handwashing protocols will also be followed before and after the use of shared materials.

**What are the Lancaster City Schools cleaning and handwashing procedures during the school day?**

- Prior to the start of the school day:
  - High touch (common) areas will be cleaned / sanitized
  - Hand sanitizers will be checked / refilled

- Buses will be cleaned prior to the first route
- During the school day:
  - High traffic touch points will be cleaned frequently throughout the day. Students may be asked to assist with cleaning these areas in their classrooms.
  - Students will be required to clean hands frequently throughout the day.
  - Hand sanitizing and soap dispensers will be refilled as needed
  - Buses will be cleaned in between the morning and afternoon routes
- At the end of the school day:
  - High touch (common) areas will be cleaned / sanitized
  - Hand sanitizers will be checked / refilled
  - Buses will be cleaned at the end of the final route
  - All areas used after the school day (extracurricular) will be cleaned and sanitized after usage

**Will students in grades 6-12 be carrying their book bags with them to classes since they will not be accessing lockers?**

Yes. The decision was made to not use lockers to decrease hall congestion and prevent social distancing from being followed. The state released guidelines also recommending that lockers are not used. Students will need to keep all material with them throughout the school day and will be allowed to carry book bags or sling bags in the Junior Highs and High School.

**What will band and choir be like?**

Band and choir will follow social distancing guidelines as much as possible. Further guidelines are expected from the State. Marching band is currently operating with approved guidelines.

**What will recess look like at the elementary school level?**

Students will be provided with a recess break during the day. Access to playground equipment will be very limited if used at all due to the cleaning requirements. Each elementary school has a walking track which would allow students to exercise during recess while maintaining social distancing.

## **Student Health Information:**

**How will we be notified if our child has been exposed to COVID?**

School administrators will help identify who was exposed to COVID and every attempt will be made to contact parents/guardians by phone. Notification letters will be sent home by our District Health Coordinator. Additional information will come from our Student Services Department in coordination with the Fairfield Department of Health.

**The plan says that parents are to conduct a daily health assessment before sending their child to school. What should I consider when making a decision about sending my child to school?**

Since COVID symptoms now include symptoms of common illnesses, if a student is exhibiting any signs of illness, they need to remain at home. Students exhibiting any signs of illness at school will be sent home.

**If my child is diagnosed with having COVID-19, when can they return to school?**

If a student/staff is diagnosed as having COVID-19, they must meet the following criteria to return to school: At least 10 days since symptoms first appeared **AND** at least 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication **AND** symptoms have improved. The Fairfield Department of Health will release individuals to return to school once they meet the criteria above.

**What if a student becomes ill while at school?**

Any student who develops COVID-19 symptoms while at school will be quarantined in an area other than the clinic until a parent or guardian arrives to pick them up from school.

\*All exposed areas will be immediately cleaned and disinfected. Students may need to leave their classroom while cleaning occurs.

**Will we provide Mental Health help, especially for younger kids?**

Yes. We have a tremendous program in our district as part of our multi-tiered system of support for all students.

## **General Information:**

**You conducted a survey of the community. Can you explain why not every parent in the district was given the opportunity to respond?**

All parents who have signed up for the listserv were provided a copy of the survey. The survey was also available to parents via our Facebook page. Individual parents who did not get the link earlier have been provided access if they contact us.

**Where does preschool factor in the planning?**

Preschool will operate under the similar models as the district. (Traditional, Reduced Number, and Virtual). We will also offer a full-time online preschool program if the district is operating under a Traditional or Blended model. Additional details for preschool will be coming soon.

**Is Professional Development being offered to teachers to help with potential changes to instruction?**

Yes. We have added additional professional development days (August 17 – August 31) to the beginning of the staff calendar to help prepare for this school year.

[2020-2021 Calendar](#)

**If we are in the traditional or blended models and a student needs to self-quarantine for 14 days due to possible COVID exposure, will they do the online learning model with their normal teachers or with a different set of teachers?**

Students will be allowed to make up assignments, participate in the remote lessons, and participate in virtual learning lessons on Mondays in the blended model. Students will be able to make up all assignments in the traditional model.

**If one school in the district has a spike in cases would you consider putting just that building online, and not necessarily the entire district?**

Yes.

**What will kindergarten registration/assessments look like this year?**

Currently all registrations are being completed online. We will conduct assessments at the beginning of the year in a face to face setting if possible.

**If the district has to move from one model to another, how and when will parents be notified?**

It's hard to predict how this will play out. We will try to give parents advance notice of a change in models and begin in the new model on the first day of the week. District level conditions, such as staff and student absences, may require a change in models for a classroom, school building, or district. If a change is warranted for these reasons, we may have to notify parents in the morning, similar to a snow day.

**How will orientation work with blended or online classes at the junior high and high school (Frosh Fest)?**

We will be scheduling orientation sessions (including Frosh Fest) as part of our reopening plan for secondary students. These sessions will be spread out over multiple days to allow for health and safety guidelines to be in place.

## **Full Time Online Learning Model Option:**

**We will only utilize this option if Lancaster City Schools is operating in a Traditional or Blended learning model.**

**If we're using the Online option and the schools go virtual, will the online option stay as is or will it become the Virtual option? 7/28/2020**

The online option will stay as is. if we open the school year with students attending school and have to switch into the full time virtual model, students will remain in their online classes. If the decision is made to open school in the blended or traditional model, there is quite a bit of work needed to be done before staff and students return to school. We have to reassign staff and change class lists at the elementary level. At the secondary level, we have to reschedule all student schedules. This is because we have to reassign staff and change class lists at the elementary level. At the secondary level, we have to reschedule all student schedules. We would not be able to make all of the changes needed to bring students from the online option back into the full virtual classes until the 2nd semester.

**Will the full time online program be able to provide AP / Honors/ Gifted programs?**

Our ability to offer these programs will be very limited. Parents and students should not count on these offerings being available in the full time online program. [See the full time online option link on our website for updated information. 7/29/2020](#)

**If my student is enrolled in all online in the fall, will they still be able to participate in extracurricular activities?**

Yes.

**Will a live streaming type classroom be considered for the online learning program?**

Yes.

**My child has an IEP. What overall support will you have for students on IEP's?**

Every student's IEP will be implemented with all services and supports. Services may be in a face to face setting, through teletherapy, or virtually based on the student's educational needs. Our goal is to ensure every student makes progress with their IEP goals.

**Can I register for the online academy but still opt for in-person if I change my mind later?**

We are asking parents and students to make a commitment to the first semester online. Exceptions may be made if space is available.