

# Fremont Community Schools

## 2021-22 School Reopening Plan

Board approval July 19, 2021

Built with cooperation from local healthcare leaders and COVID-19 Task Force

**Start of School: Wednesday, August 11**

**All grade levels will be open for in-person instruction five days per week.**

### BACK TO SCHOOL PLAN OVERVIEW

<b>Masks</b>	We will follow the <b>governor's executive orders</b> given July 1, 2021: Masks recommended in school. Current bus guidelines: Masks <b>federally mandated</b> . <i>See pages 2 &amp; 8 for more information.</i>
<b>COVID Positive Students</b>	Individuals or households with positive COVID results will be quarantined per the <b>CDC and local health department</b> before returning to school. <i>See pages 6-7 for more information.</i>
<b>Symptomatic Students</b>	Students and families should conduct a self-check each day for COVID symptoms. Students must be fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and be symptom-free for a given number of days following state and local health dept. guidelines before returning to school. <i>See pages 5-6 for more information.</i>
<b>Communication</b>	A close contact letter will be sent home with students if they share a classroom with a positive case. Students may be quarantined and may be sent home if they exhibit symptoms. <i>See page 6 for more information.</i>
<b>Enhanced Cleaning</b>	Safe and effective cleaning products used daily on all high-touch areas. Increased number of hand sanitizer stations in key locations. Intense cleaning nightly including scheduled deep cleaning. <i>See page 4 for more information.</i>

<p><b>Visitors and volunteers:</b> Schools will have traditional activities physically open to parents, guardians, and the community. All visitors should perform a self-check for COVID symptoms prior to entering. <i>More on page 9.</i></p> <p><b>Training:</b> Professional development will be provided for staff on hygiene and sanitizing procedures as well as screening measures.</p> <p><b>Clinic:</b> Symptomatic students waiting for pickup will be provided a separate space in the clinic and must wear a mask until leaving the building. <i>More on pages 8-9.</i></p> <p><b>Cafeteria:</b> No lunch visitors or outside food delivery will be permitted. Water bottles: Students should bring their own water bottle and filling stations will be available. Water fountains will not be available for traditional use. <i>More on pages 3-4.</i></p>	<p><b>Distancing and seating charts:</b> Students will have assigned seats in the classroom, cafeteria, and bus. Social distancing will be practiced when possible, but it will not be possible in most cases. <i>More on page 4.</i></p> <p><b>Family expectations:</b> Families can partner with FCS by monitoring their child's health, reinforcing hygiene practices, and providing hand sanitizer. <i>More on pages 7-8.</i></p> <p><b>Extracurricular:</b> Distancing between families is encouraged at extracurricular events. <i>More on page 7.</i></p> <p><b>Testing:</b> Tests will be available for symptomatic students in the nurse's office, pending availability.</p>
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**\*\*\*More in depth information on pages to follow\*\*\***

## **Mask Guidance**

The Fremont Community Schools will follow **state and federal mandates**. Currently, that means masks for unvaccinated individuals is recommended. Masks must be worn on school buses due to a **federal mandate**. State and federal mandates *may continue to change*. Fremont Community Schools will not tolerate bullying based on an individual's vaccination status or mask-wearing. Please refer to the following chart on mask recommendations from the **CDC and local health department**:

	Vaccinated	Not Vaccinated
Elementary Students	Not yet eligible	Recommended
Middle/High Students	Not required	Recommended
Staff	Not required	Recommended
Visitors	Not required	Recommended
Outdoor Areas	Not required	Recommended
Buses	Required	Required

**\*\*Please note:** Fremont Community Schools is legally unable to require proof of vaccination among students and staff members.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/keythingstoknow.html>

## **Highlights- What's New for the Upcoming School Year**

- All students will attend in-person every school day and schools will be at full capacity, as in a normal school year.
- Per the **Centers for Disease Control (CDC)** and the **Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH)**, masks are recommended for those who are not vaccinated. Masks will be *required* on buses, per **federal order (Executive Order 13998)**.
- Parents and staff must maintain COVID illness protocol to ensure continuous in-person operations.
- Visitors will be welcomed into buildings, with the exception of lunch. Lunch visits will be evaluated as the school year progresses.
- Social distancing will be practiced when possible, but it will not be possible in most cases.
- If you are identified as a COVID direct contact at school you will be notified and a quarantine could be recommended. Quarantines for other direct contact situations may be required by the **health department**.
- The COVID vaccine is not required but is available for students and staff ages 12 and above. **Cameron Memorial Community Hospital** will be hosting an optional immunization clinic at Fremont Middle School August 3rd, 8:30am-4:30pm. To register for the clinic, please call Cameron Immunization Clinic at (260) 667-5622.
  - o Available to Fremont Community Schools students, staff, and children of staff members.
  - o In addition to the COVID-19 (Pfizer) vaccines, they will also offer:
    - Pre-K and Kindergarten (Kinrix, ProQuad, Hep A)
    - Middle School (Menactra, TDaP)
    - High School (Menactra)
    - Meningococcal B
    - HPV
- School staff who are required to quarantine/isolate will need to use sick days to cover their time away from work.
- We will host in-person back to school events/open houses.
- Clubs will operate in person.
- Field trips will return, as possible based on venue/location.

- Students should bring their own water bottle and filling stations will be available. Water fountains will not be available for traditional use.
- Students may share school or art supplies, sanitizing hands before and after use.
- Fremont Community Schools will continue to maintain weekly reporting of confirmed cases of COVID for public access *but will no longer send direct messages for each case.*

## **Academic Support**

We know some parents have concerns about academic loss and we want to assure you that our teachers are professionals and they will meet students where they are in their learning.

Teachers will be assessing, instructing and challenging academic growth, as appropriate for each student, and will provide additional academic support, if needed.

## **Attendance**

No consequences will be assigned if students are absent due to illness or mandatory quarantine. School work must be turned in per school policy.

Levels of absenteeism among student and staff populations will be monitored daily.

Parents should continue to follow their school attendance reporting procedures if their child will be absent.

*Note that all expectations and procedures related to absences and makeup work will be applied with reasonable consideration given to the effects of COVID-19 on students and their families.*

## **Back to School Events**

We're planning to meet in-person this year for back to school events. Each school will provide additional information as back to school time nears.

## **Cafeteria**

For the 2021-2022 school year, the federal government will continue to provide free school meals for all students K-12.

Students should bring their own water bottle and filling stations will be available. Water fountains will not be available for traditional use.

As always, students can also bring their lunch from home.

No cash or checks will be accepted in lunch lines (except for snacks). Cash and checks will still be accepted in the office for prepayments and prepaid deposits can also be made online.

Cafeteria tables and serving lines will be cleaned between each lunch period.

Free/reduced meal applications will be available on our website later this summer. Paper applications will also be available at any school or at the Superintendent's Office. Even with free meals this year, families are encouraged to complete these forms, if applicable, to receive reduced curricular and programming fees.

## **Class Schedules/Classroom Assignments**

All students will attend in-person every school day and schools will be at full capacity, as in a normal school year. Students will have assigned seats in the classroom, cafeteria, and bus. Social distancing will be practiced when possible, but it will not be possible in most cases.

Students who were 100% virtual learners during the 2020-2021 school year will also return in-person for the 2021-2022 school year. Fremont Community Schools will not be offering a virtual option this year. FCS will not expect or mandate teachers to livestream.

## **Classroom Practices**

Students may share school or art supplies and will be asked to sanitize hands before and after shared supply use.

Classrooms will continue to keep doors closed and locked while students are present in the classroom for the safety and security of students and staff.

Hand sanitizer will be available in classrooms and students will have the opportunity to clean hands as they enter/exit classrooms.

Practices will be designed appropriately for students with disabilities.

## **Cleaning**

We will continue to use enhanced cleaning practices and provide extra hand washing materials and cleaning supplies.

Proper handwashing techniques and other health and safety procedures like respiratory etiquette will be taught and reinforced. Hand sanitizer will be available when hand washing is not possible.

In addition to our regular facility cleaning, we'll continue to disinfect more often in common areas like hallways, cafeterias, water fountains, bathrooms, playgrounds and buses, as well as high-touch surfaces like door handles and desks. We'll also be using electrostatic disinfectants as needed in buildings and buses for intense after-hours cleaning.

We're already meeting the Indiana State Department of Health's recommended environmental steps to reduce indoor COVID transmission through humidity, air-conditioning, air filters, etc.

## **Closures**

We do not anticipate needing to close schools due to COVID this year. If we were to have significant absenteeism or COVID spread, we would follow our absenteeism policies and any direction from **state or local health departments**. This could include moving a classroom(s), or schools to online learning for a period of time.

## **Communications/COVID Data**

Fremont Community Schools will continue to maintain weekly reporting of confirmed cases of COVID.

Data is updated every Friday evening when school is in session. We will no longer send messages for each case of COVID. Anyone identified as a direct contact will be notified.

## **COVID-19/Illness**

Anyone experiencing any symptoms of illness may be excluded from school buildings and events.

If your child is ill (or quarantined at home), teachers will provide missed school work per our normal procedures.

Parents need to be attentive to the daily health of their children and should ensure their child is symptom free and safe to attend school each day. School staff should also ensure they are symptom free before coming to school/work.

Fremont Community Schools will observe the 100.4 degree temperature as the fever threshold for illness. Please contact the school nurse with concerns or questions about your student's current health symptoms.

Parents should continue to follow their school attendance reporting procedures if their child will be absent.

### **1. Suspected COVID**

Suspected COVID symptoms include:

- Fever of 100.4 degrees or higher
- Sore throat
- Cough- especially new, uncontrolled
- Diarrhea
- Abdominal pain
- Vomiting
- Headache- particularly new, severe, with fever
- New loss taste, smell

If a student or staff member exhibits a potential COVID-19 symptom (other than a fever or loss of taste/smell), they must evaluate whether or not the symptom is typical based on their medical history and use good judgment regarding school attendance.

If the individual exhibits a (1) fever, (2) loss of taste/smell, (3) a potential COVID-19 symptom that is not typical for their medical history, or (4) more than one potential symptom, they may not attend school until one of the following have been met:

1. Documentation of a negative COVID test + fever free for 24 hours (without fever-reducing medicine) + symptoms significantly improved/resolved + not identified as a direct contact exposure

**(OR)**

2. Isolate at home for a minimum of 10 days from the first day symptoms first appeared + fever free for 24 hours (without fever-reducing medicine) + symptoms significantly improved/resolved + not identified as a direct contact exposure

(OR)

3. Medical documentation of a non-COVID diagnosis provided + fever and symptom free for 24 hours (without fever-reducing medicine)

*The **Steuben County Health Department** and/or **Indiana State Department of Health** may require additional documentation or impose additional medical restrictions on a case-by-case basis.*

## **2. Confirmed COVID**

If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID, they will not be able to return to school until **ALL** of the following conditions are met (1) out of school for at least 10 days, (2) symptoms significantly improved/resolved, (3) fever-free (without fever-reducing medicine) for 24 hours. Household testing results will not be accepted.

## **3. Household Member**

If a household member is referred for COVID-19 testing, all students living under the same roof should remain home from school until the findings of the COVID-19 test.

If a household member tests positive for COVID-19, all students living under the same roof will remain home from school for the 10-day quarantine period.

## **4. Contact Tracing/Quarantines**

Per **state department of health guidelines**, it is recommended that we contact trace all confirmed cases of COVID.

What counts as close contact?

- You were within 3 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more
- You provided care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19
- You had direct physical contact with the person (hugged or kissed them)
- You shared eating or drinking utensils
- They sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respiratory droplets on you
- Outdoor recess will not be part of contact tracing

Direct COVID contacts at school will be notified and asked to identify their vaccination status by the **school or telehealth nurse**. Quarantine could be recommended.

School staff who are required to quarantine/isolate will need to use sick days to cover their time away from work, *unless* quarantining due to a whole class closure and performing e-learning.

## **5. Who Needs to Quarantine?**

- People who have been in [close contact](#) with someone who has COVID-19—excluding people who have had COVID-19 within the past 3 months or [who are fully vaccinated](#).
- People who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 3 months and recovered do not have to quarantine or get tested again as long as they do not develop new symptoms.
- People who develop symptoms again within 3 months of their first bout of COVID-19 may need to be tested again if there is no other cause identified for their symptoms.

- People who have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 are not required to quarantine if they have been [fully vaccinated](#) against the disease **and** show no symptoms. Fully vaccinated individuals that are displaying symptoms of COVID-19 are recommended by the **CDC** to get tested.

## **Extracurricular Activities**

We will continue athletics and performing arts, with guidance from the **Indiana High School Athletic Association** and the **Indiana State School Music Association**.

Clubs and extracurricular activities will return to in-person meetings.

## **Field Trips**

Field trips will return as possible, depending on venue/location guidelines. Destination requirements on masking or social distancing/crowd size will be followed as stated by the venue.

## **Immunizations**

Scheduled immunizations are required every year and students must have required immunizations, unless they have an exemption on file.

Please note that students entering kindergarten, 6th and 12th grades require new immunizations and all grades now require a two-vaccine immunization series for Hepatitis A.

The COVID vaccine is not required but is available for students and staff ages 12 and above. **Cameron Memorial Community Hospital** will be hosting an optional immunization clinic at Fremont Middle School August 3rd, 8:30am-4:30pm. To register for the clinic, please call Cameron Immunization Clinic at (260) 667-5622.

- Available to Fremont Community Schools students, staff, and children of staff members.
- In addition to the COVID-19 (Pfizer) vaccines, they will also offer:
  - Pre-K and Kindergarten (Kinrix, ProQuad, Hep A)
  - Middle School (Menactra, TDaP)
  - High School (Menactra)
  - Meningococcal B
  - HPV

According to the CDC, COVID-19 vaccines are effective at "keeping you from getting COVID-19, especially severe illness and death." Older individuals who are at higher risk have had access to vaccines for several months. We will notify families of younger children when their student is eligible for a vaccine.

## **Efforts to provide vaccinations in our school community**

**Fremont Community Schools has several convenient locations available for students and school staff to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.**

- **Fremont Middle School**  
August 3, 2021 8:30 - 4:30  
Call Cameron Immunization Clinic at (260) 667-5622 for an appointment and to register.

- **Walmart Pharmacy**  
Pharmacy · Angola, IN · (260) 665-7033
- **Walgreens Pharmacy**  
Pharmacy · Angola, IN · (260) 665-5560  
Appointment required · Limited to certain patients · Drive-through
- **Meijer Pharmacy**  
Pharmacy · Angola, IN · (260) 668-1110  
Appointment required · Limited to certain patients
- **Steuben County Community Center**  
317 S Wayne St. STE. 3A, Angola, IN 46703  
Visit <http://ourshot.in.gov/> to schedule an appointment
- **Cameron Memorial Community Hospital Vaccination Clinics**  
Thursdays, 1-4pm  
Visit <http://ourshot.in.gov/> or call (260) 667-5622 to schedule an appointment

**\*\* As Per HIPAA regulations:** The school nurse and telehealth nurse are the only staff that can look-up vaccination data. The school nurse and telehealth nurse use the CHIRP database. All other school staff are not able to obtain such data.

### **Masks**

Per the **Centers for Disease Control (CDC)** and the **Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH)**, masks are recommended for those who are not vaccinated. Per **federal order**, staff and students PreK-12 will need to wear masks on the bus.

### **Mental Health/Counseling**

We recognize the importance of providing students and staff with extra emotional support as they return to school this year. Parents and students can expect to see special welcome activities, extra time for building relationships and establishing new routines, and focus on coping strategies.

Our counselors, social workers, and psychologists are ready to assist students and staff in need of support. We provide individual and small group mental health supports. Additionally, school-based mental health professionals through The Bowen Center are available.

Parents with questions regarding their student's emotional well-being, should contact their school's counselor or social worker.

### **Nurse/School Clinic**

There will be separate areas created in our school nurse clinics—one for regular care and a designated area for anyone who presents any signs or symptoms of illness.

Parents should contact the school nurse or telehealth nurse with questions about illness symptoms, specific concerns regarding a child's medical care or to inform staff of a chronic medical condition such as, seasonal allergies, strep throat or frequent ear infections.



## **Restrooms**

Restrooms will be cleaned and disinfected frequently throughout the day.

Students will be asked to use proper handwashing techniques and will wash their hands after recess and before lunch.

Restrooms will have CDC posters to promote proper washing techniques.

## **Social Distancing**

Due to the decision to return to full capacity for the 2021-2022 school year, social distancing will not be possible in most cases.

Families and staff should expect that this may drive larger numbers of direct contacts and possible quarantines (for those who are not vaccinated) when positive COVID cases occur **per CDC and local health department.**

## **Transportation**

Per **federal order**, masks are required on buses for students and drivers.

Buses will be cleaned between routes and at the end of the day, and students will wash their hands after entering school.

Routes are currently being updated for the 2021-2022 school year and route information will be available during the week before school starts.

## **Visitors/Volunteers**

We plan to welcome visitors and volunteers back into our buildings this school year. Masks are recommended for visitors who are not vaccinated.

Visitors will unfortunately not be able to eat lunch in the cafeterias.

Volunteers will be allowed on a limited basis, typically not in close proximity to students. This will also be evaluated as the school year progresses.

Please be sure your background check status is current and approved.

Please note visitors and volunteers will be asked for their vaccination status if they are identified as a direct COVID contact at school.

**\*This plan is subject to change due to state or federal mandates. All updates will be posted at [www.fcs.k12.in.us](http://www.fcs.k12.in.us)\***