

Community Schools of Frankfort
Safe Return to School Plan II
July 2021



The Community Schools of Frankfort will implement the following guidelines addressing the local impact and spread of COVID-19 effective July 14, 2021. Please note that changes to this guidance may occur as a result of future guidance and requirements from the Governor, CDC, Indiana Department of Health and/or the Clinton County Health Department.

Student Calendar

- All students will attend in-person instruction 5 days per week.
- E-learning will only be available to students who are on quarantine due to COVID-19.

The student calendar will not change under this plan, except that we will implement a phased opening of school.

- Thursday, August 5, 2021 – Opening Day of School for some students
 - Blue Ridge Primary Elementary School – Only kindergarten students attend.
 - Green Meadows Intermediate Elementary School – Only 3rd graders attend.
 - Suncrest Elementary School – Only kindergarten and 3rd graders attend.
 - Frankfort Middle School – Only 6th graders attend.
 - Frankfort High School – Only 9th graders attend.
- Friday, August 6, 2021 – Second Day of School – All students attend.
 - Blue Ridge Primary Elementary School – All students attend.
 - Green Meadows Intermediate Elementary School – All students attend.
 - Suncrest Elementary School – All students attend.
 - Frankfort Middle School – All students attend.
 - Frankfort High School – All students attend.

The Board-approved calendar will be in place for the remainder of the school year.

Health Protocols

STAYING HOME WHEN SICK OR AFTER EXPOSURE

The most important thing we can do to prevent COVID-19 among our school community is to not bring it to our schools in the first place. Students and employees exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 without being otherwise explained, are prohibited from coming to school. Everyone should become familiar with the following COVID-19-related symptoms:

- A fever of 100.4 degrees F or greater
- New, uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing
- Sore throat
- Diarrhea, vomiting or abdominal pain
- New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever
- Loss of taste or smell

Even without symptoms, if a student or employee has recently been identified as a close contact to a person with a confirmed case of COVID-19, the individual may be excluded from the school building and recommended to self-isolate.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH SCREENING

All CSF employees are expected to self-screen prior to the beginning of the work day and see their health care professional if exhibiting COVID symptoms.

STUDENT HEALTH SCREENING

1. Parents/guardians are asked to screen their children for possible health concerns while at home before sending them to school each day.
2. Students exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 without being otherwise explained are prohibited from coming to school, and if they do come to school, they will be sent home.
3. While at school, a student may have their temperature taken by a staff member or nurse if the student is not feeling well or does not appear to be feeling well. Touchless thermometers will be utilized.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

It is important that we provide every incentive we can for students to stay home when sick or self-monitoring due to possible exposure. Therefore, there will be no school or class incentives for in-person attendance, no perfect attendance bonuses or awards, and no earned points that are only available if a student is present that day. Parents/Guardians will need to call the school to report absences each day a child is out sick.

RETURN TO SCHOOL

Once a student or employee is excluded from the school environment, they may return if they satisfy the recommendations listed below.

TESTED POSITIVE-SYMPOMATIC

Persons who experienced symptoms and have been tested for COVID-19 may return to school if the following conditions are met:

- Return to school 10 days from the positive test or start of symptoms as long as symptoms have improved.

TESTED POSITIVE-ASYMPTOMATIC

Persons who have not had symptoms but test positive for COVID-19 may return when they have gone 10 calendar days past their test without symptoms.

CLOSE CONTACT

Persons who are identified as a close contact may return to school 10 days after the last close contact with the COVID positive individual OR on the 8th day if a negative test is obtained.

- Vaccinated individuals (staff and students) will not be required to quarantine. Information regarding vaccination status will not be officially collected. Proof of vaccination status is voluntary.

Preventative Steps to Reduce Transmission Risk

SOCIAL DISTANCING

Social distancing is one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of COVID-19. It is important that students and staff work together to establish routines and practices for social distancing to occur successfully. CSF has made adaptations to our school spaces so that staff and students are able and encouraged to maintain appropriate physical distance from one another throughout the course of the school day. It should be noted that we cannot guarantee that 3 feet of distance from others will always be able to be maintained within our buildings. However, guidance from our health professionals gives us confidence that when we put into place all of our procedures collectively such as staying home when sick or exposed to COVID-19, regular hygiene, and thorough cleaning practices; protection for our students and staff within our schools can be accomplished, even if students are sometimes closer together than 3 feet. Additionally, we will take a number of steps for social distancing of students and school staff, including:

- 1- Classroom spacing and arrangement of desks for 3 feet of distance.
- 2- Assigned seating in classrooms with students all facing the same direction, whenever possible.

- 3- Increased supervision during student movement to remind students of distancing guidelines.
- 4- Staggering passing periods and restroom breaks.
- 5- Designating one-way stairways and hallways when necessary.
- 6- Increased use of outdoor space for various classes and activities as weather allows.
- 7- Rearranging and removing furniture to avoid clustering in common areas.
- 8- Signage that is easily viewed on school walls and floors that conveys the message to social distance (remain 3 feet apart) from others.

FACE COVERINGS

For the start of the 2021-2022 school year, face coverings will be optional for students and staff and recommended for anyone who is unvaccinated. On our school buses, masks will be required per federal mandate.

NOTE: Face coverings could become required if a significant outbreak of COVID-19 were to occur within the school or community. **It is required that all staff and students have a mask available at all times.**

HAND HYGIENE

Besides social distancing, hand hygiene is critically important to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

- 1- School staff will schedule frequent breaks for students to wash hands and utilize hand sanitizer stations which will be located throughout the school and in every classroom.
- 2- Hand dryers in restrooms will be turned off and paper towels will be utilized.
- 3- Students are encouraged to carry and use their own hand sanitizer.
- 4- Frequently touched areas in the classroom and school will be disinfected on a regular basis.
- 5- Facial Tissue will be made readily available and easily accessible in all classrooms and offices throughout the school.
- 6- School signage will be visible throughout the school to remind everyone the importance of frequently washing our hands and not touching our face with our hands.

CLEANING PROCEDURES

CSF custodial staff has been trained in the practices and protocols of cleaning and disinfecting “high touch” areas. Custodial staff will be implementing regular cleaning and disinfecting procedures throughout our buildings.

HEALTH CLINIC

- 1- A school nurse is employed in each of our schools with the responsibility to oversee the school clinic and administer aid to ill and injured students. Our school nurses will use *nurse medical judgement* to make decisions regarding health protocols.
- 2- Families are to keep their child home if they are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 and to contact the school to inform the school nurse. A relaxed student attendance policy will be in place until further notice in order to discourage students from coming to school ill.
- 3- Ill students will be sent home from school once a parent or guardian has been contacted.
- 4- When students or staff who are already at school report symptoms of COVID-19, we will have a designated isolation area available. Any individual proven to be symptomatic will be allowed to wait in this area for pick up. All staff and students who enter this location will be required to wear a face covering. Only essential staff assigned to this room may enter. A record will be kept of all persons who entered the area, and it will be disinfected several times throughout the day. Strict social distancing is required in this area. Students will be supervised in this location until a parent/guardian arrives to pick up the student. Families will receive guidance on steps to take in order to return to school.
- 5- An office staff member will use a specific attendance code within PowerSchool to indicate to the classroom teacher the amount of time a student must be excluded from class. Students sent home ill will start their return day in the clinic for health screening.
- 6- The school nurse will maintain a detailed record of all ill students seen in the clinic and will provide a Health Report to the building principal daily. The building principal will be prepared to forward the school's Health Report to the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee as requested.

Bus Transportation

Transportation to and from school will continue to be provided as it has in the past with the modifications/considerations listed below:

- 1- Parents/guardians who are able to provide vehicle transportation are encouraged to do so, in order to increase the opportunities for social distancing on the bus.
- 2- For students riding the bus, it is important that parents encourage their children to practice social distancing at the bus stop.
- 3- Face coverings will be required on the school bus per federal mandate.
- 4- Students will be assigned a seat on the bus with no more than 2 students to a seat whenever possible.
- 5- Students assigned to the back of the bus will board first, filling the seats from the back to the front.
- 6- Students will leave the bus one at a time, starting at the front of the bus.
- 7- When siblings or children who live in the same household are riding a bus, they will be asked to sit together in a seat.
- 8- Bus conduct rules will be the same as the past, with emphasis on students facing forward at all times and keeping hands and feet to themselves.

- 9- Buses will be disinfected after each route and will receive a deep cleaning treatment prior to the start of each day.

Food Service and Cafeterias

- 1- Students should wash hands before and after meal service.
- 2- Students will be assigned seating.
- 3- Cleaning of cafeterias will take place throughout the day.
- 4- Off-campus lunch (seniors) will be postponed until a later date.

Child Care

The *Before and After School Child Care Program* will continue to operate as it has in the past. Students in grades K-5 are eligible to be dropped off at Blue Ridge Elementary School as early as 6am and will be supervised until the start of school. A fee, per student, is charged. Suncrest students will be bused from Blue Ridge in time for the start of school. The child care after school hours are until 6pm, also held at Blue Ridge. Students from Suncrest will be bused to Blue Ridge at the end of the school day. The same health and safety precautions utilized during the school day will be utilized during the *Before and After School Child Care Program*.

1:1 Technology

- 1- All students in grades kindergarten through grade 12 will be assigned a school-issued technology device during the first days of school.
- 2- Student-assigned devices will be utilized as an educational tool to complement the school-based instruction that students receive while in the classroom.
- 3- Students/Parents are required to read and sign a Technology Acceptable Use Policy.
- 4- Device insurance will be made available and is strongly encouraged.

E-Learning

1. Student-assigned devices may be utilized at home if a student is required to isolate at home for a period of time due to COVID-19. (Medical Emergency Temporary E-Learning)
2. E-learning at home may also become necessary in the case of a forced school closure due to COVID.
3. Students attending e-learning will be required to log into class via Canvas to be counted present for attendance purposes and will be responsible for completing all assignments on the date assigned by the teacher.
4. Because e-learning from home requires reliable and consistent internet connectivity, the school corporation has established internet hot spots with the same computer firewalls and protections as provided in our schools. These locations include the exterior campuses and parking lots at all five of our schools. In addition, qualified families without internet connection capabilities who are unable to access a school-provided site

may also receive assistance from the school corporation through the SNAP program.

NOTE: Most cell phones also have the capability to provide an internet “hot spot” that would allow a student to download their assignments at home.

Extra-curricular and Co-Curricular Activities

- All State and local guidelines for athletics and other extra-curricular and co-curricular activities will be followed, including but not limited to:
 - Social distancing
 - Hygiene
 - Cleaning and disinfecting
 - Locker Room use
 - Gathering sizes
 - Spectators
 - Transportation
 - Clothing and Equipment
 - Hydration
- Participating students and staff will be required to self-screen for symptoms of COVID-19 prior to engaging in workouts, rehearsals, practices, competitions, or performances.
- When screening factors require exclusion from participation, students and staff will follow the same specific return-to-school protocols as defined in this document.

School and District Events

- School and community events may be approved as long as they comply with health and safety protocols.
- Parents/Guardians, visitors and volunteers will be allowed to enter the school with identification and sign in at the main office.
- Unvaccinated visitors to the school are encouraged to wear a face covering.
- Field trips and convocations may be approved for activities that meet health and safety protocols.

Tutors Accelerating Achievement Growth

- Students will have the opportunity to participate in the TAAG tutoring program.
- This program also includes opportunities for enrichment programs for students.

Mental Health Support

- Our school counselors will again be partnering with two agencies to provide additional mental health support.
- CSF will partner with Cummins Mental Health and Community Howard Mental Health.