

2021-2022 Opening Plan



FAIRFIELD

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

This 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 COVID-19 Re-entry Guidance. 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 2021 to reflect updated policies and procedures that will carry through to the 2021-2022 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 11, 2021 Fairfield Community Schools will reopen for the 2021-2022 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, except in situations where an individual is determined to be a close contact.
- Students or staff who test positive for COVID-19 will isolate for 10 days.
- As we return to full capacity in classrooms, lunchrooms, and buses, 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.
- Students or staff who are determined to be close contacts of someone who tested positive for COVID-19 will follow the procedures outlined in the Student Learning Considerations at the close of the document.

Environmental Considerations

SOCIAL DISTANCING

- As we return to full capacity classrooms, lunchrooms, and buses, 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.
- Face masks will only be required for unvaccinated students and staff who are determined to be a close contact to someone who tested positive for COVID-19.

SCHOOL BUILDINGS

- Classrooms will be cleaned and disinfected daily.
- 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 be assigned seating to assist with contact tracing. 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 required to isolate for 10 days.
- A separate health station will 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 separated from the general student body.
- Parents/guardians will be contacted immediately to pick up their child. The child needs to be picked up as soon as possible.
- 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 will be required to isolate for 10 days. The Elkhart County Health Department (ECHD) will be notified of any student with a positive COVID-19 test. Teachers will work with parents and students to establish how lessons and assignments will be completed.

CLOSE CONTACTS

Students and staff who have documentation that they have tested positive for COVID in the past 90 days or who are fully vaccinated will not be contact traced.

Individuals who are determined to be close contacts will either wear a mask at school or quarantine at home. Individuals determined to be close contacts of a non-household member may remain at school if they meet the following conditions:

- Immediately isolate if symptoms develop.
- Practice good hand hygiene by washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Stay at least 3 feet from other individuals.
- Wear a mask over the nose and mouth at all times when around others when unable to socially distance indoors.
- Maintain 3 feet of physical distance and remain masked at all times during indoor extra-curricular activities.

HEALTH SERVICES

A separate health station will 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 separated from the general student body. Parents/guardians will be contacted immediately to pick up their child.

ADDITIONAL MITIGATION

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