

August 31, 2020

We are so excited to have students returning to school next Tuesday, September 8th. Almost 90% of students will return to in-person instruction this fall. We will provide remote instruction for those who prefer not to attend in person for the first trimester.

You may be wondering what will happen if a student or staff member tests positive for the virus. The County Health Department receives results of Coronavirus testing daily between 4:00 and 5:00 P.M. If there is a case in our school they will contact school administration and meet the administrator and school nurse at school. Together we will go through seating charts to identify the positive case's direct contacts (persons who have been within 6 feet of each other for more than 15 minutes). The Health Department will then call the contacts to advise them to see a physician and be tested. All direct contacts will be quarantined for 14 days, regardless of test results.

Our ability to remain open for in person instruction is heavily dependent on the cooperation and support of students and their families. Parents will [screen](#) their children for symptoms of illness each day before sending them to school. If children have any of the symptoms of Coronavirus they should be kept at home. Parents will need to have a plan for childcare if their student becomes symptomatic. For children who become symptomatic at school we need parents to have a plan that enables them to be picked up within an hour of a phone call.

Students must wear masks whenever they are on school grounds or on the bus. When students are in their classrooms the masks may be replaced with face shields provided by the District. If a student is unwilling to wear a face covering at school we will call their parents to pick them up. The student may return to school the following day with a face covering. If there is another issue with the student refusing to wear a face mask/shield they will be put on remote learning for the remainder of the trimester. Please remember that student masks must follow our dress code, which states in part, "clothing or accessories that promote or symbolize politics, alcohol/drug use, tobacco slogans, violence, sexism, racism, sexual behavior, or profanity will not be permitted at school or school sponsored functions.

This school year is starting out like no other. We have spent most of the summer developing a plan to return to school safely, all the while knowing that we could have to return to 100% remote instruction at any time. I am optimistic that by working together to keep our students and staff safe and healthy, we will be able to keep our schools open this year.