

Plymouth-Shiloh Local Schools

Reopening Plan

July 20, 2020

This document provides district guidelines for a successful reopening of schools for August, 2020 [and the operation of schools for the 2020-21 year.](#)

COMMON RE-OPENING AGREEMENTS PREFACE:

All Ohio school buildings closed for the remainder of the school calendar beginning on March 10, 2020, by order of the Governor and State Health Commissioner in response to the COVID 19 pandemic. Utilizing reopening information from the Ohio Department of Education and the Governor's Office Richland County School Superintendents have worked to identify common practices for school reopening for the 2020-21 school year in conjunction with the Richland County Health Department.

These general principles will guide each school district as we move forward with reopening our schools throughout Richland County.

Each school district will:

- Implement recommended safety protocols to the highest degree possible to protect the health and safety of students, staff, and visitors.
- Work closely with the Richland County Department of Health to promote safety in each school building.
- Be transparent with all stakeholders that some level of risk will always be present when children and school district employees occupy school district facilities.
- Recognize the need for consistency in areas of operations while recognizing that individual differences in classroom sizes, school facilities, and building operations may lead to some inconsistencies.
- Plan to maintain previously approved school calendars with some possible front-loading of employee professional development if needed.

August, 2020

School District levels will be based on the county alert level determined weekly (Thursday evenings) by the Ohio Department of Health.

Five (5) day per week student attendance starts with the following safety procedures in place in order to maximize the safety of our students and staff for **Level 1 (yellow)**, and **Level 2 (orange)**.

Level 3 (Red) Students and staff may transition to remote learning. Staff will report to buildings with students learning from home if a transition is

made to remote learning. Facial coverings will be required for all in attendance in the buildings at all times. Data and information available from the Richland Public Health Department and other sources will be taken into consideration when the decision to transition to remote learning or remain in attendance at school is being made.

Level 4 (Purple) Students and staff will transition to remote learning and all school buildings will be closed. Staff will work from home.

Superintendents' recommended options:

Transportation

- Require drivers to wear a facial covering and **require** a facial covering for students riding the bus. The district may refuse to transport a student who refuses to wear a facial covering. (Individual cases will be considered. Please contact the building principal)
- No student in the seat behind the driver.
- Students will sit in assigned seats.
- Provide hand sanitizer so students can apply themselves upon entering the bus.
- Two students per seat and in some limited instances three students (place the third student into seat as late into the bus route as possible preferably for less than 15 minutes).
- Load the bus by filling the back seats first and moving forward. Empty the bus by dismissing front seats first and moving backward.
- Drivers will attempt to seat siblings together.
- Seating charts are required to assist with contact tracing if needed.
- Students will remain seated, facing forward while riding the bus.
- Students who violate rules will be provided consequences that could include loss of privilege to ride the bus if unacceptable behaviors persist.
- Allow for fresh air (crack windows) during routes when weather permits.
- High touch areas will be cleaned/disinfected between bus routes that transport different groups of students.
- All buses will be disinfected between morning/evening/morning routes.

Daily entry into school buildings

- Temperature checks will be mandatory for students to enter the buildings. Temperatures may be taken throughout the day. Students with temperatures above 100.4 degrees F will be required to immediately wear a facial covering and will be assigned to a quarantine room until they can be picked up by their parent/caregiver.
- Parents/Caregivers will conduct a wellness check including temperature prior to sending a student to school. Students with a temperature above 100.4 degrees F or displaying symptoms of COVID-19 must remain home.
- Parents/Caregivers will ensure there are multiple, pre-arranged methods of getting a student home from school should they become ill or exhibit symptoms.

- Parents/Caregivers will provide their student a facial covering to use at school when needed.
- Parents/Caregivers will provide their student with a water bottle that will be discarded or taken home to be sanitized each day as the student exits the building. Water fountains will not be available for use in the buildings. Bottle filling stations will be available during the school day.
- When possible, prop doors open at arrival (and dismissal) to reduce the need to touch door handles.

Wearing of facial coverings during school

Governor DeWine announced on August 4, 2020 a new health order requiring all K-12 children in school to wear face coverings while at school. Exceptions to this order include:

- Any child unable to remove the face covering without assistance.
- A child with a significant behavioral/psychological issue undergoing treatment that is exacerbated specifically by the use of a facial covering(e.g. severe anxiety or a tactile aversion)
- A child living with severe autism or with extreme developmental delay who may become agitated or anxious wearing a mask.
- A child with a facial deformity that cause airway obstruction

When/if the Governor rescinds these health orders the district approved plan for the wearing of facial coverings below will be required.

- Facial coverings are required for all staff moving throughout the building or within six feet of students. This mandate is in effect unless it is unsafe or disrupts the learning process. This will be required for all days of attendance with students. All staff are required to follow the guidelines established in the Director's Order requiring the use of facial coverings in child education settings issued by the Ohio Department of Health effective August 14, 2020.
- Facial coverings are strongly recommended for students when moving throughout the building or classroom, when working directly with staff, working in small groups or labs and when distancing protocol cannot be maintained. This will be in effect for Richland County alert **Level 1 (yellow)**
- Richland County alert **Level 2 (orange)** will require all students (Grades 4-12) to wear a facial covering entering and exiting the building, when moving throughout the building, or when social distancing cannot be attained. Facial covering breaks will be provided by staff. Facial coverings are highly recommended for grades K-3 at this alert level.
- All staff or students in attendance in the buildings at alert **Level 3 (red)** must wear a facial covering at all times.

Social distancing in classrooms

- Classrooms will operate at full capacity utilizing the maximum amount of space available in the classroom while maximizing the amount of safety considerations possible.
- Ensure desks are set up to allow for as much physical distancing as possible and not clustered with students facing one another.

- Cohort students and eliminate classroom movement whenever possible.
- Regular hand washing will be encouraged and hand sanitizer will be available for use.
- Eliminate shared classroom materials as much as possible.
- Books or other materials may be distributed to students to use at home. Upon returning these materials they should be physically quarantined for 3 days before being re-shelved and placed back into circulation.
- Elementary special subject teachers will travel to classrooms to prevent the need for disinfecting music, art and gyms between classes. Elementary teachers who switch classes may travel instead of students traveling from class to class.
- Parents will be informed that safety protocols are in place but any student who attends school will incur some level of risk. Our schools will decrease the likelihood of infection with hygiene, cleaning, and safety procedures, however being in a public place has a certain level of risk that cannot be eliminated.
- No parties permitted. Outside food brought in will not be allowed unless the food is pre-packaged. (Packed lunches are permitted.)

Social distancing in cafeteria

- Limit the number of students to 2-5 per lunch table and social distance students waiting in line. Students will all have assigned seating. Keep students in their cohorts while eating.
- Do not allow guests or visitors to join students for lunch.
- No self-serve.
- Individual condiments only or have staff handle condiments.
- Students will not use the keypad.
- Add additional protective barriers for lunch staff as needed.
- Common surfaces will be cleaned/sanitized between serving of new groups of students.

Daily Cleaning of classrooms and common areas in schools

- All custodians will have increased sanitizing of classrooms and common areas based on a schedule provided by the administration. This includes but is not limited to door handles, handrails, toilets, stalls and sinks.
- Custodians will disinfect classrooms during teacher planning periods, during lunch, and after school. All classrooms will be disinfected at the end of the school day by the evening custodians.
- Custodians will make sure teachers are provided all supplies needed daily to clean and disinfect.
- Classrooms will be cleaned/disinfected before a new group of students begin instruction.
- Students may be asked to wipe down their seating area when entering a new classroom (when age appropriate).
- School staff will be responsible for any disinfecting or sanitizing. (Students can be involved in cleaning, but not disinfecting or sanitizing since chemicals are involved.)
- Classroom doors will remain open to maximize airflow and reduce the number of touches to door handles.

Recess

- It is highly encouraged that all students get fresh air daily, when weather permits.
- Every effort will be made to follow established safety protocols during recess.
- Discourage large groups of students congregating in close proximity of one another.
- This may mean that students have limited access to certain pieces of playground equipment and activities that are “high touch” and difficult to clean or maintain social distancing.
- Schools will work toward “structured” recess activities that limit students’ physical contact with others.
- Students must sanitize their hands before and after recess.

Remote learning

- Remote learning will be offered for parents who do not wish to send their child to school.
- Parents may choose two options: 1. Send their child to school (assume some level of risk), or 2. Agree quarterly to remote learning from home.
- **Parents who are choosing the remote learning option for the first quarter must contact their school office and make this request on or before August 7.**
- Students may return from remote learning to school at the end of each quarter or semester. Students changing learning options at the end of each quarter must notify their school office on or before the last day of the previous quarter.
- Students will not be permitted to move in and out of remote learning (unless quarantined for COVID-19) except at the end of each quarter.
- Students will follow an established school schedule while at home remote learning. Students will be assigned to classes at their school and attendance will be taken. Students will participate throughout the school day in all class activities using their school chromebook. Attendance is mandatory.
- Students will earn grades for their work. Students are expected to complete assignments according to timelines established.
- When remote learning is utilized for all students at alert levels 3 (red) and 4 (purple) the above expectations and procedures will be in place for all students.

Access to hand sanitizer and washing of hands

- Teach, remind and encourage frequent hand washing.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in each classroom and throughout the building.
- Students will sanitize or wash hands when entering the building, before and after lunch, after recess, when leaving the building and other times as needed (restroom use, coughing, sneezing or blowing nose, etc.).

Guests and Visitors to the School

- No visitors will be allowed for a set period of time. Visitors will be permitted for essential needs of students.

- Visitors should call the school office before attempting to enter a school building.
- No classroom volunteers will be permitted until the district deems it is safe.
- Visitors are discouraged from being in school district facilities.
- Safety protocols (taking temperatures, required face covering) will be implemented for all visitors.
- When possible conduct parent/teacher conferences and meetings virtually or via phone.
- In person meetings should be conducted in an area large enough to allow for physical distancing.

Social Distancing in non-classroom areas inside and outside of a school building

- Teach, remind and encourage social distancing.
- Follow all signage when available.
- Encourage one-way flow of traffic and encourage students to stay to the right when traveling down hallways.
- Stagger dismissal times to ensure physical distancing can be maintained.
- Field trips and assemblies are canceled until the district deems it safe.

Students with COVID-19 Procedures

- Communication will be from the Richland County Health Department, not the school district. [\(This has been suspended due to wide spread COVID in the county. Communication with families will come from the school nurse until further notice.\)](#)
 - Protocols are in place with the Richland County Health Department for contact tracing, quarantine and return-to-school guidelines.
 - 10-day quarantine will be required of any student who tests positive with COVID-19 and anyone who is determined to have “exposure” as determined by the Health Department. Students must be fever free for 24 hours without the use of medication in order to return to school and no less than ten days from symptom onset.
- Schools will dedicate a room for students with fever over 100.4 degrees F or displaying symptoms of COVID-19 until they can be picked up by their parent or guardian.
- Siblings that live with students or others identified with COVID-19 will also be required to quarantine for 14 days after the identified positive COVID case is symptom free [or from last contact with the positive case](#). Contacts of positive COVID cases must quarantine for [ten \(10\) days](#) from last contact. Students must be symptom and fever free to return to school. [Contacts of positive COVID cases within the classroom, when both parties are masked and social distancing is being practiced, may return to school during the ten day quarantine period. Contacts of positive COVID cases within the classroom will not be permitted to participate in after school activities for fourteen \(14\) days after contact.](#)
- The County Health Department will determine (explain/define) what is considered “exposure” to COVID 19 that will result in quarantine for students or staff. The Richland County Health Department [or school staff](#) will conduct a contact tracing investigation to determine who may need to be quarantined. If you are not notified by the County Health Department or school you will not need to quarantine.

- Quarantined students should be transported to school upon their return by the parent/guardian and report to the school nurse immediately upon entering the building with a release statement from the Richland County Health Department [or their physician](#).
- Quarantined students will be permitted to attend school through the remote learning program or other arrangements until they return to school if capable.

Student Health Issues that are NOT diagnosed as COVID 19

- Any student with a fever must be fever free without medication for 24 hours and be asymptomatic before returning to school.
- Upon returning to school, the student must be transported by the parent and report to the school nurse for a temperature check or be checked at the building entrance.

Staff with COVID-19

- A staff member diagnosed with COVID 19 must remain at home quarantined for 10 days.
- Staff members with temperatures over 100.4 degrees F must stay home until fever free (without medication) for 24 hours and no less than 10 days from symptom onset unless they receive an alternate diagnosis from their doctor or they have a negative COVID test.
- The staff member must prepare for a sub (lesson plans, assessments, etc.) during their absence if capable.
- The staff member may return to school once a release has been issued by the County Health Department or they produce documentation from their doctor.

Specialty Classrooms (Art, Band, Music, Chemistry, Gym, Consumer Science, etc)

- Observe 6 feet or more of social distancing at all times, more if possible.
- Follow all protocols established for other classrooms
- Use hand sanitizer or wash hands upon entering and exiting
- If close interactions are needed between staff and students, wearing a face covering would be recommended if the interaction will last longer than 10-15 minutes (working jointly on a project, etc.)
- If students will be singing, ensure physical distancing and try for 9 feet apart in all directions. (This may require relocating choir/music class to a larger area)

Nurse/Clinic Area

- Ensure the workspace, door handles, countertops, seating areas, restrooms are kept clean and disinfected between students.
- Ensure physical distancing is followed when more than one student is in the nurse area
- Isolate students that are exhibiting symptoms.
- Students exhibiting symptoms are required to wear a face covering until they are picked up by a caregiver.
- Nurse should wear a face covering and proper PPE when caring for students.
- Testing location sheets and advisement for care with child's primary care physician is to be given to the ill child's guardian at time of pick up.

Updated: October 12, 2020

Updated: November 10, 2020

Updated: November 16, 2020

Updated: January 20, 2021