

**Yellow Springs Schools Plan to Implement the
Ohio Department of Health Safety Requirements
for Schools
2020-2021**

Yellow Springs Schools has made the decision to return to school in a 100% online remote learning for the 1st Quarter of the 2020-2021 school year. An assessment about returning to school in-person will occur during October. The school year will begin for students one week later than originally scheduled. **The first day of school for students will be Thursday,**

**August 27,
2020.**

COVID-19 is still a pandemic, and as such, is a risk for everyone. When we return to school in the fall, all students and adults will have a small risk of contracting the disease. However, we know that with appropriate safety precautions as indicated above, this risk can be highly mitigated. While the physical safety of our students is of utmost importance, so is their social and emotional health. In-person classes allow for students to begin reconnecting with their teachers and peers and return to learning in meaningful and engaging ways. Returning to school in-person also allows for parents/families to return to work without the worry of monitoring daily schooling at home. Of course, all of this must be done thoughtfully and cautiously.

The following plan details all aspects of our approach to in-person education during this unprecedented time, whenever it begins. We are committed to working closely with Greene County Public Health to implement all required health and safety protocols to the highest degree possible.

The following health and safety protocols reflect guidance contained in the **COVID-19 Health and Prevention Guidance for Ohio K-12 Schools** document, released jointly by the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) on July 2, 2020. Additionally, guidance in the following documents was used to inform the academic component of our plan: **Planning Guide for Ohio's Schools and Districts** (Ohio Department of Education); **An OEA Action Plan for Preparing for the 2020-2021 School Year** (Ohio Education Association); and **All Hands on Deck: Initial Guidance Regarding Reopening School Buildings** (National Education Association).

The health and safety guidelines contained in this document will be added as appendices to the Mills Lawn School Student handbook and the McKinney Middle School/Yellow Springs High School Student Handbook for the 2020-2021 school year and will be applicable until such time as the COVID-19 pandemic has officially ended.

1. VIGILANTLY ASSESS FOR SYMPTOMS

COVID-19 Symptoms

Help prevent the spread of COVID-19

You may have COVID-19 if you experience one or more of the following:

- Fever or chills.
- Cough.
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing.
- Fatigue.
- Muscle or body aches.
- Headache.
- Loss of taste or smell.
- Sore throat.
- Congestion or runny nose.
- Nausea or vomiting.
- Diarrhea.

Symptoms range from mild to severe and may appear two to 14 days after exposure to the virus.

Ohio | Department of Health

Self-Monitoring at Home

- Ultimately, the first line of defense regarding health monitoring lies at the hands of individuals (district staff and parents/guardians). Staff and parents of students are responsible for monitoring temperatures and overall health on a daily basis prior to coming to school.
- Parents **MUST** be vigilant in assessing their children for COVID symptoms. Ohio Department of Health guidelines indicate that children (and adults) should be kept home from school if they exhibit one or more of the following symptoms and should see the primary care doctor to be assessed for COVID-19:
 - A student with a fever of 100.4 F or higher should stay home **without exception**.
 - **Any** of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing; or,
 - **Two** of the following symptoms: fever (measured or subjective), chills,rigors, myalgia, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, gastro-intestinal issues (nausea/vomiting or diarrhea); or
 - **Any** of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing, fever (measured or subjective), chills, rigors, myalgia, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, GI Issues (nausea and vomiting or diarrhea) **AND** an epidemiological link to a case of COVID-19.

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- Return to School After Illness: All staff and students should be “fever free” for at least 24 hours before returning to the school.

Health Monitoring at School

- Every morning, upon entry into the building, temperatures will be checked for all staff and students. Anyone (staff or students) who has a temperature over 100.4 degrees (as outlined by the Ohio Department of Health) will be escorted to the nurse’s office for an additional temperature screening. Any staff member whose temperature is above that threshold will be sent home; any student with a temperature above 100.4 will have their parents/guardians notified, will be separated from other students, and will be sent home. Any staff member or student who is sent home for temperature reasons will not be able to return until they have been fever-free for at least 24 hours. until they can subsequently return with a temperature below the Health Department guidelines.
- Throughout the day, teachers and staff will monitor student behavior and physical appearance. As needed, they may request a student see the school nurse for a more detailed health screening should they exhibit any signs of COVID-19 symptoms as identified by the Ohio department of Health.
- Physical spaces have been identified in each building to separate students/staff with suspected COVID-19 from other students/staff experiencing illness as required.

Returning to School after Illness

- If a student is diagnosed with COVID-19, the student must meet the following criteria in order to return to school:
 - 24 hours with no fever (without using fever-reducing medication); AND
 - other symptoms improved; AND
 - 10 days since symptoms first appeared.
- To return to school after a confirmed case of COVID-19, the student must be transported to school by the parent and must be checked by the school nurse.
- Students who have only a fever and no other symptoms and have not had any contact with an individual who has COVID-19 may return to school after being fever-free for 24 hours without using any fever-reducing medications.
- Any other illness should be handled in the routine manner as prescribed in district policies.
- These protocols may change as determined by Greene County Public Health.

Protocol When Student/Staff Member Has Been Diagnosed with COVID-19

If a student, teacher, staff member, etc. is diagnosed with a positive COVID-19 Test Result, the following standard operating guidelines MUST be followed:

- Positive Test Result (individual has not been to school for at least 48 hours):

- The positive individual will stay home from school until fever-free without the use of medication for 24 hours, AND other symptoms are improving, and it has been at least ten (10) days since symptoms first appeared.
 - If the positive individual is asymptomatic, the period of isolation starts from the test date and is ten (10) days in length.
 - Contact tracing is not needed because the individual was not at school in the past 48 hours.
 - The district will report the name, address, and phone number of the positive case to the Communicable Disease Nurse at Greene County Public Health.
- Positive Test Result (the individual has been in school):
 - The positive individual will stay home from school until fever-free without the use of medication for 24 hours, AND other symptoms are improving, and it has been at least ten (10) days since symptoms first appeared.
 - If the positive individual is asymptomatic, the period of isolation starts from the test date and is ten (10) days in length.
 - Contact tracing is needed. Anyone that was within six (6) feet of the individual for 15 minutes or more from two (2) days prior to symptom onset will need to be placed in quarantine for 14 days (regardless if they receive a negative test during this period).
 - The district will report the name, address, and phone number of the positive case to the Communicable Disease Nurse at Greene County Public Health. The Communicable Disease Nurse or another Disease Investigator will be in touch with the positive case and Contact Tracers will be in touch with the contacts of the positive case.

Positive COVID-19 Result Communication Guidance

Communication has been developed by Green County Public Health for when a student or staff member has been diagnosed with a COVID-19 positive case. The letter will include, at minimum, the following:

- Specify to the parents that a child was potentially exposed to a confirmed case of COVID-19, provide information regarding the symptoms and signs to look for, seek medical care from their provider as necessary, and any other pertinent information essential to the health and well-being of their child.
- The letter will explain and define what is considered close contact to a COVID-19 case that will result in quarantine.
- Information relating to school building staff will be included in this letter, if necessary, with emphasis also toward the health and well-being of all school employees.
- The district will cooperate with Greene County Public Health in contact tracing to identify close contacts of the case of COVID-19 by providing seating charts, activity descriptions, etc.

Positive COVID-19 Result Plan

Greene County Public Health has developed the following protocol in the event that a positive COVID-19 case is identified or if a suspect case is identified:

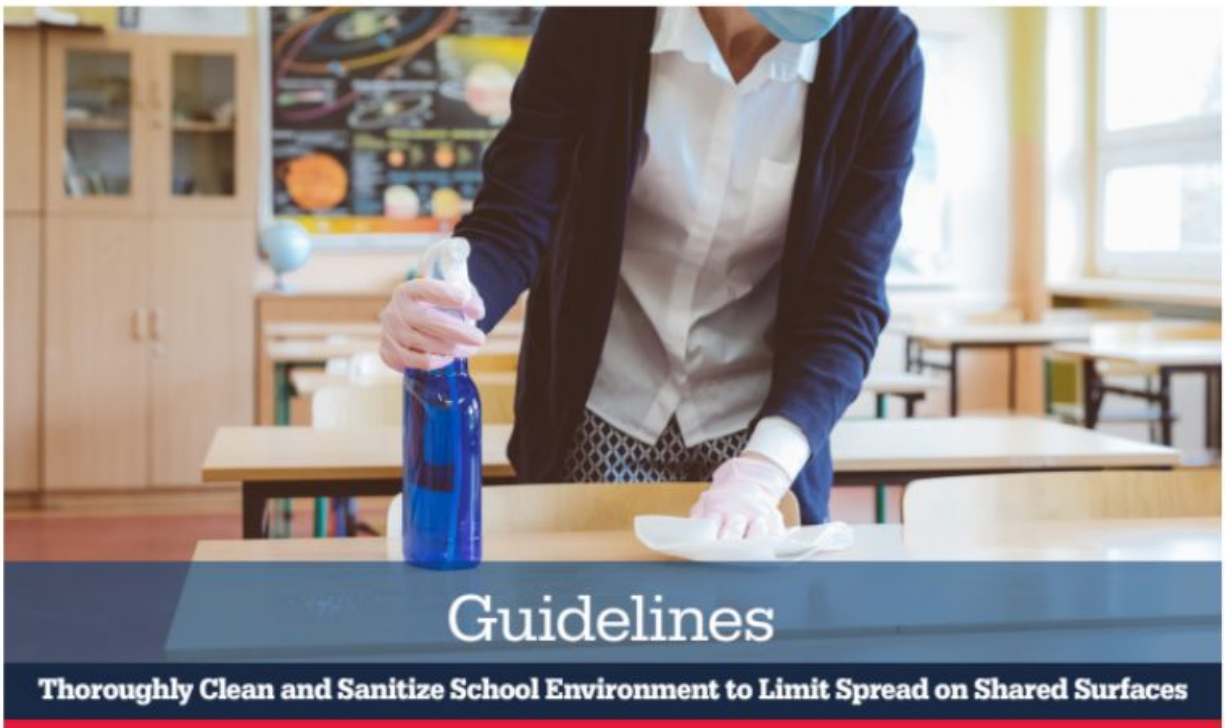
- Immediately isolate (to the identified COVID-19 isolation space) the individual if they are present in the school building. The individual (student/child) is to return home as quickly as possible. Parents will be called if the individual is a student.
- School nurses will use standard transmission-based precautions when caring for sick individuals. Our nurses will be trained by Greene County Public Health.
- Transportation to a healthcare facility, if required, will be done with consultation of Greene County Public Health and Miami Township Fire Department.
- The Communicable Disease Nurse at Greene County Public Health will be contacted.
- Areas of the building where the individual spent more than 30 minutes will be closed. After at latest 24 hours, and longer if practicable, the area will be disinfected with an approved COVID-19 sanitizer.
- The district will work with Greene County Public Health to determine if a school closure is warranted and determine whether any other actions must be taken.
- Specify to parents in which classroom/bus/school/other area the confirmed case was.

2. WASH AND SANITIZE HANDS TO PREVENT SPREAD



- Hand-washing is one of the most effective ways to reduce the spread of infectious disease, and is an important tool in preventing the spread of COVID-19.
- All students will be instructed in proper hand-washing technique.
- Students will be provided opportunities throughout the day for handwashing.
- Students, staff and volunteers should practice frequent handwashing for at least 20 seconds when hands are dirty, before and after eating, and after using the restroom.
- All paper towel dispensers in each building have been/will be converted to “no-touch” dispensers.
- Soap and paper towels will be continually stocked in restrooms.

3. THOROUGHLY CLEAN AND SANITIZE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT TO LIMIT SPREAD ON SHARED SURFACES



Sanitizing/Disinfecting School Environment

Yellow Springs Schools will follow sanitation guidelines as provided by Greene County Public Health. School personnel will frequently clean high-touch areas, objects, equipment, and surfaces such as water fountains (if used) and restrooms using cleaning products effective against coronavirus.

- The district will use EPA sanitizers and cleaners effective against SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19).
- Restroom Sanitization: Per Health Department recommendations, restroom facilities will be cleaned at a minimum of every two hours during the school day.
- Cleaning of Surfaces and High-Touch Areas: Appropriate cleaning supplies, effective against SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19), will be available in every classroom. Sanitizing wipes and hand sanitizers (60% to 95% alcohol-based) will be at every entrance. If and when populations within a classroom change, the room will be wiped down. Deep cleaning will occur at the end of each day. Cleaning and sanitization of high-touch areas, tables, door handles, etc., will occur frequently. Students may be asked, as part of our educational approach, to be responsible for cleaning their own personal area within the classroom.
- Water Fountains: Water fountains will not be available for use during the 2020-2021 school year. Students will be encouraged to bring their own water bottles to school. The district will provide a water bottle for any student that needs one.

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4. PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING



Classroom Occupancy

- Safety protocols will be in place for each classroom.
- Furniture within classrooms will be arranged so that there is 6-feet between students.
- There will be assigned seats, and whenever possible, students will face forward in the same direction.
- The district will purchase desks as needed so that students can be in classrooms in the safest manner possible.
- Classroom occupancy will be determined based on individual circumstances with the maximum amount of safety considerations possible.
- Classroom supplies will not be shared, and the district is working to make sure all students have their own materials.
- It must be noted that even when safety protocols are in place, there is always a level of risk on campus. The likelihood of infection is significantly decreased with research-based hygiene practices, cleaning, and safety procedures. Again, being in a public place has a certain level of risk that cannot be eliminated.

5. IMPLEMENT FACE COVERINGS POLICY



Face Coverings

- Face masks are **REQUIRED** at Yellow Springs Schools for all students and staff. This is a requirement based on science. Exceptions to this will be made by the superintendent in consultation with Greene County Public Health, as there may be unique circumstances where this is not feasible or medically recommended (see below). As a reminder, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Ohio Department of Health, and Greene County Public Health recommend face coverings for students and staff, particularly if they are within six feet of another person.
- Face masks shall not be required when:
 - Face masks in the school setting are prohibited by law or regulation.
 - Face masks are in violation of documented industry standards.
 - Face masks are not advisable for health reasons.
 - Face masks are in violation of the school's documented safety policies.
 - Face masks are not required when the staff works alone in an assigned work area.
 - There is a functional (practical) reason for a staff or student member to not to wear a facial covering in the workplace.

Note: Schools must provide written justification to local health officials, upon request, explaining why a staff member is not required to wear a facial covering in the school. At minimum, facial coverings (masks) should be cloth/fabric and cover an individual's nose, mouth, and chin.

6. OTHER HEALTH & SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS



Transportation

- Students and their families will be encouraged to provide their own transportation to school during the COVID-19 pandemic to alleviate social distancing concerns on school bus transportation.
- It is understood that some families may still need to utilize district transportation services.
- Yellow Springs Schools may allow multiple students per seat depending on the situation (no more than two).
- The district will attempt to seat siblings together.
- Students will be loaded from the back to the front.
- If possible, every other seat will be utilized.
- Seating charts will be created and maintained to assist with contact tracing if necessary.
- When possible and safe, windows will be open to maximize air circulation.
- Hand sanitizer will be available on every bus.
- Face masks ARE required for drivers and students. Students will not be granted bus entry without wearing a face mask.

Food Service

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Yellow Springs Schools will offer food service. Logistics for this service will be determined in July with our food service provider, in compliance with Greene County Public Health.

- There will be no self-service options.
- There will be no shared condiments or utensils.
- Specific cafeteria procedures will be created in each building that allow for adequate social distancing.
- A dedicated handwashing time will be provided immediately preceding and following lunch.
- The tables in the cafeteria will be spaced to better provide social distancing requirements and seating will be limited per table.
- Other options for lunch will be considered (for example, eating outside).
- Extra tables and additional spaces (for example, outdoor tables at the high school) will be provided to maintain social distancing and provide a healthier environment for students to eat their meals.
- The staff lounge may be utilized for refrigerated food storage and food preparation. Teachers may eat in the lounge based on the capacity (which will be posted) of each individual location.

Visitors/Volunteers/Parties

- During the COVID-19 pandemic, visitors are discouraged from being in Yellow Springs Schools, and visitors to each building will be highly limited, and permission is required.
- Safety protocols such as taking temperatures will be implemented for all visitors.
- Anyone who does have permission to enter the school buildings **MUST** wear a face mask.

Recess

- Yellow Springs Schools will make every effort to maintain consistency with other safety procedures for recess at the elementary school.
- Student access may be limited to certain pieces of playground equipment.
- Activities that are “high touch” and difficult to clean or maintain social distancing may be restricted.
- All students will be required to sanitize their hands after recess.

Other Activities

- As a general rule, and upon guidance from Greene County Public Health, the following activities **will be prohibited or significantly regulated** until the end of the COVID-19 pandemic:
 - instrumental music (significantly regulated)
 - choir
 - field trips (day and overnight)
 - assemblies
 - school dances