

DOVER CITY SCHOOLS

Fall 2020 Reopening FAQ's (7/1/2020)

Will schools be open in August 2020? Will my child be back in school?

The safety of our students and staff remains our top priority. We are currently planning and preparing for multiple scenarios based on the guidance provided by the Ohio Department of Education, the Ohio Department of Health, and our local health department. We will work under the direction of state and local health officials to ensure we follow proper protocols. Our goal remains to return to school in August.

What is Dover City Schools doing to prepare for Fall 2020?

The district has formed several "Task Force" groups to analyze recommendations from the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Department of Health for reopening schools. We will work closely with the Tuscarawas County Health Department in finalizing our plan. These groups will continue to meet over the summer to prepare for many different options for learning in the fall. The district has also engaged parents through an online survey, which is informing the Task Force recommendations.

What might Fall 2020 look like?

While it is unrealistic to develop an overly detailed plan in the absence of clear information at this time, we need to provide directional clarity to our staff, parents, and students on possible pathways for education in the fall. Parents need to know that whatever path we are required to implement or whatever path is needed for their child, we will be ready to educate all children in the fall.

Generally speaking and as we await more official guidance, we are looking at the possibility of four different scenarios for the fall. Of course, we all hope to resume "Normal Activity." Systems are in place to transition back to this; *we know how to do it*. We need to plan now for implementation of all possibilities, in hope that we do not need them. We also need the ability to both implement and potentially move between the four scenarios as needed throughout the 2020-21 academic year.

Four Potential Scenarios:

Scenario 1: Resume Normal Activity

Return to school with minimal changes in student schedules, transportation, activities, etc.

Scenario 2: Minimal Restrictions

Return to school with restrictions on large group activities, transportation, etc. Possible changes in student schedules.

Scenario 3: Social Distancing and a Combination of Face-to-Face and Remote Learning

Implement social distancing with significant limitations to the number of students in classrooms or on buses, including limitations to common areas of schools. Class sizes may need to be reduced to the level that students attend in small groups on specific days. Teachers would be prepared for online learning at any time for individual students, groups of students, or all students.

Scenario 4: Online/Remote Learning Continues

Continue or implement online instruction for all students.

Will my child have to wear a mask/face covering to school?

Dover Schools will follow the direction and guidance of state and local health departments. There may be times and locations (for example: certain grade levels/age groups, areas where social distancing cannot be maintained, or other areas/circumstances) that students will be required to wear a mask per health guidelines. We acknowledge the varying perspectives on masks and children, especially our youngest learners, and will work hard to balance the desires of the community while following the guidance of health experts.

How will we know what to expect?

The district will continue to communicate via parent text, email, and mailings, as well as social media, as we receive new information. Please refer to the Reopening Fall 2020 link on the district homepage at www.dovertornadoes.com for the most updated information.

Will I have a choice in how my child is educated: online or in person?

The district will provide 100% online learning for any student in grades K-12, if a parent chooses this option. Please call Helen McKeever at 330-364-7104 to let the district know of your interest. More information will be available in August.

What were the results of the parent survey from May? How will you use this information?

Parent feedback will help district staff to better meet the needs of all children. The district will use this information to plan for the 2020-21 school year. Survey results are available at <https://www.dovertornadoes.com/protected/ArticleView.aspx?iid=5123P0&dasi=32GI>.

What safety measures will be in place?

The district will work with the Ohio Department of Health and the Tuscarawas County Health Department to establish cleaning and sanitizing protocols. These could and will likely change as new information becomes available. At this time, the district is planning for daily health checks for employees and students, frequent hand-washing/sanitizing, and frequent cleaning of surfaces in all areas. These are just some of the measures we are putting into place.

What can I do to prepare my child for the changes?

Take time to talk with your child about the importance of good handwashing practices. Remind him/her to cough into their elbow and avoid touching his/her face. Discuss that remaining 6 feet away from others keeps everyone safe, and help them to see what that distance is in different settings. If facial coverings will be required, please practice wearing them when you are in a public setting.

Will my child still be able to ride a bus to school?

The impact health requirements will have on our ability to transport students on a school bus each day is unclear at this time. We anticipate that the number of students permitted on a bus at one time will be reduced and buses will need to be cleaned between uses. No decision has been made, but we may not be able to provide transportation for all of the students who currently ride a bus to school. The State of Ohio requires districts to provide bus transportation for students in grades K-8 who live more than two miles from school. Transportation for high school students is not required.

What if my child is “behind” from all of the changes last spring?

When we are back in the fall, teachers will work with students to determine gaps in their learning. Teachers will work to meet each child where they are academically and move him/her forward.

What should I do if my child is sick?

Fever, cough, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing are the most common symptoms of COVID-19. However, your child may also experience:

- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

If your child is experiencing any of these symptoms, please keep him/her home. Please call your child's school to report the illness.

What does it mean to be “exposed?”

According to Tuscarawas County Health Department officials, an individual is considered to have been exposed if he/she had close contact (within 6 feet) for 15 minutes or more with someone with COVID-19. This can vary, depending on the circumstances. If a student was exposed (by above definition) to a *confirmed* case, they should stay home for 14 days after the last exposure and maintain social distance from others.