

Spencer-Owen Community Schools

2020-2021 Re-Entry Plan for Students and Staff

Updated 7-28-2020

FAQ

The Re-Entry Plan Draft in its entirety can be viewed at www.socs.k12.in.us. The school board approved a re-entry plan on July 9, 2020., and a revised plan on July 28, 2020.

Taskforce Members:

The school corporation established a taskforce to develop, review, and give input into the draft of the re-entry plan. This taskforce consisted of the Teachers (12); Building-Level Administrators (9); District-Level Staff (9); Community Members (3); School Board Member (1); and Parents (9)

When will schools reopen?

Spencer-Owen Community Schools resumed summer athletic activities, summer band, and other co-curricular activities on Monday, July 6. Spencer-Owen Community Schools will also implement the previously adopted 2020-2021 calendar. The first teacher day is Monday, August 3, and the first student day is Tuesday, August 4, 2020.

What precautionary measures are being developed?

Principals and school staff will establish guidelines for social distancing, to every degree possible, to be implemented in classrooms, hallways, and the cafeteria and during specials and recess.

Water fountains will not be accessible. Students and staff may bring bottles of water from home. Water bottle filling stations will be available.

Students and staff will regularly be reminded of the importance of practicing recommended preventive measures such as appropriately washing hands, avoiding touching one's face, eyes, ears, and nose and staying home when sick or when potential exposure to COVID-19 has occurred.

Students will be provided an opportunity to wash hands frequently, especially prior to lunch.

Hand sanitizer will be readily available in classrooms and throughout the schools.

Facilities will be sanitized on a regular basis.

Buses will be sanitized after the morning and afternoon routes.

Food service will continue to take place in the cafeteria with several restrictions. Examples include no self-service areas and no keypads for lunch account entries.

Students will be assigned seats in the classroom, in the cafeteria, and on the bus to minimize exposure and to assist with contact tracing.

Only visitors who have scheduled an appointment will be allowed to enter the school.

Volunteers in the classroom will not be permitted.

How will students and staff be screened?

Students and staff will be expected to self-screen for “COVID-19-Related Systems” each day prior to attending school. Guidance for self-screening is attached. Students or staff exhibiting any of these symptoms, not otherwise explained, should contact the school and remain at home until symptoms are not present.

How will students and staff with symptoms of COVID-19 be housed at school?

Any student (or staff) identified to have COVID-19 symptoms while at school will be immediately separated from other students, the student’s parents will be contacted, and the Owen County Health Department will be notified. Principals and the corporation nurse, in collaboration with the Owen County Health Department, have determined the location for each school.

What if a case of COVID-19 is confirmed at a school?

- When a student or employee tests positive for COVID-19:
 - In a classroom, identify who spent more than 15 minutes within 6 feet of the person for the 48 hours prior to symptoms or a positive test (for an asymptomatic person).
 - Close contacts will be asked to quarantine at home for 14 days and will be monitored and guided by the local health department and the state’s centralized contact tracing center.
 - If any close contacts test positive, the process begins again.
 - If student cohorts or assigned seating has not been possible (such as in pre-kindergarten through second grade) an entire classroom may need to quarantine.
 - If more than one student tests positive in a classroom, the entire classroom should quarantine for 14 days.

- No threshold has been set for should an entire school close. If a school has multiple positive cases, officials will work with the local and state health department on what steps to take.
- Siblings of a positive case should quarantine if they are considered a close contact.

What are the protocols for the use of masks?

Students in grades 3 – 12 and all faculty, staff, volunteers, and visitors are required to wear a mask. Please refer to the Re-Entry Plan (approved 7-28-2020) for specifics or contact your school's office for details.

How will virtual learning be handled in the event of a school closure?

Should a school close for one or more days, the Spencer-Owen Community Schools' Contingency Learning Plan will be activated. This plan will be more robust than that provided in the spring of 2020. Principals/Teachers will provide more information once we are back in school.

When would a student or employee return to school after symptoms?

After a student or employee is excluded from school due to exhibiting COVID symptoms, the school will follow IDOE guidelines regarding the return to school. The corporation nurse, in consultation with the Owen County Health Department, will make the final determination.

How will student emotional well-being be addressed?

Spencer-Owen Community Schools has an existing team consisting of school counselors, a home-school advisor, and a student services coordinator who provide social and emotional support to students. Additionally, school staff have been trained to identify students in need of support and to contact the appropriate personnel for assistance. Spencer-Owen Community Schools also maintains partnerships with local counseling and therapy organizations to provide support to our students and families as needed.

Will Spencer-Owen Community Schools offer a virtual option?

Spencer-Owen Community Schools will offer virtual instruction for any student with concerns about returning to school due to COVID-19. The virtual school curriculum will be delivered via Edmentum's EdOptions Academy. Activities addressing all Indiana standards for each day of school will be assigned and required. Please see the attached FAQ for more information.

Whom do I contact for more information?

Please direct any questions concerning any aspect of the re-entry plan draft, including virtual school, to your school's principal:

Owen Valley High School: Robert Boltinghouse, rboltinghouse@socs.k12.in.us

Owen Valley Middle School: Aaron LaGrange, alagrang@soes.k12.in.us

Gosport Elementary: Carol Watson, carolwatson@socs.k12.in.us

McCormick's Creek Elementary: Matt Cazzell, mcazzell@socs.k12.in.us

Patricksburg Elementary: Mike Robison, mrobison@socs.k12.in.us

Spencer Elementary: Brittany Greene, brgreene@socs.k12.in.us