

# Ayersville Local Schools Restart Plan for 2021-2022

Below we have addressed some common topics of concern that will help to guide our district through the 2021-2022 school year. As always our top priority is to keep our staff and students as safe as possible upon their return.

The recommendations from Governor DeWine, the Ohio Department of Health, the Ohio Department of Education, and the Defiance County Health Department have been taken into consideration when forming these plans. The Defiance County Superintendents have been meeting on a regular basis with Jamie Gerken, Defiance County Health Commissioner, in an attempt to collaborate on what the safest route may be to return to school in the fall. **This plan is subject to change as we receive additional information and recommendations for the safe operation of school.**

At this time Ayersville Local Schools is planning to return to school in as normal a mode as possible. However, the lessons we learned from last year have not been forgotten. Even with a successful “normal” opening of the school year, schools, grade levels, or classrooms may need to transition to remote learning at any given time. If this should happen, we will again utilize Google Classroom and Google Meet (in replace of Zoom). Specific details regarding schedules and student expectations during remote learning will be shared by building principals. Additionally, if positive cases begin to rise in our district, with guidance from the Health Department, masks may become mandatory.

**Please note - the Ayersville Virtual Academy (AVA) will NOT be offered this year**

## **Face Coverings (Masks or Shields) & Vaccinations**

1. While masks are strongly recommended, we respect parental decisions on whether or not to send students to school wearing a face covering.
2. By federal mandate, face coverings will be worn by all individuals on school buses.
3. It will be left to parental choice on whether or not to vaccinate students 12 years of age or older.

## **Food Service**

1. Students will be served a “grab-and-go” breakfast and will eat in classrooms.
2. Students will sit with maximum attainable distancing while in the Commons.
3. Lunch tables will be assigned in order to help with potential contact tracing.
4. Students will be instructed to clean their hands before and after lunch.

## **Social Distancing**

1. Every effort will be made to have students practice social distancing at all times during the school day.
  - a. Classrooms will be set up with maximum attainable social distancing.
  - b. Students will remain in grade level zones while at recess.

2. Visual aids will be placed throughout the building to help students remember social distancing protocols.

### **Social Emotional Health Considerations**

1. Ayersville Local Schools acknowledge the difficult decisions that must be made and the additional stressors that come with the adjustments necessary during these times.
  - a. School counselors will be instrumental in providing student emotional support throughout the school day.
  - b. “Wraparound” services (e.g., TACKLE, Job & Family Services, Family & Children First Council, etc.) may be available to those in need.

### **Transportation**

1. Bus transportation will continue to be available to all students in grades K-12.
2. In accordance with the federal mandate, students and bus drivers will be required to wear a mask while on the bus.
3. Buses will load back to front and unload front to back.

### **Visitors and Volunteers**

1. Visitors and volunteers in the buildings during the school day will be limited and must be pre-approved. All visitors and volunteers will be required to wear a face covering.

### **After School Events (e.g., athletic contests, concerts, etc.)**

1. While masks are strongly recommended, we will respect your choice on whether or not to wear a face covering.
2. Attendance will not be limited at this time.
3. Social distancing protocols will be strongly encouraged.

### **Additional Precautions**

1. Hand sanitizing stations will be available in every room and office in the building. Students will use hand sanitizer before entering or leaving a classroom.
2. Additional hand washing opportunities will be provided to students.
3. Drinking fountains will remain off, however, bottle fillers will continue to be available for student use. Students will be allowed to have transparent containers filled with water with them throughout the day.
4. All classrooms and offices will receive regular cleaning and disinfecting to promote healthy environments. Frequently touched surfaces (e.g., door knobs, handrails, etc.) will receive special attention.

Ayersville Local Schools will do everything possible to decrease the risks associated with contracting COVID-19, but we need your help. If your student shows any signs of illness, please keep them home from school! By working together we believe we will have another safe and healthy school year.

As we stated earlier, the information described above is subject to change. We will make every effort to communicate with you as quickly as possible when adjustments are necessary.