

# MARION COUNTY SCHOOLS

# REOPENING AGREEMENT



## MARION COUNTY SCHOOLS COMMON REOPENING AGREEMENTS PREFACE

All Ohio schools 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. In early June little guidance was available from the Ohio Department of Education regarding guidelines for school re-opening for the 2020-21 school year. School district superintendents from each public school district in Marion County including Marion City Schools came together the week of June 10-17, 2020 to identify common practices for school reopening in Marion County. Those meetings, along with the guidance issued by the Governor on July 2, 2020, resulted in the development of this common Reopening Agreement.

## THESE GENERAL PRINCIPLES WILL GUIDE EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT AS THEY MOVE FORWARD WITH REOPENING SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT MARION COUNTY:

- 1 Each school district will implement recommended safety protocols to the highest degree possible.**
  - School districts will require parents to conduct daily health assessments of students and the district will monitor as needed.
  - School districts will establish hand washing protocols.
  - School districts will establish and share cleaning and sanitizing protocols.
  - School districts will develop and implement face covering policies based on recommendations from MPH.
- 2 Each school district will work closely with the Marion County Department of Health to promote safety in each school building.**
- 3 Each school district will be transparent with all stakeholders that some level of risk will always be present when children and school district employees occupy school district facilities.**
- 4 School districts 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 variations.**
- 5 School districts are planning to maintain their previously approved school calendars with some possible front-loading of employee professional development.**

# THESE PRINCIPLES WILL BE COMMON TO ALL MARION COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS:

**Communications when a student/staff member has been diagnosed with a COVID-19 positive case. Communication will be developed by the Health Department, not the school district.**

## A common template with be developed to include the following:



- ✓ Specify to parents which classroom the confirmed case was in (ex. Mr. Smith). More generalized statement to building staff.
- ✓ The school district will cooperate with the Health Department's work in social tracing.
- ✓ A period of 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.
- ✓ The MC Health Department will write a letter for the school district to use and the letter will explain/define what is considered "exposure" to COVID-19 that will result in quarantine.

## Student health issues that are NOT diagnosed or tested as COVID-19:



- ✗ The duration of home stay for a child sent home with a fever is: fever free (without medication) for 72 hours (three full days) AND improvement of all other symptoms for 72 hours AND at least ten days have passed since symptoms started.
- ✗ Temperatures will be taken upon return. If a student tests positive for COVID-19, the students and their families will be quarantined for a period as determined by MPH. The Health Department will perform all contact tracing.
- ✗ To return to school the child must be transported to school by the parent and must be checked by the school nurse.
- ✗ If the student/staff member receives a negative COVID-19 test result, this time frame could be shortened.

## FOOD SERVICE

- All districts will offer food service. Logistics will be determined by each district in compliance with the Health Department.

## CLASSROOM OCCUPANCY

Districts will inform parents that safety protocols are in place but any student who attends school will incur some level of risk. Districts will decrease the likelihood of infection with hygiene, cleaning, and safety procedures, but being in a public place has a certain level of risk that cannot be eliminated.

- Classroom occupancy will be determined based on each individual circumstance with the maximum amount of safety considerations possible.
- Face coverings are recommended for all students.
- School employees will be required to use a face covering and will have the option of a mask or shield provided by the district.

## REMOTE LEARNING

- School districts will offer remote learning 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 to remote learning from home for at least one semester at a time. Some districts may require a full year of remote learning.
- Students will not be permitted to come in and out of remote learning.

## VISITORS/VOLUNTEERS/PARTIES

There are different levels of school visitors, and each district will make decisions for each situation.

- Visitors are generally discouraged from being in school district facilities.
- Safety protocols such as taking temperatures will be implemented for all visitors.

## TRANSPORTATION

- Marion County districts will allow two students per seat and in some instances three students if the children are younger and therefore smaller.
- Districts will attempt to seat siblings together.
- Seating charts are recommended to assist with contact tracing if that is needed.
- Face masks or face shields are required for drivers and highly recommended for students. Districts may require students to wear a mask on the bus in certain situations. If a district requires students to wear a mask the district may refuse to transport a student who refuses to wear a mask
- In the event State policies require school districts to use alternative schedules, districts may adopt minimum requirements for transportation to reduce the number of students who are eligible for school district transportation.