



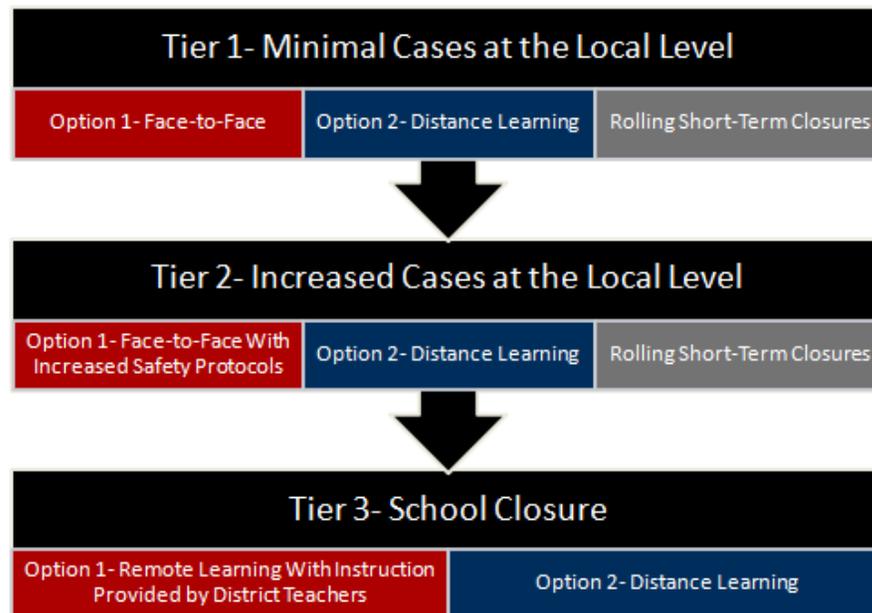
Seneca County Schools Fall 2020 Reopening Plan

July 14, 2020

PREFACE:

All Ohio schools closed for the remainder of the school calendar beginning on March 17, 2020 by order of the Governor and State Health Commissioner in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The future of PK-12 education in Ohio remains unclear as we continue to navigate these unprecedented times. Continuing to keep children physically out of school could have long-term academic, social and emotional consequences. Simply put, the benefits associated with reopening school buildings outweigh the risks of a continued school closure. Seneca County Schools are committed to returning to face-to-face instruction for the 2020-2021 school year with enhanced safety protocols in place. Districts will respond according to the status of Seneca County's colored level in Ohio's Public Health Advisory Alert System as we move throughout the school year. Districts will decrease the likelihood of infection with enhanced hygiene, cleaning and safety protocols, but being in a public place has a certain level of risk that cannot be eliminated. Any student who attends school will incur some level of risk. School district superintendents from each public and parochial school in Seneca County, along with representatives from the North Central Ohio Educational Service Center, Vanguard-Sentinel Career & Technical Center and Seneca County School of Opportunity have worked to identify common practices for the reopening of school facilities in Seneca County for Fall 2020.

3 TIER MODEL:



DESCRIPTION OF TIER 1 OPTIONS:

OPTION 1	<u>FACE-TO-FACE INSTRUCTION</u> STUDENTS & STAFF IN-PERSON 5 DAY SCHEDULE WITH NORMAL SCHOOL HOURS SAFETY PROTOCOLS IN PLACE
OPTION 2	<u>DISTANCE LEARNING</u> STUDENTS AT HOME DAILY 100% ONLINE LEARNING THROUGH DISTRICT SELECTED CURRICULUM SUPPORT FROM A DISTRICT TEACHER
ROLLING CLOSURES	<u>SHORT TERM CLOSURES DUE TO OUTBREAKS</u> STUDENTS & STAFF CONTINUE TO WORK FROM HOME FACILITIES SANITIZED

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

These general principles will guide each school district as we move forward throughout Seneca County:

1. Each school district will implement recommended safety protocols to the highest degree possible;
2. Each school district will work closely with the Seneca County Department of Health to promote safety in all school facilities;
3. Each school district will be transparent with all stakeholders that some level of risk will always be present when children and school employees occupy school district facilities;
4. School districts plan to maintain their previously approved school calendars with some possible front-loading of employee professional development;
5. Each district will take steps to ensure quality student learning will continue despite rolling short-term closures or extended school closures;
6. Each Seneca County school district will take whatever steps are necessary to physically remain open despite COVID spikes, moving to our Tier 2 plan and enacting stricter safety protocols if necessary to avoid a complete school closure;
7. School districts recognize the need for consistency in all areas of operations while acknowledging that individual differences in classroom sizes, school facilities, and building operations may lead to some inconsistencies. As a general rule of thumb, each district commits to adhere to the 4 main safety protocols listed below and do their best to transfer these principles to all school environments.

MAIN SAFETY PROTOCOLS:



These Tier 1 principles will be common to all Seneca County school districts:

TIER 1 OPTION 1- FACE-TO-FACE INSTRUCTION

Transportation

- Drivers must wear a facial covering
- No student in the seat behind the driver
- Students will sit in assigned seats (to assist with contact tracing if needed)
- Whenever possible, students will board in such a way to minimize passing each other (i.e., loading back to front on the a.m. route and exiting front to back on the p.m. route)
- Two students per seat and, in some cases, three students per seat (if the children are younger and, therefore, smaller)
- Districts will attempt to seat siblings together
- It is required that students wear a facial covering when riding the bus
- There will be a daily sanitizing protocol for each bus in the fleet

Daily Entry/Exit into School Buildings

- Temperature checks are not mandatory (but may occur) for students and staff to enter the buildings.
- Wellness checks will be conducted by families and staff at home prior to coming to school. Anyone with a temperature over 100°F or exhibiting other symptoms should stay home.
- Stagger entry and exit to/from buildings when possible

Wearing of Facial Coverings During School

- School staff must wear a facial covering when social distancing cannot be maintained.
- Staff are not required to wear a facial covering when working alone in their assigned work area or when doing so would negatively impact instruction
- If you are in a classroom with a staff or a student that medically qualifies as high risk you may be required to wear a face covering at all times.
- Students in grades 3-12 are encouraged to wear a facial covering throughout the day.
- Students in grades 3-12 must wear a facial covering when working in close proximity to another individual (teacher, peer, etc.) for a sustained period of time.

Physical Distancing in Classrooms

- Classrooms will operate at full capacity utilizing the maximum amount of space available in the classroom while maximizing safety protocols.
- Unnecessary items will be removed from classrooms to provide more space for distancing.
- Items on walls, tables and shelves will be minimized to aid in creating a more sterile environment and for ease of cleaning purposes.
- Regular hand washing will be encouraged and hand sanitizer will be available.
- Certain educators may move between classrooms rather than students switching classrooms.
- Districts will inform parents that safety protocols are in place.
- Field trips will be cancelled for the first semester.
- Alternative options for assemblies, performances and other events will be encouraged.
- There will be no events where outside food is brought in.

Physical Distancing in the Cafeteria

- Decrease occupancy in the school cafeteria when possible
- Increase seating capacity by adding more tables when possible
- Limit the number of students at each lunch table when possible and stagger students waiting in line
- Ensure cleaning and disinfecting of all tables/seats between lunch periods
- Do not allow guests or visitors to join students for lunch
- Assign all seating
- Limit self-serve options
- Add additional protective barriers for cafeteria staff where needed

Daily Cleaning of Classrooms and Common Areas

- School staff, along with the help of students, will have increased cleaning responsibilities throughout the school day.

Hallways and Common Areas

- Limit accessibility to lockers to decrease congregating in hallways
- Recommend that students wear a facial covering when in hallways and common areas
- Disable traditional water fountains. Bottle refilling stations will remain in use.

Recess

- Districts will make every effort to maintain consistency with all safety protocols.
- Schools may limit student access to certain pieces of equipment and/or restrict activities that are “high touch” and difficult to clean or maintain social distancing.
- Districts will encourage “structured” activities such as nature walks that increase time outside while limiting students’ physical contact with others.
- Students will wash or sanitize their hands after recess.
- Entry to/from recess will be staggered to ensure social distancing.

Access to Hand Sanitizer and Washing of Hands

- Teach, remind and encourage frequent hand washing.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms and in common areas throughout the building (pending availability of supplies).

Guests and Visitors to Schools

- Visitors are generally discouraged from being in school district facilities.
- Safety protocols for visitors will be implemented.
- Visitors will wear a facial covering at all times when in school facilities.

Choir/Band Class and Marching Band

- Observe 6 feet or more of physical distancing.
- Encourage outdoor activities when possible.

School Offices

- Staff will wear a facial covering when interacting in close proximity to others.
- Cleaning supplies and hand sanitizer will be readily available.
- Visitors will wear a facial covering at all times when in school facilities.

Nurse/Clinic Area

- Ensure the workspace, door handles, countertops, seating areas, restrooms are kept clean and disinfected between students.
- Ensure physical distancing is followed when more than one student is in the clinic area.
- Students with temperatures of 100°F or more should stay home/be sent home.
- Students will be isolated that are exhibiting symptoms.
- Students exhibiting symptoms are required to wear a facial covering until they are picked up by a caregiver.
- Nurse/office staff will wear a facial covering and proper PPE when caring for students.

Students with COVID-19

Communication will be developed by the Seneca County Health Department, not the school district. A common template will be developed to include the following:

- Specify to parents which classroom has the confirmed case (ex. Mrs. Smith's class)
- A more generalized statement will be provided to building staff.
- The district will cooperate with the Seneca County Health Department's work in contact tracing.
- Fourteen calendar day (14) quarantine will be required for any student who tests positive for COVID-19 and others as determined by the Health Department.
- Schools will have an isolation room to be used for students exhibiting symptoms until they can be picked-up by a parent or guardian.

Staff with COVID-19

- A staff member diagnosed with COVID-19 must quarantine at home using sick leave for 14 calendar days.
- Staff members must be prepared for a sub (lesson plans, assessments, etc.).
- Parents will be notified of exposed students as directed by the Health Department.
- A more generalized statement will be provided to building staff.
- The district will cooperate with the Seneca County Health Department's work in contact tracing.

Student Health Issues That are Not Diagnosed as COVID-19

- A student with a fever must be fever free without medication for 24 hours before returning to school.
- Upon returning to school, the student must report to the school nurse/office staff for a temperature check.

Staff Health Issues That are Not Diagnosed as COVID-19

- A staff member with a fever must be fever free without medication for 24 hours before returning to work.

TIER 1 OPTION 2- DISTANCE LEARNING

- Districts will offer remote learning for those families wishing to remain at home while the buildings are open.
- Families will make a commitment to online learning through the district selected online curriculum for one semester at a time.
- The student may return from online learning to school only at the semester break.
- Students will not be permitted to come in and out of online learning (unless testing positive for COVID or under the recommendation of the family's physician due to compromised health concerns).