

Columbia School District will ensure the guiding focus remains on the health and education of our community by:

- Implementing safety protocols and procedures.
- Observing safety considerations of physical spaces.
- Assuring student educational opportunities that remediate, accelerate, and enrich learning.

*Items in this document are not permanent and will be under a cycle of review.

Instructional Methods

- Face to Face: In this environment, we are instructing students inside of our schools daily.
- Virtual: Virtual instruction will take place in the student's home daily and students will be assigned to teachers as appropriate. ([Click here for additional information related to the virtual option](#)).

School Health & Safety

- Columbia School District health protocols will continue to align with the most current guidance and recommendations from the Jackson County Health Department, Michigan Department of Education, and CDC.
- All students and employees are expected to self-screen and monitor for COVID-19 related symptoms prior to leaving their residence.
- Students and employees exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, without being otherwise explained, or in a household with a confirmed positive case, are prohibited from coming to school or work, and if they do come to school, they will be sent home immediately.
- Students and employees exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, or in a household with a confirmed positive case, are to remain at home and seek appropriate medical guidance and care.
- Students and staff will be required to be fever free for 72 hours without use of fever reducing medication before returning to school.
- Each school will identify a separate space for symptomatic students.
- Students and employees will do their best to practice physical distancing.
- Columbia School District will provide all students and employees with two (2) reusable masks (face coverings).
- Health and safety is everyone's responsibility. Access to handwashing, use of hand sanitizer, and enforcement of proper hygiene practices for self, materials, and equipment will be emphasized.
- Students and employees will receive training at the start of the school year in regard to preventative health measures to maintain a safe and healthy environment.
- Visitors and guests are restricted from entering in to our school buildings.
- Discontinuation of perfect attendance incentives for the 2020-21 school year.

School Facilities

- Columbia School District has initiated updated custodial cleaning protocols and monitoring, in line with CDC guidelines, to provide a safe and healthy school environment.

- Staff will focus on cleaning high touch surfaces often during school hours.
- Allow the use of water fountain for bottle or cup refills only.
- The Food Service Department will provide the opportunity for students and employees to purchase water at all meals.
- HVAC systems are scheduled to provide maximum fresh air and will run for a minimum of two hours prior to occupancy.
- Interior school facility use, by internal and external groups, will be restricted for at least the first nine weeks of school.
- Hand sanitizer stations to be installed at interior locations on all school campuses.

School Bus Transportation

- During Phase 4 staff and students are required to wear a mask on the bus at all times (as indicated in the Return to School Road Map and if required by an Executive Order).
- All busses will be disinfected before and after each route or use.
- Students are expected to sit in assigned seats and will load from back to front to minimize contact with others.
- Food and drink will not be allowed to be consumed on the bus.
- Buses will be ventilated to allow for maximum fresh air (whenever possible and weather permitting).
- Student dismissal by seat from the bus will be staggered to allow for physical distancing.

Arrival

- School start time will remain at the same times. Entry into the buildings will be staggered (not all buses released at the same time) and students will practice physical distancing by entering through multiple doors. This applies for bus riders and children who arrive by automobile or by walking.
- Students are expected to report directly to their classroom to avoid congregating in hallways. Hallway traffic flow will be strategically designed to avoid congestion.
- Schools will serve pre-packaged grab and go breakfasts and lunches.

Learning Environment

- Students will be assigned an individual technology device for use.
- Instructional spaces will be reorganized to maximize available space.
- Sharing instructional materials will be limited.
- Elementary students will remain with the same group for the majority of the instructional day.
- Secondary passing periods will be modified to allow students to travel from learning space to learning space while following designed traffic patterns.

Lunch and Recess

- Students will be directed to wash and sanitize their hands before lunch.
- Lunch will be pre-packaged or served by school staff in order to minimize student congregation in serving lines.

- To maintain safe physical distancing, lunch will be staggered and available open space will be maximized.
- Lunch areas will be sanitized after each student group.
- Elementary recess areas will be zoned so that students are not clustered in one area.

Dismissal

- Dismissal from the building will be staggered and students will practice physical distancing by exiting through multiple doors.
- Car rider and student driver procedures will be altered to encourage physical distancing.

Special Education

- Employees will utilize appropriate PPE when working directly with students.
- Employees will help and encourage students to maintain safe physical distancing.
- Student programming modifications may be made to protect both students and staff.
- IEP's may be reconvened, as needed, to reflect the instructional method chosen.
- All student services, therapies, and evaluations will be delivered to support development regardless of instructional method chosen.

Social-Emotional Learning and Mental Health

- Counselors will be available for students to provide crisis interventions, risk assessments, and mental health support.
- Columbia School District staff will continue to foster relationships with students to help build resilience, improve learning, as well as behavioral, social and psychological outcomes for students.
- Schools will continue to provide positive behavioral support for students.

Extracurricular Activities

- Columbia School District will provide all student-athletes, marching band participants, and coaches or sponsors with one reusable mask (face covering).
- All athletic teams will follow the specific guidance from the MHSAA in regard to safe participation during re-entry phases.
- The marching band will follow the specific guidance from the MSBOA and the MCBA in regard to safe participation during re-entry phases.
- Student participation in extracurricular activities is voluntary and coaches or sponsors will provide increased flexibility for families who have concerns for the health and welfare of their children.
- Participants must furnish their own water bottle each day for use at practice and competition. Allow the use of a water fountain for bottle or cup refills only.
- Access to handwashing, use of hand sanitizer, and enforcement of proper hygiene practices for self, equipment, and uniform will be emphasized.