

8-17-20

Cozad Community Schools Opening Information

We are looking forward to being back in session and we are going to do everything that we possibly can do to stay open for the whole year. We are and will be working with our local health officials to follow best practices using the most current data. We are currently in the middle of the yellow area of our dial. All plans and procedures may and will change as we tread through the year. Please be patient with us and know that we are doing our best.

Whether you agree or disagree with the wearing of masks, it is not solely up to the school as to whether we require them or not. The school will do whatever we have to do to stay in session and if that means requiring masks we will. Remember masks are worn to protect others, not ourselves. To stay open we need all of our teachers at school not quarantined at home due to exposure. THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS TO KEEP YOUR CHILD HOME IF THEY SHOW SYMPTOMS OF COVID 19 AND KEEP THEM HOME UNTIL THEY ARE FEVER FREE FOR AT LEAST 24 HOURS WITHOUT THE AIDE OF MEDICATION.

Reference this document for the most recent guidelines for our return to school on Wednesday. This plan has been UPDATED and developed in coordination with Cozad Community Health Systems. Please help us educate your child on this plan so we can have a successful school year.

Listed below are the specific precautions and procedures that will be followed as we start school on August 19th as scheduled

(Bulleted in RED are updated items)

- Students and Staff will be attending school in person.
- Visitors need to call the school and schedule a time and it is **required** to wear a face mask when entering the building.
- Teachers will deliver instruction face-to-face, while students are physically attending school.
- **Students are required to bring a face covering (mask) with them to school each day. The school will also provide masks to all students. Students will NOT be required to wear masks when they are in their seats in each class. This gives students opportunities during the day to take breaks. Masks will be required at these times: when you arrive in the morning waiting for the bell, passing periods, lunch lines, and certain small group activities. Staff will teach procedures and encourage students to practice social distancing during the school day.**
- Student seating in classrooms will be socially distanced as best as possible.

- Cleaning and safety procedures will be in place to slow the spread of viruses. High traffic areas, lunchrooms, and hallways will be cleaned with food-grade hydrostatic sprayers. Plexiglass barriers will be used in offices, lunchrooms, and other high use areas as needed. Cleaning procedures will be conducted by staff throughout school days. (Middle School and High School classrooms will be disinfected at the end of every period and the elementary rooms will be disinfected at noon and at the end of the day. Lunchrooms will be disinfected between uses.)
- To start the school year boxed meals will be served as per guidance from OPAA!
- Upon entry and at lunch, temperature and wellness checks will be done on students and staff.
- Hand sanitizing will be required upon entry in the school, at lunch, and as people enter classrooms.
- Students will be expected to follow the classroom rules of their teachers to practice appropriate safety practices.
- **Bus riders are REQUIRED to wear face coverings (masks) and will practice distancing as best as possible.** Bus routes will be provided to country students and in town morning routes. In the morning, we will pick up and drop off country students then go and pick up town students. Currently, we will not be able to have in town routes in the afternoon.
- **Students are encouraged to bring water bottles due to drinking fountains being shut off. The district will provide water bottles for students who don't bring one.**

Afterzone will not open until September 8 when only kindergarten and first-grade students will be allowed for the first two weeks. We are looking at adding second and third graders on September 21st. Fourth and fifth graders will not be allowed to attend for at least the first quarter.

I would like to restate that we are planning on staying open all year with face to face learning. Please help us by keeping your child at home if they don't feel well or if they are running a fever of 100 degrees or more. Students must be fever-free for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medicine, prior to returning to school.

Whether we agree with these requirements or not, these are the things that we have to do to stay open. We want your children at school where we provide the best education.

Due to the unique situation at each of our school buildings, we have additional building guidelines listed below.

CEEC

- Parents can walk their child in the building but will be temperature checked and **required** to wear a mask.
- Doors open at 7:40 am and 3:05 pm
Parents and students will enter through the South entrance and exit the West door.

Elementary

- Students will be required to wear masks when social distancing is not possible.
- Doors open at 7:30 a.m. for breakfast.
- All students will be temperature checked upon entering the school and at lunchtime.

Middle School

- Students use the West entrance only (Circle drive)
- Doors open at 7:30 am

High School

- Students use the East entrance only (student parking lot)
- Doors open at 7:30 am