CHAMPAIGN COUNTY SCHOOLS COMMON RETURN TO LEARN GUIDANCE

August 2021

To promote success for all students through clear communications these general principles will guide each school district as they move forward with return to learning throughout Champaign County.

1. Each school district will utilize local control in implementing safety protocols in alignment with the guidance of the Champaign Health District (CHD).
2. 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.
3. 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 inconsistencies.
4. School districts are planning to maintain their previously approved school calendars.

These principles will be common to all Champaign County public school districts:

Daily Self-Monitoring

- Students, staff, volunteers and visitors should monitor their own temperatures and their health on a daily basis before coming to school. For younger children parents should monitor their child’s health.

Illnesses

- Anyone with a fever over 100F should stay home.
  - Anyone that has the following symptoms of COVID-19 should consider their individual circumstances and stay home from school/work.
  - Two of the following symptoms: fever (measured or subjective), chills, rigors, myalgia, headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion or runny nose OR
  - Any of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new olfactory disorder, new taste disorder
Quarantine

The Ohio Department of Health and Local Health Departments continue to have enforcement power over quarantines for close contact of COVID-19 cases. Below are bullet points regarding quarantining:

- School districts will implement processes to comply with orders from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) regarding communications about COVID 19.
  - Parents must report to the CCHD and the school any positive exposures or positive tests for COVID 19;
  - All parents or legal guardians of students, as well as school staff, must notify the school of a confirmed diagnosis within 24 hours.

- School districts will facilitate communications between the Champaign County Health Department and parents, community members, and school employees. As a school district, we do not order quarantines or isolations but do work with Health Department officials in the area of contact tracing and communications.

- The Champaign County Health Department will determine quarantines from close contact based on the layers of protective measures in place. The protective measures may include indoors versus outdoors, physical distancing, time (15 minutes or more within 6 feet), masking, other barriers, and vaccination status. Based on these protective measures, the Champaign County Health Department will determine whether a person has to quarantine. Letters will be coming directly from school nurses on behalf of the Champaign County Health Department.

(Additional information on quarantining is available on the flow chart provided by the Ohio Department of Health. It will also be posted on the schools websites.)

Returning to School/Work After Illness

- Anyone that is diagnosed as having COVID-19, must meet the following criteria to return to school:
  - 24 hours with no fever (without using fever reducing medication) AND
  - Other symptoms improved AND
  - 10 days since symptoms first appeared or 7 days if there is proof of a negative test.

- Those individuals that only have a fever and no other symptoms and have not had any contact with an individual that has COVID-19 may return to school after they are fever free for 24 hours without using any fever reducing medications.

- Any other illnesses should be handled in the routine manner according to district policies

- Individuals should consider their personal health when assessing symptoms.

- The following statement is located on page 10 of the K-12 SCHOOLS GUIDANCE document: “Fully vaccinated students DO NOT have to quarantine. Districts will
continue to follow the Ohio modified quarantine guidelines for K-12 environments.”

Communications when a student/staff member has been diagnosed with a COVID 19 positive case

- School districts will implement processes to comply with orders from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) regarding communications about COVID 19.
  - Parents must report to the CHD and the school any positive exposures or positive tests for COVID 19;
  - All parents or legal guardians of students, as well as school staff, must notify the school of a confirmed diagnosis within 24 hours.
- School districts will facilitate communications between the Champaign County Health District and parents, community members, and school employees. School districts do not order quarantines or isolations but do work with Health Department officials in the area of contact tracing and communications.

Food Service

- All districts will offer food service. Students may have required seating during breakfast and lunch period to facilitate contact tracing if needed. School districts will tailor specific food service operations to promote safety for all.

Classroom Occupancy

- Districts will implement safety protocols to the largest extent possible 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.
- Voluntary masking is a level of protection that parents may consider in order to reduce the risk of quarantine.
- Classroom occupancy will be determined based on each individual circumstance with the maximum amount of safety considerations possible.
- ODH and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) strongly recommends facial coverings/masks; schools will also recommend facial coverings/masks, but will not require them, unless mandated by ODH.
- Seating charts will be used to facilitate contact tracing if needed.

Visitors/Volunteers/Parties:

- Each district will make decisions about school visitors that are unique to that school facility and event that address community needs and promote safety for all.
- Visitors may be required to adhere to safety protocols such as taking temperatures and completing a health questionnaire.

Transportation

- Seating charts will be used to assist with contact tracing if that is needed.
• The CDC requires facial coverings/masks on all public transportation. In compliance with this order, all school districts will expect that school employees and students obey this order from the CDC.

Recess

• School districts will make every effort to maintain consistency with other safety procedures.
• Students must sanitize their hands after recess.

This document is subject to change as new information becomes available or as the situation changes in Champaign County.