

# Fairfield Union Local Schools COVID Response Guidelines for 2021 - 2022



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\*UPDATED – 8/13/21



# Table of Contents

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- Section 1: Introduction – Operating Principles
- Section 2: Phases of School and Delivery of Instruction
- Section 3: Healthy Learning Environments
- Section 4: Responding to a Confirmed COVID-19 Positive Case
- Section 5: Additional Resources and Information

# Section 1: Introduction

## Operating Principles

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- As we progress through this school year, our focus will be on respecting each other and being considerate of the difficult decisions being made by all stakeholders. It is important for each of us to refrain from making hurtful comments or using outlandish rhetoric in addressing each other. At Fairfield Union, compassion, empathy and a love for each other will be the expectation for how we treat each other.
- The physical and mental health of each child, staff member and our community will continue to be the driving force in our decision making process.
- The status level of the Fairfield Union Local School District will be determined at the discretion of the Superintendent. The Superintendent will consider guidance from the Governor, the Ohio Department of Health, the Fairfield County Health Department and the Fairfield Union Board of Education when determining the status level of the District. While risks can be minimized, plans cannot completely eliminate all risks.

# Section 1: Introduction

## Operating Principles

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- This plan will not fully encompass the totality of the regulations and guidance given to Fairfield Union Locals Schools by the state of Ohio. All plans are subject to change based on changing conditions or mandates issued by public health authorities. For questions regarding specific situations not covered, please contact your building principal or Superintendent Chad Belville.
- Face masks are strongly recommended for all staff, students, and visitors while in our school buildings. This recommendation is essential to anyone with an underlying health condition or unvaccinated individuals.
- In conjunction with the CDC mandate and in consultation with our liability insurance carrier, masks will be mandatory for all staff and students while utilizing Fairfield Union transportation.
- Due to a change in state law, the 100% Remote Learning option is not available for Fairfield Union students. All students are expected to attend in-person 5 days per week unless there is an established medical excuse for homebound instruction.

# Section 1: Introduction

## Operating Principles

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- Good hygiene should be practiced at all times.
- Wellness checks should be completed daily by anyone coming on school grounds. Anyone displaying any COVID, cold or flu-like symptoms should not come to school and should contact their primary care physician.
- Anyone testing positive for COVID should work in conjunction with the Fairfield County Department of Health to complete contact tracing protocols.
- **Please be respectful and supportive of each other and the decisions being made by each family.**

# Section 2: 2021 – 2022 Phases of School and Delivery of Instruction



COVID-19

Status Level Green

- All Students Expected to Attend School
- Increased Safety Protocols and Cleaning

COVID-19

Status Level Orange

- Specific Building Closure Due to Outbreak
- Missed Days are Considered Calamity Days

COVID-19

Status Level Red

- All Fairfield Union Schools are Closed
- Missed Days are Considered Calamity Days

# Section 2: 2021 – 2022 Phases of School and Delivery of Instruction



COVID-19 - Status Green  
All Students at School  
Increased Safety Protocols

- Green status would be a full opening of school (all students, 5 days per week) with increased safety protocols to reduce the potential spread of COVID-19.

# Section 2: 2021 – 2022 Phases of School and Delivery of Instruction

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COVID-19 - Status Orange  
Specific Building Closure Due to Outbreak

- Orange status would be instituted due to a closure order by the Fairfield County Health Department or District.
- A closure of any building would be treated like a calamity day.



# Section 2: 2021 – 2022 Phases of School and Delivery of Instruction

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COVID-19 - Status Red  
All Buildings Closed

- Red status would result from an Executive Order from the Governor, the Ohio Department of Health, the Fairfield County Health Department or as determined by the Superintendent.
- A closure would be treated like a calamity day.

# Section 2: 2021 – 2022 Phases of School and Delivery of Instruction

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To determine the status level of the District, the Superintendent will consider information from a multitude of sources, including, but not limited to the following:

- The Ohio Department of Health.
- The Fairfield County Department of Health.
- The Fairfield Union Board of Education.
- The Centers for Disease Control.
- Staff, parents, and community members of the Fairfield Union Local School District.
- Local health care professionals.

# Section 3: Healthy Learning Environments



**The Reality: Educational Programs and Settings are Inherently Designed for Social Interaction, Not Social Distancing**

At Fairfield Union, the following will be essential to creating a healthy learning environment:

- Vigilantly assess for symptoms
- Wash and sanitize hands to prevent the spread of COVID-19
- Thoroughly clean and sanitize the school environment to limit the spread on shared surfaces
- Practice social distancing to the greatest extent possible
- Strongly recommend facial coverings for students, staff and visitors, especially those who are unvaccinated

# Section 3: Healthy Learning Environments



## Safety Protocols: Cleaning procedures during the school day

Prior to the start of the school day

- All commonly touched items will be disinfected with cleaners approved to kill the coronavirus.
- All hand sanitizer and soap dispensers checked for daily use.
- Buses will be cleaned in preparation for the morning routes.

During the school day

- Desks and commonly touched items will be cleaned between classes.
- Hand sanitizing stations and soap dispensers will be refilled as needed.
- Buses will be cleaned in preparation for the afternoon routes.

At the end of the school day

- Deep cleaning of all schools will be completed on a daily basis.
- Areas used for extracurricular activities will also be cleaned after usage.

# Section 3: Healthy Learning Environments



The following items continue to be in place to help provide a healthy learning environment at Fairfield Union

- Hand sanitizer stations to be distributed in every classroom, high traffic areas, and extracurricular venues.
- EPA/FDA approved cleaning and disinfecting products effective in killing viruses, including COVID-19.
- Facial coverings strongly recommended for all staff and students.
- Disinfectant sprayers for large spaces and equipment.
- Social distancing barriers where applicable.
- Signage for safety reminders to students and staff.

# Section 3: Healthy Learning Environments

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## General Safety Strategies for Good Hygiene

- Daily health checks should be completed at home before coming to school. If you feel sick, please stay home. Do not return to school/work until you meet CDC criteria or are cleared by a medical provider.
- Students or staff exhibiting [symptoms of COVID-19](#) will be sent home or to a health care provider immediately.
- Practice social distancing whenever feasible.
- Frequently wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol content if soap and water are not available.
  - Hand sanitizing stations will be installed in every classroom.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with your elbow or a tissue and dispose of the tissue.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched items and surfaces as much as possible.

# Section 3: Healthy Learning Environments

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## General Safety Strategies: Shaping the School Day

- District officials will work closely with the health department and maintain open communication with state agencies.
- Practice social distancing, as feasible, using visual markings.
- Daily cleaning and disinfecting protocols for high touch areas and surfaces.
- Provide health and safety education related to COVID-19 for students and training for staff.
- Post signs in buildings reinforcing social distancing and good hygiene.
- As feasible, utilize safety barriers for staff in high traffic areas.

# Section 3: Healthy Learning Environments

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## General Safety Strategies: Shaping the School Day

- Students desks will be in rows and facing the same direction.
- Secondary clinics will be established to help isolate students who become ill at school.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be installed in all classrooms and high traffic areas.
- Continuous monitoring prevention inventory (PPE, sanitizer, cleaning and disinfecting supplies, etc...).
- Student and staff absences will be monitored closely as this could be a warning sign of a larger health issue.
- Facial coverings will be required on Fairfield Union transportation unless an exemption applies per Ohio Department of Health orders.



# Section 3: Healthy Learning Environments



## General Safety Strategies for Transportation

Challenges exist to implement social distancing on school buses. Most routes include 60-70 rostered students and our buses have 24-26 seats. Financial constraints, a limited number of licensed bus drivers, and geographical distance do not allow the district to triple our bus fleet or triple routes. In turn, this could hinder the District's ability to meet social distancing guidelines. **Parents should notify the transportation office if their student intends to utilize an alternative transportation method other than District provided transportation.**

The following procedures will be implemented on buses for Fairfield Union:

- Parents should conduct daily health checks of their child and not send an ill child to school.
- Students will be assigned seats on all buses.
- Buses will be cleaned and disinfected before and after routes.
- Students will be required to wear facial coverings on buses unless the student meets an acceptable exception.
- Hand sanitizer will be available on buses and at entrance and exit points of school buildings prior to loading and unloading buses.
- Ventilation – Natural air circulation (opening windows) is recommend with consideration given to weather conditions and other health concerns (asthma, etc.).

# Section 4: Responding to a Confirmed COVID-19 Positive Case



- The Fairfield County Department of Health will be conducting contact tracing and implementing quarantines for the 2021 – 2022 school year. The Fairfield Union Local School District encourages all members of the community to work in conjunction with the health department as they work through their protocols.
- Quarantine letters and communication will be sent from the health department regarding quarantine timelines. The Fairfield County Department of Health will control when a student or staff member is released from quarantine.
- Fairfield Union will continue to maintain a separate quarantine area for any student who exhibits signs or symptoms of COVID, the flu or cold-like symptoms while at school. Students who exhibit two or more symptoms, as outlined by the CDC, will be assessed by the school nurse to determine if parents will need to pick up their student from school.
- Parents or guardians of students, who are deemed to have been in close contact to a COVID positive case, will be contacted by a school nurse.
- Fairfield Union will constantly monitor COVID positive cases in the District and in our community. Increased cleaning protocols from last year will continue to be implemented on a daily basis throughout the 2021 – 2022 school year.

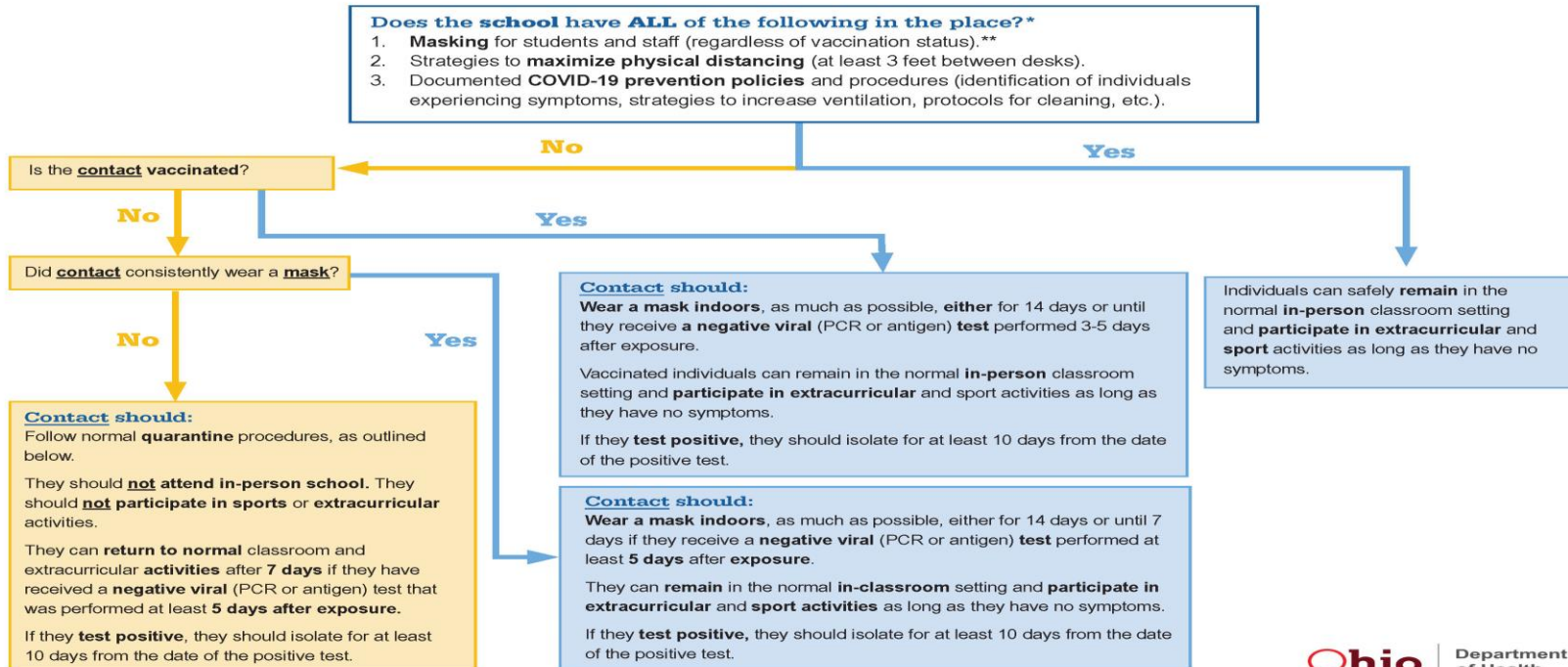
# Section 4: Responding to a Confirmed COVID-19 Positive Case



## Ohio Department of Health Guidelines for Quarantine

### Guidelines for Quarantine After Exposure in K-12 Classroom Settings

This chart can help guide quarantine decisions after a student or adult contact is exposed to someone with COVID-19 in the classroom setting.



\*This flowchart applies only to COVID-19 exposures that occurred within a K-12 classroom setting. It is not applicable to exposure in the community, extracurricular, or sports environment.  
\*\*The person who tested positive for COVID-19 should follow standard isolation procedures.

# Section 5: Additional Resources and Information

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## Food Distribution Services

- The Federal Food Lunch Program will provide money to Fairfield Union to help make all meals (breakfast and lunch) free for Fairfield Union students during the 2021 – 2022 school year.
- All students are being encouraged to complete the Free and Reduced Lunch Form and the accompanying Sharing Information Form even though meals are free this year. These forms are used to help secure additional Federal funds under the Title 1 program.

# Section 5: Additional Resources and Information

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- [www.fairfieldunion.org](http://www.fairfieldunion.org)
- [ODE Reset and Restart Guidelines](#)
- <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Student-Supports/Coronavirus>
- [Fairfield County Health Department](#)
- [Center for Disease Control](#)
- <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/home>