# Opening Fairfield Union Local Schools for the 2020 – 2021 School Year



A PLAN OF ACTION TO RESET AND RESTART EDUCATION \*UPDATED - 8/17/20



#### **Table of Contents**

- 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 Case
- Section 5: Additional Resources and Information

# **Section 1: Introduction Operating Principles**



- It is the goal of the Fairfield Union Local School District to fully open schools on schedule for the 2020 2021 school year. 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.
- All plans will be devised with the goal of protecting the health and safety of our students, staff and community
  by considering the guidance given by the CDC, the Ohio Department of Health, the Fairfield County Health
  Department and the Ohio Department of Education. While risks can be minimized, plans cannot completely
  eliminate all risks.
- Our mission will be to support the academic, social, emotional and physical needs of our students and staff.
- Students, Staff, Families and our Community will need to realize our plans need to be flexible, and we stress that everyone must show patience through this process.
- This plan will not fully encompass the totality of the regulations and guidance given to Fairfield Union Locals Schools by the state of Ohio. Also, please realize plans are subject to change. For questions regarding specific situations not covered, please contact your building principal or Superintendent Chad Belville.



COVID-19

Status Level Green

COVID-19

Status Level Yellow

COVID-19

**Status Level Orange** 

COVID-19

Status Level Red

- All Students Expected to Attend School
- Increased Safety Protocols and Cleaning
- 50% In-Person Attendance / 50% Remote Learning
- Alternating Weeks (Based on the Students' Last Name)
- Specific Building Closure Due to Outbreak
- Remote Learning Curriculum in Closed Building(s) Only
- All Students Stay Home
- Remote Learning Curriculum



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

- Face masks will be required for students unless they meet an exception outlined by state orders and/or the guidance contained in this
  document.
- Face masks will be required for staff unless they meet an exception outlined by state orders.
- Green status would be a full opening of school with increased safety protocols to reduce the potential spread of COVID-19. Green status will only be considered if Fairfield County is under Level 1 or Level 2 on the ODH Ohio COVID-19 Risk Level Advisory System.
- Food distribution services for students in a remote learning environment will occur daily. Additional details can be found in Section 5.



COVID-19 - Status Yellow

50% In-Person Attendance / 50% Remote Learning

**Alternating Weeks** 

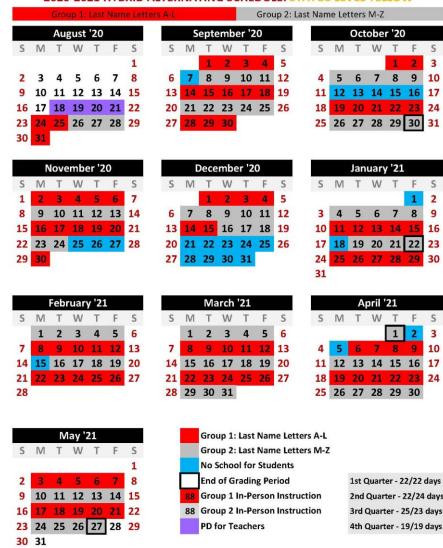
- Yellow status would be instituted due to extensive social distancing protocols mandated by federal, state or local health officials.
- Students with a last name beginning with letters **A-L** will be designated as **Group 1**. Students with a last name beginning with letters **M-Z** will be designated as **Group 2**. A Yellow Status calendar for the year will be posted on the district web page and included in this plan.
- If a family or household has school-aged children with different last names, all students in the household may attend in-person classes on the same days. Families must contact the district office to coordinate the schedule for your family.
- All students will be directed to their Google Classroom(s) to access assignments from their teachers. Students in a remote learning
  environment will still be enrolled in their normal class schedule and receive work from their regular classroom teacher.
- Students would be expected to make efforts to be engaged in their remote learning curriculum during normal school hours unless otherwise excused.
- Food distribution services for students in a remote learning environment will occur daily. Additional details can be found in Section 5.

#### COVID-19 - Status Yellow

- 50% In-Person Attendance / 50%
   Remote learning environment
- Alternating weeks based on the last name of the student
- This schedule will remain intact for the 2020 – 2021 school year and can be enacted at any time

#### **Fairfield Union Local School District**

#### 2020-2021 HYBRID ALTERNATING SCHEDULE: STATUS LEVEL YELLOW



Calendar Templates by Vertex42.com





COVID-19 - Status Orange

Specific Building Closure Due to Outbreak

Remote Learning in Closed Building Only

- Orange status would be instituted due to a closure order by the Fairfield County Health Department or District.
- Students in a closed building would transition to a fully remote learning environment while the building is closed.
- All students will be directed to their Google Classroom(s) to access assignments from their teachers. Students in a remote learning environment will still be enrolled in their normal class schedule and receive work from their regular classroom teacher.
- Students would be expected to make efforts to be engaged in their remote learning curriculum during normal school hours unless otherwise excused.
- Food distribution services for students in a remote learning environment will occur daily. Additional details can be found in Section 5.
- All staff members may be expected to report to school during their normal work hours unless determined otherwise by the Superintendent.



COVID-19 - Status Red

All Buildings Closed

All Students Transition to a Remote Learning Curriculum

- 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. Red status may be instituted if Fairfield County is under a Level 3 or Level 4 on the ODH Ohio COVID-19 Risk Level Advisory System or if staff absenteeism outpaces available substitutes.
- Food distribution services for students in a remote learning environment will occur daily. Additional details can be found in Section 5.
- All students will be directed to their Google Classroom(s) to access assignments from their teachers. Students in a remote learning environment will still be enrolled in their normal class schedule and receive work from their regular classroom teacher.
- Students would be expected to make efforts to be engaged in their remote learning curriculum during normal school hours unless otherwise excused.
- All staff members may be expected to report to school during their normal work hours unless determined otherwise by the Superintendent.



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 Public Health Advisory System (see following slide).
- 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.



#### Ohio COVID-19 Risk Level Guidelines for the Public

LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4
Public Emergency Active exposure and spread. Follow all current health orders.	Public Emergency Increased exposure and spread. Exercise high degree of caution. Follow all current health orders.	Public Emergency  Very high exposure and spread. Limit activities as much as possible. Follow all current health orders.	Public Emergency Severe exposure and spread. Only leave home for supplies and services. Follow all current health orders.

LEVEL 1-4 REQUIRE COMPLIANCE WITH ALL HEALTH ORDERS

Ohio Public Health Advisory System



Virtual Learning Academy (VLA) – The District will be providing a 100% remote learning platform for any family that is uncomfortable with their student(s) returning to school.

- Please carefully review and complete the remote learning application found on the <u>Fairfield Union Web Page</u>. This process should be completed as soon as possible.
- Online learning cannot fully replicate the learning experience found with in-person instruction. Please consider all factors in making a decision to follow this pathway for education.
- It is expected that families pursuing this option commit to a minimum of a grading period (9 weeks) for online/home-bound learning.
- Any student participating in the 100% remote learning platform is still enrolled as a Fairfield Union student and eligible for all services and activities the District offers other students.
- To learn more about the Fairfield Union remote learning platform, you can visit <u>Virtual Learning Academy</u> for details.
- All students will be directed to their Google Classroom(s) to access assignments from their teachers. Students in a remote learning
  environment will still be enrolled in their normal class schedule and receive work from their regular classroom teacher.
- In the event of a Red Status Level, teachers will be prepared to provide online instruction to all students impacted by a school closure. If your child attends in-person instruction, you WILL NOT need to complete the registration form or notify the District.



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
- Implement face covering policies for students and staff



#### Safety Protocols: Cleaning procedures during 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.



The following items have been ordered in preparation for providing 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.
- Face shields for staff.
- Facemasks for staff.
- Non-touch infrared scanning thermometers.
- Heavy duty gloves for staff.
- Disinfectant sprayers for large spaces and equipment.
- Social distancing barriers where applicable.
- Signage for safety reminders to students and staff.



#### **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 <u>symptoms of COVID-19</u> 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.
- If there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 in your home, please contact your child's principal and health care provider.
- Utilize personal protective equipment as much as possible.



- 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.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be installed in all classrooms and high traffic areas.
- As feasible, keep groups of students together throughout the day to minimize interactions between large groups.
- As feasible, utilize outdoor learning spaces or large indoor spaces to maximize social distancing.



- Students desks will be in rows and facing the same direction.
- Group seating and group interactions in classes will be avoided as much as possible.
- Non-essential furniture and equipment will be moved out of classrooms.
- As feasible, outdoor learning spaces or large indoor spaces will be utilized to maximize social distancing for classes.
- Secondary clinics will be established to help isolate students who become ill at school.
- Encourage alternative meeting options for volunteer activities and groups (Boosters, PTO, etc...).
- Visitors will be limited to the main office area only.
- Student and staff absences will be monitored closely as this could be a warning sign of a larger health issue.



- Limit the number of students using the restrooms at one time.
- Continuous monitoring prevention inventory (PPE, sanitizer, cleaning and disinfecting supplies, etc...)
- Encourage students to pack lunches or provide packaged food items.
- Efforts will be made to reduce the number of students eating in the cafeteria.
- Facial coverings will be required unless an exemption applies per Ohio Department of Health orders.
- Limit the number of students in food serving lines.
- Reduce congregation in high traffic areas.
- As feasible, utilize safety barriers for staff in high traffic areas.



- As feasible, stagger class changes and arrival/dismissal procedures.
- In conjunction with Dynamix Energy Services, detailed controls of air circulation and exchanges will be implemented across every building to increase the flow of natural air circulation.
- Close traditional drinking fountains unless cup dispensers can be installed. Permit students to use water bottles.
- No field trips until further notice.
- Playgrounds: Disinfect high touch areas and limit usage of some equipment. The District will continue to have recess for students.
- There may be specific limitations by grade levels or buildings.
- Staggered patterns of loading and unloading buses will be implemented at each building.
- Manipulatives and Equipment: Reduce the use of shared items by students
  - Where possible, students will be given assigned seats and manipulatives to limit exposure from other students.



#### **Guidelines for Face Coverings (Masks)**

- The CDC and ODH provide comprehensive guidance for the use of cloth face coverings to help slow the spread of COVID-19.
- As feasible, cloth face coverings can be an important safety tool for individuals and families when not able to maintain social
  distancing for activities such as: busing and transportation; events and meetings; instruction that necessitate close proximity;
  educating medically vulnerable students; supporting medically vulnerable staff; and protecting schools' health care workers and
  crisis responders.
- Face masks must cover an individual's nose, mouth, and chin.
- All **visitors** to a school building will be required to wear a face mask. This will include visitors attending athletic events (unless the guest meets an established exemption for wearing a mask).
- At this time, to limit potential exposure to our students and staff, Fairfield Union Local School District will not be utilizing volunteers during the school day.
- Who should NOT wear facial coverings?
  - Children under age 2
  - Anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.



#### **Guidelines for Face Coverings (Masks)**

- Per orders from the Ohio Department of Health (8/13/20), all students and staff are required to wear face masks at all times when:
  - In any indoor location including, but not limited to, classrooms, gymnasiums, offices, locker rooms, hallways, and the cafeteria;
  - Outdoors on school property or waiting on a school bus and unable to consistently maintain a distance of six (6) feet
    or more from individuals who are not members of their household; or
  - Riding a school bus.
- Students will be responsible for providing their own face masks at school and on the bus. Students should plan to have multiple masks as part of their back to school supplies.
- Families should begin working with their children now to practice wearing face masks at school.
- Face shields may be an alternative when an individual is communicating or seeking to communicate with someone who is
  hearing impaired or has another disability, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication, or where a
  cloth face covering might present a safety hazard.
- Mask breaks may be implemented if students can maintain six feet or more of separation and the supervising staff members believes a break is necessary.



#### **Guidelines for Face Coverings (Masks): Exemptions to the ODH Mask Order**

- Medical exemptions signed by a licensed healthcare professional must be submitted to the school nurse prior to the first day of school.
- Exemptions: The requirement to wear a facial covering does not apply when:
  - The individual has a medical condition including respiratory conditions that restricts breathing, mental health conditions, or a disability that contraindicates the wearing of a facial covering; or
  - The individual is communicating or seeking to communicate with someone who is hearing impaired or has another disability, where
    an accommodation is appropriate and necessary;
  - The individual is actively participating in outdoor recess and/or physical activity where students are able to maintain a distance of six feet or more or athletic practice, scrimmage, or competition that is permitted under a separate ODH order;
  - The individual is seated and actively consuming food or beverage;
  - Where students and staff can maintain distancing of at least six feet and removal of the facial covering is necessary for instructional purposes, including instruction in foreign language, English language for non-native speakers, and other subjects where wearing a facial covering would prohibit participation in normal classroom activities, such as playing an instrument;
  - Students are able to maintain a distance of six feet or more and a mask break is deemed necessary by the educator supervising the setting;
  - The individual is alone in an enclosed space, such as an office; or
  - When an established sincerely held religious requirement exists that does not permit a facial covering.



#### **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.
- Drivers will be required to follow employee guidelines for wearing face coverings.
- Drivers will dismiss students from one bus at a time upon arrival to school.
- Ventilation Natural air circulation (opening windows) is recommend with consideration given to weather conditions and other health concerns (asthma, etc.).



- If there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 at a school, regardless of community transmission, any school in any
  community might need to implement short-term closure. If this happens, CDC recommends the following
  procedures regardless of the level of community spread:
  - Once learning of a confirmed COVID-19 case for a student or staffer, the school's health official(s) should immediately contact the county health department.
  - A confirmed case is a positive COVID-19 lab test according to local health officials.
- Fairfield Department of Health (FDH) Guidance
  - Definition of Direct Exposure per FDH
    - Being exposed to an individual, 6' or less, with a confirmed case of COVID-19 for more than 15 minutes.



#### Guidelines for Close Contact to a Confirmed COVID-19 Individual

- Individual should self-isolate/quarantine for 14 days
- Self-monitor for symptoms
  - Check temperature
  - Watch for fever of over 100 F, cough, or shortness of breath, or other COVID symptoms
  - If no symptoms for 14 days, return to school
- Close contact is defined as being within 6 feet of a CONFIRMED infected individual, for at least 15 minutes in the time period from:
  - 48 hours before the COVID positive individual tested positive for COVID-19 until 10 days after the test (if COVID-19 positive individual is asymptomatic); OR
  - 48 hours before symptom onset for the COVID-19 positive individual until 10 days after symptom onset, AND as long as no fever for at least 24 hours (without fever-reducing meds), AND other symptoms (cough, aches, etc.) have improved (if COVID-19 positive individual is symptomatic)



#### Guidelines for when an individual who is COVID-19+ can return to school

- Health Official Guidelines
  - Individual may return to school after all of the following has occurred (symptom-based strategy):
    - They are free of fever (without the use of medication) for at least 24 hours
    - Symptoms have improved
    - At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared
  - In addition, students and staff who are well but are taking care of or share a home with someone with a case of COVID-19 should follow instructions from local health officials to determine when to return to school.
  - For questions regarding when to quarantine or return to school, please visit the <u>Fairfield County Department of Health</u> <u>Website</u> for more information.



- Prepare for a possible short-term closure for an initial consultation with local health officials. This initial
  short-term move to Red or Orange status allows time for the local health officials to gain a better
  understanding of the COVID-19 situation impacting the school. This allows the local health officials to help the
  school determine appropriate next steps, including whether an extended dismissal duration is needed.
  - Ultimately, local health officials have the expertise to determine the necessary length of closure and scale of response.
  - During school closures, we may consider canceling extracurricular group activities, school-based
    afterschool programs and events (e.g., assemblies, spirit nights, field trips and sporting events).
  - Staff, students and their families may be discouraged from gathering or socializing on campus.
  - Students unable to attend school will be required to transition to an remote learning platform until the student is cleared to return to school by the Fairfield County Health Department or their medical provider.



- Communicate with staff, parents and students.
  - Self-monitor for symptoms and contact your healthcare provider.
- Coordinate with local health officials to communicate dismissal decisions and the possible COVID-19 exposure.
  - Consider the potential impact, socially and emotionally, on those infected.
  - In such a circumstance, it is critical to preserve confidentiality of the student or staff member to the extent possible considering health and safety issues.



- Clean and disinfect thoroughly.
- Coordinate with local health officials to determine next steps to mitigate the outbreak.
  - Close off areas used by the individuals with COVID-19 and wait as long as practical before beginning cleaning and disinfection to minimize potential for exposure to respiratory droplets. Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area. If possible, wait up to 24 hours before beginning cleaning and disinfection.
  - Cleaning staff should clean and disinfect all areas (e.g., offices, bathrooms and common areas) used by the ill persons, focusing especially on frequently touched surfaces.
  - If surfaces are dirty, they should be cleaned using a detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.
  - For disinfection, most common EPA-registered household disinfectants should be effective.
  - Additional information on cleaning and disinfection of community facilities such as schools can be found on CDC website.



- Make decisions about extending the school dismissal.
  - During dismissals (after cleaning and disinfection), schools and programs may stay open for staff members (unless ill) while students stay home. Keeping facilities open:
    - Allows teachers to develop and deliver lessons and materials remotely, thus maintaining continuity of teaching and learning; and
    - Allows other staff members to continue to provide services and help with additional response efforts.
  - Decisions on which, if any, staff should be allowed in the school should be made in collaboration with local health officials.

    Administrators will work in close collaboration and coordination with local health officials to make dismissal and large event cancellation decisions.
  - Administrators will seek guidance from local health officials to determine when students and staff should return to schools and what additional steps are needed for the school community.
  - In addition, students and staff who are well but are taking care of or share a home with someone with a case of COVID-19 should follow instructions from local health officials to determine when to return to school.

### **Section 5: Additional Resources and Information**



#### **Food Distribution Services for Students in a Remote Learning Environment**

- The Fairfield Union Local School District will make every effort to maintain daily food distribution services for currently enrolled students in a remote learning environment.
- When the District is in a Green, Yellow or Orange Status Level, meals will be provided daily for Fairfield Union students in a remote learning environment through a "Grab and Go" program at Fairfield Union High School. Meals (a hot lunch and breakfast for the next day) can be picked up at the FUHS cafeteria entrance between the hours of 10:30 am and 12:00 pm beginning August 24, 2020. Should the District be forced to go to a Red Status Level, new plans for food distribution would be released at that time.
- Changes in the Federal Food Lunch Program require the District to resume normal lunch operations in regards to charging payment for school lunches. The District will not be accepting money during meal pick up at the high school. Students needing to pay for meals would do so through their Pay Schools account.
- Students will need to complete an order for each day a meal is needed. This is needed for record-keeping purposes and to make sure an appropriate amount of food is prepared daily. To reserve a meal, please visit the following link to place your order (service will begin on Monday, August 24, 2020):
  - Fairfield Union Meal Reservation Form
- Lunch and Breakfast prices are as follow:
  - \$2.60 FUHS and RMS Lunches
  - \$2.35 BES and PES Lunches
  - \$0.40 Reduced Price Lunches
  - \$1.10 All Student Breakfasts
  - Breakfast is free for students receiving reduced or free lunch

### **Section 5: Additional Resources and Information**



- 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
- Ohio K-12 School Guidance