

August 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we look forward to the start of the 2020-2021 school year, we know that you have many questions and concerns. Please be assured the health and safety of students is our #1 priority. The purpose of this letter is to share with each of you the procedures that are being implemented to help in the prevention and spread of COVID-19 and other illnesses. These procedures are based on the current CDC recommendations and protocols established by Akron Children's Hospital medical staff. All are subject to change as we receive new information from our local health authorities.

Daily Health Assessment Check-In

ALL persons (staff, students, visitors) are asked to complete a daily health check prior to coming to school. Please make sure you own a reliable thermometer. A person should not come to school or remain at school under any circumstances if she/he displays any of the following:

- Signs or symptoms of a fever in the past 24 hours such as chills, sweat, felt feverish or had a temperature of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or greater
- Cough
- Shortness of breath/ Difficulty breathing
- Sore throat
- Nasal congestion/Runny nose
- Body aches
- New loss of taste and/or smell
- Diarrhea/Nausea/Vomiting
- Fatigue
- Headache

Any one of these symptoms alone or in combination indicates a person may have a COVID-19 infection, resulting in immediate medical isolation and dismissal from school. It is essential that every family has a plan for picking up an ill child within 60 minutes and that all contact information is current. **Having these symptoms does not mean your child has COVID-19.** In fact, it is much more likely these symptoms are due to another cause such as influenza (the flu), ear infection, common cold or strep throat.

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Procedure for Return to School

ALL Students with COVID19 like symptoms must have a note from a healthcare provider stating it is safe for them to return to school.

- For a student with a chronic health condition (like allergies) that have the same signs and symptoms of COVID-19, health care provider clearance is required before returning to school.
- For a student dismissed from school with COVID-19 symptoms who do not provide a safe to return to school note from their healthcare provider, the following must occur prior to school re-entry. The student has had at least 1-day (24 hours) fever free without the use of fever-reducing medications (like Ibuprofen or Tylenol); and improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

Covid-19 is a Class A reportable disease. We will communicate with our health officials when students or staff members have tested positive and will fully cooperate with their guidance.

If a high number of staff or students are ill at school, we must share this information with public health authorities and seek their guidance. We will adhere to all isolation and quarantine periods at the recommendations of our local health authorities.

Hygiene Practices at School

Throughout the school day, teachers and staff members will teach and reinforce healthy hygiene practices. Six feet of distancing will be maintained when possible. Children will be required to wash their hands frequently during the day with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. In addition, alcohol-based hand sanitizers will be placed throughout all entrances to the building and in individual classrooms. As required for schools in the state of Ohio, school staff and students are encouraged to wear a mask that snugly covers their nose and mouth. Cleaning protocols throughout the campus have been enhanced focusing on frequently touched surfaces during the school day. More in depth cleaning will occur outside of school hours, including the use of an Electrostatic Spray.

We Can Help!

While it will be different than any other school year, School Health Services is here to support the wellness of your student(s). **We recommend that students, families, and school districts plan for illness-related school exclusion to occur in students through the course of this school year.**

ALL students are encouraged to get an annual well-child visit with your child's health

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school health



care provider. In addition to performing a physical exam and reviewing any necessary immunizations (vaccinations) your child needs, it's more important than ever to talk to your provider about your child's growth, development and behavior and how to handle sudden illness this school year.

NEW this school year, our nurse practitioner and school health team will be able to provide additional medical care to your student(s) through our School-Based Health Center. See the attached flyer for details. Use the **QR code on the right**, below, to access the Consent Form and read more about the school-based health center program. Return the completed Form to your school clinic staff.

Coronavirus has created many changes from the norm. To help your student(s) better understand this virus, we have created several videos. You can access the video using the **QR Code on the left**, below. Depending on the type of cell phone you have, either:

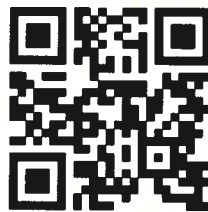
- Open your phone's camera, hold it in front of the QR code as if to take a picture, and connect to the video OR
- Download a free app from the App store and use it to read the code to see the video.

Welcome Back! We look forward to serving you for another year at school.

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View the Videos



Download the Consent Form

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