



Frequently Asked Questions about

Return to School 2020-2021

Q&A from 9/22/2020 School Board Meeting

(responses are based on Phases 4 and 5)

1. Q. Is this decision backed by data and science? I know Catherine has mentioned she is using data from surrounding areas to drive this decision, but where is that data?

A. The data comes weekly from the Department of Health and Human Services. This week, for example the number of cases has declined to 515 and the positivity rate is 4.9%.

2. Q. Are you developing a policy for students who are non-compliant in the use of masks and safety protocols, including ultimately transferring them to the virtual program, which is a policy that other school districts have in place. Another question is the school district's definition of exposure and quarantine, and procedures on how students/staff are cleared to return to the building. Also, what is the continuity of learning plan for staff/students in quarantine.

A. Yes, students who are not compliant with the mask policy will be transferred to the virtual program per our Preparedness Plan. We are working with the Health Department to determine contract tracing and "close contact" (within 6' apart, for more than 15 minutes). They have provided flow charts in the event staff and/or students test positive. This includes who should quarantine and for how long.

3. Q. For the center-based buildings... Are you taking in to account the fact that they house over 15 districts?

A. Yes, we are looking at the rates of neighboring districts for center programs as well as our school of choice students.



4. Q. If we return face to face learning what will be the procedure for a positive covid case and what are the guidelines for notifying parents of a positive case? Who will make the decision to close the schools if there is an outbreak and how will the students proceed with learning of the school is closed?

A. If a student or staff members tests positive within a school, all parents will be notified. Those who are in the same classroom will receive a more specific letter in order for families to look for symptoms. Those determined to be in close contact will be personally notified. We will work with the Health Department and base a decision based on their guidance. If a close a school, we will go back to remote instruction. It will be unlikely the entire district will close all at one time.

5. Q. What is your plan to help the students at Madison who need therapy and why is Cook in Northville back to school but Madison students are not?

A. The Board took a cautious approach to learn from other districts. That is exactly why we feel comfortable returning Madison students, who potentially have the highest risks, on October 12, 2020.

6. Q. Why aren't the centers program kids getting packets/workbooks as well? If the kids from general education in both remote and virtual getting them, why are the programs kids being left out again? Many of these students would do much better with hands on materials, especially in certain subjects yet they have nothing.

A. None of the students are receiving packets. The instruction is all being delivered remotely. As of now, virtual students also do not get packets, but they are being created. Center program students will



have the option to stay virtual and if packets are needed, they too will receive them.

7. Q. Could you do electrostatic cleaning throughout all the schools? It is fairly simple and the equipment can be purchased or hire a company to do it.

A. Our preparedness plan has outlined a process for disinfecting each night. This includes a product that can be sprayed and dries within minutes (it is also bleach free). Our maintenance staff will do this when students and staff have left for the day.

8. Q. How will you incorporate the children that will be switching to remote/f2f in November in this new plan? Does the model allow for influx of numbers?

A. Right now, we have classrooms that are not being used at each elementary school. These will be used in November should be have a large influx of students who would like to switch.

9. Q. What is the reasoning for the Phase-In model looking differently for elementary as opposed to middle school and high school? This will be almost logistically impossible for working parents.

A. The reasoning behind the elementary model meeting every day is it is best for that age learner to see his/her teacher every day. We can do this and ensure the school can be cleaned in-between sessions. Due to WMS and RHS having a larger campus, it is impossible to clean all the classrooms, hallways and bathrooms during the middle of the day. Therefore, they will attend for whole days and the schools will be cleaned at night. A major drawback is the plans are different and this presents a challenge to families. We continued to pursue it due to the educational value it provides to the K-5 students.



10.Q. What is the reasoning for not having plexiglass or barriers of some kind on desks? It sounds like the administrators are resigned to the fact that there is no way to keep the kids socially distant. Is this a budget issue? Practical issue?

A. With half the students coming at a time, we can keep all levels socially distant. Plexiglass or barriers add another area to disinfect and it takes far longer to ensure the areas are clean.

11.Q. Who will be in charge of ensuring that schools are adhering to safety and cleaning measures and how will parents be able to monitor compliance?

A. Each principal and teacher will ensure other students and staff are adhering to the safety protocols. Our Director of Operations will be overseeing the cleaning measures. Our Director of Human Resources has been named the District COVID Coordinator.

12.Q. Will students be asked to return to school in-person, phased in or otherwise, before the Board resumes in-person meetings?

A. We will monitor the progress of the Phase-In Plan and make decisions based on if that is successful. The data will also play a role in determining when we return F2F.

13.Q. Most of the center-based students can not wear masks. We also won't have plexiglass dividers. How are we going to keep staff and students safe in these instances?

14. See #10

15.Q. As you know, many schools and colleges that started in-person learning are now moving back to online learning due to outbreaks. What makes you believe your district will not be susceptible to this? I



have reviewed all plans and don't think it addresses an effective action plan for when an outbreak occurs within the district.

A. In our area, two schools have closed. One for 2 days and one for 14. Colleges and universities have had a difficult time with students gathering, despite many warnings. The health department has been very helpful to date and will advise us should we have multiple positive cases.

16.Q. My son is in a split 4/5 grade class. Would his class split by last name or grade in a hybrid option?

A. The class will likely be split by grade level.

17.Q. What happens when a student or staff member contracts COVID? I understand the quarantining process and disinfecting process but if we have a large amount of staff and students who are sick, won't we have to shut down again? And if we do, won't that disrupt the quality of education and routines that the students have formed once again? How will this plan that has been created, reflect what procedures will take place in order to keep everyone safe? Also, if a teacher is forced to quarantine, and for those of us that co-teach will a sub be put in our place? How will we address this because yes, we are a team and we all pick up the slack for each other but at what cost?

A. Should we have an outbreak, the students will return to remote instruction. The benefit of having done remote learning for 8 weeks is that they will be comfortable with that type of delivery. Teachers who are well and need to quarantine can teach from home. Those who are ill will receive a sub.



18.Q. Will PPE be provided to all staff? Will masks, face shields and gloves be provided or will staff be required to provide their own? If the district is claiming that they are keeping everyone safe, are these measures put in place to provide these items?

A. We have supplies of masks, face shields, gowns, gloves for staff. Masks and face shield for those students who need them.

19.Q. This question is regarding metal shop in high school. How will we do the projects like doing stuff with metal how will it work?

A. Metal shop students will be able to work in the lab, on the days they report. Wednesday afternoons will also be an option when the instructor has small group instruction time.