



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about the 2020-21 School Year **for Parents**

Avon Community School Corporation (ACSC) communicated on June 17, 2020 that we (and all other Hendricks County school districts) will re-open in person on our scheduled opening date. For ACSC, that is Wednesday, July 29, 2020. An additional one-page infographic was shared on June 19, 2020 with detail. This FAQ, which will be updated regularly, is to provide more in-depth information to ACSC families.

Instructional Questions

Will there be an online option available? Yes, we recognize that not all families will be ready to send their children back to school so we plan to have a more limited curriculum available online.

Will the online experience be similar to what we did from March to May 2020? No, at that time, we were asking our teachers only to work in an online environment, so they could focus all their energy and time on transitioning to online learning. With the vast majority of our students anticipated to return in person, our teachers will not be able to replicate what is happening in the classroom in online learning.

What will the K-5 online experience be? Depending on the number of students who choose this option, we anticipate assigning one teacher/grade level to provide the online curriculum. The curriculum will be limited to mathematics, reading and language arts. There will be some self-directed opportunities in social studies, science and related arts. The online teacher will still report to a home school daily so she/he can plan with other teachers at that grade level. It is possible that if the number of students who participate at a certain grade level shrinks dramatically as the year goes on, the online teacher may return to a school to teach part or all of the day in person. Online work will be graded and will be used to determine students' grades for the quarter/semester.

What about grades 6-8? Since these students have one-to-one devices, they will be participating in classes from home via Zoom or a similar application. Once the demand is known, a specific schedule will be developed of the times of the school day that a student needs to be online.

What about the high school online experience? High school students (who also have one-to-one devices) will be using an online learning curriculum called Edmentum and/or they may attend courses not offered in Edmentum from Indiana Online.

What is Indiana Online? ACSC has access to Indiana Online through our membership in CIESC (Central Indiana Educational Service Center). Indiana Online is one of the largest supplemental high school course providers in the state, offering a wide variety of year-round and summer courses online. Avon has had thousands of students successfully complete Indiana Online courses in a wide variety of subjects, everything from PE to Advanced Placement courses. Additional information is available at <https://indianaonline.org/>.

If someone commits to e-Learning or in-person to start the year, will they be allowed to move later to the alternate option? We will be flexible as the school year begins to allow families to determine which option works best for their children. We certainly acknowledge that there will be differences between the e-Learning curriculum and the more robust in-person curriculum, but we will assist students to adjust.

What about sharing of supplies? Obviously, we cannot completely eliminate sharing of supplies (ex: art class). We will sanitize supplies before each class but it will be imperative for students to wash or sanitize their hands before and after using shared supplies.

How will classrooms be set up differently to reduce possible spread? Excess furniture and equipment is being removed from all classrooms so as to provide the maximum opportunity to spread out. Social distance will not be possible in every classroom so individual desks will be in rows facing the front of the room. This should allow students to remove their masks during class.

What about the rooms with tables instead of desks or times when the teacher works with small groups? We will social distance to the maximum extent possible but there will be times where we will need to put masks on when working closely, in small groups.

What about passing periods? The best advice we have been given is to have students wear masks during passing periods and keep them moving. We are considering staggering movement and modifying schedules to the extent that we can.

What about band, choir, orchestra? We will spread students out to the maximum extent possible, attempt to have them facing in one direction and use other spaces (auditorium, large group instruction, outside) to spread out when possible.

Will our substitute teachers follow the same guidelines? Yes.

Will paper packets be offered to students? No – the online option is our only alternative to in-person instruction.

If a teacher is out with symptoms, will a sub be used for 14 days? It is possible that a sub may be used to manage the classroom but the teacher may be able to Zoom in to teach. This will be dependent upon the individual situation.

What about students who receive special education services? Students who participate in online learning and receive special education services will continue receiving their services virtually. A special education teacher will be assigned to collaborate with general education teachers to ensure that all accommodations and services are delivered. This may be a different special education teacher than who typically supports your child. A conference will be held to determine all services with input from both school personnel and parents.

Students receiving 504 accommodations will continue to have their accommodations if they apply to virtual learning. Some 504 plans may need adjusted for online learning.

Health & Safety Questions

Do students/staff have to wear masks? Yes. All employees and students will be required to bring a mask and wear it in designated areas and in certain circumstances (i.e. hallways, bus, small groups). According to Dr. Kris Box, Indiana State Health Commissioner, “Wearing face masks will be key to keeping schools safe, along with implementing social distancing protocols.”

We don't just want to reopen school, we want to keep it open! In addition, we want to protect our older staff members who are more at risk of getting COVID-19 and who would have a much more difficult recovery than younger people would. Dr. Box says, “I wear a mask to protect you and you wear a mask to protect me.”

What if my child has sensory issues or is claustrophobic? We intend to work with our families and employees to find ways to comply with this important protective measure while being sensitive to individual issues.

Is there a certain type of mask required? Any cloth face covering will be acceptable.

What can we do to keep schools open and keep children/staff safe? The number 1 way to keep school open is to keep children home if they are sick. Please screen your children daily and do not send them to school if they are ill. Wearing a mask at the appropriate times is also an important way to stop the spread and keep everyone safe.

What are typical COVID-19 related symptoms?

- A fever of 100.4 or greater
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell

Emphasize handwashing at home and at school. Students will wash hands anytime they are transitioning but especially before and after lunch/recess. Additional hand sanitizing stations are being added in key locations throughout all schools.

If a student arrives at school and is ill, what will happen? The student will be immediately referred to the school nurse and likely sent home.

When can an individual who tested positive for COVID-19 return to school? Persons who have **not had symptoms** but test positive for COVID-19 may return when they have gone 10 calendar days past their test without symptoms and have been preferably released by a healthcare provider. Students may also return if they are approved to do so in writing by the student's health care provider.

Persons who experienced **symptoms** and have been tested for COVID-19 may return to school if the following conditions are met:

- The individual no longer has a fever (without the use of medicine that reduces fevers); and
- Other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved); and
- At least 10 calendar days have passed since symptoms first appeared; or
- The individual has received two negative tests at least 24 hours apart.

How will clinics be handled? At the recommendation of health care professionals, we will separate space in our clinics. There will be a separate space (or in some cases a separate room) for routine medicine distribution, sprains, etc. The school nurse will see anyone displaying respiratory symptoms or fever in a separate area.

What additional cleaning protocols will be in place? High touch surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected regularly throughout the day. More intense cleaning will occur each evening. We are working with our teachers to determine how to clean desks between each period when different groups of students come in each period.

What about the cafeteria? While some school districts have elected to have their students eat lunch in their classrooms, guidance we have received from the Health Department indicates we can safely have students enjoy their lunch break in the cafeteria. There will be seating charts (so that we can determine who was in contact with whom if there is an outbreak) and individual classes will be seated together. Ex: Mrs. Craig's kindergarten class will be seated together and Mrs. Moore's kindergarten class will be seated together. Cafeteria staff will be masked and adjustments will be made to the serving line so students are not touching common surfaces.

How about recess? Again, individual classes will be assigned a play area (on a rotating basis so all get opportunities) so that we can keep classes together.

Will volunteers/visitors/guests be allowed at school? At least for the beginning of the school year we will not be scheduling volunteers during the day in our schools. We will not be able to welcome families to join their children for lunch, nor will we be inviting outside guests.

What about common water fountains? Water fountains will only be used to refill water bottles. Students will be allowed and encouraged to bring their own water bottles to stay hydrated throughout the day.

Will my child or staff be temperature screened? Not routinely. We do have additional thermometers (no touch) for all schools but we do not anticipate daily or regular screening.

Transportation Questions

Will students be allowed multiple drop-offs and pick-ups for the bus? On the advice of the Department of Education, Health Department officials and following suit with all other Hendricks County school districts, we will need to limit families to one pick up location in the morning and one drop off location in the afternoon each day. Previously, we have been able to offer an unprecedented amount of service with some families having as many as four different locations for drop offs and pickups. In order to keep our students safe and healthy, we need to limit all to one pick up and one drop off location (Note: the pick-up and drop-off location may be different).

Will bus passes be allowed? No. Students will only be permitted to ride their assigned bus home and will not be permitted to ride home on a different bus using a bus pass.

What about social distance on the bus? It is impossible to social distance on the bus without adding hundreds of bus routes and incurring impossible expense. As a result, the Health Commissioner recommends and ACSC will require that students, drivers and aides wear masks while on the bus. Some families may prefer to transport their children instead of using school transportation.

What other precautions will be taken on the bus? Seating charts will be used on the bus (and in the cafeteria and in class). Should there be a positive case, we need to be able to identify who was seated near the affected student. Siblings will sit together on the bus. Busses will be cleaned between routes and at the end of the day.

Questions About Positive Cases

What happens if there is a positive case in my child's school? If a student/staff member tests positive for COVID-19 in your child's school, ACSC will immediately notify the Hendricks County Health Department. In some cases, the Health Department will notify ACSC first. All families in that school will be notified of a positive case. If your child was in close proximity to the individual who tested positive, the Hendricks County Health Department will notify you recommending you check your child's temperature daily and watch for

symptoms over the next two to five days. The individual who tests positive will be quarantined for 14 days before returning to school.

The school will close off and deep clean affected areas.

What happens if there is a positive case in my child's classroom? If a student/staff member tests positive for COVID-19 in your child's classroom ACSC will immediately notify the Hendricks County Health Department. In some cases, the Health Department will notify ACSC first. All families from that classroom will be notified of a positive case. If your child was in close proximity to the individual who tested positive (highly likely if in the same classroom), the Hendricks County Health Department will contact you if they believe you should quarantine your child for 14 days and watch for symptoms. The school will contact you about how learning will continue during the 14 day quarantine. The individual who tests positive will be quarantined for 14 days before returning to school.

The school will close off and deep clean affected areas.

What happens if there are multiple confirmed cases in a school? Families will be notified if there are multiple confirmed cases and the school will be closed for 14 days. The Hendricks County Health Department will notify families of any children who were in close proximity to the affected individual.

What if a family member of student/staff has COVID-19? We know that a family member is 15 times more likely to get COVID-19 if another family member has it. If an individual in one's home has COVID-19 or is isolated because of COVID-19, those in the household should also stay home for a minimum of two weeks. This could be longer if the student becomes symptomatic. The Hendricks County Health Department will provide guidance.

Other Questions

When can I drop my child off in the morning? Each school will put out a time schedule of when your student may be dropped off. This schedule may vary from previous school years as we need to limit gatherings of students in entryways.

My child is transitioning to a new school; how can we help him/her adjust? Each school will provide structured opportunities for students to visit their school before July 29. There will be highly structured family events for return to school. Masks will be required and social distance will be practiced.

Whom should I contact if I have general questions or comments about COVID-19? We have designated one person to be the contact for ACSC. Mrs. Deb Swain-Bayless, School Safety Coordinator can be contacted at acsccovid@avon-schools.org.

When will athletics be allowed to start? Separate guidance will be sent out regarding athletics.

Can my child participate in athletics/extra-curricular activities while doing online learning? In order to participate in athletics/extra-curricular activities, students must be attending school in-person.

Where can I get more information about COVID-19 and schools? The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) has published IN-CLASS (Indiana's Considerations for Learning and Safe Schools). It is constantly being updated and can be accessed at:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1T1nQj3BrQRtT5QXVcVLGe114bOd5dSCIWRggPuPE5dg/edit>.

Are there going to be any special policies in place if you travel outside the state for a vacation? It is not possible to answer this question accurately until we see where hotspots continue to be but at this time we do not plan to monitor travel.

What if a student is signing up for Area 31? Will they still be able to do this if they select e-learning? We are working with the MSD of Wayne Township who oversees Area 31 on options available to students. More communication to come.