

Centralia City Schools #135

Tentative Reopening Plan

Health/Safety

Frequently Asked Questions

With the recent release of a tentative reopening plan, we understand that there are still many questions. While we are still working on some of the answers, we hope this FAQ document will help answer a few of the questions our families may have. Please know that we are continuously working to ensure we have plans in place to cover the necessary areas while providing the best education possible, maintaining safety of everyone involved, and complying with the mandates and guidelines we are being given by ISBE and IDPH.

Q: Why are students and staff being required to wear masks?

A: According to the document released from ISBE ("[Starting the 2020-2021 School Year](#)"), "...Face coverings must be worn at all times in school buildings even when social distancing is maintained..." Face coverings must fit snugly to the face and cover both the mouth and nose. The school district will provide face coverings, if needed, but coverings may be brought from home.

Q: Why are face shields not an option for students and staff?

A: Initially, ISBE's guidance stated that face shields would be an option. However, on June 30, 2020, a [letter](#) was sent out from ISBE stating that face shields are not an acceptable option. There are a very few specific situations in which this is an option, but overall, we are not permitted to use shields.

Q: Will children be allowed to remove masks at all throughout the day?

A: During breakfast and lunch times, students will not be wearing masks. Additionally, when outside for PE, recess, or a break, masks may be removed if social distance is maintained.

Q: My child has specific health concerns. What precautions are in place for ensuring his/her safety?

A: The health and safety of our students, staff, and families is extremely important. For this reason, we are following guidelines on cleaning protocol, social distancing, face coverings, etc. Additionally, we have committed to hiring a full-time nurse in all three buildings. We have also created spaces in each building for isolation for those exhibiting possible symptoms of COVID-19 that are separate from the nurse's office. This will allow those students who need to visit the nurse for a medical condition to avoid contact with someone who may be showing potential symptoms. We encourage parents who have children with specific medical needs to coordinate with our nurses who will work hard to ensure the best plan possible is in place.

Q: Will my child be required to wear a mask when outside?

A: When students are outside and socially distanced, masks will not be required.

Q: Will students be screened?

A: Based on current ISBE and IDPH guidelines, we are required to screen everyone who enters the school building. We are working on creating a screening protocol that is efficient, safe, and that utilizes the symptom list and requirements from the CDC and IDPH. We will share those plans as soon as they are finalized.

Updated on 7/21/2020

Q: If my child has a medical condition requiring him/her to be excused from the mask requirement, will there be alternative requirement?

A: If a child has a physician note excusing them from the face mask requirement, the student will then be required to wear a face shield while attending school and/or riding the bus.

Q: What will happen when a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19?

A: In the event that a person from the school community is found to be COVID-19 positive, school health personnel will work with the local health department to appropriately identify those at risk of exposure. Positive COVID-19 findings will be handled on a case by case basis, but can potentially require remote learning for the entire classrooms and/or school buses for the recommended 10 day isolation period. Centralia City Schools is working to meet the technological needs of students for required extended school absences.

Q: How will the classrooms allow for social distancing of students?

A: All unnecessary items will be removed from the classrooms to allow for maximum space to promote social distancing. Student desks will be spaced as far apart as space allows and will be facing in the same direction. Student lockers will be replaced with individual totes for student belongings to minimize hallway congestion and possible contamination of personal items.

Q: What items will my student be allowed to bring in the school buildings?

A: Students and staff will bring all school supplies on the first day of attendance and supplies will be left in their assigned totes. Students are asked to limit any personal items brought to school and bring only those that are necessary.

Q: Will water fountains be used in the school buildings?

A: The use of water fountains will be limited to filling water bottles only. Students will be allowed to keep the refillable bottles in the classrooms. Centralia City Schools will provide each student with a refillable bottle at the beginning of the school year but, if preferred, refillable bottles may be brought from home but must be empty upon arrival to the school building each day.

Q: How will meals be served to students?

A: Breakfast and lunch will be served in classrooms and rooms will be sanitized after meals. Students will remain at their desk, at the greatest distance feasible, and will be allowed to remove face coverings for the duration of their meal time.

Q: What will happen if a student becomes symptomatic while at school?

A: If a student or staff member exhibits any of COVID-19 like symptoms while in the school building, the individual will be separated from other and placed into a designated isolation area. Parents will be contacted immediately and informed of the student's condition and required to be promptly picked up from the school building. Remaining students will be removed from the affected classroom to allow for sanitation.