



2020-2021 REOPENING PLAN (GUIDELINES)

There are general principles guide each school district as they move forward with re-opening schools throughout Mahoning County. Specifically, for Lowellville Local School District:

1. Each school will implement recommended safety protocols to the highest degree possible;
2. Each school will work closely with the Mahoning County Department of Health to promote safety in each school building;
3. Each school will be transparent with all stakeholders that some level of risk will always be present when children and school district employees occupy school district facilities;
4. Each school will recognize the need for some consistency in areas of operations while recognizing that individual differences in classroom sizes, school facilities, and building operations may lead to some inconsistencies; and
5. Each school will understand the importance of clear expectations and the ability to changing circumstances and operate with various instructional models as needed.

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			
<small>Over 60% of Ohioans are considered high-risk based on CDC guidance. High-risk individuals* are at an increased risk of severe illness and should take every precaution to guard against contracting COVID-19, including following higher risk level guidance outlined below. Consult a doctor about your risk.</small>			
LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a daily health/symptom self-evaluation and stay at home if symptomatic.** • Maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet from non-household members. • Wear face coverings in public, especially when social distancing is difficult to maintain. • Increase caution when interacting with others not practicing social distancing or wearing face covers. • Avoid traveling to high-risk areas. • Follow good hygiene standards, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. o Use hand sanitizer frequently. o Avoid touching your face. o Cover coughs or sneezes (e.g., into a tissue, or elbow). o Symptom self-evaluation monitoring. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same guidelines as in Level 1. • Avoid contact with anyone who is considered high-risk. • High-risk individuals* should take extra care to follow precautions. • Decrease in-person interactions outside household. • Seek medical care as needed, but limit or avoid unnecessary visits to hospitals, nursing homes, and residential care facilities to see others as much as possible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same guidelines as in Levels 1-2. • Decrease in-person interactions with others. • Consider necessary travel only. • Limit attending gatherings of any number. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same guidelines as in Level 1-3. • Stay at home/ necessary travel only.

MODEL ONE

- **IN PERSON:** All staff and students return to school, in-person learning in the building.
 - In- person and in building learning model
 - Students learn within a physical building and classroom with face-to-face instruction
 - District safety protocols in place

*NOTE: If ordered to close or Mahoning County goes into a level 3 and/or level 4, the District must be prepared to immediately switch to **REMOTE** learning.*

- **REMOTE:** All staff and students teaching and learning remotely; 100 percent from home if and only if schools are forced to close due to the pandemic.
 - Remote learning model (Google Classroom and/or Zoom)
 - LLSD teachers teach live, facilitate, monitor, and support

*If Mahoning County is designated a **LEVEL 3** and/or if the district deems it necessary due to circumstances relating to the safety, health and welfare of staff and/or students, the district may elect to enter into **REMOTE** learning.

PARENT EXPECTATIONS:

- Conduct a student wellness check daily including temperature prior to sending a student to school
- Students with temperatures over 100.4°F should stay home and the school be notified
- Provide a face covering for your student to wear
- Provide your student with a water bottle daily as water fountains will not be available for use
- Follow posted guidelines and read all signage whenever entering the building
- Wearing a face covering is required for visitors when entering district facilities
- Ensure contact information is up to date in the event the nurse needs to contact home and there are multiple, pre-arranged methods of getting a student home from school should they become ill or exhibit symptoms

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS:

- Students are generally expected to maintain physical distancing of at least six feet where possible, minimize contact with large groups, and avoid common areas as appropriate
- Students wear face coverings where feasible and where social distancing is difficult including during arrival and dismissal, in hallways, and during small group work (district will initially provide masks to students who cannot secure them) **NOTE:** Students that are medically unable to wear a face mask and/or shield and/or have fragile medical conditions documented with a Doctor's order will be encouraged to enroll in Model Two
- Students will be required to wear face coverings when using school transportation
- Wash hands/use hand sanitizer regularly
- Follow coughing and sneezing etiquette
- Assist in assuring areas within their direct control remain clean
- Follow all specific health and safety protocols communicated by district staff and administration

- Do not share books, materials, etc.
- Student desk tents will be in each classroom as an extra layer of protection (social distancing)

STAFF EXPECTATIONS:

- Staff members are generally expected to maintain physical distance of at least six feet where possible, minimize contact with large groups, and avoid common areas as appropriate
- Wear face coverings where feasible and where social distancing is difficult. Staff required to wear face coverings when within six feet of staff and students for extended periods of time
- Wash hands/use hand sanitizer regularly
- Follow coughing and sneezing etiquette
- Assist in assuring surfaces within classrooms and common areas are cleaned frequently (especially high-touch areas)
- Follow specific health and safety protocols communicated by district
- Custodial staff will follow all cleaning protocols in accordance with the recommendations of the Mahoning County Health Department

MODEL TWO
"ROCKET ONLINE ACADEMY"

- **ONLINE: (LEVELS 1, 2, 3, &4):** Students learn from home in an online environment using online curriculum.
 - Students learn from home in an online environment with an online curriculum
 - LLSLD teachers support the students with online classes and communicate with parents regularly
 - Families choosing this model will not be permitted to transition between Model One and Model Two within a 9-week period
 - Teachers will not deliver live instruction with this model however, teachers will hold check-in meetings with students and families to facilitate progress
 - Parents shall assume responsibility for equipment assigned to the student and is responsible for Internet connectivity

Note: Families selecting Model Two must notify the school office by August 10, 2020 by calling 330-536-8426 or a.mclaughlin@lowellvilleschool.org.

PARENT EXPECTATIONS:

- Monitor student daily progress on assignments
- Assure student is attending daily by completing daily assignments
- Develop a set schedule and established routine for the student is recommended
- Communicate questions and concerns immediately to the assigned support teacher
- Support student progress through the online curriculum with parent/guardian access to the online platform and progress information
- Provide needed infrastructure for remote learning (ex. device and Internet access)

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS:

- Students are not to come to their school building for instruction, but will work from home
- Students will work with an assigned support teacher
- Students will need to complete assigned lessons, assignments, and assessments daily
- Students will enroll in courses in all core areas and have limited access to elective courses
- Students will communicate questions and concerns immediately to their support teachers
- Students will participate in virtual check-in meetings at least weekly with their support teacher designed to support student progress
- Students will earn letter grades for their course work
- Students may continue to participate in after-school activities at their home school building, including extra-curricular activities

STAFF EXPECTATIONS:

- Support teachers will assist students with the use of the online platform, pacing, and providing feedback on assignments and assessments
- Students and teachers will participate in virtual check-in meetings designed to support student course progress at a minimum of once a week
- Teachers will be available for office hours during typical school hours of the student's home building. One session will be available in the morning and one in the afternoon
- Teachers will grade work in a timely manner

DISTRICT HEALTH PRECAUTIONS AND PROTOCOLS

- Motion activated sinks
- Extended dividers in the bathrooms
- Plexiglass sneeze shields in the office areas, library, and cafeteria
- Stored cleaning supplies, PPE's (face-masks and face shields)
- 15 stand alone hand-sanitizing stations
- Social distancing floor stickers
- Triage quarantine area(s)*
- Anti-bacterial hand sanitizers
- Cleansing spray bottles for use in the class throughout the day and between classes
- 150 additional ChromeBooks and hot spots
- Free standing thermometers (measures one student per second)
- One way foot traffic up and down stairs signs
- Extended after school care with Sunshine & Lollipops (2 classrooms)
- Extended hours for custodians and/or cleaning crew (if needed)
- Dividers between students in three computer labs

*Note: The school buildings will have separated area for a well clinic (nurse's office) and an ill clinic. Students who are injured during the school day or students with special health care needs such as those with chronic health conditions and those with individual health plans, will be seen

in the well clinic. Students and staff that present symptoms of COVID-19 will report to the ill clinic with the face mask. If it is determined due to initial inspection, the small gymnasium will serve as the triage quarantine area and all students/personnel will be cleared out of the area until further notice.

STUDENT ILLNESS (STAY AT HOME OR BE SENT HOME):

Parents are asked to complete this short check each morning and report your child's information to Lowellville Local Schools in the morning before your child leaves for school.

SECTION 1: Symptoms

If your child has any of the following symptoms, that indicates a possible illness that may decrease the student's ability to learn and also put them at risk for spreading illness to others. Please check your child for these symptoms:

- ✓ 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher when taken by mouth;
- ✓ Sore throat;
- ✓ New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (for students with chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline);
- ✓ Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain; or
- ✓ New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever.

SECTION 2: Close Contact/Potential Exposure & Return-to-School Guidelines

All individuals that test positive for COVID-19, have symptoms of COVID-19, or are a contact of another individual with COVID-19 are to contact the school and/or district office immediately.

The Lowellville Local School District personnel will work collaboratively with the family(s), individual(s), and the Mahoning County Health Department to determine the correct mitigation based upon the Guidelines listed on the link below from the Mahoning County Health Department. Each case is unique and will be determined to minimize risk of exposure and infection of the disease to other individuals.

<https://www.mahoninghealth.org/covid-19-information-for-mahoning-county-schools>

SECTION 3: Student-Athlete Quarantine Guidance

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) has asked the OHSAA to share their guidance on student-athletes returning from quarantine, now that the timeframe for quarantine for the general population has been shortened. Here is the question and answer (note that many local and county health departments have faced this question, so the ODH has asked the OHSAA to share their guidance):

- Q. If a student-athlete ends quarantine in a shortened time frame of seven or 10 days, are they permitted to resume sports such as basketball and wrestling?*
- A. To minimize the risk of coronavirus transmission, student-athletes should wait until 14 days of symptom monitoring have passed since they would not be able to social distance or wear a mask during active practice or play. Such student-athletes ARE permitted to return to class sooner since they can social distance (at least six feet) and wear a mask when around others in class.*

NOTE: Since the inception of COVID-19 in March 2020, many changes to protocols and determinations have and continue to evolve and change. The most important aspect to keep everyone safe and respond to positive cases involves the collaboration between the families, school, and health department. All final determinations on a case-by-case scenario rests with the Local School Districts with the understanding that safety is the top priority for our students, staff, and families.

School Isolation Protocols

Some students may develop symptoms of infectious illness while at school. Schools should take action to isolate students who develop these symptoms from other students and staff.

- Students with any of the symptoms in are asked to follow their school’s current illness management procedures to minimize transmission to others, to optimize learning opportunities, and to allow for these symptoms to resolve (at least 24 hours without fever reducing medications or in accordance with existing guidelines).
- Students who develop any of the symptoms while at school will be placed in an isolation area separate from staff and other students:
 - School staff (e.g., workers, teacher aides, school health staff) who interact with a student who becomes ill while at school will use Standard and Transmission-Based Precautions when caring for sick people.
 - Students who are sick will go home or to a healthcare facility depending on how severe their symptoms are, and follow CDC guidance for caring for oneself and others who are sick.
 - If a school needs to call an ambulance or bring a student to the hospital, they will try to first alert the parents then the healthcare staff that the student may have been exposed to someone with COVID-19.
 - After the student is placed in an isolation area, school staff who work in the isolation area will follow CDC’s Considerations for Cleaning and Disinfecting the building and/or areas.

Note: In developing plans for placing students with symptoms in an isolation area, schools will be mindful of appropriate safeguards to ensure that students are isolated in a non-threatening manner, within the line of sight of adults, and for very short periods of time.

FOOD SERVICE

- Elementary students (K-6) in classrooms (7-12) in lunchroom (staggered)
- Social distance
- All staff face masks/face shields, and gloves
- 50% capacity/occupancy of the school cafeteria
- No self-service
- Additional space may be needed and/or utilized to ensure safe distances
- Switch to foam trays and utensil packets
 - If elementary is eating in classroom, the reusable plastic trays will be used because they are sturdier
- No condiment station. All condiments will be in packets or pre-portioned cups with lids and will be put on the trays by cafeteria staff
- Going cashless
 - This means staff will not accept cash at the register during meal service as payment. Parents can send in envelopes of cash or a check to the office/teachers, which would be given to cashier to add to accounts before lunch service. Parents are encouraged to utilize the online payment service Pay-For-It
- No pin pads
 - Switching to a scan system is best. Each student will have a lanyard with their card on it and scan it at the register to prevent every student from touching the same pin pad. For younger grades, there will be a spot in the classroom to store the lanyard before and after lunch so they don't get lost

Breakfast for in-person dining:

- Only 3 students will be allowed in serving line area at a time due to social distancing guidelines
- Grab and Go
 - Premade bags that would include a full reimbursable breakfast, which would include entrée, fruit, juice, and milk
 - Would offer 2-3 options and students would just go through line, pick their bag, and scan their code
 - Students could either sit at tables, go back to gym, or go to classroom to eat

OR

- Breakfast in the Classroom
 - This program offers free breakfast to all grades that participate suggested for K-6 only
 - More details about the program if elected based upon the number of students in this option

Lunch for in-person learning:

- Only six students will be allowed in serving line area at a time due to social distancing guidelines; three students per side
 - Students will go through hot and cold serving lines and let cafeteria staff know which items they would like. These items will include, entrée, fruit, vegetables, milk, condiments, utensil packets, snacks, and beverages. Students would then scan their card/enter their pin at register and exit serving area
 - Students would have assigned seating in cafeteria with no more than 3-4 students per table
 - Students only purchasing snacks and beverages will need to wait until all lunches have been served and still must adhere to the capacity and social distancing guidelines

- Lunch in the Classroom
 - Possible only for grades K-6
 - Option 1: students come through line by classroom and bring tray back to room. All items will be disposable so each room/hallway would need a garbage tote and a student would bring it down to cafeteria once lunch is over and/or custodial staff would collect them at end of day. Social distancing and capacity guidelines would need to be followed
 - Options 2: similar to breakfast in classroom such that all food items would be packaged and sent to the classrooms and teachers would mark on the roster who took a lunch. Clean up and trash would be the same as Option 1

Meals for Home or Online learning:

- If schools switch students from in-person learning or home learning for full week at a time OR students are assigned to online learning:
 - On Monday of each week (unless Monday is a holiday then the first day school that is in session) week staff will provide students with breakfast and lunch for the entire week
 - There will be a sign-up sheet at the beginning of the year to determine how many students would be participating. Students can stop or start participating at any time and parents are responsible for picking up the meals for the week by driving to the cafeteria entrance in the back of the building. (Pick-up times will be announced)

BUSING

- Face masks required at all times for students and drivers
- One (two) student per seat unless family members
- Multiple runs if necessary
- Seating charts will be maintained to assist with contact tracing if that is needed
- Buses cleaned and sanitized after each run

- In the event the state of Ohio policies requires school districts to use alternative schedules, the District may adopt minimum requirements for transportation to reduce the number of students who are eligible for school district transportation

DROP OFF/PICK UP OF STUDENTS

- Outside visitors are discouraged from entering district facilities and not permitted unless authorized by the main office; i.e. no walking your child to class
- Safety protocols such as taking temperatures will be implemented for all visitors entering district facilities
- Waiting areas will be eliminated
- Visitors required to call the school building office upon arrival (ex. If picking-up a student)

VISITORS/VOLUNTEERS/PARTIES

- There are different levels of school visitors, and each district will make decisions for each situation
- Visitors are generally discouraged from being in school district facilities
- Safety protocols such as taking temperatures will be implemented for all visitors

RECESS

- The district will make every effort to maintain consistency with other safety procedures. This may mean that districts limit student access to certain pieces of playground equipment and restrict activities that are “high touch” and difficult to clean or maintain social distancing.
- The district will work toward “structured” recess activities such as nature walks that limit students’ physical contact with others
- Students must sanitize and/or wash their hands after recess
- Parents may “opt out” of recess

This document was developed in collaboration of a Transition Task Force (TTF), staff input, guidance from the Mahoning County Health Department, other Mahoning county schools, CDC guidelines, and the Ohio Governor's office.

This is a working document. Any and all future changes will be made in accordance to changing health recommendations, state guidelines, or district needs determined by the Superintendent of Schools. Also, these guidelines were developed for today and knowingly, at any given date and/or time, let alone four weeks out, an increased outbreak and/or spike in numbers and/or local infection(s) can change the opening of the 2020-2021 school year. PLEASE, read the plan regularly for any changes and feel free to call Superintendent Dr. Eugene Thomas at 330-536-6318 ext. 148 if you have any questions.