Back to School Covid Q&A

Q: Will we be able to walk our kids to class on the first day? I’ll have a 6th, 1st and hopefully a head starter..we will wear masks if that helps.

A: Elementary and Intermediate ARE allowing students to be walked to class on the first day IF the adult has a mask/face shield on. Middle School and High School are NOT allowing visitors.

Q: My son will be entering the 5th grade. Will all students be required to wear a mask? And if so, are the parents responsible for buying the masks?

A: Yes, if your child is 10 years of age and older, he/she will be required to wear a mask/face shield. Parents are responsible for supplying the masks/face shields for their children.

Q: Will students wear masks/face shields all day or just when entering and leaving the building?

Is there somewhere we can order lysol wipes or the school can, and we just send money for them?

A: By Governor Abbott’s orders, all persons 10 years of age and older are required to wear a mask/face shield when unable to socially distance themselves. (6 feet apart) The school is providing as many sanitizing agents that we can to keep our students safe and areas of all buildings clean. We understand the shortage of wipes that our community is experiencing. Thank you for your willingness to help us, and in the event that wipes become available in stores, we would still welcome them to be brought to help us at school.

Q: Will there be any type of “Meet-the-Teacher” event this year?

A: No, unfortunately, we will not have a face-to-face “Meet the Teacher” event this year. However, videos introducing staff members will be available through the website on the teacher’s individual webpage. Those are found at www.elkhartisd.org under the correct campus tab.
Q: How will we know who our student’s teacher is? My son is starting Pre-K.

A: We hope to have this information available by August 7th.

Q: If we choose to do virtual learning, can we later switch to face-to-face?

A: We will not allow any switching of options until grading periods have ended for each 6 weeks. There will be exceptions in place for those who are lab-confirmed with a COVID-19 diagnosis.

Q: My question is in regard to preparing my new Pre-K child for school without the availability of “Meet the Teacher” night. How the anxiety be addressed without meeting the teacher, seeing the classroom, etc.

A: Elementary and Intermediate schools are allowing students to be walked to class on the first day IF the adult and child over 10 years of age have face masks/shields on.

We understand the anxiety of our students, especially our younger ones, and would advise you to prepare them at home for what they will experience in a school setting. For example, explain to them that their teacher will have a face shield/mask on, explain a schedule and how they will go to certain areas at certain times, they will be in lines to transition from class to class, and they may have to sit apart and not hold hands with friends, etc.

Please feel free to call the campus for more information on how we can help our younger students adapt to this new situation.

Q: How long will the virtual learning last (i.e 6 weeks 8 weeks or all year)?

A: Virtual learning is divided into 6 weeks, just as face-to-face learning. That scheduled option will be available all year, as of now. Decisions are fluid, due to changes that T.E.A. and Governor Abbott mandates.
Q: How will this work if the child has no internet access?

A: Due to restrictions and delays in shipping, hotspots will not be available at the beginning of school, on August 13th. Until the hotspots arrive, parking in any of our school parking lots will allow for internet access. If this is not possible, face-to-face learning will be an option to choose until hotspots are available.

Q: I am hoping to get more information about the online learning requirements and expectations and in class expectations for both 2nd and 4th grade.

For online learning- Will the students be required to log in every day at certain times? Or will we be able to work ahead on some days to complete weekly assignments? (For instance, I work long hours 2-3 days a week so I could not do any school work with my kids on those days, however, we would have the other 4-5 days a week to complete any video watching or assignments)

A: Students have to log in every day to have credit for attendance and grading for assignments. We encourage all students to follow the recommended schedule of the day, which begins at 8:00 a.m. Students will not be allowed to do all of the week’s work in one day and receive daily credit for the work. The Texas Education Agency, (T.E.A.) has stated that we have to take attendance daily in order for credit to be given, and that is done through daily log-in’s through a form located in Google Classroom, or on the individual page of each teacher.

Q: Will the students be allowed to transition to in-person learning after the first 6 weeks if the online learning does not work out?

A: Yes, but they cannot switch before the end of the 6 weeks grading period. However, the exception to the rule will be if a child is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 and must switch to virtual learning from face-to-face.
Q. Will my soon-to-be 10 year old be required to wear a mask all day even in class & on the playground?

A: In-class wearing of masks/face shields are required by students 10 years and older, when social distancing is not possible, as stated by Governor Abbott’s executive order. Masks/face shields can be removed on the playground IF social distancing from others.

5. If my child contracts COVID-19 and must be out of school- in person or online- for what is to be expected up to 14 days- how will those absences affect them the rest of the year related to other illnesses or occurrences causing absences?

A: TEA is not allowing for us to have “grace periods” for absences. The “90% rule” is in effect as if the child is in face-to-face learning. If contracting COVID-19 during face-to-face instruction, OR if quarantined due to exposure of a positive case, virtual learning will be the option for the student to access and use for his/her education.

6. How, or what would be counted as absences for the online learning students?
A: Students must log in daily for attendance and grading to take place. The student should log in and work according to the recommended schedule produced by the individual campuses.

Q: 1st- What is our procedure if we have a student test positive? Will we close school?
2nd- Are we going to have contact tracers?
3rd- She has children with asthma and wearing the mask is hard on them. She is trying to get an exemption from her doctor. Is this going to be ok?

A: The student who is positive for COVID-19 will be removed from the school until all safety precautions have been followed. We will identify individuals who have come into contact with COVID-19 lab-confirmed cases and share with the school community while maintaining the individuals’ privacy. We encourage any students who cannot wear a face mask to wear a face shield or choose the option of virtual learning if possible.
Q: Will the child be allowed to go to school if they do not wear a mask for certain reasons?

A: We encourage any students who cannot wear a face mask to wear a face shield or choose the option of virtual learning. All students 10 years and older will be required to wear a face mask/shield.

Q: Will Intermediate students still be allowed to walk to the elementary school at the end of the day to be picked up if they have a sibling being picked up there?

A: Yes

Q: When can we pick up our devices for at home learning?

A: If you signed up for virtual learning you will be contacted with all of the information soon. The commitment survey sign up is 8/10/2020. The pick-up for devices is scheduled for August 12th, but could change, dependent on shipping and other circumstances that prohibit this.

Q: Will cheerleaders be required to wear face masks?

A: T.E.A. states: “When it is impractical for students to wear masks/shields during extracurricular activities, they are required to wear them if unable to socially distance themselves. Schools may allow students who are actively exercising to remove the masks/shields as long as the social distancing is in place while doing so.”

Q: If a child is sent home because another student tested positive, will they still not be allowed for extra-curricular activities?

A: If they are being quarantined due to a student being diagnosed with lab-confirmed COVID-19, and they were exposed to that student, they will not be allowed back on campus for any participation of any school events for the required length of time.
Q: What if we do not agree with our child wearing a mask? Will they be able to go to school?

A: Under Governor Abbott’s orders, if your child is 10 years and older, they will be required to wear a face mask/shield. If you do not wish for them to do so, you have the option to have them enroll in our virtual learning program. We will enforce the governor’s directive.