FLINT COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

FAQ
Safe Return and Recovery Plan

BRICK & MORTAR
(Classroom)

ONLINE LEARNING
(Computer)

FACE-TO-FACE

HYBRID

VIRTUAL
(Online)
Q: Will bus transportation be available for students?
A: Yes

Q: How will students be seated on school buses to ensure social distancing?
A: Depending on the proposed instructional plan, ridership may be impacted significantly. This answer strongly depends on how FCS is allowed to move forward per the Governor’s latest executive order at the time of reopening, as well as the decision that the district makes. Depending on the instructional plan selected by the District, ridership may be reduced day-to-day. Students will be assigned to seats and hand sanitizer will be available when students enter the bus. Once the District has more definitive guidelines, a plan will be formulated.

Q: How will students be screened upon entering the bus?
A: In accordance with the Governor’s MI Safe Schools: Michigan’s 2020-21 Return to School Roadmap (Phase 4), the use of hand sanitizer will be required upon entering the bus and must be supplied on the bus. In addition, while on the bus, all bus drivers, staff, and K-12 and Early Childhood Developmentally Delayed (ECDD) students will be required to wear facial coverings, if medically feasible during school transportation. The District in collaboration with First Student, our student transportation service provider, will make decisions about these situations on a case-by-case basis with local public health officials for bus drivers, and others, who are unable to wear facial coverings or if wearing facial coverings may pose safety risks.

Note: Any staff or student that is unable to medically tolerate a facial covering must not wear one. Any staff or student that is incapacitated or unable to remove the facial covering without assistance, must not wear one. (See MI Safe Schools Roadmap)
Q: How often will school buses be cleaned and sanitized?

A: Buses will be cleaned and sanitized between routes every day. Each driver will be responsible for cleaning his or her own bus. Also, there is a team member assigned to continuously deep clean buses in addition to the daily cleaning/sanitizing by the drivers. Additionally, adhering to the MI Safe Schools Roadmap requirements and following CDC guidelines, our student transportation service provider is establishing protocols to ensure frequently touched surfaced areas (e.g., surfaces in the driver’s cockpit, hard seats, arm rests, door handles, seat belt buckles, light and air controls, doors and windows, and grab handles) will be cleaned and sanitized prior to morning routes and prior to afternoon routes; including equipment. Mobility support apparatuses (e.g., wheelchairs, walkers, etc.) transported to schools will be cleaned, sanitized, and disinfected daily, ensuring that students are not present when staff are performing these activities.

(See MI Safe Schools Roadmap)
Q: What is the academic plan for 2020-2021 school year?
A: Currently, the District is planning for three separate learning environments and additional choices within these options:

- **Face-to-Face Instruction** (all students attend school, with the exception of those who select virtual instruction)
- **Hybrid Learning** (combination of face-to-face and virtual)
- **Virtual Instruction** (all students attend online)

The District recognizes that this is not a one-size-fits-all situation and some families may even want to choose more than one option within their own family.

Q: If the schools do reopen, will there be an option for students to participating in full-time virtual learning if they are not comfortable attending?
A: Yes, if parents are not comfortable having their child(ren) participating in face-to-face instruction, an option for full-time virtual learning will be available. Parents will need to come into the central enrollment department to complete the Virtual Learning Consent Form.
### Q: How will my child connect with his/her teachers on a regular basis? How often?

**A:** Students may connect with teachers daily during live lessons, whether in face-to-face, hybrid, or virtual instruction.

### Q: How will teachers monitor the progress of students?

**A:** Teachers will be using NWEA, common assessments, and work samples to monitor student progress on grade level and course standards.

### Q: How will teachers provide feedback to students?

**A:** Teachers will provide feedback to students through formative assessments, Google Classroom, and via live lessons during virtual, hybrid, or face-to-face instruction.
Q: What after-school programming will be available once the schools reopen?


MHSAA has not released mandates as of yet, just scenarios based on how severe the COVID-19 may be this fall. Such programs would also depend on indoor and outdoor activities, which could also range from partial seating capacity to no competition at all. According to recent discussions, MHSAA seems to be leaning towards the first scenario (e.g., partial seating).

The athletic committee’s recommendation is that the Youth Sports begin the Fall of 2020-2021 under the classification of Minimal/Moderate Spread level and will adhere to those recommendations. Winter of 2020-2021 sports will be performed at the same classification or be lifted to the Low/No Spread Level based on the State and Local guidelines.

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the risk of COVID-19 spread increases in youth sports settings are as follows:

- Lowest Risk: Performing skill-building drills or conditioning at home, alone or with family members.
- Increasing Risk: Team-based practice.
- More Risk: Within-team competition.
- Even More Risk: Full competition between teams from the same local geographic area.
- Highest Risk: Full competition between teams from different geographic areas.

(Answer continued)
Q: What after-school programming will be available once the schools reopen?


If safety measures are not adhered to during competitions (e.g., maintaining social distancing by keeping children six feet apart at all times), school districts/organizations may consider dropping down a level and limiting participation to within-team competition only, for example:

- scrimmages between members of the same team, or
- team-based practices only

Similarly, if school districts/organizations are unable to put in place safety measures during team-based activities, they may choose individual or at-home activities, especially if any members of the team are at high-risk for severe illness.

Q: What are the options for child-care once the schools reopen?

A: FCS does not provide child-care, except for students participating in YouthQuest, which is an after-school program. Parents are advised to contact YouthQuest with questions specific to that program.
Q: What is the plan for following the Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines?
A: The District currently has several committees working on how the CDC guidelines impact all areas of District operations including instructional delivery options, transportation, food service, social-emotional health and well-being, cleaning schedules, and more. As part of these discussions, we are including representatives for departments within the district, as well as conducting surveys for parents/guardians, staff, and students. The District plan will also take into recommendations from the State of Michigan. Once the full details of the plans have been completed, they will be shared with the Board of Education at the July 15, 2020 Regular Board Meeting. Following the Board review of the District plans and policies, the full details will be made available to the Flint community via our website and other communication strategies currently being developed including possible in-person meetings with appropriate social distancing measures.

Q: What policies and practices will be in place for dealing with individuals who do not follow the CDC guidelines?
A: The District School Reopening Committee is currently working on these policies. The development processes of the policies are using scientific recommendations from the CDC, State of Michigan, and other health organizations. We are also integrating the data received from the parent/guardian, student and staff surveys, as we want to be sensitive to the wide spectrum of safety concerns. These policies will also be shared with our union partners as we work through the details. Our Human Resources department is also helping to draft and review the policies to ensure they meet with the appropriate labor laws and requirements. Once the final policies have been reviewed by the Board of Education, we will share them with the Flint community through a variety of communication resources.

Q: How will students, staff, and visitors to the school be screened for possible infection?
A: We are currently exploring the best options for the utilization of evaluating the daily health status of students, staff, and visitors. We are looking at options of the following:

- Daily health screening questionnaires for visitors using a district provided form or log. Staff will complete a self-screening document provided by the district to ensure they self-monitor their health status
- Mobile apps for daily pre-screening
Q: What will happen if a student or staff member becomes sick during the school day?

A: The District Reopening Committee’s Wellness sub-committee is working with our internal Health Services department to identify the proper protocols regarding students, visitors, or staff that may exhibit COVID-19 symptoms during the school day. We are also sensitive to the fact that individuals may become ill with non-COVID illnesses such as seasonal allergies, common colds, or other common illnesses such as strep throat or ear infections. We will be working with our Health Services department and nursing staff to develop the protocol for evaluating illnesses during the day and making the appropriate and safe decisions for the learning community. We are also working through the details and protocols for establishing a quarantine room within the school buildings and the associated protocols.

Q: Will students, staff, and visitors be provided with personal protection equipment?

A: Students, staff, and visitors that do not have their own personal protection equipment (PPE) will be provided with the appropriate PPE for use in the school environment. We are currently developing the protocol and policy for what types of PPE will be recommended or required in specific areas or situations.

Q: How will substitute teachers/staff be recruited and prepared to accommodate safety and health considerations?

A: Recruitment fairs, contract services, college recruitment, community events, partnerships, and internships. The district will promote open positions and district brand, posting jobs on the district’s website and consortium, employment websites, and advertising internally to create opportunities for advancement. The district will also offer incentives (e.g., new hire signing bonus and retention bonus) and advertise benefits for applicable positions. The district is developing policies, procedures, and practices, in accordance with CDC guidelines, state and local health officials, and best practices, to provide guidance to staff regarding infectious disease preparedness and response plans that can help guide protective actions against COVID-19. Staff will be provided safety and health guidelines initially during the onboarding process and should receive regular training at the worksite.
Q: Will students, staff, and visitors be required to wear face masks?  
A: As outlined in the MI Safe Schools: Michigan’s RoadMap 2020-21 Return to School Roadmap, the following protocols are required (Phase 4):

- Facial coverings must always be worn by staff except for meals. Facial coverings may be homemade or disposable level-one (basic) grade surgical masks. Any staff member who cannot medically tolerate a facial covering must not wear one. Any staff member that is incapacitated or unable to remove the facial covering without assistance, must not wear a facial covering.
- PreK-5 and special education teachers should consider wearing clear masks.
- Facial coverings must be worn by K-12 and ECDD students, staff, and bus drivers during school transportation. Any staff or student that is unable to medically tolerate a facial covering must not wear one. Any staff or student that is incapacitated or unable to remove the facial covering without assistance, must not wear one. Facial coverings may be homemade or disposable level-one (basic) grade surgical masks.
- Facial coverings must always be worn in hallways and common areas by preK-12 students in the building except for during meals. Any student that is unable to medically tolerate a facial covering must not wear one. Any student that is incapacitated or unable to remove the facial covering without assistance, must not wear one. Facial coverings may be homemade or disposable level-one (basic) grade surgical masks.

➢ Homemade facial coverings must be washed daily.
➢ Disposable facing coverings must be disposed of at the end of each day.
➢ Students with significant disabilities preventing the use of facial coverings are referred to forthcoming guidance from MDE
➢ Facial coverings must be worn in classrooms by all students grades 6-12. Any student who cannot medically tolerate a facial covering must not wear one. Any student who is incapacitated, or unable to remove the facial covering without assistance, must not wear one.
➢ All students in grades PreK-5 must wear facial coverings unless students remain with throughout the school day and do not come into close contact with students in
Q: What are the plans to limit student movement and promote social distancing during the school day within various locations around the school (i.e. bathrooms, hallways, playground, cafeterias, etc.)?

A: These plans are being developed by the School Operations Sub-Committee and the Instruction Sub-Committee.
Q: How will lunches be served to students?

- Lunches and breakfasts may be delivered to classrooms-not served from carts
- Students may eat in classrooms to limit movement
- Students may eat in cafeterias with assigned seating, practicing social distancing
- Cafeteria tables will be cleaned and sanitized between lunch periods
- Students will wash or sanitize hands before and after eating
- Additional staff will be needed to supervise students eating in the classrooms and to sanitize and clean classrooms after lunch

The District is committed to providing safe and healthy school environments and workplaces for all students and staff and is collaborating and planning with Sodexo, the district’s partner for food services and meal distribution to establish protocols, maintain safeguards, and mitigate the potential for transmission of COVID-19 in schools during student lunch periods. Promoting social distancing, meal preparation and distribution to students will be driven and provided based on how students return to school (e.g., face-to-face, virtual learning, or hybrid).
School Operations

Wellness-Health and Safety (cont.)

Three (3) plans have been developed to safely provide meal services to students based on the various scenarios:

Scenario #1
Students returning to school during phases 4-6 (whether it is part-time or full-time.)

Option #1: Serve students lunch in classrooms
Key activities and considerations to this plan include providing students with Meal Magic ID Cards to make sure students are receiving the correct meal (e.g., allergens, calories etc.), staggered meal times, and serve students based on established seating arrangements by segmenting lunch periods in groups, utilizing protective shield barriers for extra precaution (if applicable), and coordinating additional staff to supervise students eating in the classrooms and to sanitize and clean classrooms after lunch.

Option #2: Serve students lunch in the cafeteria
Key activities and considerations to this plan include reducing the meal period capacity, preferably to half of the student capacity depending on the size of the cafeteria, and adding additional meal periods to the school day, promote social distancing – ensure signs and floor markings that exercise six (6) feet social distancing rules are installed/visible to inform and direct student traffic and flow, and increase staff (e.g., lunch aides) to provide adequate support.
School Operations

Wellness-Health and Safety (cont.)

Three (3) plans have been developed to safely provide meal services to students based on the various scenarios:

Option #3: Students/families continue meal pick up.

Key activities and considerations to this plan include providing students with Meal Magic ID Cards, continuing meal distribution to students/families based on the District’s established meal services schedule. The meal offerings will also include hot meals.

The plans above mentioned will be implemented in accordance with the MI Safe Schools Roadmap, following Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and OSHA guidance related to COVID-19 and address:

- Employee Screening
- Contact Tracing
- Handwashing, Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette
- Use of Face Coverings
- Social Distancing Requirements

- Cleaning, Disinfecting, and Ventilation
- Communications and Training

Scenario #2
Students continue with virtual learning during phases 1-3

2020-2021
FCS Safe Return and Recovery Plan
July 2020
Q: How will the district plan for dealing with students and staff with pre-existing health conditions?

A: In accordance with CDC guidelines, and consistent with applicable law, the district will establish policies and procedures to protect the confidentiality of individuals at higher risk for severe illness due to underlying medical conditions.

For example, within the plan, the district will offer options for staff at higher risk for severe illness that limit their exposure risk, such as remote work and modifications to job responsibilities that limit the risk of exposure and offer options for students at higher risk of severe illness that limit their exposure risk, such as virtual learning opportunities. The district will promote and ensure social distancing, limit group size in classrooms and during assemblies/public events, limit mixing between groups if possible, and consider staggered scheduling in arrival and dismissal times to limit contact between cohorts and direct contact with parents as much as possible.

The district will also develop, expand, and implement flexible sick leave policies and practices that enable staff to stay home when they are sick, have been exposed, or caring for someone who is sick. We will train staff and students on safety protocols, ensure adherence with safety measures, and establish communication systems for notifications to staff and families. The district will establish points-of-contact at all schools, designating persons responsible for response and providing assistance to students and staff regarding risk, exposure, and COVID-19 related concerns.
Q: Are counselors available to assist students and family members if needed, in the event of family deaths due to COVID-19, etc.?

A: The Wellness Sub-Committee has developed an extensive list of mental health resources that will be available to staff, students, and families. Some of the resources can be provided to students and staff within the school building. Other resources are available within the greater Flint community to provide support to students, staff, and family members.
Q: How often and what specific cleaning protocols will be implemented to ensure that classroom equipment, furniture, common areas, etc. are cleaned regularly?

A: The MI Safe Schools: Michigan’s RoadMap 2020-21 Return to School Roadmap requires the following cleaning protocols while in Phase 4 and strongly recommended in Phase 5:

- Frequently touched surfaces including light switches, doors, benches, bathrooms, must undergo cleaning at least every four hours with either an EPA-approved disinfectant or diluted bleach solution.
- Libraries, computer labs, arts, and other hands-on classrooms must undergo cleaning after every class period with either an EPA-approved disinfectant or diluted bleach solution.
- Student desks must be wiped down with either an EPA-approved disinfectant or diluted bleach solution after every class period.
- Playground structures must continue to undergo normal routine cleaning but using an EPA-approved disinfectant is unnecessary.
- Ensure safe and correct use and storage of cleaning and disinfection products, including storing products securely away from children, and with adequate ventilation when staff use products.
- Staff must wear gloves, surgical mask, and face shields when performing all cleaning activities.

What safety/screening protocols will be utilized in each of the schools?

- Limiting volunteers/non-essential individuals in the building
- Recommending face masks and hand washing/sanitizing
- Plexiglass barriers installed in Main Offices and high traffic/public areas
- Establishing isolation areas within facilities
- Hand sanitizer provided
- Highly encouraged at mealtimes and recess times
- Review/assess traffic patterns of the buildings (Entrances/exits, student drop off, staff access, etc.)
Q: What supports will the district have in place to deal with technology-related issues (i.e., no internet access, no device, device not working, etc.)

A: It is the District’s goal that all Flint Community Schools students have “one-to-one” devices available for learning, whether in face-to-face, hybrid, or virtual instruction.

If funding allows, mobile internet devices will be distributed for at-home access points for students and staff.

Q: What support will be provided to engage students and increase participation in virtual learning?

A: All teachers PreK-12 grade will utilize Google Classroom. Lessons can be assigned, coursework submitted, and grades administered in one platform for all students including those with IEPs. This platform will host all of the virtual learning applications. Students will be able to login into Clever which will serve as a single login for students and access all virtual learning tools. Virtual Instruction will be provided via Google Meet.

Q: How will support be provided to continue enhancing the skills of the teachers to provide online instruction?

A: Technology and digital learning can increase professional learning opportunities by expanding access to high-quality, ongoing, job-embedded opportunities for professional growth for teachers, administrators, and other education professionals. All professional development opportunities for District staff will be posed via the District’s PD website.
Would like to express our sincere gratitude to everyone who contributed to this report. Your meaningful input, purposeful recommendations, and willingness to collaborate demonstrated a unified commitment to supporting the FCS community as we move forward on our path to recovery.