



## ***Pickaway County Educational Service Center Guiding Principles for the Reopening of schools***

In the coming days, all Pickaway County schools will be releasing their locally sourced measures for students return to schools. Over the course of the last four months, the Pickaway County Educational Service Center has worked collaboratively with all county schools, local health officials, state educational institutions, and neighboring governing entities to develop these guiding principles. While each district or educational entity is unique and will undertake further safety precautions specific to those needs, this governing framework reflects commonalities and mutual understanding from district to district operating under the provisions set forth by local and state health agencies.

It is important to note that all safety precautions and mitigation strategies have been made in the name of student safety. Dating back to the state establishment of Ohio's educational system by county resident Caleb Atwater in the 19th Century, Pickaway County's resolve to put students first and embrace academic innovation within our schools is something entirely unique to our community. While COVID-19 has brought many challenges and considerations to how we operate in the future, our county schools are as committed as ever to ensuring education thrives during this pandemic.

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1. All Pickaway County schools are planning for a five-day-a-week start plan. Additionally, alternative plans have been developed including offerings of virtual instruction will be available.
    - a. If Pickaway County goes to a Level 3 or Level 4 alert level, adjustments will be made to the number of days per week school is in session as to reduce building capacity and/or the site of where students will be instructed.
    - b. If further guidance and/or mandates are issued from the Ohio Department of Education or the Ohio Department of Health, these plans could be altered. Parents will be notified through the schools' regular announcement methods.
  2. All Pickaway County schools will work collaboratively with Pickaway County Public Health in reacting to any positive cases in district buildings.
    - a. In the event of a confirmed case of COVID-19 in a school or a potentially positive COVID-19 case by the health department, it is important for families to know that the district will not be able to disclose any information regarding the affected individual(s) due to legal restrictions.
    - b. All communication regarding potentially exposed students and staff members and potential quarantine measures will come directly from the Pickaway County Health Department.
  3. All Pickaway County schools are prepared for its curriculum to be implemented on-site and/or online.

4. All Pickaway County schools will strive to maintain 6' of social distancing and will make parents aware of these efforts through communicating safety measures and training for students on campuses. In addition, all Pickaway County schools will make parents aware of instances where 6' of social distancing is not possible.
5. All Pickaway County school staff will be required to wear face coverings (masks).
6. All Pickaway County schools will require students to wear masks when social distancing cannot be achieved. This is especially true in areas of high concentrations of students such as when entering the building and in hallways. In some instances students may not be able to wear a face covering (mask) for health or developmental reasons per CDC guidance.
7. All Pickaway County schools will inform parents of assessed risks with returning to school and precautions being taken to address and mitigate such potential risks.
8. All Pickaway County schools encourage daily temperature and symptom assessments at home from students and staff prior to leaving for the start of the school day. Any student exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 should be kept home and monitored by their parent/guardian. Families should consult their healthcare provider for further evaluation of symptoms.