PROGRAMMING SESSION
JUNE 2, 2020
Back to School Assumptions

• If students return to on-site learning, some level of social distancing will be required

• Different regions of the state will have different challenges

• Policies and procedures are likely to vary by district and institution
Where are Educational Turning for Guidance?

- CDC Guidance for Reopening
- Ohio Department of Education (ODE)
- Developing Their Own Guidance
CDC Considerations for Schools

Topics Included:

Guiding Principles
Behaviors that Reduce the Spread
Maintaining Healthy Environments
Maintaining Healthy Operations

Preparing for When Someone Gets Sick

Source: CDC Guidelines
Guiding Principles

**Lowest Risk:** Students and teachers engage in virtual-only classes, activities, and events.

**More Risk:** Small, in-person classes, activities, and events. Groups of students stay together and with the same teacher throughout/across school days and groups do not mix. Students remain at least 6 feet apart and do not share objects.

**Highest Risk:** Full sized, in-person classes, activities, and events. Students are not spaced apart, share classroom materials or supplies, and mix between classes and activities.

*Source: CDC Guidelines*
Behaviors that Reduce Spread

Staying Home When Appropriate

- Staff and students should stay home if they have tested positive for or are showing COVID-19 symptoms.
- Staff and students who have recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19 should also stay home and monitor their health.

Source: CDC Guidelines
Behaviors that Reduce Spread

Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette

• Teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and increase monitoring to ensure adherence among students and staff.

• Encourage staff and students to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash and hands washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

Source: CDC Guidelines
Behaviors that Reduce Spread

**Cloth Face Coverings**

- Face coverings should be worn by staff and students (particularly older students) as feasible, and are **most** essential in times when physical distancing is difficult.

Source: CDC Guidelines
Behaviors that Reduce Spread

Adequate Supplies

- Support healthy hygiene behaviors by providing adequate supplies, including soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer), paper towels, tissues, disinfectant wipes, cloth face coverings (as feasible) and no-touch/foot-pedal trash cans.

Source: CDC Guidelines
Behaviors that Reduce Spread

Signs and Messages

• Post signs in highly visible locations (e.g., school entrances, restrooms) that promote everyday protective measures

• Broadcast regular announcements on reducing the spread of COVID-19 on PA systems.

• Include messages about behaviors that prevent the spread of COVID-19 when communicating with staff and families

Source: CDC Guidelines
Maintaining Healthy Environments

Cleaning and Disinfection

• Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces within the school and on school buses at least daily or between use as much as possible. Use of shared objects should be limited when possible, or cleaned between use.

• Develop a schedule for increased, routine cleaning and disinfection.

Source: CDC Guidelines
Maintaining Healthy Environments

Shared Objects

- Discourage sharing of items that are difficult to clean or disinfect.

- Keep each child’s belongings separated from others’ and in individually labeled containers, cubbies, or areas.

- Ensure adequate supplies to minimize sharing of high touch materials to the extent possible.

Source: CDC Guidelines
Maintaining Healthy Environments

Ventilation

• Ensure ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible, for example by opening windows and doors.

Source: CDC Guidelines
Maintaining Healthy Environments

Water Systems

• To minimize the risk of Legionnaire’s disease and other diseases associated with water, take steps to ensure that all water systems and features are safe to use after a prolonged facility shutdown. Drinking fountains should be cleaned and sanitized, but encourage staff and students to bring their own water to minimize use and touching of water fountains.

Source: CDC Guidelines
Maintaining Healthy Environments

**Modified Layouts**

- Space seating/desks at least 6 feet apart when feasible.

- Turn desks to face in the same direction (rather than facing each other), or have students sit on only one side of tables, spaced apart.

- Create distance between children on school buses when possible.

*Source: CDC Guidelines*
Maintaining Healthy Environments

Physical Barriers and Guides

• Install physical barriers, such as sneeze guards and partitions, particularly in areas where it is difficult for individuals to remain at least 6 feet apart.

• Provide physical guides, such as tape on floors or sidewalks and signs on walls, to ensure that staff and children remain at least 6 feet apart in lines and at other times (e.g. guides for creating “one way routes” in hallways).

Source: CDC Guidelines
Maintaining Healthy Environments

Communal Spaces

• Close communal use shared spaces such as dining halls and playgrounds with shared playground equipment if possible; otherwise, stagger use and clean and disinfect between use.

• Add physical barriers, such as plastic flexible screens, between bathroom sinks especially when they cannot be at least 6 feet apart.

Source: CDC Guidelines
Maintaining Healthy Environments

Food Service

• Have children bring their own meals as feasible, or serve individually plated meals in classrooms instead of in a communal dining hall or cafeteria.

• Use disposable food service items (e.g., utensils, dishes).

• If food is offered at any event, have pre-packaged boxes or bags for each attendee instead of a buffet or family-style meal.

Source: CDC Guidelines
Maintaining Healthy Operations

Protections for Staff and Children at Higher Risk for Severe Illness from COVID-19

• Offer options for staff at higher risk for severe illness that limit their exposure risk (e.g., telework, modified job responsibilities that limit exposure risk).

• Offer options for students at higher risk of severe illness that limit their exposure risk (e.g., virtual learning opportunities).

Source: CDC Guidelines
Maintaining Healthy Operations

Regulatory Awareness

• Be aware of local or state regulatory agency policies related to group gatherings to determine if events can be held.

Source: CDC Guidelines
Maintaining Healthy Operations

Gatherings, Visitors, and Field Trips

- Pursue virtual group events, gatherings, or meetings, if possible, and promote social distancing of at least 6 feet between people if events are held. Limit group size to the extent possible.

- Limit any nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations as possible.

- Provide virtual activities in lieu of field trips.

Source: CDC Guidelines
Maintaining Healthy Operations

Keeping Small Groups Together (Cohorting)

• Ensure that student and staff groupings are as static as possible by having the same group of children stay with the same staff (all day for young children, and as much as possible for older children).

• Limit mixing between groups if possible.

Source: CDC Guidelines
Maintaining Healthy Operations

**Staggered Scheduling**

- Stagger arrival and drop-off times or locations by cohort or put in place other protocols to limit contact between cohorts and direct contact with parents as much as possible.

- When possible, use flexible worksites (e.g., telework) and flexible work hours (e.g., staggered shifts) to help establish policies and practices for social distancing.

Source: CDC Guidelines
Maintaining Healthy Operations

Designated COVID-19 Point of Contact

- Designate a staff person to be responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns (e.g., school nurse). All school staff and families should know who this person is and how to contact them.

Source: CDC Guidelines
Maintaining Healthy Operations

Participation in Community Response Efforts

• Consider participating with local authorities in broader COVID-19 community response efforts (e.g., sitting on community response committees).

Source: CDC Guidelines
Maintaining Healthy Operations

**Communication Systems**

- Consistent with applicable law and privacy policies, have staff and families self-report to the school if they or their student have symptoms of COVID-19, a positive test for COVID-19, or were exposed to someone with COVID-19 within the last 14 days.

- Notify staff, families, and the public of school closures and any restrictions in place to limit COVID-19 exposure.

*Source: CDC Guidelines*
Maintaining Healthy Operations

Leave Policies

- 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.

- Develop policies for return-to-school after COVID-19 illness.

Source: CDC Guidelines
Maintaining Healthy Operations

Back-Up Staffing Plan

• Monitor absenteeism of students and employees, cross-train staff, and create a roster of trained back-up staff.

Source: CDC Guidelines
Maintaining Healthy Operations

Staff Training

• Train staff on all safety protocols.

• Conduct training virtually or ensure that social distancing is maintained during training.

Source: CDC Guidelines
Maintaining Healthy Operations

Recognize Signs and Symptoms

• If feasible, conduct daily health checks (e.g., temperature screening and/or symptom checking) of staff and students.

Source: CDC Guidelines
Maintaining Healthy Operations

Sharing Facilities

• Encourage any organizations that share or use the school facilities to also follow these considerations.

Source: CDC Guidelines
Maintaining Healthy Operations

Supporting Coping and Resilience

• Encourage employees and students to take breaks from watching, reading, or listening to news stories about COVID-19, including social media if they are feeling overwhelmed or distressed.

• Promote employees and students eating healthy, exercising, getting sleep, and finding time to unwind.

• Encourage employees and students to talk with people they trust about their concerns and how they are feeling.

Source: CDC Guidelines
ODE Reset and Restart Guide

Topics Included:

Guiding Principles

Health and Safety Related Logistical Considerations

Educational Considerations

Social Emotional Health Considerations

Operational Considerations

Source: CDC Guidelines
A Student’s Daily Journey

We should all “put on a pair of our students’ shoes” and walk through the day in this manner. This includes waking up in the morning, transportation to the physical school building, waiting to enter the building, entering the building, waiting inside the building in designated areas, latchkey, locker visits, getting to class, taking into account any and all movement throughout the day (changing classes, using the restroom, lunch/cafeteria (breakfast and lunch), gym/PE, recess, etc.), and returning home.

- ODE Draft Guidance
Guiding Principles

Daily Health Assessments

• Require students and staff to take their own temperature before reporting to school

• Stay home if 100F or higher or experiencing any symptoms

• Those developing symptoms while at school will be sent home

Source: ODE Draft Guidelines
Daily Precautions to Practice

Daily Health Assessments

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• Those developing symptoms while at school will be sent home

Source: ODE Draft Guidelines
Daily Precautions to Practice

Physical/Social Distancing

• Maintain at least 6 feet apart among all persons on school grounds and those utilizing school transportation

• Use physical cues to enforce distancing

• Create transition schedules that minimize the number of students and staff in common spaces including hallways, cafeteria, etc.

Source: ODE Draft Guidelines
Daily Precautions to Practice

Face Coverings

• Require all persons on school grounds and utilizing school transportation to wear face coverings

• School nurses or personnel who care for sick persons should utilize appropriate PPE

Source: ODE Draft Guidelines
Daily Precautions to Practice

Good Hygiene Practices

• Make hand sanitizer (60-95% alcohol based) and sanitizing products available for personnel and students, especially in high traffic areas, including at each school entrance and in every classroom

Source: ODE Draft Guidelines
Daily Precautions to Practice

Clean and Sanitize

- Frequently clean surfaces paying particular attention to high-touch areas (stair handrails, door handles, counters, desks, tables, chairs, lavatories, computers, books, etc.)

- Cleaning and disinfection should be done after each cohort of students leaves a facility or classroom, including between class changes, between groups in the cafeteria, and after each school day.

- Limit sharing of supplies and equipment and sanitize between student use.

Source: ODE Draft Guidelines
Daily Precautions to Practice

**Student Learning**

- Implement age-appropriate learning about COVID-19 control strategies for students.

- All schools and offices should display environmental print promoting infection control strategies (i.e. cough/sneeze etiquette, proper handwashing, appropriate use of facemasks, physical distancing, importance of staying home when sick, etc.).

*Source: ODE Draft Guidelines*
Daily Precautions to Practice

Employee Training

• Education and training for all employees must be provided on how to properly put on, use, take off, and dispose of PPE. Adequate education must be provided for all school personnel to know and recognize the most likely symptoms of COVID-19 and how to protect employees and students from transmissions.

Source: ODE Draft Guidelines
Daily Precautions to Practice

Showing Symptoms of COVID-19 at School

- Should students or employees exhibit symptoms while physically attending school in-person, they should report to a quarantine room, be required to wear a face mask and any adults interacting with them should be required to wear a face mask. Those showing symptoms should be required to go home at the earliest convenience.

Source: ODE Draft Guidelines
Daily Precautions to Practice

Visitors

• Prohibit visitors in schools, or limit to emergency situations and enrollment. Require temperature checks and a symptoms check for any visitors.

Source: ODE Draft Guidelines
Daily Precautions to Practice

**Diagnosed or Exposure to COVID-19**

- Families and staff must notify school if they have been exposed to COVID-19 and are quarantined, or if a family member has been diagnosed with or presumed to have COVID-19 and/or is being isolated; Personnel and students with known exposure to someone with diagnosed or presumed COVID-19 must self-quarantine at home for 14 days; Personnel or students who travel out of state or to a location with known community spread must self-quarantine at home for 14 days.

*Source: ODE Draft Guidelines*
Daily Precautions to Practice

Returning to School Following Quarantine

• Persons with confirmed COVID-19 may return to work/school after fever is resolved without the use of fever-reducing medication AND respiratory symptoms improve AND they have two negative COVID-19 test results

• Persons with presumed COVID-19 may return to work/school when at least 7 days have passed since symptom onset AND 72 hours after fever resolves without use of fever-reducing medication AND respiratory symptoms improve.

Source: ODE Draft Guidelines
Daily Precautions to Practice

Additional Precautions Required During Flare-Ups

• Playground equipment cannot be used.

• Prohibit gatherings of 10 or more.

• Increased cleaning procedures must be implemented for all objects shared by students or personnel.

• Take temperatures upon arrival.

• Utilize remote learning.

Source: ODE Draft Guidelines
Daily Precautions to Practice

Communication Plan

• Communication with parents/guardians is a critical component and schools should be diligent in informing parents about symptom onset and the importance of staying home when sick.

• Student expectations and routines should be shared with parents.

Source: ODE Draft Guidelines
Educator Survey Responses

AIA Ohio created a survey from distribution to Ohio K-12 school and higher education administrators and educators.
Educator Survey Responses

K-12 Survey Topics Included:

- General Questions
- Busing/Transportation
- Arrival at/Departure from School
- Classroom Environment
- Serving and Eating Lunch
- Recess
- Special Subjects
- Athletics
- Visitors and Deliveries
K-12 Survey Responses: General Questions

On a scale of 1-10 how optimistic are you that your district will be able to allow some degree of instruction in physical facilities this Fall?

Average response: 7

Comments:
“We are more optimistic today than we were 2 weeks ago”
K-12 Survey Responses: General Questions

On a scale of 1-10 successfully did you feel your district was able to implement virtual learning to finish the 2019/2020 school year?

Average response: 7

Comments:
“At the 7-12 level, our students already had a laptop assigned to them and learning management system in place. It made for a much easier transition to virtual leaning as opposed to our K-6 grade levels.”
K-12 Survey Responses: Busing/Transportation

On a scale of 1-10 how confident are you that busing/transportation can be accomplished is schools reopen with social distancing in place?

Average response: 3

Comments:
“With social distancing in place, we can get roughly 10 kids on a 77 passenger bus. I can't think of a school district in the state that has a fleet that could support that”
K-12 Survey Responses: Busing/Transportation

What strategies are being considered for busing/transportation?

- Elimination of bus service
- Reduced student capacity for each bus
- Staggered or separated drop off locations
- Modified/increased cleaning protocols
- Requirement for face coverings
K-12 Survey Responses: **Arrival/Dismissal**

On a scale of 1-10 how confident are you that a safe protocol for arrival/dismissal of students can be implemented?

Average response: **5.6**
K-12 Survey Responses: Arrival/Dismissal

What strategies are being considered for arrival/dismissal?

• Staggered arrival/departure times for students
• Reduced student capacity and/or staggered days of attendance each week
• Modified/increased cleaning protocols
• Requirement for face coverings
K-12 Survey Responses: **Classroom Environment**

On a scale of 1-10 how confident are you that your typical classroom can be modified to meet social distancing guidelines?

Average response: **5.5**

Comments:
“We are fortunate to have new learning spaces that are very flexible across our district.”
K-12 Survey Responses: Classroom Environment

What strategies are being considered for Classroom Environment?

- Reduced student capacity and/or staggered days of attendance each week
- Use of large spaces in the building (gyms, cafeterias, media centers, etc.) to spread students out.
- Physical barriers between students
- Modified/increased cleaning protocols
- Provision of hand sanitizer
- Requirement for face coverings
- No sharing of books, materials, etc. among students
K-12 Survey Responses: Lunch Service

On a scale of 1-10 how confident are you that your lunch service can be modified to meet COVID-19 guidelines?

Average response: 4
K-12 Survey Responses: Lunch Service

What strategies are being considered for Lunch Service?

- Reduced student capacity in the cafeteria
- Additional lunch periods to reduce student count each period
- Eating lunch in classrooms or other spaces outside the cafeteria
- Offering pre-package or grab and go foods only
- Use of all disposable plates/utensils/trays/etc.
- Modified/increased cleaning protocols
- Added handwashing stations
K-12 Survey Responses: Recess

On a scale of 1-10 how confident are you that your recess can be modified to meet COVID-19 guidelines?

Average response: 3.5

Comments:
“Not at all.”
K-12 Survey Responses: Recess

What strategies are being considered for Recess?

- Additional/staggered recess times to reduce student count each recess
- Closing off playground equipment that would be shared use
- Modifying activities allowed during recess
- Modified/increased cleaning protocols
K-12 Survey Responses: Special Subjects

Special Subjects were defined as:

- Performing Arts (theatre, choir, dance)
- Visual Arts
- Gym
- MD, ED and other special education populations
- Library
- Computer/Science Labs
K-12 Survey Responses: Special Subjects

Are there specific concerns related to special subjects?

Comments:
“Yes, spacing, disinfecting”

“Overcrowding, touching materials after others”

“It's hard to find a topic that is not of great concern. Our building is at capacity and we have no extra space--traveling teachers, limited open spaces to convert, etc. We are scrambling…”

“A vast majority of these subjects require a large number of students in an assigned area.”
K-12 Survey Responses: Athletics

On a scale of 1-10 how confident are you that athletics can be modified to meet COVID-19 guidelines?

Average response: 4

Comments:
“I believe this will vary greatly depending on the sport in question. Tennis, golf, etc. are a little easier to accommodate as opposed to contact sports.”
K-12 Survey Responses: Athletics

What strategies are being considered for Athletics?

• Not allowing team sports while social distancing policies are in place
• Playing games without any spectators
• Minimizing travel to away games by number of games and/or distance travelling
• Modified/increased cleaning protocols
K-12 Survey Responses: Visitors and Deliveries

What strategies are you considering for visitors and deliveries?

• Not allowing visitors past the lobby of the school
• Scheduling deliveries to minimize congestion
• Lobby modifications such as sneeze guards
• Modified/increased cleaning protocols

Comments:
“Typically at our Primary and Elementary buildings, we have numerous volunteers who support our staff and students. We would need to really limit the number of people are students come in contact with during a school day.”
Higher Education Educator Survey Responses

A higher education survey was also conducted but only received one response.
Resources:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
www.cdc.gov

Ohio Department of Education
www.education.ohio.gov

Ohio Department of Health
https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/home

AIA COVID-19 Resources
https://www.aia.org/pages/6280670-covid-19-resources-for-architects