Email additional questions to Reopening@OkaloosaSchools.com

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**How do I ask additional questions?**
A. We have established an email to submit your questions. Our FAQ document will be updated as we answer question. Please submit to Reopening@OkaloosaSchools.com
SCHOOL REOPENING CHOICES

1. **When will the school year begin?**
   A. The first day of school for students is **Monday, August 31**. Please note there is always the possibility that we could receive updated guidance from the Florida Department of Education and the Department of Health.

2. **What options are available for my student to stay enrolled at their school?**
   A. Option 1 is a return to traditional school five days a week with health and wellness measures in place.

   B. Option 2 is *mySchool* Online. In this option, students will stay enrolled in their current school but take classes online from home. This option recommends a one-semester commitment. Parents could seek to return to the school following a nine-weeks period. Visit our Reopening Schools website at [www.okaloosaschools.com](http://www.okaloosaschools.com) to preview the curriculum and learn about student expectations.

   C. Option 3 is to withdraw from your home school and enroll in Okaloosa Online which is the District’s virtual school. See Question 3. A. below for more information

   D. Parents may wish to combine these options. Contact your school.

3. **Do I have other options if I wanted to withdrawal my student from their school altogether?**
   A. Yes. Okaloosa Online provides choices for those who wish to withdrawal their student from their current school. For more information, parents may visit the Okaloosa Online webpage or email okaloosaonline@okaloosaschools.com. (Students often take a full range of classes at their zoned school and sign up for extra courses through Okaloosa Online.)

   B. Parents may prefer to Homeschool their student and make their own determination about which curriculum to use. To learn more, visit our Homeschool webpage or email homeschool@okaloosaschools.com.

4. **If my student begins the school year in the Traditional School, can they shift to *mySchool* Online after the year begins?**
   A. Yes, but there could be some overlapping of work depending on when the switch occurs.

5. **How do I make my selection?**
   A. Option 1 - As is the case each year, students start out enrolled in their Traditional School. If this is your choice, you do not need to take any action.
B. Option 2 – To select mySchool Online, parents should log in to Parent Portal using their student’s ID and PIN and complete the request. Families may contact their school for assistance.

C. Option 3 – Okaloosa Online see 3.A. above

6. **Where can I find the Student ID?**
   A. It is a 10-digit number and can be found on any report card. Your student’s school can also provide it to you. The District is mailing out an individual letter similar to what was posted online and it will contain your student’s ID on it. You do not need to wait to receive that letter to make your selection. Kindergarten students and other new students to the District must first register in order to receive a student ID.

7. **Do I have to make a separate selection for each of my students?**
   A. Yes.

8. **Is mySchool Online the same as the distance learning that was used during the last quarter of the school year?**
   A. mySchool Online has been significantly enhanced compared to the online learning occurred at the end of last year. For more information, visit our Reopening Okaloosa Schools webpage and visit the mySchool Online section.

   i. The K-5 curriculum is changing from Odysseyware to Accelerate. To view a demo for Accelerate,
      1. **Username:** elemdemo462
      2. **Password:** DemoStudent
   ii. The 6-12 curriculum will be Edgenuity. Informational videos are provided at the link.

9. **Will I have to have a device and internet access to participate in mySchool Online?**
   A. Families selecting this option should plan to provide a device and internet access. However, students who meet requirements for Free/Reduced Meals are eligible to check out a device and receive access to the internet if they do not already have it at home. We will review availability of devices after the year begins and support additional families if possible.

10. **Will each option offer the same classes?**
    A. Core classes will be available under both options. mySchool Online will have a selection of electives that may differ from what is offered in your Traditional School. Your school will contact you about choosing electives if needed. You can view course offerings for mySchool Online at our Reopening Schools website at www.okaloosaschools.com. You may have the option to take an elective at your school building depending on availability of seats and time of day.
11. Will the courses in mySchool Online be aligned with those offered in the school building?
   A. Courses are being aligned to ensure a smoother transition into or out of the brick and mortar building.

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HEALTH AND WELLNESS

MASKS

1. Will masks be mandatory for students during the day?
   A. In order to ensure the safest environment for our employees, final decisions on the mandatory wearing of masks in the school building will be made closer to the beginning of the year.
   B. To be prepared for all outcomes, the District has secured masks for every student and staff member. At this time, masks are strongly recommended everywhere in the building social distancing cannot be maintained in accordance with CDC guidelines.
   C. Students will be provided a mask to wear while riding the school bus due to the inability to social distance.

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WHILE AT HOME

1. What role can parents play in helping to keep all students healthy and safe?
   A. Parents are strongly encouraged to screen their students before they leave the house for school. If the student exhibits signs of illness, please do not sent them to school. Contact your physician or health care provider for an evaluation.
   B. Please promote frequent handwashing or use of hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available before coming to school and report signs of illness to the school as soon as they are felt.
   C. Please make sure that your contact information is up to date at the school.

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TRANSPORTATION

1. Will hand sanitizer be available on school buses?
   A. Yes, hand sanitizer will be available on each bus and students will be encouraged to use it when they first board the bus.
2. Will students wear masks while riding the bus?
   A. Based on continued guidance from the Department of Health, students and staff will wear masks while riding the school bus due to the inability to social distance. A mask will be provided to each student riding a bus.

3. What health precautions will drivers be taking?
   A. Bus drivers will be health screened each day before they begin their routes to include a temperature check. Exceptional Student Education buses also have a bus aide who will be health screened daily and who will assist with medically fragile students.

4. How will buses be cleaned?
   A. Buses will be cleaned after the morning routes and again following the afternoon routes using safe, approved disinfectants.

5. Will there be assigned seating on the school bus?
   A. Yes. Assigned seating will be required in order to keep cohort groups seated together as much as feasible.

6. What happens if a student becomes ill while on the bus?
   A. A student who becomes ill while riding the bus will be moved to the front and isolated with their mask. When the student arrives to school, school officials will bring the student to an isolated area of the Health Clinic or separate area if available and will contact the parent for pick up.

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UPON ARRIVAL TO SCHOOL

1. Will students be health screened at school?
   A. Yes. Each child will be screened for symptoms and given a no-touch temperature check as early as feasible upon arrival every day (within the first fifteen minutes of the school day). Students showing symptoms will be isolated until arrangements can be made for parents to pick them up. Students exhibiting symptoms will be kept separate from well students who may need to use the clinic for other purposes.
   B. Hand sanitizer will be widely available at the beginning of the day.
   C. Those who have a fever must not attend school.

2. Will school staff be health screened?
   A. Yes. Each staff member will go through screening for symptoms, including no-touch temperature check, at the beginning of each day. Those with symptoms will not be permitted to remain on campus.
IN THE CLASSROOM

1. **Will masks be worn in the classroom?**
   A. In order to ensure the safest environment for our employees, final decisions on the mandatory wearing of masks in the school building will be made closer to the beginning of the year.
   B. To be prepared for all outcomes, the District has secured masks for every student and staff member. At this time, masks are strongly recommended everywhere in the building social distancing cannot be maintained in accordance with CDC guidelines.

2. **How will students be spaced in the classroom?**
   A. Students will be socially distanced as much as possible in classrooms.
   B. Schools will rearrange classrooms and remove unnecessary furniture to allow for more spacing.
   C. Schools will make use of additional spaces within the building, where feasible, to promote social distancing.
   D. **Individual desktop barriers will be provided for each student and staff member.**

3. **How will classrooms stay clean?**
   A. Hand sanitizer dispensers are placed in every classroom at the entrance and students will be encouraged to use it when they enter.
   B. Additional student-friendly cleaning and disinfecting supplies are being provided to each classroom in an effort to clean hi-touch surfaces more frequently.
   C. Custodial staff will focus on cleaning and disinfecting hi-touch surfaces. Additional custodial staff is being hired to support schools.

4. **What supports will be in place for special student populations?**
   A. Schools are reviewing current health care plans, IEPs and 504 plans to determine what additional health and safety measures need to be added due to COVID-19.
   B. The district is purchasing a supply of face shields and barriers that can be used in areas where masks are not appropriate based on the needs of a student, such as Speech Language Therapy.

5. **Will classroom supplies be shared?**
   A. Schools will eliminate the sharing of supplies when at all feasible by keeping each student’s belongings separated. Where it can’t be done, with computer labs for example, keyboards and mice will be wiped down between uses.

6. **If a traditional school student misses class time due to testing positive for COVID-19 or having to self-quarantine, how will their absences be handled?**
   A. The District is required by state law to take attendance, so the student will be marked absent for days missed. However, every accommodation will be given to ensure adequate time for make up work. In cases of self-quarantine and asymptomatic COVID-19, the student will be provided assignments from their
teacher(s) to work on while they are at home. They will be provided extended
time upon return to school as well.

B. In cases where a student is ill and cannot do their school work, the school will
work with the student and family to provide the time and support that is needed
for the student to get caught up.

DURING TRANSITIONS (Class Changes)

1. **How will schools control student traffic in the hallways during class change?**
   A. The District is planning to implement a block schedule in grades 6-12 for at least
      the first semester. In a block schedule, students will attend half of their classes on
      a given day for twice the amount of time. A block schedule reduces the number of
      class changes as well as the number of groups a student is in contact with in a
      given day. Both of these can reduce the risk of transmission.
   B. Schools will develop and monitor transition patterns in hallways for students to
      limit contact.
   C. Schools will limit student movement where possible by moving teachers instead.
      This is more feasible at the elementary level. In middle and high school, student
      schedules are too varied from period to period to move teachers in most cases.
   D. Schools will create a schedule for students to use their locker where needed
      to avoid crowding issues.
   E. Each student will be provided with a mask to wear and will be strongly
      encouraged to do so during class change.

FOOD AND NUTRITION

1. **Where will meals be eaten?**
   A. Student meals will be eaten in the cafeteria and in other areas of the school that
      can be properly supervised. Outdoor dining will be encouraged. Hand sanitizer
      will be available in all dining areas. Schools will group students by class or other
      method to reduce the number of students coming in contact with each other.

2. **How will meals be served?**
   A. Students will not be self-serving from open food lines. Pre-packaged food will be
      used wherever possible and the District will follow National School Lunch
      Program regulations as well as State of Florida recommendations for serving.

3. **How will the meal areas be kept clean?**
   A. Custodial and other staff will clean surfaces between use and again after feeding
      is done for the day.
4. **Will students participating in mySchool Online as their learning option be able to receive meals?**  
   A. Our School Nutrition Program operates under the regulations of the United States Department of Agriculture. Waivers were released by USDA to allow flexibility in this area. We will be receiving additional guidance from the state on the details of how we can provide meals to students that select the mySchool Online option.

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**SPECIAL CLASSES AND LARGE GATHERINGS WITH INCREASED RISK**

1. **What will Band and Chorus classes look like in the fall?**  
   A. Band and Chorus classes typically have higher enrollment. Also, singing and playing instruments presents higher risk of droplets travelling farther distances. Band and Choral Directors are meeting to determine a safe plan for the start of school.

2. **What will PE look like?**  
   A. PE will be set up in cohort groups where feasible to limit the number of students interacting with each other.  
   B. Cohort groups can be assigned to a specific area/activity with no rotation.  
   C. At the secondary level, students will not dress out at the beginning of the year to remove concerns about overcrowding in locker rooms (elementary already does not dress out).

3. **Will pep rallies and student assemblies be held?**  
   A. At this time, indoor pep rallies and student assemblies will not occur. We will continue to review guidance from the Department of Health and CDC on large gatherings.

4. **Will elementary children be able to have recess?**  
   A. Yes. Like with PE, children will be grouped to minimize contact and create social distancing. Equipment will be cleaned in accordance with CDC guidelines.

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**SPECIAL STUDENT POPULATIONS**

1. **What supports will be in place for special student populations?**  
   A. Schools are reviewing current health care plans, IEPs and 504 plans to determine what additional health and safety measures need to be added due to COVID-19.  
   B. The district is purchasing a supply of face shields and barriers that can be used in areas where masks are not appropriate based on the needs of a student, such as Speech Language Therapy.
2. **How will IEP meetings be held in this environment?**
   A. IEP meetings will continue to be a critical opportunity for parents to participate in their student’s education. These meetings may occur face-to-face as needed with health screening guidelines in place or by other telephone or videoconferencing means.

3. **Will my student receive all of their IEP, EP or 504 accommodations through the mySchool Online option?**
   A. Each student’s accommodations are determined by the IEP, EP or 504 team, which includes the parent. It is up to that team to determine what accommodations are needed for each student. Certain accommodations provided in a school building setting may not be appropriate in an online setting.

MENTAL HEALTH

1. **What mental health supports can I count on the school to provide to my student?**

2. **What mental health supports can I count on the school to provide to my student?**
   A. Mental Health Counselors and Social Workers will continue to serve students at their assigned schools to provide School-based, Solution Focused mental health supports through a Multi-tiered system of support along with providing referrals to community resources as needed. In addition, School Counselors will be available to support students on a daily basis.

3. **How will my student be provided with mental health support if they are using mySchool Online at the beginning of the year?**
   A. Students who are enrolled in mySchool Online at the beginning of the year can receive mental health screening and support through a virtual platform with a School-based mental health counselor assigned to their home zone school as well as referral to community resources as needed.

VISITORS AND VOLUNTEERS

1. **Will visitors be allowed to begin the school year?**
   A. Initially, no visitors will be permitted on campus. The restriction will be revisited at the end of the first nine weeks. This includes coming to school to have lunch with your student.
B. Parents may certainly come to the front office to check in/out their student or to drop off something for the student.

2. Will volunteers be allowed on campus to begin the school year?
   A. Those who regularly volunteer at a school may be approved by the Principal based on the following requirements:
      i. Volunteer must complete a daily health screen to include a temperature check
      ii. Volunteer must wear a mask
      iii. Volunteer must work in an area of the school without student contact (copy room, isolated office areas, for example)
   B. The limitation on volunteers will be reviewed at the end of the first nine weeks.

ATHLETICS AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

1. Will sports be offered in 2020-2021?
   A. As a member of the Florida High School Activities Association (FHSAA), we will rely on their ongoing guidance regarding our athletic programs. For our District, we use this guidance not only for our high schools, but also for middle school athletics. As of now, we are preparing for sports being a part of our school year, but the final determination cannot be made at this time. Our high schools participate with other districts across Northwest Florida, so there will likely need to be cooperation and consensus in this area. Summer athletic training is occurring at this time in a phased approach to keep health and wellness as the priority. FHSAA is expected to release additional guidance on August 17.

2. If sports are played will parents/fans be allowed to attend events?
   A. If sports are played, we plan to have fans in the stands. They could be limited attendance, however, to encourage social distancing.

3. If a student selects mySchool Online as their option for school, will they be able to play a sport or participate in an extracurricular activity?
   A. Yes, the student may participate at their zoned school.

POSITIVE COVID-19 TEST WITHIN A SCHOOL

1. What will happen if a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19?
   A. The District has a detailed protocol that was created in cooperation with the Department of Health. If the District is notified by the parent, it will immediately
contact the Department of Health which will investigate to confirm the positive test.

B. The District will then cooperate with the Department of health as they work to identify any individuals who have been in close contact with a positive COVID case. The Department of Health will provide self-quarantine recommendations directly to families that will include the length of isolation. Students identified as being in self-quarantine will not be permitted to school during the duration of the self-quarantine.

C. Classroom space occupied by the student or staff member will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before it is used again. Students and staff in the classroom who were not considered close contacts will be allowed to remain in school and will be relocated until the classroom has been cleaned and disinfected.

2. **Will a positive COVID case within a school cause the whole school to shut down?**
   A. That is unlikely. It is much more likely that a single positive test could result in a classroom being moved for a period of time until cleaning can occur. Contact tracing within a classroom may result in some, but not all, students being asked to self-quarantine. The District would consult with the Florida Department of Education and the Department of Health prior to making a school-closing decision.

3. **If one school had to close due to a COVID outbreak among its students and staff, would the entire District close down?**
   A. Again, not necessarily. Decisions to shut down one or more schools will only be made after consultation with the Florida Department of Education and the Department of Health.

4. **If anyone in my student’s school tests positive for COVID-19, will I be notified?**
   A. Families will be notified to the extent allowed by law when a positive case is found in a school. The Department of Health will notify families and staff members if there is a requirement to self-quarantine. Understanding that there will be a heightened concern when a positive case is identified, it is important for everyone to know that unless notified by the Department of Health to self-quarantine, it is appropriate and recommended to stay in school.

5. **What happens if a student or staff member presents COVID-like symptoms?**
   A. A new update from CDC states that if a student or staff member is sent home with COVID-like symptoms, they can return to school/work
      i. 10 days since symptoms first appeared AND
      ii. Respiratory symptoms have improved AND
      iii. 24 hours (1 day) with no fever and not using fever-reducing medicine.
   B. If the individual received a negative COVID-19 test but is still ill, they would need to stay home until 1 day (24 hours) has passed with no fever or other
symptoms while not using fever-reducing medicine. This information is fluid and will be updated as we receive new information.

6. **If a student has to self-quarantine at the request of the Department of Health or has a positive COVID test, how will their learning continue and how will attendance be handled?**
   A. Students enrolled in the Traditional School will have assignments provided to them by their teacher(s) just as has been done in the past for students who were ill.
   B. The District is required by state law to take attendance, so the student will be marked absent for days missed. However, every accommodation will be given to ensure adequate time for make-up work and that the student is “held harmless”. In cases of self-quarantine and asymptomatic COVID-19, the student will be provided assignments from their teacher(s) to work on while they are at home. They will be provided extended time upon return to school as well. All such documented absences will be excused.
   C. In cases where a Traditional School student is ill and cannot do their school work, the school will work with the student and family to provide the time and support that is needed for the student to get caught up.
   D. Students enrolled in mySchool Online will continue with their online coursework, if symptoms aren’t preventing them from working. Special accommodations will be made for students with a positive COVID test who don’t feel well enough to work. They will be given ample time to make up work.

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**EMPLOYEE**

1. **What should be done if an employee shows symptoms at work?**
   A. The employee wellness checks are in place to identify any COVID-19 Symptoms.
   B. If the employee develops symptoms during the day, the employee should be sent home.
   C. The employee with COVID-19 symptoms will only be allowed to return to work in accordance with current Health Department guidance.

2. **What should be done if an employee reports to work with a positive COVID-19 test?**
   A. Follow the process described in Step 1 above.
   B. The employee should be sent home.
   C. Notify Teri Schroeder (Student Services) and Courtney Huffstutler (HR).
   D. Recommend to the employee to reach out the Okaloosa County Health Department.
3. **Would a positive result of COVID-19 be filed under Worker’s Compensation if the employee reports they contracted the virus from their work location?**
   A. All circumstances will be reviewed if an employee claims they contracted the virus through a school or other work location. All situations will be assessed on a case by case basis with our Worker’s Compensation adjustor prior to approval or denial.

4. **What should be done if an employee reports they contracted COVID-19 through the work location?**
   A. Notify Christa Shea or Russ Frakes in Risk Management.
   B. Notify Steve Horton for proper processes to mitigate contamination / exposure.

5. **What should be done if an employee has questions about leave and paid leave?**
   A. Employees who test positive and/or are under official quarantine as directed by the health department will receive up to 2 weeks (80 hours) or paid sick leave in accordance with the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. For more specific information, please refer to poster or website. If the employee still has questions, you may direct the employee to Courtney Huffstutler in HR.