

# North Newton School Corporation

## Re-Entry Plan (updated 7-18-20)

### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

**1. I've heard that masks are required for my child. Is that correct?**

No, masks are not being required at this time, based on Newton county's infection rates as of 7-18-20. There may be a time when they would be required, but at this time, masks are strongly recommended when socially distancing is difficult. They are primarily being recommended for use on the school bus and in small group settings when distancing is difficult.

**2. Will we have Open Houses at the start of the school like we usually do?**

We will be having the incoming 7th grade SOS held on August 11th at 5:00pm, but will not be holding our traditional Open Houses; but would like to hold a virtual open house for our elementary schools, and a scheduled, socially distanced open house for kindergarteners.

**3. My child takes medication and I am concerned about them going into the nurses office. Will there be a separate area or room for the sick children?**

Many of our building clinics do not have adjoining rooms attached to send sick children to a separate room. We are able to separate sick children from those who need to come to the clinic for scrapes, bumps, medication, etc. It becomes extremely important for parents to make arrangements ahead of time to pick up sick children if/when the school calls. We cannot keep sick children in our clinic without an adult coming to pick them up.

**4. How are you going to keep my children safe on the bus?**

Our transportation director, Dave Clements, and superintendent, Dr. Rowe, have met throughout the summer to review all bus routes in the district. During this review, we have redistributed student numbers, discussed dropping students off at the school mid-route, conducting deep cleaning on regularly scheduled basis, implementing assigned seats, family groupings and other measures.

**5. I am concerned about students eating in the cafeteria. What precautions have you put in place?**

Principals have utilized all spare lunch tables available and pushed them apart as much as possible to distance the tables. Additionally, where an elementary table could seat 8 students, only 4 will be allowed to sit at them. Students will be encouraged to socially distance themselves in the lines and reminders placed on the floor.

**6. Will my child be able to go out to recess?**

We know that recess is a vital part of a child's day in school. Not only does it provide a well-deserved break, it helps to keep them physically fit and active and allows them to socialize with their friends and peers. Students will be encouraged to socially distance themselves on the playground and groups will be staggered in using the playground to the greatest extent possible.

**7. I am interested in the Virtual Learning Option. What should I do?**

Parents who are interested in the Virtual Learning Option for their child should contact their child's principal to set up a time to meet and get signed up for the Virtual Learning Option. Students enrolled in the Virtual Learning Option must adhere to the Indiana Code regarding minimum instructional time just as students who attend in-person. Instructional time for students in grades 1-6 is a minimum of 5 hours of daily instructional time and 6 hours of daily instructional time for grades 7-12. All other legal requirements concerning attendance, habitually truant, and missing students must be followed. Students will be expected to attend virtual classroom activities and will be recorded for attendance purposes.

**8. My daughter's grandmother wants to come into school to eat with her. Will she be allowed to have grandma come in?**

At this time, we are limiting visitors to only essential visitors. We will not be allowing visitors to enter the building to eat lunch with students but hope to do so once it is safe to do so.

**9. I am a room mother/helper and want to know if I can still come in to help out in the classroom.**

At this time, we are limiting visitors to only essential visitors. We will not be allowing visitors/helpers to enter the building but hope to do so when it is safe to do so. There may be some things that the teacher would need help with that parents may be able to do at home. We appreciate our parents help and can work to find ways to keep you connected with your child's classroom.

**10. My high school sophomore wants to enroll in the Virtual Learning Option (Edmentum) but he also wants to take an agriculture class with his North Newton HS teacher. Can he do that?**

No, junior/high school students enrolled in Edmentum are enrolling in that coursework and do not have the option to enroll in classes taught by North Newton teachers. Caution should be given to course selections when signing up for the Virtual Learning Option since not all courses can be offered through Edmentum. A careful review of what can be offered through Edmentum will help ensure students are able to get the high school credits needed to remain on track to graduate.

**11. I want to just homeschool my child. What is the difference between homeschooling and the district's Virtual Learning Program?**

If a parent wishes to 'homeschool' their child/children, the parent must pursue a homeschool curriculum outside of school. Additionally, students who are 'homeschooled' are not eligible to participate in district athletics or band (unless they enroll for at least one district course and meet other IHSAA requirements), would not be eligible for Grab and Go Meals, no district coordinated curriculum and no technology device. Parents enrolling in the district's Virtual Learning Program would be eligible for all district services just as if they were enrolled in person.

**12. We have someone in our household who is at high risk of contracting COVID-19 and want to select the Virtual Learning Option, but my senior still wants to play football. Can they do that?**

Yes, North Newton will allow students enrolled in our Virtual Learning Option to play extra-curricular sports. If a student decides to enroll in 'homeschooling' through an outside entity, they would not be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities without following the IHSAA guidelines.

**13. My child is in band and we want to sign up for the Virtual Learning Option. Can they do marching band?**

Yes-the student is enrolled at North Newton and this is a co-curricular class/activity. If the student is homeschooled, they may not be able to participate.

**14. If the plan is to resume in-person learning with a Virtual Learning Option on August 13th, what happens if there are more cases in our area and the plan needs to change?**

The NNSC Re-Entry Plan addresses this concern by noting that a hybrid model would be considered next, or a totally online option would be considered. It is extremely important for parents to have back-up plans regarding daycare and other supervision should the need arise for us to consider in-person learning on certain days of the week (example, MTThF in person with Wednesday virtual learning or another version). It is regrettable that decisions must be made at the last minute, but parents will need to be prepared to plan for student supervision and Virtual Learning continuation throughout the day.