

# McCullough Elementary School Reopening / Health and Safety Plan 2020-2021

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The following is information specific to McCullough Elementary's Health and Safety Plan for the 2020-2021 school year. This plan is in addition to the school's building security plan as well as the district's Health and Safety Plan. For additional information on either of the plans, please visit the school's website or contact the school at 724-744-7441.

The school is taking every step necessary to return to a "normal" student day under the current situation. At any time, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact your son/daughter's teacher and/or principal. If needed, this plan will be reviewed and updated as new information/mandates occur at the federal, state, and/or local level.

## **Assemblies**

- There will be no assemblies, field trips, and/or outside volunteers/presenters during the 2020-2021 school year.

## **Building Use**

- Only district activities will be permitted the use of McCullough Elementary after school hours during the 2020-2021 school year.

## **Open House**

- Open House will be virtual for the 2020-2021 school year.

## **New Student and Kindergarten Orientation**

- New Student and Kindergarten orientation will be held in small groups at a time and date to be determined.

## **Online Orientation**

- Those students who have selected online instruction to begin the school year will have technology orientation at a time and date to be determined. During this orientation items that will be reviewed include expectations, grading, schedule, and school supply pickup.

## **Masks**

- Currently, masks must be worn by students and staff at all times, except outside physical education class, actively playing at recess, when eating lunch, and/or maintaining a six-foot physical distance. If a student has a medical reason for not wearing the mask, please contact the school's nurse to discuss the necessary paperwork.
- Face shields are also acceptable and may be needed for various activities such as speech classes.

## **Student Arrival / Dismissal**

- The school day officially starts at 9:00 a.m. Students will be permitted to immediately go to his/her homeroom upon arrival starting at 8:45.
- Chromebooks/iPads must go home with students daily, charged, sanitized, and returned each day. Students cannot share Chromebooks.
- Parent pick-up and bus riders will be dismissed similar to previous years.
- Masks must be worn on the bus. As students enter the bus they will fill seats from the back to front with siblings sitting together.
- Parents picking students up from the school will need to wear a mask if they are out of their cars.
- Bus dismissal and student dropoff will be the same as in previous years. Changes may occur once school starts if needed.

## **Hallways and Stairways**

- Students will be asked to navigate hallways and stairways by staying as far to the right as possible and in a single file manner at all times. Students must wear masks while in hallways during all class changes.

## **School Day**

- Classroom desks will be cleaned and wiped between classes. When applicable, desk arrangements will be in row and column form with as much space between columns as possible. A staggered format will be implemented for students who are assigned to a table.
- Hand sanitizer is located in every classroom. Students will use hand sanitizer/wash hands each time upon entering or leaving the classroom.
- Water fountains will be closed. Students may bring their own water bottles.
- Parents must drop off all items and paperwork in the main entry lobby.
- Late arrivals and early dismissals: parents will wait in the main entry lobby, sign in/out sheet will be filled out there. Students will report to the office and then office staff will assist as needed.
- Parent conferences and IEP/GIEP meetings will be done remotely.

- When applicable, students are able to switch classes with proper cleaning and sanitizing of hands, classroom supplies, and desks.
- Students have the opportunity to attend online or brick and mortar instruction. All available instructional staff will be assisting various students during both online and brick and mortar instruction.
- Online instruction will be provided through Google platform, pre-recorded teacher lessons, live streaming, various websites/programs, district made resources, and/or teacher-made resources.
- Special classes will still be available and graded for brick and mortar. Online students will be provided with the opportunity to participate (not required or graded) in specials through the teacher's Google classroom.
- Online and brick and mortar grading will be similar. However, some grading may need to be modified due to the nature of the two different instructional formats.

### **Recess**

- Daily recess will be provided. Masks will be optional while physically active at recess or gym. Additionally, outside activities/instruction with six feet physical distancing will be encouraged for opportunities of mask breaks (optional for students to take off masks).

### **Equipment Sharing**

- Any school device or resource shared must be sanitized after used when possible.

### **Lunch**

- "Every other" seating arrangement - students will have assigned seats.
- Lunch box collection baskets will no longer be used.
- No self serve. Students must stand 3 feet away in line and wear masks.
- The tables will be cleaned after every lunch.
- Students will sanitize hands before leaving the cafe.

### **Library**

- Library book exchange will only be permitted on the student's assigned day.
- Seating is to be at a staggered arrangement.

The decision to attend Online learning or brick/mortar will be fluid throughout the year. If the family decides to change the current status, please email the child's homeroom teacher to state the change and estimated length of time.

## Monitoring Student and Staff Health

1. Staff and students should not come to school and must notify school officials if they become sick with COVID-19 symptoms, test positive for COVID-19, or are exposed to someone with COVID-19 symptoms or to someone with a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19.
2. [State Health Centers](#) (CMHDs) staff will notify the school immediately upon learning that a person with a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 was present at the school or a school event while infectious. DOH or CMHD staff will assist the school with risk assessment, isolation and quarantine recommendations, and other infection control recommendations. The district will take every measure to maintain the confidentiality of the affected individual.
3. It is the responsibility of DOH or CMHD staff to contact a student or staff person with COVID-19, inform close contacts of their possible exposure, and give instructions to those involved (including siblings and other household members) regarding self-quarantine and exclusions.
4. The school district will contact local DOH or CMHD staff before acting in response to a known or suspected communicable disease. They will provide guidance to schools regarding disease information, appropriate letters and communications, identification of high-risk individuals, appropriate action and treatment, and on-going support and assistance.
5. The district will contact DOH or the CMHD for further guidance if parent/guardian/caregiver notifies the school of potential exposure by a student, staff member, or school visitor.
6. DOH or CMHD staff will assist the district with contact tracing and may request information regarding potential close school contacts from school nurses/health staff. Decisions to track additional health information (i.e., quarantine timeframes) will be made at the local school level.
7. Parents/guardians and staff members will be educated on a [Symptom Screening Tool](#) to evaluate their child or self at home each day prior to coming to school. No children with symptoms will be sent on a bus or brought to school. All staff will perform a symptom screen on themselves before leaving for work and will stay home if ill.
8. Parents/guardians/staff will report possible COVID-19 symptoms and/or exposure to the School Nurse after using the self-assessment tool.
9. Staff and students with fever or symptoms associated with COVID-19 must seek medical attention for further evaluation and instructions before returning to school.
10. Staff and students with fever or symptoms that may be associated with COVID-19 but no known direct exposure to a person with COVID-19 may return to school when they are asymptomatic and have been fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicine or have confirmation of an alternative diagnosis from a health care provider that explains the COVID-19-like symptom(s).

11. Staff or students with symptoms who have had direct exposure to a person with COVID-19 will be considered probable cases and should remain excluded from school/work until [release from isolation criteria](#) has been met.
12. A student or staff member who is quarantined following close contact with a case may not return to school until cleared to do so by DOH or the appropriate CMHD. A negative test obtained prior to the end of quarantine does not clear an individual for return. The entire quarantine period must be completed. See CDC guidance on [Quarantine If You Might Be Sick](#).
13. Temperature screening will not be required upon entrance to the school for students or staff. Nurses will have the necessary equipment to measure temperatures for any student or staff who may become ill during the school day.
14. Staff or students confirmed to have COVID-19 must be cleared by their Primary Care Physician or Health Department with written documentation before they are permitted to return to school.
15. Nurse visit protocols
  - a. Teachers will make every effort to call the nurse first, before sending a child, unless otherwise necessitated.
  - b. Nurses will create small “nurse kits” to keep in classrooms that contain basic supplies such as band-aids, vaseline, or other commonly used items to avoid sending students to the nurse and come in contact with additional students.
  - c. Students that are symptomatic and sent to the nurse, will be kept in a room off of the office isolated from another student who visits the nurse.
16. All stakeholders will be trained on protocols for monitoring student and staff health.

## **Other Considerations for Students and Staff**

1. In the Green and Yellow Phase, wearing masks will be required of students while in the school building, when 6 feet of social distancing cannot be maintained.
2. Face Coverings:
  - a. On July 1, 2020, the Secretary of Health issued an Order requiring all individuals to wear a face-covering when they leave their homes.
  - b. All students must wear a face covering (cloth mask or face shield) that covers their nose and mouth inside the school and while outside when 6 ft physical distancing is not feasible.
  - c. Students are required to wear a face-covering unless they have a medical or mental health condition or disability, documented in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or IDEA, that precludes the wearing of a face covering in school. Accommodations for such students should be made in partnership with the student's health care provider, school nurse, and IEP/504 team.

- d. Transparent face coverings such as shields may be used as an alternative to a mask. Transparent shields provide the opportunity for more visual cues and may be a more comfortable alternative.
  - e. Face coverings, such as masks or face shields, must be worn by all non-students, both staff and visitors (including parents and guardians), while on school property.
  - f. Non-students must wear a face covering (mask or face shield) unless they have a medical or mental health condition or disability, documented in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, that precludes the wearing of a face covering in school.
  - g. Students will be permitted to remove face coverings when students are:
    - i. Eating or drinking and spaced apart as much as feasible;
    - ii. Seated at desks or assigned workspaces at least 6 feet apart;
    - iii. Engaged in any activity at least 6 feet apart (e.g., face covering breaks, recess, etc.); or
    - iv. When wearing a face covering creates an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task.
3. The district will determine additional considerations and supports needed for students and staff with disabilities and complex medical needs to ensure the safety of these students and the individuals providing services to these students.
4. Flexible attendance policies will be adopted for students and staff.
5. Limit or cancel all non-essential travel as necessary.
6. Students, parents, and staff need to be mindful and respectful of the health and safety of all individuals. Adhering to the guidelines within this plan will help to minimize risk of exposure to COVID-19.