

From the Desk of the Superintendent:

Currently, Pendleton County Schools is working on developing reopening plans for our students and staff. Our number one priority of these plans is to consider the safety and wellness of students and employees, first and foremost. Our plans will need to be adaptable and flexible with the ability to change throughout the school year. While we are still in the early planning stages of our reopening of schools, I think it is important that we provide you with an overview of what we are considering.

Our first plan – Plan A will be the reopening with all our students in school at the same time. This plan will minimize opportunities for close contact and the risk of exposure by:

- Face coverings must be worn in all confined indoor places where social distancing cannot be maintained. Does not apply to children under the age of 9 or anyone who has trouble breathing or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance.
- Daily temperature screening will be conducted by homeroom teachers.
- Students will be asked COVID-19 screening questions daily.
- Recess could be staggered in small groups
- Entry/Dismissal, bell schedule adapted
- Electives/ related service adapted as possible, adults could move more than students
- Social distancing behaviors continue as recommended by state and local health authorities, such as removing groupings of desks and creating hallway floor stickers
- Hand sanitizer will be provided for student and staff use.
- Food service employees will wear face coverings at all times, to the greatest extent possible.
- School buses will be cleaned before every bus run.

Under Plan A students will attend school five days a week. This allows us to educate, feed, and care for our students more consistently. In order to attend five days a week, our plan must consist of a half day of school on Wednesdays so that we can clean thoroughly and allow time for our staff to prepare for blended and remote instruction.

Our second plan – Plan B is more restrictive with our students split into two groups – Group 1 and Group 2. Group 1 will attend Mondays & Thursdays with Group 2 attending Tuesdays and Fridays. Wednesdays will be an intensive cleaning days and a preparation day for blended learning and remote learning.

- Continue with all the guidance from Plan A
- School facilities are open but social distancing is required
- Limit density of people in school facilities to no more than 50% maximum occupancy
- Enhanced health and cleaning protocols
- Blended Learning for all students
- Meals will continue to be provided for all 5 days

Our third plan – Plan C – is remote learning only;

- School facilities are closed to all students.
- Our Remote Instruction Plan will be used for all students and staff.
- Meals will continue to be provided for all 5 days.

- Teachers will be on duty at school, preparing remote lessons and assisting students via internet and/or phone.

As part of our Remote and Blended Learning Plan we will be providing 1 to 1 computer devices for students and staff. We are also looking into the possibility of expanding the number of Wifi hotspots to help promote remote learning in our county.

During the pandemic, we will be offering a full time Virtual School option open to all students K-12. For parents that do not feel safe sending their students back to school on August 21, they can enroll them into our virtual program, and students will remain a Pendleton County School student. This means they can play sports, will remain in our WVEIS system for grading and credit earning purposes, will continue to receive special education or 504 services if applicable, and will receive a Pendleton County School's diploma if they graduate through our virtual program. If at any time the child wants to transfer back into the regular classroom, the transition is easy. This also keeps the families eligible for any additional EBT Meal Card funds that would become available. Individuals do need to have internet access in order to sign up; however, we can provide a device for them to use if needed.

Anyone that is concerned about sending their children back into the buildings can reach out to Tim Johnson at 304-358-2207 extension 123 for more information. If you decide the virtual option is right for your child, the school will handle the registration process.

Finally, a survey will be going out next week on the school's website that will be explained through a School Messenger call to give us an idea of what parents are considering for their children for the upcoming year. The survey will be short and sweet and focus on whether or not parents intend to send their kids back into our buildings, or if they wish to take advantage of the virtual school option. This will give us enrollment number estimates and help us determine the number of virtual spots needed. Please make sure to take this survey if you have children enrolled and share the importance of completing it with other parents you may know. Registration deadline for virtual school enrollment is July 31, 2020.

Our goal for Pendleton County Schools is to get our students and staff into our buildings safely. We have recently hired another school nurse. This will allow us to have a full time nurse in each of our schools. We know there will need to be a focus on the social and emotional well-being of our students and staff. We know there will be bumps in the roads ahead and there will definitely be unforeseen circumstances we have not considered; but together, we can make this work for our students and our community.

Sincerely,

Charles F. Hedrick