

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated July 28, 2020: Changes and additions are in green.

NOTE: Due to the Governors mask order, all students grade 3-12 will be required to wear a mask at all times (excluding lunch and PE) when school starts. The previous guidance that masks could be removed once in the classroom is no longer permitted.

We are asking families to let us know their choice on attending school or using remote learning by July 31. We understand your choice is based on current guidance. Frustratingly for all of us, the guidance changes every couple days. We understand that conditions may cause a family's choice to change and we will honor that. Please be understanding as we try to make plans based on constantly changing enrollment choices. I do believe we are all working toward the same goal: what is best for the student.

1. If I live in a different county but my child is enrolled in Centerburg Schools, are we allowed to attend if our county goes "RED?" Since the school is located in Knox County, any student enrolled will follow Knox County designation for school purposes. So yes, they may attend school regardless of their residential county designation.
2. What will online learning look like this fall?
We hope to have some type of live process for online learning. The challenges we face is lack of bandwidth, lack of tech equipment and how to schedule it while continuing to teach classes during the day in the buildings. I recommend parents consider that the "worst case scenario" would be online programming that would be as presented last spring. Some additional equipment has been ordered to help but the expected shipping date is unknown.
3. Will the length of the school day change?
It may. We hope to have the length of the school day as usual but may need to change it once we know how many students will be doing online learning. If that number is large, we may need to dismiss earlier than usual in order to adequately instruct online classes. All homes will be called in the next two weeks to determine which form of learning is desired. If you don't get a call, please call your building office. We will know the schedule early in August after the data is collected and will inform families at that time.
4. Is open enrollment going to be an option this year.
Yes. Although we may reduce the number of NEW open enrollment requests to keep the class sizes at the maximum number allowed and keep social distancing in classrooms. Any student that has been open enrolled to Centerburg in the past will continue to be accepted this year. New online enrollment requests will be finalized the week of Aug 4.
5. Can my child attend part of the day and do online part of the day?
No.

6. Can my child learn online and still participate in athletics or other extra-curricular?
Yes, but realize the risk for contracting the virus is higher during athletics due to no social distancing and no mask requirements.
7. Is there an attendance requirement for online learning?
Yes. A student's attendance will be tracked based on online activity. State law requires attendance to be kept during the school year for all students.
8. What are the requirements of a mask? Does the type of fabric matter?
There is no mention in regulations as to what type of fabric a mask must be. The only requirement is that it covers the nose, mouth and chin. Some have asked about a type of "athletic" mask made from fabric which makes it easier to breath. At this time that mask is acceptable. Masks with "exhaust valves" are not permitted. Please be aware that any writing or art on the mask must follow the same dress code conditions as any other clothing. No depiction of violence, alcohol, drugs or illegal activities. Any other design is permitted.
9. Is there a deadline for informing the school of our choice of attendance?
Yes. We need to know by July 31. Room assignments, work schedules, student schedules and bus routes need to be completed based on these numbers. The earlier the better. Changing your mind up to July 31 will not count as the one time change per semester.
10. Is there disciplinary action for refusal to wear a mask when required in the school?
Yes. As with any rule, refusal to follow staff directives is considered insubordination. Students will forget to put on a mask and staff will remind them. This does not constitute insubordination and is normal process we face every day. Refusing to put on the mask after being directed to do so is insubordination. The penalty will probably be assignment to online learning.
11. Will students who have learning disabilities and can't handle wearing a mask be made to do so?
No. We'll try to see if these students can handle a face shield. If not, they will not be required to use face coverings. Documented medical conditions (from a doctor) excusing a mask will also be honored. Those students will be encouraged to wear a face shield.
12. Is it possible that K-2 mask requirement will be waived?
As with anything we'll assess how things are working and make allowable adjustments. Ohio Department of Health has waived the requirement of students in grades K-2 to wear a mask. Centerburg will follow this waiver and not require masks in grade K-2. **Be aware that the Governor's mandated mask order now will require student in grade 3-12 and all adults to wear a mask at all times.** The previous guidance of no mask if 3 ft separation has been rescinded. The Governor's order does state that children under the age of 10 do not have to wear masks. We have been informed this does not cover school attendance.
13. Do masks have to be worn in PE (gym) or recess?

Currently if students can go outside and maintain 3-6 ft social distancing, they do not have to wear a mask. If the class is inside masks will need to be worn unless we can keep 6 ft distancing.

14. Will the building be cleaned throughout the day?

Restroom, door handles and other frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned as much as possible. We are looking at hiring additional help during the school day to do this type of cleaning. Students and staff are encouraged to use sanitizer and/or soap and water as much as possible to decrease contamination. If age appropriate, students will be asked to wipe their desks and chairs when they are leaving a room. Each room will be “fogged” twice a week by the evening custodial staff. Additional sanitizing processes will be added as much as reasonably possible in our cleaning protocol.

15. Will the HVAC system be upgraded in an attempt to filter out COVID?

No. Any process to do this will cost into the hundreds of thousands of dollars. This is not feasible. The HVAC system has been adjusted to bring in as much outside air as possible regardless of the outside conditions. Be aware that at very low temperatures we cannot completely open the outside air intakes as it can cause the heating coils to freeze and break.

16. When can we make the one time change with the type of learning our students are enrolled?

Presently we are not limiting when this happens. Be aware that students who are online and want to return may have to wait a day or two until we can figure out their schedule and class assignments. Those wishing to change from in school to online can do so immediately.

17. What happens if Knox County becomes a ‘RED’ county?

Simply put, we don’t know. At this point there is no guidance by the state or public health.

18. Will fall sports happen?

Presently non-contact sports are allowed to compete with other teams. Non-contact sports are all sports except Football. Cross country has not been designated as contact on non-contact. Contact sports are allowed to practice but not compete with other teams. The Governor’s office has stated that further guidance will be coming. The school’s athletic Facebook and twitter pages are being continually updated with the latest information. Centerburg school district will not travel to, nor accept teams from any county that is designated RED by the state coronavirus policy. We have received no guidance concerning if fan attendance at games is allowable.

19. Will the bus routes be the same as last year?

As with any year, there are small adjustments made to bus route due to changes in enrollment. Other than these small adjustments, routes will be the same. Reminder that masks are mandated for all bus riders regardless of age. Parents of students that have either a Dr. note or a documented disability that keeps them from wearing a mask need to contact the school if their child is riding the bus and cannot wear a mask.

20. Will the start date of school be pushed back or be as scheduled?

Presently we will start school as scheduled on Aug. 19.

21. I will be travelling to one of the states that Gov Dewine has identified as high risk and asking that we voluntarily quarantine for 14 days upon return. Do my children have to wait for 14 days before returning to school?

Because this is not a mandate it is not required although we do ask you to voluntarily follow this guidance for the safety of others. The school will offer online learning to those who voluntarily quarantine until they can return.

22. The Governor has said that anyone 10 or under does not need to wear a mask but school is requiring anyone grades 3-12 to wear a mask. Why?

Schools are required to follow the Ohio Reset and Restart Planning Guide that was issued by the Ohio Department of Health and Ohio Department of Education. This document states that students in K-2 do not have to wear a mask and grades 3-12 do. The Governor later mandated masks for all above the age of 10. We have asked Public Health and Ohio Department of Health for clarification on which to follow. We have asked that the Planning Guide and the Governor's mandate be aligned.