

Frequently Asked Questions

*** Please be advised that this information is subject to change based on continued guidance from the national, state, and local levels. This situation is constantly changing and we ask and appreciate the patience of families as we adjust to provide the safest educational environment for our students.

- What happens with someone exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms?
 - We will be requesting baseline data from parents for each student to ensure we know some common symptoms of each student. This will help us determine possible COVID-19 symptoms and possible typical behavior. If we are in question we will err on the side of caution.
 - If a student is displaying common symptoms and this is not part of the baseline data then the student would be asked to leave and contact their health provider or Pepin County Health Department for guidance on next steps.
 - We are currently working with Advent Health and the Pepin County Health Department to finalize new processes and procedures related to those out from school with COVID-19 symptoms and/or considered a close contact.
 - Common COVID-19 symptoms (link the CDC or DPI documents)
https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/sspw/pdf/Returning_to_School_After_COVID-19.pdf
- What are thoughts on wearing masks?
 - We fully realize the wearing of masks evokes strong emotions and opinions from individuals on both sides of the discussion. As a district, we are asking everyone to respect both sides of this discussion. Our goal is to strike a happy medium and use common sense. At this time, masks are currently mandated in the State of Wisconsin. It is our intent that students, staff, and visitors follow the requirements of the mandate.
- What happens with a positive case for students and staff?
 - The district will work with Pepin County Health Department and Advent Health when or if someone is deemed to be COVID-19 positive.
 - We will assist the county with identifying students or staff members that may have had exposure to a COVID positive individual.
 - Pepin County Health Department will perform contact tracing based on the guidelines established.
 - We will exclude those that are deemed to have had a risk of exposure based on guidelines and support from the county for 14-days. Those individuals will have the ability to remote into class.
 - We will release limited information to the district upon a positive case, but those that are deemed to be at risk will be contacted by the county via contact tracing protocol. We will not release the name of the positive individual(s).
- How are we handling social distancing?

- We will attempt to socially distance as much as possible, fully understanding that at times this will not be feasible. We have asked staff to remove as many things from the classroom as possible to allow desks to be distanced as much as possible.
- In certain areas where this is not possible (e.g. locations with tables instead of individual desks) plexiglas dividers will be used where practicable to ensure further distancing
- Protections will also occur during lunch and recess times to limit cross-contamination
- What are the different educational options?
 - The district is offering three different educational options for this school year. The first is in-person learning. This is typical to what students and parents have been experiencing for years with some subtle changes around social distancing, recess, etc. The second form of educational options is remote learning. Remote learning will have a student virtually joining their in-person class through Google Meets and Google Classroom. Remote learning will take on two different looks which will be explained later. The final educational option will be virtual learning. During virtual learning the student will be using a third-party vendor the district uses for providing this option. The students will be taught by instructors employed by that third-party vendor with someone in the district acting as a liaison and resource for the student.
- What will remote learning look like?
 - This will be different from class to class in terms of expectations, but the student will be expected to log into their class via Google Meets at the time of day the class is scheduled, if that is possible. In a sense, it will be like sitting in one of the desks in the classroom. The second possibility is the teacher will record the lesson and the student will log into the Google Classroom site and watch the recorded lesson at their own time and perform the required work and assessments.
- Can a student transition from remote, virtual, or in-person instruction to one of the other instructional models?
 - Due to the complexity of transitioning between the different educational delivery models we are asking parents to please select a model they feel would be best for their child(ren) for a period of time. For those parents that select virtual learning, we ask for a commitment of one semester. For those parents that select remote learning or in-person instruction, we ask for a monthly commitment. We do fully realize that if a student becomes sick or has to quarantine they may be transitioning to remote instruction for a short period of time. We are asking for the commitment of time for your primary form of instruction.
- If I select the virtual learning option or remote learning option can I still get breakfast and lunch for our child(ren)?

- We are working through the logistics of this, but the plan is to provide meals in a way similar to how we handled meals this summer with parents coming to Caddie Woodlawn during a set time period to pick-up the meals for the following day.
- What data will be used to decide if school will be closed?
 - As of this time, the decision to close school due to a COVID outbreak will be left with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services or Pepin County Health Department. The district will work closely with the county in regards to any local outbreak. Some of the factors involved in the decision will be the number of positive cases and extent of exposure based on contact tracing. The district will also analyze and could possibly move to virtual schooling if there is not enough staff to adequately perform the function of educating students in-person.
- Will the district increase the frequency of hand washing and provide sanitizer stations throughout the building?
 - The district will continue to put hand sanitizer in each classroom as we have in the past. We have also installed hand sanitizer stations at the main entrances to the buildings and will spread out sanitizing stations throughout the building. We will also increase the frequency of hand washing and will build this time into the schedule.
- Can you explain how Elementary School Specials will operate?
 - Specials in the elementary school will be conducted in two-week rotations within the classroom of the specials teacher. This will reduce the exposure of the specials teacher to every student in the building. The previous schedule had the specials teacher in contact with every student in the building every three days. The new schedule for specials will reduce cross-contamination.
- What will student recess look like this year?
 - The district fully supports the need for students to get outside and play with classmates. We will continue to conduct recess with a few simple changes. We will be minimizing the number of students on the playground at a given time to limit potential exposure. We will also not be allowing the uses of balls on the playground until further notice.
- Are there any new cleaning protocols in the buildings?
 - Students and staff will be asked to clean their desk area at the start of each period and the end of each period. The district has also hired two additional daytime custodians whose responsibility will be to clean bathrooms and high touch areas throughout the day. The district has also changed some cleaning protocols and purchased additional equipment to assist with cleaning.
- Will Water Fountains and Bottle Filling stations be turned on?
 - Water fountains will be turned off throughout the school building until further notice; however, we will leave on the bottle filling stations so students can bring in their own water bottles and continue to use them as they have in the past.