



***Fort Calhoun***

***Community Schools***

Gateway to the Past. Pioneers of the Future.

# AUGUST 2020 REOPENING OF SCHOOLS

Updated December 2020

Guide for Junior High / High School Students and Parents

August 2020

**All plans are subject to change at any given time due to COVID-19  
and directed Health Measures**

August 2020

Fort Calhoun Parent/Guardian,

Attached you will find information regarding the junior high / high school return to school plan. There are many moving pieces that encompass the entire plan and not everything that is a part of our plan is listed here. What is included here is reference to the district wide plan, student illness and at home pre-screening, entering and exiting the building, lunch procedures, and FAQ's. If you have questions about anything, please don't hesitate to contact me. This current plan was developed by administrators, teachers, our school nurse, and parents. We feel that we have a great plan that will work towards keeping your child safe while in our school.

Please visit with your child about the school expectations of wearing a mask. This is not just about protecting you and your family, but about protecting all our students and families. We will require masks at all times as well as maximizing social distancing as much as possible as guided by the CDC and Three Rivers Health Department. Masks will be important when assessing possible COVID cases. A mask being worn can and will significantly impact whether your child stays in school or cannot stay in school and for how long.

Please know that things change on a regular basis and that what you see before you can change at any given moment based on what is happening with COVID-19. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Lastly, as we enter into this school year, we ask for your support. Together, we can make this a great year!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicholas P. Wemhoff". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the last letter.

Nicholas P. Wemhoff  
Fort Calhoun High School  
Principal

# Fort Calhoun Community Schools

## Pandemic Plan

(full plan is available on the school website)

### Tiered Responses

High Level ~ Virus	Medium Level ~ Virus	Low Level ~ Virus
Directed Health Measures that close the school building.	Directed Health Measures that could limit the school building capacity, or guidance from the health department.	No Directed Health Measures that limits the school's capacity.

<u>Type of Opening:</u>	<u>Attendance on Site</u>	<u>Measures taken to be in the school building</u>
<p><b><u>HIGH LEVEL</u></b></p> <p><b>High threat of Virus exists.</b></p> <p><b>No Students in school - Remote learning.</b></p>	<p>None - Access to the building and district will be closed.</p> <p>All Directed Health Measures (DHM) will be followed.</p> <p>Students engaged in remote learning.</p>	<p>As a district, we recognize this solution creates obstacles in establishing routines and transitions for our families, as well as establishing relationships with our students. In the event we need to transition into HIGH, FCCS has a detailed plan to educate our students.</p>
<p><b><u>MEDIUM LEVEL</u></b></p> <p>Elevated to moderate levels of the virus exists.</p> <p>Students in school</p>	<p><b>50%-100%</b> of students in session The number of students will be dictated by COVID-19 and the DHM.</p> <p>If allowable, grades PreK-6 and students receiving special education services will be on site at least 5 days a week, with the exception of PreK, which is 4 days a week.</p>	<p>The following recommendations have been provided by the health department to maintain a healthy and safe environment for students.</p> <p><b>1.) Mask Policy</b> <u>Fort Calhoun Schools Will Require a Mask</u></p> <p>*Masks will be issued to students to keep and to be kept clean.</p> <p>*Parents/Students are welcome to provide their own</p>

	<p>This model could consist of alternating days and a hybrid educational system for all students grades 7-12.</p> <p>There will be no outside visitors, or groups during the school day.</p> <p>If school events are allowed, no spectators to limited spectators, to full capacity in attendance.</p> <p>Students with medical hardships could potentially learn from home during this time. A doctor's note is required.</p> <p>Meals will be served in the grade-level designated areas and alternate sites.</p> <p>The district will work with families on a case by case basis.</p>	<p>mask if so desired.</p> <p>*Face Shields do not constitute a mask but may be worn in addition to a mask.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Cohorting, or limited movement of students.</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Students in grade PreK-6 grades will be cohorted in a single class setting with limited movement. Teachers will move to the different classes, as needed.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. <b>Good Hygiene</b> - Regular use of hand sanitizer and soap and water. The district will provide both, with regular times of use.</li> <li>3. <b>Social distancing</b> - The district will promote and require social distancing throughout the day whenever possible.</li> <li>4. <b>Self-monitoring and temperature checks.</b> Parents should check students at home for symptoms, staff will do the same. Any individual showing symptoms should remain home. Required temperature checks on all students entering the building and throughout the day.</li> <li>5. <b>No outside visitors/programs</b></li> </ol>
<p><b><u>LOW LEVEL</u></b> <b>Low to no threat of virus.</b></p> <p><b>Students in school</b></p>	<p>100% of students</p> <p>Regular schedule will resume</p> <p>District policies followed.</p>	<p>All district mandated cleaning procedures will resume.</p> <p>Staff and students that wish to continue to wear face coverings will be allowed to do so.</p>

# Daily Screening Processes, Protocols, & Information Regarding Illness

The Health Department has recommended the following questions to ask your student(s) each morning before they come to school. It is important for students and parents to screen every day.

## **DAILY SCREENING QUESTIONS:**

1. How are you feeling today?
2. Are you experiencing any of the following: fever, headache, chills, sore throat, nausea, new cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, loss of taste and smell?
3. Have you been diagnosed with COVID-19 or been around anyone that has been diagnosed with COVID-19?
4. Have you or anyone in your household been asked to self-quarantine at home by a primary care provider or public health official?

Please take your child's(ren) temperature every morning before coming to school. If they have a 100.4 degree temperature or above, keep them home and communicate with the school. This will go a long way to keeping our schools safer.

## **Watch for symptoms of COVID-19:**

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19: Fever or chills - Cough- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing - Fatigue - Muscle or body aches - Headache - New loss of taste or smell - Sore throat - Congestion or runny nose - Nausea or vomiting - Diarrhea. This list does not include all possible symptoms. CDC will continue to update this list as we learn more about COVID-19.

**IF YOUR CHILD RECEIVES SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION, THEY WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO RIDE IF THEY HAVE A TEMPERATURE OVER 100.4 DEGREES.**

## **Procedure for student illness during the school day:**

If your child becomes ill during the school day, the school nurse or school designee will notify a parent/guardian. If your child has symptoms consistent with COVID-19, they will be placed in a designated area that is safe for both themselves and other students until they are picked up from school. Students with COVID-19 symptoms will not be allowed to re-enter school. The school nurse will communicate with parents the expectations regarding return to school based on the current recommendations by the CDC and Three Rivers Health Department.

# Protocols & Procedures To Enter and Exit the HS

Social distancing practices will be followed to ensure safe entry into the school building each and every day. Students or parents/guardians will not be allowed to congregate at entrance or exit areas.

## **MASKS ARE REQUIRED PER THE DISTRICT WIDE POLICY**

### **Students entering the high school prior to 8:00 am:**

- All students are required to enter the school building at the main entrance. Students will:
  - Enter the building with a face mask on.
  - Have their temperature taken at the point of entry. **Students will be sent immediately to the nurse's office and parents notified if they have a temperature over 100.4 degrees.**
  - Students after 8:00 am must enter through the front office.
  - Students participating in before school activities will have their temperature taken by the coach/sponsor as they enter the school building.

### **Designated areas upon arrival:**

- Students will be asked to go to a designated area prior to 7:45 am.
- At 7:45 am, all students who are in the building will report to their first-hour class. Subsequently, any student who enters the building after 7:45 am will report immediately to their classroom.

### **Access to locker rooms:**

- Students will be allowed to put their equipment in the locker room upon arrival.

### **Exiting the building at the end of the day:**

- The procedure for student dismissal at the end of the day remains the same.
- Masks are required when students exit their last hour class till they exit the building.
- Students riding the bus will be required to wear a mask.
- Students will not be allowed to congregate in any area of the building or in the parking lot. Students must exit immediately unless they have a reason to still be in the building (practices, meeting with teachers, etc.).

# Breakfast & Lunch Meal Information

All food will be served by gloved and masked employees.

## **BREAKFAST PROCEDURES**

- Meals will be in the commons area. Students must sit “every other seat” (no more than 4 to a table).
- Wash hands prior to eating.
- Masks must be worn at all times unless eating or drinking.
- Students must report to their designated area once they have finished their meal.
- Meals will be served to students or ready for pick-up. IF there is anything students grab themselves, it will be pre-packaged.

## **LUNCH**

- Meals will be in the commons area and the gymnasium. Students must sit “every other seat” (no more than 4 to a table) in the commons area and students must sit socially distanced in the gymnasium.
- Wash hands prior to eating.
- Masks must be worn at all times during lunch other than while eating or drinking.
- Assigned seating.
- Meals will be served to students or ready for pick-up. IF there is anything students grab themselves, it will be pre-packaged.

Payments for meals will be the same process that the district has always used unless specified differently at a later time.

# Returning To School

## FAQs for Families

### **What is the school doing to disinfect and sanitize during the day?**

Students and staff will sanitize their hands upon entering the building, entering a classroom, and/or entering a new area. Students and staff will clean hands throughout the school day (at least 70% alcohol). The school will provide both soap and water and hand sanitizer. Staff will conduct high-touch surface sanitization throughout each day. This includes cleaning desks, door handles, workspaces, restrooms. All areas will be disinfected nightly.

### **What happens if there is a positive case of COVID-19 in my child's classroom/school?**

When a positive COVID-19 case is confirmed in a school, that individual will be excluded and allowed to return based upon current guidance from CDC at the time. Health Departments will work with the school to consider the following questions when determining how that case will impact others in their classroom and/or school building.

- 1.) What is the level of community spread outside the school building?
- 2.) Was the individual with COVID-19 wearing a mask?
- 3.) Were other students and staff masked who were within 6 feet of the individual with COVID-19 for more than 15 minutes?
- 4.) Was the individual with COVID-19 part of a cohort within the building or did they interact with a large number of students and staff throughout their day?
- 5.) To what extent is the school community implementing other non-pharmaceutical interventions (hand washing, hand sanitizers, etc.)

The answers to these questions will help determine 1) the number of close contacts; 2) if the close contacts who are not symptomatic may stay in the classroom; and 3) the number of other students and staff who will need to be quarantined.

### **What happens if my child refuses to wear a mask when/where it is required?**

It is our belief students will meet our expectations to wear a mask. For willful disobedience, discipline for not following school rules will occur. A staff member will work with students individually before referring the student to an administrator.

### **How will social distancing be achieved in classrooms? Will students be able to interact with other students in the class?**

The desks/tables in the classroom will be configured to maximize safety. Students will all face the front of the room during instruction. Anytime students are asked to speak to another student in class as a part of a small group/partner, social distance will be attempted.