

2020-2021 COVID-19 Updates and Addendums to District Handbook

- **Daily Health Symptom Check:** Families must check children's temperatures and check for the symptoms listed below prior to boarding the bus or arriving at school. Staff are also required to self check. ***Students and staff members should stay home when they have (per Lorain County Public Health)*** one of the following:
 - *New onset cough*
 - *Shortness of breath*
 - *New loss of smell or taste*
 - *Fever (100.4 degrees or higher)*
 - *Muscle weakness*
 - *Sore throat*
 - *Headache*
 - *Diarrhea, vomiting, or nausea*
 - *Congestion/runny nose*
- **Start Date:** The start of school has been adjusted in order for staff to complete Professional Development in regards to safety measures for COVID-19. In addition, students in grades 6 and 9 will have an orientation day to become familiar with their new building. Students will start school on September 8th in grades 1-5, orientation and 1st day of school for grades 6 and 9, and online classes for grades 1-12. Students will start school on September 9th in grades 7-8 and 10-12. Students in kindergarten (online and in person) will start on September 11th.
- **Student Illness:** Firelands Local School District will follow this [chart](#) from Lorain County Public Health Department regarding when students/family members may return to school after either a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19. Information related to positive COVID-19 tests will be sent to parents through email and the postal service. Specific letters will be sent to families of students exposed to the virus according to guidelines set by the Lorain County Public Health Department.
- **Washing/Sanitizing Hands:** We have ensured that all classrooms and building entrances are stocked with sanitizers. Hand washing or sanitizing breaks will be taken frequently so that we can do our part in prevention of transmission. Hand sanitizers are also available on every bus.
- **Cleaning/Sanitizing Surfaces and the Buildings:** Additional measures will be taken to sanitize our facilities both during the school day and after with high traffic areas being a focus for cleaning staff. Classroom surfaces, such as desks and chairs, will be **cleaned by staff** prior to the next student use. In addition, community supplies that have been shared in the past will no longer be used. Children need to have their own designated materials. An emphasis will be placed on limited touching of any physical items.
- **Facial Covering Policy:** All students (K-12) must provide and wear facial coverings while on school grounds. The face covering should securely fit around the mouth, nose and side of the face. Examples of face coverings include reusable or single-use face masks or neck gaiters. Face coverings must not cover ears or the top of head. Students are required to care for their mask to be sure it does not touch the floor or other surfaces. Masks should be placed in backpacks or other areas as instructed by

teachers when eating lunch. Those students that qualify for an exemption from wearing a face mask will be required to wear a face shield.

Please refer to our policy on facial coverings [here](#).

- **Social Distancing:** Students are expected to maintain a minimum distance of 3 to 6 feet from others at all times on school grounds.
- **Assigned Seats:** Students will have assigned seats in classrooms, the cafeteria, and on the bus. Students **must** remain in assigned seats unless otherwise instructed.
- **Locker Usage/Book bags:** Students will be using book bags to carry classroom/instructional materials. Lockers will not be assigned to students.
 - Parents- please do not send unnecessary supplies as the student will be carrying them.
 - Please wash book bags frequently to help prevent transmission of the virus.
- **Water Fountains:** Water fountains will not be available for drinking. There will be fillable stations at the water fountains. Students are encouraged to bring their own water bottles to use and fill throughout the school day. Please label all personal items.
- **Visitors/Volunteers:** There will be no visitors or volunteers allowed in the buildings at this time with the exception of service providers under contract with the district.
- **Bus Transportation:** Safety guidelines have been put into place for students that will be transported on the bus.
 - All bus riders will be required to provide and wear a facial covering on a bus and/or while at a bus stop with non-family members.
 - Students will be assigned seats on the bus.
 - Hand sanitizer stations will be available for students boarding or exiting the bus.
- **Food Service:** Breakfast will be provided in a grab and go format and will be eaten in the classroom. Lunches will be eaten in the classroom at FES. SAMS and FHS will utilize the cafeteria and gymnasium for lunch service. Students will maintain social distancing while eating.
- **Payments:** The district encourages families to log on to <https://www.payschoolscentral.com/> to complete all fee transactions and lunch payments. Please contact Judy Baumann, Food Service Director at jbaumann@firelandsschools.org for assistance.
- **COVID-19 Travel Advisory:** Those entering Ohio after travel to states reporting positive testing rates of 15% or higher for COVID-19 are *required* to self-quarantine for 14 days.
<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/families-and-individuals/covid-19-travel-advisory/covid-19-travel-advisory>
- **Home to School Communication:** The district requests that all home to school communication be emailed to the appropriate staff member.
 - FES attendance information should be emailed to fesattendance@firelandsschools.org
 - SAMS attendance information should be emailed to samsattendance@firelandsschools.org
 - FHS attendance information should be emailed to fhsattendance@firelandsschools.org

- [Online Learning At Home Guidelines](#)

Be aware that plans, rules, and/or procedures, in any of the buildings, may need to be adjusted as the situation changes. Any changes will be communicated to parents and students as they arise.

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- **Drop-Off:** Procedure will remain the same. A staff member will be present when students are able to enter the building. Please hold students in the family vehicle until a staff member directs them to exit the car and enter the building.
- **Pick-Up:** Overall procedure will remain the same. Changes include: 1) Parents will not be permitted to line up prior to 3:00 pm due to Head Start dismissal time and the construction project. If parents arrive prior to 3:00, they will need to park in the parking lot and wait until 3:00 for the line up to begin. 2) Parents will now enter at the middle driveway between the high school and elementary school. This is one entrance south of the entrance from last year. There will be a sign that states “School Deliveries” at the entrance. Please ensure you have a car tag if you will be picking up your child. This will alleviate the family member having to enter the building to pick up their child.
- **Classroom Treat/Snack Policy:** Students must bring in their own snacks. There will be no snacks provided to classmates for any reason (birthday treat, etc.)
- **Lunch/Recess:** Students will be eating meals in their classrooms. Procedures will be in place. Recess will be scheduled and students will be informed of the areas for recess and different activities that can be done. Students will be permitted to bring in a personal toy for recess, if preferred. Students will not be sharing toys with classmates/peers. They would be responsible for their own property. The toy must fit into the student’s bookbag.
- **Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports:** Falcon Bucks will not be utilized during the 2020-2021 school year. Teachers will be using Class Dojo to reinforce positive behaviors.
- **SAFE Program:** SAFE will be offered this year. Specific guidelines will be provided. If there are questions, please contact Cindy Raynor at craynor@firelandsschools.org.