

RESTART PLAN



for Preschool and School Programs of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities



Approved by the Board: July 23, 2020

Preschool and School Restart Plan

Introduction

Effective on March 16, 2020, the preschool and school programs of the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities (FCBDD), transitioned from in-class services to virtual, distance learning due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and orders of the Ohio Health Director and Governor. Children did not attend the Early Childhood Center or Schools for the balance of the school year. Distance Learning took the form of a coaching model, whereby FCBDD staff coached parents/ family members on learning activities that can be implemented at home to continue education.

Effective the week of August 24, 2020, plans call for preschool and school programs to resume. The preschool classes will enroll no more than nine students at a time and school-age classes will enroll no more than eight students at a time.

In the event there are Health Department or other considerations or a second wave of confirmed viruses or a particular class or facility has an overwhelming number of students or staff quarantined, it is always possible that school may be closed with minimum advance notice and all services will be virtual. We encourage all staff, students and families to maintain personal 'back-up' plans in the event circumstances change.

General Guidelines

Opt Out Option for Students

If students/ family members choose to opt out of in-class sessions, then virtual learning options will be provided. For those students, teachers and other staff will shift to a "coaching" model, whereby staff will "coach" students or family members on different learning activities that can be done at home to continue education.

Back-Up Plan for Alert Level 4 (*Purple*)

The Ohio Department of Health has established an Alert Level System for counties in Ohio. If Franklin County is determined to be Alert Level 4 or the Purple Level, preschool and school programs may shift to virtual learning and in-school services will be temporarily suspended at least until Level 3 (or the Red Level) is achieved. The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities (FCBDD) will follow guidance from the Columbus Health Department, recognizing that FCBDD Early Childhood Centers and West Central School are located in the City of Columbus. Early Childhood and School staff may be assigned to work from home for this period, if work can be maintained remotely. Supervisors will have the discretion, based on Health Department guidance, to determine if staff can work from home. Bus Drivers and Assistants who would like to continue working will be assigned to support the Early Childhood Centers, West Central School, other Departments, Alternate Transportation or other assignments to support individuals or organizations supporting people with developmental disabilities. Each bus driver and assistant will be assigned a minimum of 5 hours per day.

Protocol when Positive COVID-19 Test or 'Contact'

If a student or staff member tests positive for the COVID-19 virus, the person will not attend preschool or school and should be **isolated** for at least 10 days since symptoms appeared and there has been a 72-hour fever free period and respiratory symptoms have improved. (See attached fact sheet in Appendix)

If a student or staff member is determined to have been in "close contact" with a person who has the virus, the individual will not attend preschool or school and should be **quarantined** for fourteen days. "Close contact" is defined as being within 6 feet of a person with the COVID-19 virus for a period of 15 minutes within the past 48 hours. For example, a person who rides the bus or sits in a classroom within 6 feet of a person with the virus for 15 minutes, the person would be considered a "close contact" and would be advised to be quarantined for a total of 14 days. If the person later learns that he/she tests positive for the virus, then the isolation protocol would begin. If a person has contact with a "close contact," this person does not require quarantine. (See attached fact sheet in Appendix)

Preschool

Class Format

Preschool classes at the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities Early Childhood Education Centers on Johnstown Road and Rudy Road will re-start in August. Staff will return on August 24, 2020 and classes will begin on August 31, 2020. Families will be contacted with specific start dates.

The preschool classes will continue to have inclusive enrollment including students with and without disabilities. The preschool program will follow a “blended program” model with students having in-class and virtual learning. Per the Governor’s previous guidance and to allow for greater social/ physical distancing, the class sizes will be reduced from eighteen to no more than nine students per class. Students will alternate weeks of attendance, meaning one group will attend for one week and the other group will attend the next week. Efforts will be made to allow for greater social/ physical distancing with scheduled use of outdoor learning environments, gymnasium, motor parks, wonder lab, etc. Staff will provide virtual learning guidance for students/families for the week students are not in session.

Transportation

Students will be transported to the Early Childhood Centers in FCBDD school buses, unless parents choose to transport. Prior to stepping on the bus, Bus Drivers or Assistants will take the child’s temperature with no-touch thermometers. If the child has a temperature of over 100 degrees, he/she will not be able to attend school. For students who are self-transported, temperature checks will be done as they arrive to the school.

Parents/family members are asked to monitor their child’s health to be sure he/ she is not showing symptoms of the COVID-19 virus. If the child has a temperature of over 100 degrees, coughing, shortness of breath or other breathing issues, the child should not be sent to preschool. If these symptoms are apparent when the child is in class, the family will be asked to pick up the child to return home.

No more than one student will be on each seat on the bus, except for family members who can sit together. Efforts will be made to seat/space children at least six feet apart. Fortunately, the FCBDD school buses are larger due to the need for wheelchair lifts, so social/ physical distancing will be easier. The number of students on a bus route is also lower than typical school routes since services are provided door-to-door. Transportation staff will wear face coverings.

Face Coverings

Face coverings are recommended for students in third grade or older and who do not have disability conditions that prevent face coverings. For preschool students, face coverings are not required or recommended.

Face coverings for staff are required unless medical conditions prevent this. Face shields, will be preferred for staff so that students can see facial expressions, speech patterns, etc. Visitors will be required to wear face coverings.

Sanitizing

Sanitizing will be an important aspect of daily routines. Sanitizing stations will be established at the entrances of schools and in each classroom. Children and staff will be required to wash and sanitize their hands frequently. Teachers will be instructed to keep cleaners and disinfectants handy for teachers, but out of reach of students where applicable.

Classrooms, furniture, materials and buses will also be sanitized on a regular basis after each class and each evening the building will receive a thorough cleaning. Maintenance personnel, cleaning vendors, teachers, assistants, bus drivers, bus assistants and other staff will all be responsible for sanitizing frequently touched surfaces and objects, on a regular basis. Teachers will be instructed to eliminate unnecessary shared surfaces that are not easily cleanable and can’t be properly disinfected, such as stuffed animals, pillows and bean bag chairs, etc. Parents/ family members are also encouraged to practice and teach proper handwashing (at least 20 seconds).

West Central School

Class Format

Classes at West Central School will re-start in August. Staff will return on August 24, 2020 and classes will begin on August 31, 2020.

The classes will have no more than eight students per class. Each class is expected to have a teacher and two assistants. Students will attend school on a daily basis.

Because of low student/staff ratios and the size of the building, social/ physical distancing will be easier. Schedules will be provided for use of other common areas of the building such as the cafeteria, gymnasium, 'smart apartment,' outdoor play areas, music rooms and other open classrooms to provide for minimal exposure.

Transportation

Students will be transported to West Central School in FCBDD school buses, unless parents choose to transport. Prior to stepping on the bus, Bus Drivers or Assistants will take the child's temperature with no-touch thermometers. If the child has a temperature of over 100 degrees, he/she will not be able to attend school. For students who are self-transported, temperature checks will be done as they arrive to school.

Parents/ family members are asked to monitor their child's health to be sure he/she is not showing symptoms of the COVID-19 virus. If the child has a temperature of over 100 degrees, coughing, shortness of breath or other breathing issues, the child should not be sent to school. If these symptoms are apparent when the child is in class, the family will be asked to pick up the child to return home.

No more than one student will be on each seat on the bus, except for family members who can sit together. Efforts will be made to seat/space children at least six feet apart. Fortunately, the FCBDD school buses are larger due to the need for wheelchair lifts which allows for better social/ physical distancing. The number of students on a bus route is also lower than typical school routes since services are provided door-to-door. Transportation staff will wear face coverings and will have face coverings available for older students who do not have a face covering and who can wear them safely.

Face Coverings

Face coverings are recommended for students in third grade or older and who do not have disability conditions that prevent face coverings. Students at West Central School will wear face coverings unless it is determined that a face covering presents a health or other disability related complication.

Face coverings for staff are required unless medical conditions prevent this. Face shields, will be preferred for staff so that students can see facial expressions, speech patterns, etc. Visitors will be required to wear face coverings.

Sanitizing

Sanitizing will be an important aspect of daily routines. Sanitizing stations will be established at the entrances of schools and in each classroom. Children and staff will be required to wash and sanitize their hands frequently. Teachers will be instructed to keep cleaners and disinfectants handy for teachers, but out of reach of students where applicable.

Classrooms, furniture, materials and buses will also be sanitized on a regular basis after each class and each evening the building will receive a thorough cleaning. Maintenance personnel, cleaning vendors, teachers, assistants, bus drivers, bus assistants and other staff will all be responsible for sanitizing frequently touched surfaces and objects including the pool area and locker rooms, on a regular basis. Teachers will be instructed to eliminate unnecessary shared surfaces that are not easily cleanable and can't be properly disinfected, such as stuffed animals, pillows and bean bag chairs, etc. Parents/ family members are also encouraged to practice and teach proper handwashing (at least 20 seconds).

Appendix

**(Materials from Columbus Public Health
and Franklin County Public Health)**

- **What you Need to Know About COVID-19**
- **What to Do If You Think You Are Sick**
- **Stop the Spread of Germs**
- **Isolation vs. Quarantine**
- **Stopping Home Isolation**
- **COVID-19 Cloth Face Coverings Guidance**
- **COVID-19 Flow Chart for Businesses**

What You Need to Know About

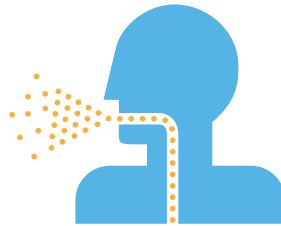
COVID-19

Coronavirus



COVID-19 (coronavirus disease 2019) is a respiratory illness caused by a novel (new) coronavirus that can spread from person to person.

The virus is thought to spread mainly between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet) through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.



Symptoms



Fever



Cough



Shortness of breath

Other symptoms could include difficulty breathing, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, and new loss of taste or smell.

Symptoms typically develop within 2-14 days of being exposed. Most people with COVID-19 will experience mild illness that does not require hospitalization, but some people who are at higher risk for serious illness can develop further medical complications.

Some people are at higher risk for illness from COVID-19.

Those who are at higher risk for serious illness from COVID-19 include people who:

- Are 65 and older.
- Live in a nursing home or long-term care facility.
- Have chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma.
- Have serious heart conditions.
- Have weakened immune systems.
- Are any age and have an underlying health condition (particularly if not well controlled), such as diabetes, obesity, kidney disease or liver disease.



If you are in one of these categories, come up with a plan with your health care provider to identify your health risks for COVID-19 and how to manage symptoms. Contact your doctor right away if you do have symptoms.

Stop the spread.

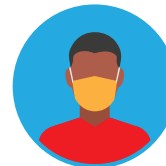
Protect yourself and others from COVID-19 by following these steps:



Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.



Cover coughs and sneezes with your arm or inner elbow, and avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with your hands.



Wear a cloth mask or face covering when out in public.



Avoid close contact with people by staying 6 feet apart from others.



Stay home if you are sick or have symptoms of COVID-19.

What to Do if You Think You Are Sick

What do I do if I'm feeling sick?

If you are feeling sick and believe you have been exposed to COVID-19, call your health care provider to discuss your symptoms before going in. Your health care provider will determine your next steps for care. In the meantime, you should continue to follow steps that help to prevent the spread of illness and avoid being in contact with other people.

If you don't have a health care provider, call your local health care department to be connected to resources for care.

- For residents of **Columbus and Worthington**: Columbus Public Health* - (614) 645-1519
- For residents of **Bexley, Canal Winchester, Dublin, Gahanna, Grandview Heights, Grove City, Groveport, Hilliard, New Albany, Pickerington, Reynoldsburg, Upper Arlington and Westerville**: Franklin County Public Health - (614) 525-3160

**Please note: Columbus Public Health does not ask visitors for citizenship documentation.*

How do I get tested for COVID-19?

A health care provider can evaluate your symptoms for COVID-19 and order a test. For more information about testing sites, including locations, requirements for being tested, and locations that do not require an order to test within the City of Columbus, please call (614) 645-1519.

What do I do if I'm diagnosed with COVID-19?

Your health care provider will give you information on how to treat your symptoms. In addition to following care instructions, you should also self-isolate at this time – do not go to school, work or other places with large groups of people. **Isolation** separates sick people who are contagious from people who are not sick. During this time you should stay home (in a separate bedroom and ideally with a separate bathroom) except to get medical care, separate yourself from other people and animals in your home, avoid sharing personal items, monitor your symptoms, and call your provider if your illness is worsening or before ending your isolation.



Your family or household members who don't have symptoms should self-quarantine. **Quarantine** separates people believed to have been exposed to an illness from others who have not been exposed to prevent possible spread. During this time, your family should stay home except to get medical care, separate themselves from you while you isolate, frequently clean all "high-touch" surfaces, monitor themselves for symptoms, and seek medical attention if they develop fever or other respiratory symptoms.

Learn more. Stay informed.

Please use only credible and reliable sources for information and updates on COVID-19. To learn more – and for resources and tools that can help you stay safe – visit:

- www.cdc.gov/coronavirus
- www.coronavirus.ohio.gov
- www.columbus.gov/coronavirus
- <https://covid-19.mycph.org>

Stop the spread of germs.



Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.



Cover your cough or sneeze with your arm or inner elbow, NOT your hands.



Avoid close contact with people who are sick.



Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.



Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.



Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Know the Difference

Isolation vs. Quarantine

Isolation

For people who are ill

- Separates people who have a very contagious disease from those who are healthy.
- Restricts the movement of people who have a contagious disease to stop the spread of illness.
- Protects healthy people from getting a contagious disease.
- Lets people who have a contagious disease be cared for in their homes, hospitals or a designated facility.
- Is usually voluntary, but federal, state and local laws may require isolation of people who have a contagious disease to protect the public.



Quarantine

For people who have been exposed, but are not ill

- Applies to people who are not yet ill, but have been exposed to a very contagious disease that could be spread to others.
- Applies to the separation and restriction of movements of people.
- Is a public health strategy to stop the spread of a very contagious disease.
- Protects the public from very contagious diseases.



Social Distancing

One way to help stop the spread of a very contagious disease such as COVID-19 is to limit close contact of people with each other also known as social distancing. Social distancing can include:

- Work telecommuting
- School cancellations
- Cancellation of public gatherings
- Isolation of people who have a contagious disease
- Liberal work leave policies
- Quarantine of people exposed to contagious disease

Know the Facts

Stopping Home Isolation

If you are isolating due to COVID-19:

Persons with suspected COVID-19 who have symptoms and were directed to care for themselves at home may discontinue home isolation when:

- At least three days (72 hours) have passed since recovery (temperature below 100.4°F without the use of fever-reducing medications) **AND**
- There is an improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) **AND**
- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared

If you tested positive for COVID-19:

Talk to your health care provider about when you can stop home isolation and return to your normal activities.

Your doctor may have you come in to be tested again to make sure you are well. In addition to negative test results, you'll need to have:

- Temperature below 100.4°F without the use of fever-reducing medications **AND**
- Improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath)

If you are not being tested again by your doctor, you should follow the guidelines at the top of this page to know when you can stop home isolation.

COVID-19 Cloth Face Coverings Guidance

Wear Cloth Face Coverings to:

- Protect health in any public settings. (e.g., work place, grocery stores and pharmacies).
- Slow the spread of COVID-19 by keeping people who don't know they are infected from spreading it to others.

Cloth Face Coverings Should:

- Fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face.
- Be secured with rubber bands, ties or ear loops.
- Include multiple layers of fabric.
- Allow for breathing without restriction.
- Be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape.



Health and Safety Considerations:

- Wash your hands before and after putting on your cloth face covering and avoid touching your face and adjusting your mask with unwashed hands.
- Routinely wash your cloth face covering.
- Do not use on children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing or anyone who is unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance.
- Do not use surgical masks or N-95 respirators – those should be reserved for healthcare workers and first responders.
- Still practice social distancing of six feet while wearing a cloth face covering.

How to Make a Cloth Face Covering

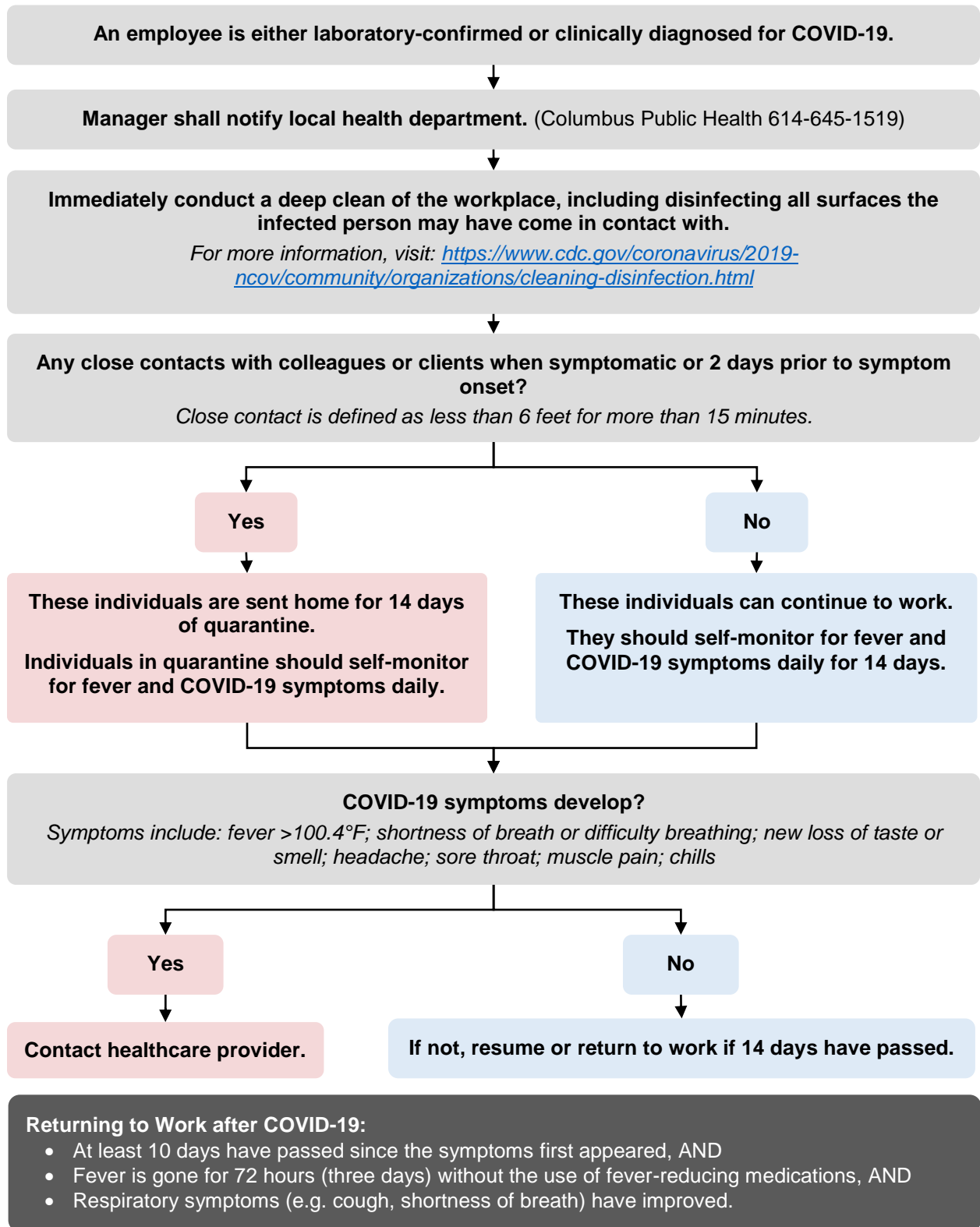
- Cloth face coverings can be made from common household items such as a bandana, an old T-shirt or fabric.
- For more information on face coverings and instructions on how to make them, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>

Protect Yourself and Others

- Stay home as much as possible.
- Wash your hands with soap and water often.
- Wear a mask and social distance in public.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.

4/27/2020

COVID-19 Flow Chart for Businesses



For more information, please visit: <https://www.columbus.gov/coronavirus/> to download our COVID-19 Mitigation for Businesses resource.

Implementing Safety Practices for Critical Infrastructure Workers Who May Have Had Exposure to a Person with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/critical-workers/implementing-safety-practices.html>