

Preble County Return to School Coalition

A collaborative agreement between:



Eaton Community Schools



National Trail Local Schools



**Preble County Educational
Service Center**



Preble Shawnee Local Schools



Tri-County North Local Schools



Twin Valley South Local Schools



**Preble County
Public Health**
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

This document was created in conjunction with the Preble County Health Department and local stakeholders to ensure the protocols align with the most current data and community expectations.

Dated July 9, 2020

The Coalition:

This document was developed by the Preble County Return to School Coalition to create a county-wide framework allowing students and teachers to meet in a traditional classroom setting, while being sensitive to current national, state, regional and local health concerns. The intent of this document is to guide discussion on a local district level regarding reopening schools. It is reasonable to expect that the protocols each district implements may change as local conditions change.

The Preble County Return to School Coalition, consists of the following members:

Jeff Parker	Eaton Community Schools Superintendent
MissAnne Imhoff	Eaton Community Schools Assistant Superintendent
Bob Fischer	National Trail Local Schools Superintendent
John Toschlog	National Trail Local Schools Director of Transportation and Safety
Shawn Hoff	Preble County Educational Service Center Assistant to the Superintendent
Matt Bishop	Preble Shawnee Local Schools Superintendent
Jaime Ranly	Preble Shawnee Local Schools Curriculum Director
Bill Derringer	Tri-County North Local Schools Superintendent
Denny Dyer	Tri- County North Local Schools Director of Facilities
Scott Cottingim	Twin Valley South Local Schools Superintendent
Vicki Unger	Twin Valley South Local Schools School Nurse
Erik Balster	Preble County Health Department Health Commissioner
Dr. Jill Vosler	Primary Care Physician
Amy Raynes	Preble County Mental Health and Recovery Executive Director

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PREBLE COUNTY SCHOOLS COMMON RE-OPENING AGREEMENT

Preface: All Ohio schools closed for the remainder of the school calendar beginning on March 17, 2020, by order of the Governor and the Director of the Ohio Department of Health in response to the COVID 19 pandemic. On July 2, 2020, the Governor announced guidelines for Ohio school re-opening for the 2020-21 school year. School district superintendents from each public-school district in Preble County, along with the Preble County Educational Service, local medical and mental health professionals, and the Preble County Health Commissioner came together to identify common practices for school re-opening in Preble County based on state guidelines.

These general principles will guide each school district as they move forward with re-opening schools throughout Preble County:

1. Each school district will implement recommended safety protocols;
2. Each school district will continue to work closely with the Preble County Health Department (PCHD) to promote safety in each school building;
3. School districts recognize the need for consistency in areas of operations while recognizing that individual differences in classroom sizes, school facilities, and building operations may lead to some inconsistencies.

The following practices will be common to all Preble County public school districts:

Daily Self-Monitoring

- Parents should monitor their child’s temperature and health symptoms on a daily basis before coming to school.

Student Illnesses

- Any student with a fever over 100F should stay home.
- Any student that has the following symptoms of COVID-19 should stay home from school and should see their primary care provider to be assessed for COVID-19:
 - Fever or chills
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - Loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea

- Returning to School After Confirmed or Probable COVID-19 Diagnosis
 - If a student is diagnosed as having COVID-19, they must meet the following criteria to return to school:
 - Complete isolation or quarantine procedures in coordination with PCHD, AND
 - 3 days with no fever (without using fever reducing medication), AND
 - Other symptoms improved, AND
 - 10 days since symptoms first appeared
 - Parents must communicate with the school to confirm that the student has been fever free for 24 hours, without the use of fever reducing medication.

- Health issues that are NOT diagnosed as COVID-19
 - Any other illnesses should be handled in the routine manner according to district policies.
 - Schools shall send home any child or employee who has a temperature of 100 degrees or higher. This individual may not return until they are fever free for 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing medication.
 - If the individual has had contact with someone confirmed or probable to have COVID-19, he or she must complete isolation or quarantine procedures in coordination with PCHD prior to returning to school.
 - Students that only have a fever and no other symptoms and have not had any contact with an individual that has COVID-19 may return to school after they are fever free for 24 hours without using any fever reducing medications.
 - The child may return to school only after 24 hours of no fever. To return to school the parent must communicate with the school to confirm that the student has been fever free for 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing medication.

Communications - COVID-19 positive case.

- When a student/staff member has been diagnosed with COVID-19, communication will come from the Preble County Health Department (PCHD), not the school district.
- Quarantine requirements will be determined and communicated by the PCHD

Food Service

- All districts will offer food service.
- Students should wash or sanitize their hands prior to eating.
- Logistics of food service will be determined by each district in compliance with PCHD.

Classrooms

- Districts will inform parents that safety protocols are in place but any student who attends school will incur some level of exposure to germs, as typical in a public and school setting. Districts will increase the intensity of cleaning, practicing good hygiene and safety procedures in order to reduce the exposure of germs.
- Classroom occupancy will be determined based on each individual circumstance with a recommended minimum of three (3) feet distance between individuals in a classroom.
- Student face covering policies will be determined by individual districts.
- School employees are required to follow safety policies and procedures as determined by individual districts.
- School employees will be required to use a face covering unless when doing so would interfere with the educational process.
- Assigned seating is recommended by PCHD.

Visitors/Volunteers/Parties

- There are different levels of school visitors, and each district will make decisions for each situation.
- Visitors are generally discouraged from being in school district facilities.
- Safety protocols such as taking temperatures will be implemented for all visitors.

Transportation

- PCHD recommends assigned seating to determine who must be quarantined if there is a positive case that rides the bus.
- Disinfect high touch surfaces on buses after completing each route.
- Face masks are required for drivers and highly recommended for students.
- In the event State policies require school districts to use alternative schedules, districts may adopt minimum requirements for transportation to reduce the number of students who are eligible for school district transportation.

Recess

- School districts will make every effort to maintain consistency with other safety procedures.
- This may mean that districts limit student access to certain pieces of playground equipment and restrict activities that are “high touch” and difficult to clean or maintain social distancing.
- Students must sanitize their hands before and after recess.