

**COVID-19 Active Response Plan
Cedar Cliff Local Schools
2021-2022 Academic School Year**

The following protocols will be put into place to address social distancing requirements and guidelines as released by the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Department of Public Health for the return of students to school for the 2021-2022 school year. These items are meant to serve as an appendix for the 2021-2022 student handbooks and shall be established protocol until the concerns from the pandemic have subsided.

The administration asks that all stakeholders keep in mind, the ultimate goal is to have students in attendance all day-every day and take whatever measures necessary to ensure that type of instruction takes place. Should that goal be impractical or impossible to achieve, the intermediate or “blended” plan is an “every-day / half-day” model. The intermittent model will be utilized before moving to a “total remote” model such as that experienced at the end of the 2019-2020 school year.

As a general rule, the Cedar Cliff Local School District will follow guidelines as established and set forth by Greene County Public Health (GCPH). Those guidelines shall be disseminated for public review throughout the year as changes are made to posted guidance. However, the Superintendent reserves the right to amend the plan based on the health and safety of students/staff and based on the number of students and staff members who are afflicted by or quarantined as a result of exposure to someone with the COVID-19 virus.

Masks: There has been a great deal of conversation regarding masks and the protection they offer against the spread of the Coronavirus. Masks **will NOT be** required of students/staff at the beginning of the school year but the district strongly encourages mask usage by everyone on school grounds, particularly those who have not received the vaccine for the virus.

- *Protocol for the students will be as follows: Students will be strongly encouraged, but not required, to wear masks during the time in which they are receiving instruction during the school day.*
 - *Additionally: Students may be **required** to wear masks in moments of *close proximity* if the documented cases of Coronavirus increase throughout the district, or the district is placed in a “watch” category by Greene County Public Health (GCPH). Examples of close proximity include: (Class exchanges, loading the bus for transportation, waiting in line for lunch, etc.)*
 - *Further: Students may be required to wear masks should the Ohio Department of Health or Greene County Public Health officials deem Greene County to be in a heightened state of the pandemic crisis (as articulated through the alert/color coding system).*
- *Protocol for staff members will be as follows: Staff members will be **required, trained, and provided masks (or face shields if they can be utilized in an effective manner) to wear as a way to maintain safety during their work environment if they are unvaccinated and in close proximity to others in the school environment (close proximity as defined as closer than 6 feet).** Per state regulations, the following exceptions apply:*

- Exceptions include when:
 - Facial coverings in the school setting are prohibited by law or regulation
 - Facial coverings are in violation of documented industry standards
 - Facial coverings are not advisable for health reasons
 - Facial coverings are in violation of the school's documented safety policies
 - Facial coverings are not required when the staff works alone in an assigned work area
 - There is a functional (practical) reason for a staff member or volunteer to not wear a facial covering in the workplace.

(Schools must provide written justification to local health officials, upon request, explaining why a staff member is not required to wear a facial covering in the school. At minimum, facial coverings (masks) should be cloth/fabric and cover an individual's nose, mouth, and chin.)


Transportation: Students and their families will be encouraged to provide their own transportation to school during the periods of a potential Coronavirus outbreak to better provide for social distancing availability. Even with that encouragement, the district realizes many families may not have other means to attend school other than district bussing. Social distancing on school busses presents a unique dilemma. Limiting student passengers to a ratio allowing social distancing guidelines is not feasible. As a result of this and due to Federal Legislation, students will be **required** to wear a mask while being transported on the school bus. The close proximity requires steps be taken to mitigate concerns while the bus is enroute. Parents who do not wish for their child to wear a mask should arrange for their private and own transportation for the protection of other students and school personnel. Exceptions to this may be made due to medical or special education requirements.

Sickness Protocols: Students/Staff will be encouraged to stay home if sick or experiencing any COVID-like symptoms. Parents will be encouraged to communicate with school personnel should their child experience any symptoms related to the Coronavirus as well as communicate positive test results to the school district for the overall safety and health of all students/staff. Individuals having a fever above 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit at school will be removed from the building and may be referred to the local health department for testing. A negative COVID-19 test result will allow the individual to return to the building after they are fever free for 24 hours. An individual who is not tested or who has a positive test result will not be permitted back into the buildings until they are fever free for 24 hours without medication, their symptoms have improved, and at least 10 days have passed since their first symptom appeared. The District will consult with the local health department before permitting an individual to return to the buildings.

Health Monitoring: (Students) Ultimately, the first line of defense regarding health monitoring lies at the hands of parents/guardians. Parents **MUST** be vigilant in assessing for COVID symptoms and per Ohio Department of Health guidelines, keep children at home if they exhibit any of the following symptoms:

- 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.



**Symptoms range
from mild to severe
and may appear
two to 14 days
after exposure to
the virus.**

Additionally: As students go through the school day, staff should monitor student behavior and physical appearance and may request students see the nurse for a health screening should they exhibit signs of Coronavirus exposure (see list of symptoms).

Health Monitoring: (Staff) The Cedar Cliff Local School District has procured temperature kiosk(s), whereby teachers will be able to check in each day and ensure they are not a health risk to other faculty members or students in the school setting. These facial recognition systems will be hands-free and in an area that provides for quick and easy access for regular screenings.

School Schedule: The school day/schedule has been slightly altered to address some of the problem areas and timeframes to meet social distancing guidelines. The school breakfast and school gathering time in the morning is one such instance of a social distancing problem area. The building will be closed to all students until 7:40 am—no students may enter the building before 7:40 am. Staff members will be required to arrive at 7:33 am for a temperature check and to allow for 7 minutes to get acclimated and ready for the school day. *Staff members should be in their classrooms and ready for students to arrive by 7:40 each day!*

Students who are not eating a school breakfast will immediately proceed to their locker (if necessary), utilize the restroom (if necessary), and then move to their first period class.

First period of instruction will begin promptly at 7:55 am (for MS/HS) and 8:00 am (Elementary). As before, this represents the traditional “tardy” bell time by which students need to report.

The school day will officially end at 3:00 pm—busses will begin lining up by 2:45. Elementary students will begin boarding the bus at 2:50 at the end of the school day, with MS and HS students dismissed by the bell at 3:00 pm. Teacher contractual day will end at 3:03—7.5 hours after the commencement of the day, per contract.

Special Area Courses (PE and Music): The areas of Physical Education and Music Education provide the greatest creativity and structure to maintain social distancing guidelines. Having acknowledged that, the district understands the importance these courses hold in our students' and their families' value systems and have put into place a method for these courses to be held in spite of social distancing concerns.

- **Music:** Both instrumental and vocal music courses will resume/take place during the 2021-2022 school year.
 - During Marching Band season instrumental classes will be held outside, weather permitting, for the reduction in exposure to the virus. The Cedarville HS marching band will be traveling to “away” varsity football contests for the 2021 football season but will be required to wear masks while on district transportation.
 - Additionally—Students in grades 6-8 whose parents are fearful of COVID exposure may elect to have their son/daughter participate in a “Study Hall” setting instead of a mandated musical selection.
 - There may be class offerings of this program with lower student participation, whereby the district can place the teacher and the students in the regular setting and still maintain a social distancing practice (MS Choir for example). The administration will examine both the number of students in the class and the square footage of the classroom to make this distinction.
- **Physical Education:** The PE courses list of activities will be carefully monitored and scrutinized, with activities that are not consistent with social distancing guidelines eliminated from the curriculum for the 2021-2022 school year.
- **Lunch Procedures (Students):** Lunch and Cafeteria usage is perhaps the most difficult activity for social distancing concerns. The tables in the cafeteria will be spaced to better provide social distancing requirements. Additionally, students will not be permitted to sit beside or immediately next to a peer during the lunch period. Extra tables and additional spaces have been established to maintain social distance and provide a healthier environment for students to eat their meals.
 - ***There will be NO lunch visitors as long as social distancing guidelines and COVID-19 protocols are in place. This includes all family members, as there will not be ample space for students and visitors during this time.***
- **Lunch (Staff):** The staff lounge may be utilized for the 2021-2022 school year. While staff members will be provided an opportunity to place their meals in the school refrigerator, staff members should be aware the district does not have 100% of its staff members vaccinated for the virus. As a result, the Health Department has provided differing protocols for those staff members who are vaccinated or wearing facial coverings vs. those staff members who are not vaccinated and who are not wearing facial coverings. Staff lounge use may be limited to *vaccinated persons only* due to close proximity at some point in the school year.

- **Technology Devices:** Students will be issued a Chromebook in grades 8-12. Those students will be permitted to take the device from home to school each day and should ensure the device is adequately charged and ready for usage for each instructional day.
 - **In grades 2-7:** These students will be provided an opportunity to take a Chromebook from a charging station at the beginning of each school day. He/she will use that device for the day and return to the charging station before exiting the building each night. Teachers and faculty members will instruct the students on proper cleaning techniques to alleviate concerns over surface exposure. Students will be assigned a specific device and will be required to only use that particular piece of equipment as part of their instructional day.
- **School Supplies:** Similarly, the concept of “community” supplies will be prohibited due to surface area concerns. Each student will need to bring their own supplies (pencils/pens, markers, etc.) and have those materials available for their personal use.
- **Recess:** Students should be prepared for some recess activities to be curtailed or eliminated as part of their daily recess experience. Similarly, the school district will be examining the rules and guidance for playground/park usage and will follow the guidelines established by the Ohio Department of Health and the Ohio Department of Education. It is the expectation of the administration that students still have recess and still be permitted to go outside for activities—provided there are no standards from ODH to prohibit such activities.

Parents may “opt out” of recess for their child and the district will come up with alternative means for exercise for students.

- **Assemblies/Field Trips:** There may be field trips throughout the school year and students will be required to wear masks while on district vehicles/transportation. The administration understands the value of school-wide assemblies and will be conducting these on a limited basis in an effort to curtail the number of mass gatherings.
- **Deliveries to Students/Volunteers:** While in a normal setting these activities are permissible, during the period of Coronavirus monitoring no students/faculty members should receive deliveries to the school and volunteers (anyone not affiliated with the school in a professional capacity) may not be permitted on the school grounds.
- **Drama Productions/Concerts/ Athletic Events:** Extra-curricular and co-curricular contests/events along with the spectators who attend those events will take place at the onset of the 2021-2022 school year. During the previous school year, spectator attendance was limited, this year, the district will proceed with normal spectator attendance. Again, unvaccinated persons are strongly encouraged to wear masks while in attendance at school events.
- **Policy Review:** The Superintendent and the administration have reviewed any policy that may incentivize or encourage students to participate or come to school when experiencing Coronavirus symptoms. For example, perfect attendance has been altered to reflect “Consistent” attendance as suggested by the ODE—this is better outlined in the Student Handbook, but rewards students who attend 95% of the school year (the threshold as required

by ODE for district reporting) and still provides the incentives historically earned for such attendance. Attendance is important for both learning and for future employability skills, so the administration believes an attendance reward system is prudent; however, it is also imperative the structure of any reward system not jeopardize student health.

- *Students who have met the requirements for attendance and may have previously been required to stay beyond state minimums may be excused from “extra” course selection—such as in College Credit Plus (CCP) student participation.*
- *This policy has been extended to the new school year which will allow students who fear the effects of the Coronavirus to, possibly, not be required to attend CHS if they currently have obtained all required coursework for HS graduation.*
- *Students who participate in athletics or extra-curricular activities will work with the administration to ensure all requirements for eligibility are maintained.*
- **Cleaning, Signage, and Communication:** The message of “not sending students to school when sick” will be utilized regularly, as well as signage that encourages handwashing and hand sanitizing—the best methods for reducing the spread of virus. Extra cleaning will take place—additional staff members may be employed specifically for cleaning and sanitizing high traffic areas such as restrooms and cafeteria tables/areas.
 - **Water Fountains:** The district will examine using cups and the bottle-filling areas of water fountains as opposed to the spray from the fountain, as students have a tendency to place their faces and mouth on that actual nozzle area. Additional units may need to be purchased and placed throughout the school setting for faculty/staff/student usage.
 - **RR Hand Dryers:** Hand dryers will be removed or shut off when possible and replaced with paper towels placed in restrooms, as they (paper towels) have been found to be more sanitary and assist in slowing the spread of virus symptoms.
 - **RR facilities:** Per Health Department regulations, restroom facilities will be cleaned at a minimum of every two hours during the school day.
- **Classroom Instructional Protocols:** Staff, students, and Cedar Cliff families should be prepared for a shift to a virtual or remote learning environment should the district experience an outbreak as defined by the Ohio Department of Health. The district has made the decision to move to one platform to better assist students and their families with any sudden transition. Cedar Cliff staff will use Google platforms—i.e. Google Meet, Google Docs, Google Mail, Google Classroom, etc. Staff should be expected to use these methods and expect additional training on those areas during the 2021-2022 academic school year.

Peer-to-peer/Group work/Partner classroom work will be permitted but in an effort to prevent the exclusion of students at school due to exposure, staff members will limit the use of this instructional strategy. Additionally, manipulatives (in Math courses, for example) shall be utilized to a lesser extent unless ample cleaning and disinfecting of the material can take place before/after each student use.

- **Plans for addressing outbreak or quarantine occurrences:** It is important to note, there may be occasions when the school district will be forced to shut down face-to-face instruction for intermittent or brief occurrences during the school year. The following are examples of those moments and the proposed manner to continue instruction during those times:
 - **Pivot (Blended) Plan:** This plan shall be utilized when/if cases begin to rise and extra social distancing is required. This instructional plan will involve reducing the student population by 50% and proceeding to a “half-day / every-day” schedule. Students in the district will be assigned to either a morning or afternoon schedule—during this time, every student will go through their daily schedule, with shortened periods, and return home with an expectation to complete additional course work at home. During the initial survey issued to the Cedar Cliff community, this manner of student reduction was the overwhelming choice by parents, staff, and community members.
 - **Remote Plan:** This plan involves shutting down face-to-face instruction for a classroom, grade or one building level. This will usually involve an intermittent time (Such as a 14-day quarantine) for Health Department personnel to conduct a trace or analysis of the extent to an outbreak or occurrence. Staff members will use the Google platform, and students will log on remotely to watch the teacher teach the lesson. Students will follow their actual school schedule—logging on each period with a Cedar Cliff staff member, observing a lesson, and engaging in the curriculum. This approach could be used for a portion of a class, for 1-3 individual students, or for an entire classroom.
 - **It is important to note—this method could be used repeatedly depending on the nature of any COVID occurrence or outbreak, so staff should be flexible and ready to adapt to this at any moment and time!**
 - **Year Long Virtual Option:** Some family members may have expressed an interest in a virtual or electronic option for the school year. The district will ***not*** offer a virtual option for the 2021-2022 academic school year.
 - **Government Shut Down Plan:** Should the district experience a Government shutdown of schools such as the one that took place at the end of the 2019-2020 school year AND that is in place for an extended period of time, the district will put the following instructional steps into place:
 - *Core Academic Courses will take precedence*—Students will receive instruction in the four core areas (Math, ELA, Social Studies, and Science) remotely and no others. This is done to focus on the core area instruction and better schedule a remote learning day for each child.

- *At the HS level*—additional elective coursework MAY also be put into place for students to acquire the coursework for HS graduation, college acceptance, or Diploma Seal honors (Ex. Spanish). College coursework will be the responsibility of the local university to monitor and implement policy, the district will attempt to work with students to the best of our ability to make any accommodations necessary.

While this plan may not be comprehensive in covering all variables or situations, it is intended to serve as a guide for initial review of situations which may arise.

This plan will be approved by the BOE and will involve feedback from stakeholders including teachers, student support organizations, parents, support staff, and the administration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chad Mason", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Chad Mason, Superintendent
Cedar Cliff Local School District