



Shelby Public Schools

Learning Today for a Successful Tomorrow

SHELBY PUBLIC SCHOOLS' FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (& ANSWERS) REGARDING BACK TO SCHOOL

As you know, on Tuesday, August 4 we sent our Return to Learn plan for the 2020-2021 school year. Below are some Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) we have received over the past few days and the District's responses. We hope you find these answers helpful.

What delivery of instruction models will Shelby offer to students and parents in the 2020-2021 school year if we remain in Phase 4 of the Governor's reopening plan?

◆ 5-day a week in-school, in-person traditional instruction model (Option #1)

For those who would like their child to attend school 5-days a week.

K-3rd grades - 7:30/8:00 a.m.-1:30/2:00 p.m. (tentative times)

4-5 grades - 7:30/8:00 a.m.-1:30/2:00 p.m. (tentative times)

6th -12th grades - 7:30/8:00 a.m.-1:30/2:00 p.m. (tentative times)

◆ Shelby Virtual Academy course selection model for Shelby students (Option #2)

Shelby students may choose from courses in the Shelby Virtual Academy (some courses will be from Edmentum with a Shelby teacher). There are daily scheduled requirements including participation and communication with the teacher. The staffing and course catalogs are being developed and further details will be released later in August. Flexibility with meeting the requirements of virtual learning may be adjusted on an individual basis. (This delivery of instruction will be referred to as Shelby Virtual Academy.)

Important Note:

- ◆ If your family chooses Shelby Virtual Academy, the delivery of instruction method choice will be a Marking Period Long Commitment for your student.
- ◆ We encourage you to use your own device, however if a device is needed for your participation in Shelby Virtual Academy a device will be provided.
- ◆ For High School students to attend Career Technical Education, they must be attending in-person learning (Option #1). CTE programming will be in-person learning only.

What about students with Special Needs and students with IEP's?

- ◆ We will work closely with families of special needs students using their IEP team to determine the procedures and needs on an individual student-by-student basis
-

FAQ Regarding In-School - Face-To-Face Instruction

If we have to transition from in-person instruction to remote learning, will it be different than last spring?

- ◆ Yes, by delivering courses using Google Classroom both in-person and virtually we intend to produce a better organized and user-friendly learning experience. We plan to provide initial staff professional development with follow-up help sessions to assist staff with the goal of lessons prepared for in-school and remote learning.
 - ◆ The requirements for distant learning participation, rigor and grading will be the same as in-person learning. At this time, Shelby attendance and reporting requirements remain as rigorous as in-person.
-

How will children and staff keep up with instruction if quarantined for a number of days?

- ◆ It is the District's plan to continue to provide instruction remotely if a teacher, student, or classroom is quarantined but feeling well enough to participate. Each individual situation will require its own set of conditions.
-

Will students and staff who have a fever of 100.4 or higher be restricted from school activities?

- ◆ Yes. Students/Staff will be required to be symptom-free with their temperature below 100.4 for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications before returning to school activities (per District Health Department guidance dated 07/30/2020)
-

What will social distancing in classrooms look like?

- ◆ Smaller class sizes due to some families choosing Shelby Virtual Academy.
 - ◆ Non-essential classroom furniture may be moved out of classrooms.
 - ◆ Grade 6-12 students will be required to wear a face covering.
 - ◆ Grade K-5 students will be required to wear a face covering when social distancing is not possible.
 - ◆ All staff members will be required to wear a face covering.
 - ◆ To the best of our ability, student seating will be in accordance with the 6-foot recommendation.
-

How will social distancing be accomplished in hallways, passing times, bathrooms, etc.

- ◆ Students will go directly to their classrooms when school entrances are opened at a set time determined by their school.
- ◆ Passing time in the secondary buildings may be staggered, time adjusted to avoid congestion in the hallways. Students may be released in the afternoon by classroom and must exit the building within minutes (# of minutes yet to be determined).
- ◆ Elementary students will enter school and go directly to classrooms.
- ◆ Elementary transitioning will be limited, however when necessary student may be supervised by additional staff members.

FAQ Regarding In-School - Face-To-Face Instruction

- ◆ Elementary STEM, Music, PE, and Art classes will be conducted in the classroom.
-

Will elementary students participate in recess?

- ◆ Yes. Each classroom will have a staggered schedule in order to prevent commingling of classes or grade levels.
-

What will PE, Athletics, Band and Choir look like this school year? (These areas are still under consideration)

- ◆ We expect PE, Band and Choir classes will meet in person with possible virtual options available.
 - ◆ At this time, MHSAA plans to proceed with fall athletics. Shelby students who select the Shelby Virtual Academy learning option will still be eligible to participate in Shelby athletics.
-

Will Shelby provide face coverings?

- ◆ Shelby will have back up face coverings for students who don't provide their own.
-

Can students/staff refuse to wear a face covering and/or have a medical exemption?

- ◆ When students/staff are in school, participating in in-person instruction, compliance with the Governor's Executive Order regarding face coverings is required.
 - ◆ A medical exemption for a student will be determined by documentation from a medical doctor or physician's assistant.
 - ◆ Staff medical exemption will be reviewed by administration.
-

How will students be served breakfast & lunch during Phase 4?

- ◆ Shelby schools is currently working on a plan regarding the serving of meals that will take into account cohorts and social distancing. This may look like elementary students receiving their breakfast and lunch in their classrooms. This may look like secondary students receiving their breakfast and lunch in a classroom or staggered meal times in larger building areas with students socially distanced.
 - ◆ Virtually enrolled students will be able to pick up meals at a location yet to be determined on the exterior of the building.
-

Will visitors/volunteers be allowed at school?

- ◆ At this time Shelby will not allow visitors/volunteers at schools. Parents/guardians who wish to come to our school offices will be required to call and set up an appointment prior to arriving. This will mean parents will not have the ability to come and go from school buildings as usual, including the first day of school.
-

FAQ Regarding In-School - Face-To-Face Instruction

When can students and staff have a break from wearing a face covering?

- ◆ Shelby is attempting to plan for “mask free breaks” during the school day.
-

Will after-school activities be allowed?

- ◆ ASPIRE, athletics, and other after school activities will have the opportunity to meet as determined on a case by case basis.

Will Shelby be using signage and reminders to reinforce procedures?

- ◆ Shelby will be purchasing signage/markings taping to assist students/staff with safety protocol messaging and reminders.
 - ◆ Safety messages will be delivered to students and staff on a regular basis.
-

What will transportation look like this school year?

- ◆ Shelby is encouraging all parents to strongly consider providing their own means of transportation.
 - ◆ All bus drivers and students will be required to wear face coverings at all times on the bus.
 - ◆ Bus windows may be opened when reasonably possible.
-

Does the school have to tell families which child tested positive for COVID-19? Isn't that a violation of HIPAA?

- ◆ The identity of the child or school personnel should be protected as much as possible. Close contacts will be contacted by the Health Department and only given information related to their exposure. The name of the COVID-19 student or school personnel will be shared on a need to know basis only.
-

Will children who are at the highest risk for complications, such as children with severe respiratory problems, be required to stay out of the school classroom until this pandemic is over?

- ◆ The decision to send a child to school or not will be made jointly by the parent and school with guidance from the child's medical provider.
-

What if a staff member/student goes out of state?

- ◆ There are no current restrictions for staff members or students who travel out of state. However, everyone should assume COVID-19 exposure and monitor for symptoms.
-

Are face shields acceptable alternatives:

- ◆ No, the CDC does not recommend the use of face shield as a substitute for clothing face coverings. However, a face shield that covers the eyes, nose and mouth can be worn in addition to a cloth mask if desired.
-

Does the Governor's Executive Order No. 2020-153 apply to schools?

- ◆ No, Schools are not considered public spaces.
-

FAQ Regarding In-School - Face-To-Face Instruction

How will health screens occur?

- ◆ Employees will provide a daily health screening.
 - ◆ All parents will be requested to perform health screening daily on their child(ren).
-

What does the Health Department recommend for the cleaning of desks in between class periods?

- ◆ As required in the Michigan 2020-2021 Return to School Roadmap, student desks must be disinfected/sanitized after each transition.
-

How will disinfecting and sanitizing be adjusted for COVID?

- ◆ The District is purchasing machines that can sanitize with a fogging fluid and eliminate the COVID particles quickly.
 - ◆ Hand sanitization will occur at stations located in every classroom. Students will receive training in best sanitizing practices.
 - ◆ Cleaning desks will occur at every transition.
 - ◆ All buses will be sanitized after every bus run.
-

What is the difference between isolation and quarantine?

- ◆ Isolation is for people who are COVID positive. It separates people who are infected with the virus from people who are not infected. It usually lasts 10 days.
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/isolation.html>
 - ◆ Quarantine is for people who are well but are exposed to someone who is COVID positive. It keeps someone who might have been infected with the virus away from others. It lasts 14 days since the last possible exposure.
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>
-

If a teacher or staff member has a household member that tests positive but does not have symptoms, can the teacher or staff member come to work anyway and monitor for symptoms?

- ◆ No, asymptomatic people who test positive can still spread the virus. School personnel that are considered close contacts to a COVID-19 positive household member must quarantine during the household member's isolation period and 14 days after the isolation period ends.
- ◆ **If a COVID-19 positive case meets CDC isolation criteria, it is possible that the household members may not be considered close contacts. This will be up to the discretion of the contact tracer to determine if a COVID-19 positive case can meet isolation requirements. If a COVID-19 positive case can meet isolation requirements, close contacts within the household must quarantine for 14 days starting the day the individual started their in-home isolation.*

[COVID-19: When to Quarantine](#)

[When You Can be Around Others After You Had or Likely Had COVID-19](#)

FAQ Regarding In-School - Face-To-Face Instruction

How long must a teacher or staff person be out of if they test positive for COVID-19?

◆ A teacher or staff person that tests positive for COVID-19 should isolate at home. The teacher or staff person may return to school after 24 hours with no fever **and** respiratory symptoms have improved (e.g. cough, shortness of breath) **and** 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/end-home-isolation.html>

How long must a student, teacher or staff person be out of school if they have a family member in the same house as them that tests positive for COVID-19?

◆ A student, teacher or staff person that lives in the same house as someone who tests positive for COVID-19 must remain out of school the entire time the family member is in isolation (typically 10 days) plus 14 additional days of quarantine. The total time out of school would be at least 24 days.

◆ **If a COVID-19 positive case meets CDC isolation criteria, household members may not be considered close contacts. This will be up to the discretion of the contact tracer to determine if a COVID-19 positive case can meet isolation requirements. If a COVID-19 positive case can meet isolation requirements, close contacts within the household must quarantine for 14 days starting the day the individual started their in-home isolation. If isolation criteria cannot be met, then close contacts must quarantine starting after isolation criteria has been met (at least 10 days.)*

If a teacher or staff person was in a classroom full of children, and that teacher later finds out that they have COVID-19 while they were in the classroom, must all the class be quarantined, or only those children who were within 6 feet of the teacher for 15 minutes or more?

◆ Generally, the entire class must be quarantined and monitor for COVID-19-related symptoms, especially among younger children. Close contacts with a confirmed COVID-19 case is defined as being within 6 feet of a person who has tested positive for at least 15 minutes with or without a mask. It will be up to the discretion of the contact tracer to decide who is considered close contacts in a classroom setting. Contact tracers will consider age of students, length of exposure, social distancing, and other circumstances during time of exposure. Those who are identified as close contacts must quarantine (not leave the house unless necessary) for 14 days from the last time of known exposure.

FAQ Regarding In-School - Face-To-Face Instruction

If the teacher was wearing a cloth mask in the classroom, and that teacher later finds out that they have COVID-19 while they were in the classroom, do the children still have to be quarantined?

◆ Yes, the fact that the teacher was wearing a mask does not change the need to quarantine. See answer above.

Must we close a classroom if a person with COVID-19 attended class in that classroom? If so, for how long?

◆ Yes, the classroom should be closed, cleaned and disinfected. It is recommended to close off the area for at least 24 hours and then clean the classroom. This allows any virus in the air to settle on surfaces. If that is not feasible, wait as long as possible and then clean and disinfect the classroom following CDC guidance.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>.

If a student has an illness that is not COVID-19, like a cold, does that child still have to be out of school until they are 72 hours fever free?

◆ If the student is experiencing any COVID-19-related symptoms, they might have COVID-19 and they should not attend school. They should contact their regular medical provider and get tested for COVID-19.

◆ If the student does not have COVID-19 but is still experiencing cold or flu-like symptoms, then they can return to school after they are feeling better and have been fever-free for 24 hours. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html>

How many children must be sick with COVID-19 before a school closes?

◆ The Health Department will work closely with School Administration recognizing there are many factors to be considered when closing a school.

Does a teacher, staff person, or student have to retest for COVID-19 after testing positive before they are allowed back to school?

◆ No, the teacher, staff person or student who tested positive can return to school after 24 hours with no fever **and** other symptoms have improved **and** 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

◆ The Health Department does not recommend a retest. Sometimes a person will continue to test positive even though they are no longer infectious.

How can we know when a person is no longer infectious?

◆ The general timeline is 10 days since symptoms first appeared. If the person is asymptomatic, it is 10 days since they tested positive.

FAQ Regarding In-School - Face-To-Face Instruction

If a student changes classes and is with many different students during the day rather than just one classroom of students, and that student tests positive, do all those students have to quarantine?

◆ Close contacts with a confirmed COVID-19 case is defined as being within 6 feet of a person who has tested positive for at least 15 minutes with or without a face covering. It will be up to the discretion of the contact tracer to decide who is considered close contacts in a classroom setting. Contact tracers will consider age of students, length of exposure, social distancing, and other circumstances during time of exposure. Those who are identified as close contacts must quarantine (not leave the house unless necessary) for 14 days from the last time of known exposure.

If a student or teacher already had a proven case of COVID-19 and then has an exposure in school, do they have to quarantine anyway?

◆ No, students or teachers with proven cases of COVID-19 will not need to quarantine if the positive test was within the last 3 months of the new exposure.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/duration-isolation.html>

Does a sibling of a child in quarantine have to be quarantined?

◆ No, if the sibling was not a direct contact of a person who tested positive for COVID-19, then they should monitor for symptoms and can continue attending school.

Will Open Houses be held?

◆ Open Houses for Thomas Read, New Era, and the Middle School will not occur as usual. The High School back to school day is scheduled for Tuesday, August 18th from 8am - 3 pm.

What will occur if we are moved to Stage 3 by the Governor, before school starts?

◆ All Students would start in distance learning. Shelby has been preparing to provide a more rigorous remote-learning model should the Governor return us to Phase 3.

What is Shelby doing to ensure the social emotional wellbeing of students this fall?

◆ Shelby is committed to creating supportive and responsive learning climates to ensure our students can thrive. We will be paying close attention to the social emotional needs of our students and intentionally setting up environments that foster belonging and community as well as emotional safety and support.

Will grades be issued in the Shelby Virtual Academy?

◆ Yes, Grades will be issued just as they are in the 5-day face-to-face in-school model.

FAQ Regarding In-School - Face-To-Face Instruction

If we enroll in the Shelby Virtual Academy, when can we transition back to in-person learning?

◆ Enrolling in the Shelby Virtual Academy will require a marking period long commitment. This commitment is needed to provide a proper sequence for students to successfully transition as well as allow Shelby to provide appropriate staffing levels for in-school and distant learning in each marking period as well as second marking period.

How will Shelby Virtual Academy students do their standardized testing (PSAT) in the fall and spring?

◆ Presently, these state/national tests are required to be taken in the school setting. More information will be released in the near future.

Can Shelby Virtual Academy students participate in extracurricular activities and sports?

◆ Yes. Shelby Virtual students remain enrolled in their home school and have chosen to receive instruction virtually.

Will the online courses match with current in person Shelby courses?

◆ Efforts to provide continuity between in person and virtual course offerings will continue to be a priority. Virtual course offerings will continue to cover the core curriculum and may also have opportunities to experience learning beyond face to face instruction.

Will there be meaningful progress assessments and testing?

◆ In all online courses, there will be meaningful assessments, quizzes, tests and exams. Depending on the course structure, some assessments will receive immediate feedback, while other assessments that need the teacher to grade it will receive feedback.

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to submit them [here](#). We will continue to update this FAQ.

We are excited to get this year started. When we reach September 1, more than 170 days will have passed since our classrooms and schools have seen students. Our goal is to make sure we reopen schools for students and staff, with a focus on health and safety for all.

Please stay tuned. Your child's school will share information in the coming weeks.