



# HAMILTON COUNTY SCHOOLS 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

Information to help faculty, parents, students, & community members

*“In Search of Excellence”*

\*\*\*All state mandates/guidance is subject to change. Therefore, the contents of the Return-to-School document must be viewed as preliminary, and as such are subject to change when updated guidance or mandates are issued by the proper authorities.



# REOPENING SCHOOLS PROCESS

**MAY 5, 2020**

Governor JB Pritzker announced the [Restore Illinois plan](#), which lays out a public health approach to safely reopen our state.

**JUNE 4, 2020**

[Executive Order 2020-40](#) allowed schools to reopen for in-person instruction in Phase 3. In-person instruction is strongly encouraged in Phase 4; however, it is critical to note that this does not signify a return to pre-pandemic operations. Appropriate social distancing, face coverings, enhanced sanitation measures, and other accommodations will be necessary to ensure the safety of students, staff, and their families.

**JUNE 23, 2020**

ISBE released [Part Three of the Transition Advisory Workgroup's](#) recommendations for transitioning to in-person instruction. This document has been developed in partnership with the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH).

**JUNE 23-JULY 2020**

Hamilton County Unit #10 administration, teachers, faculty, board members, and our Health Department have been developing a plan that adheres to ISBE's guidelines.



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# **FAMILIES WILL CHOOSE THE EDUCATION MODEL THAT BEST FITS THE NEEDS OF THEIR STUDENT/FAMILY.**

Option #1  
*Face-to-Face*

**Learning options  
Hamilton County Unit  
#10 will provide for  
students**

Option #2  
*Remote Learning*

*During Phase 4 of the [Restore Illinois Plan](#), school districts will be allowed to return to in-person learning following approved IDPH guidelines.*

*If Illinois returns to Phase 3 of the [Restore Illinois Plan](#), Hamilton County Unit #10 will instruct all students using the remote learning option.*



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# EDUCATION MODELS FOR STUDENTS

## FACE-TO-FACE INSTRUCTION

- Students will receive instruction in-person at school, Monday-Friday from 8:00-1:00.
- Students will attend school daily according to the dates set by the district calendar.
- Students not riding the bus, should be dropped off between 7:45 a.m. & 8:00 a.m.
- Students will receive grades for all subjects.
- All vocational learning programs will continue as scheduled.
- Face coverings for all students and staff will be required as specified by the IDPH & ISBE.
- Classrooms will be cleaned and disinfected daily. Emphasis will be placed on high touch surfaces and common areas.

## REMOTE LEARNING

- Students will receive instruction remotely while maintaining direct teacher instruction and completing assignments online.
- Remote learning students must be online from 1:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. daily.
- Students will receive remote instruction according to the dates set by the district calendar.
- For student attendance, students will be considered “present” during remote learning by being logged on during the presentation..
- Students will be responsible for turning in the same work as the students attending in-person.
- Students will receive grades for all subjects.

*\*\*\*No matter which option chosen, the decision to promote a student to the next grade will be based on successful completion of the curriculum and student attendance.)*



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# FINAL DECISION FOR EDUCATION MODEL

A final decision for each student must be made by Progress Reports (September 18th) 2020.

- Students who begin the school year learning through Face-to-Face instruction will have the opportunity to transition to strictly remote learning at any time until 1st quarter progress reports. If the student chooses transition to remote learning, they must remain remote for the remainder of the quarter. This does not apply to students that must transition to remote learning due to illness.
- Students who begin the school year learning strictly remotely will have the opportunity to transition to in-person learning at any time until the 1st quarter progress reports. If the student chooses to attend in-person, they must remain in person for the remainder of the quarter. This does not apply to students that must transition to remote learning due to illness.



\*\*\*After Progress Reports the type of education model can only be switched at the end of each quarter.



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# INFORMATION ON:

# TECHNOLOGY/ INTERNET



- Devices can be distributed to families that need them, but we prefer you use your own device, if possible.
- All school-aged children will need a device for their remote learning.
- If you do not have internet due to lack of service availability (ex: in the country where only wireless is available), it will be possible to check out a mobile hotspot from your child's school.
- Technology needs will be determined by surveys sent out to parents/guardians which will indicate if they have a device and/or an internet connection that will be needed to facilitate remote learning successfully.

# INFORMATION ON: BUSES/ TRANSPORTATION



- Parents are encouraged to provide their own transportation to and from school.
- Bus riders are highly encouraged to have a parent/guardian at the bus stop should the student not be allowed to ride the bus.
- All drivers/students will be required to wear a face mask on the bus.
- Students will be assigned seats and family members will sit by one another.
- All bus drivers will be required to answer self-certification questions and take temperature prior to beginning each route.
- In the event of a student being found to have a fever above 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or symptoms of Covid-19 will not be permitted to attend school. In addition, any other student from the same household will not be permitted to ride the bus.
- Hand sanitizer will be made available upon boarding the school bus for students/staff.

*\*\*\*If you have questions about bus transportation, please contact Bill Blake or Samantha Lueke, Transportation Department, at (618) 643-2328 X6105*

# WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN: ENTERING THE SCHOOL BUILDING



*Face coverings and temperature checks will be required for everyone entering the school building.*



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# WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN: ENTERING THE SCHOOL BUILDING



- According to ISBE/IDPH guidance, all individuals in school buildings must wear face coverings at all times unless they are younger than 2 years of age; have trouble breathing; or are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the cover without assistance.
- Students and staff who are not able to wear a face covering due to trouble breathing will be required to provide a physician's note.
- If a student refuses to wear a mask, he/she will need to utilize the remote learning option.

# WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN: ENTERING THE SCHOOL BUILDING

- Schools and districts must conduct temperature and symptom screenings for all staff, students, and visitors entering school buildings.
- Individuals who have a temperature greater than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit/38 degrees Celsius or currently known symptoms of COVID-19, such as fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, fatigue, muscle and body aches, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, congestion or runny nose, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea, may not enter the building.



# WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN: ENTERING THE SCHOOL BUILDING



- All parents will certify they will not send their child to school with symptoms of COVID-19.
- All students will have their temperature checked before entering school.
- If the temperature is above 100.4, the student must be fever free for 72 hours without the use of fever reducing medications, before being allowed back into the school.

# INFORMATION ON:

# SOCIAL DISTANCING



- Social distancing of students in the classroom, hallways, cafeteria, and common areas will be strongly recommended.
- Social distancing will be followed as much as possible, but with a full classroom, students will be less than 6 feet apart. We will remove unnecessary furniture from a classroom to have student desks placed as far apart from one another as possible.



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# INFORMATION ON:

# CLEANING & DISINFECTING PROTOCOL



- Classrooms will be cleaned and disinfected daily with an emphasis on high touched surfaces and common areas.
- Restrooms, cafeteria, and other common areas will be cleaned throughout the day.
- Buildings will be deep cleaned/disinfected nightly.

# INFORMATION ON:

# VISITOR EXPECTATIONS

- General Health Screens will take place for visitors.
- Clear visible signage will remind everyone of social distancing and face covering usage at entryways, hallways, classrooms, and common areas.
- Visitors need to come inside only on a needed basis and will be restricted to the main office area.

