



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SHIOCTON

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Kelly J. Thiel
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July 28, 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Last evening, the School District of Shiocton Board of Education approved a plan for students' return to school that includes in-person instruction for all grades five days per week. A staggered start of grade levels will be implemented over the course of the first week so as to afford students and staff the opportunity to spend time together, building relationships, and learn the new health and safety protocols. This staggered start also gives students time to meet with counselors and other school personnel as needed.

The plan also "strongly encourages" the wearing of face coverings throughout the day. Additionally, students and staff will be expected to wear masks in certain situations. This is referred to "**situational masking**" and can include situations where students and staff are working in close proximity such that they are not able to maintain a 6-foot distance. Examples of this include partner reading, small group work, or working in a lab setting. Situational masking would also apply to students and staff when entering and exiting the building, in the hallways, waiting in the lunch line, and otherwise within close proximity of other students and adults.

Another example of when a situation may necessitate the wearing of a face covering on the bus. Following registration, which is set to take place the week of August 10, we will determine bus routes for the year. From here, we will look at seating charts for the bus and at what point along the route the bus becomes full enough to necessitate the wearing of face coverings. Because there are likely to be several times throughout the day that situations will arise in which face coverings will be necessitated, **parents will need to send their student to school with a face covering (mask)**. If you have difficulty securing a face covering for your child, please let your school office assistant know and one will be provided.

The plan is built upon the premise that parents will conduct daily symptom checks of their student(s) before sending them to school AND that staff will conduct daily symptom checks, as well. It is up to each one of us to ensure we are symptom-free and healthy before coming to school. A list of common symptoms is available at [Returning to School](#).

Another premise upon which this plan is built is the continuous observation and implementation of best practices in health and safety. These best practices include:

"Where Excellence is Expected"

The Shiocton School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, age, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability.



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- Social Distancing
 - 6' apart whenever possible
 - 3' - 6' apart with facial covering
- Wear facial covering
 - Tightly woven fabric or cloth-based - [Cloth Face Coverings In Schools](#)
 - Large enough to cover the face from chin to bridge of nose
- Wash hands OFTEN
 - For 20 seconds or more
 - Before and after touching objects in high traffic areas, using shared objects, using the bathroom, or eating
- Use hand sanitizer when washing hands is not possible
- Clean, disinfect, and sanitize surfaces, object, equipment, implements and other items, especially when shared with another or used after another

The full plan will be released in the coming weeks in a format that articulates the responsibilities we all share in keeping our students and staff healthy and learning together. The plan will also share the steps we are taking in the building and in the classroom to minimize exposure and implement best practices.

Finally, the plan will share additional information relevant to the educational options we are able to offer to students who will need to be out of the classroom for a short and defined amount of time, as well as for those students seeking a full-time, on-line learning experience.

As we seek a health and safe return to learning, we know it will take all of us doing our part to show Care, Compassion, and regard for Community.

Together in Education,

Nichole J. Schweitzer
District Administrator

It's about...

Care
I don't know if I'm sick but I do know that I can spread it without showing symptoms.

Compassion
I don't know who you need to go home to and stay healthy for.

Community
I need to do my part to keep everyone healthy.

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