



Reopening 2020

Michigan City Area Schools Re-Entry Plan Summary

Updated September 29, 2020 (subject to change)

IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION RESUMES OCTOBER 19



Traditional School

School is in session 5 days a week.

Choose either in-person (traditional school) or one of 2 online options.



100% Online (MCAS Online or MC Virtual Academy)

ONLINE IF CLOSED

MCAS and the LaPorte County Health Department will monitor COVID community spread.

Traditional school will move to online in the event one or more of our schools need to close temporarily.

COVID POSITIVE PROTOCOL

Students will be excluded from school. They must isolate at home for 10 days after the first symptoms began AND be fever-free without meds for 24 hours AND have improved symptoms. Contact tracing will be conducted by MCAS and the ISDH.

UNTESTED STUDENTS WITH SYMPTOMS

Students who have not been tested but are exhibiting COVID symptoms will be excluded from school. They must be released by a healthcare provider and be fever-free for 24 hours without meds or be symptom-free for 10 days before returning to school.

HEALTH & SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

1 PHYSICAL DISTANCING

MCAS will practice physical distancing. This means spacing of 6 foot or greater between individuals, whenever possible.



2 MASKS

We protect one another by wearing masks! All staff, students, and visitors will be required to wear a mask/face covering at all times. Mask breaks will be scheduled for students when distancing of 6 feet or greater is possible.



3 DIVIDED CLINIC LOCATIONS

Isolation spaces will be established for students and staff with COVID-19 symptoms who are waiting to be picked up. These areas will be separate from locations where medications are distributed, injuries are treated, etc.



4 WATER BOTTLES

Students are encouraged to bring their own water (bottles should be clearly labeled with student name). Touchless water filling stations will be available to refill bottles.



5 HAND WASHING

Hand washing will be emphasized multiple times a day for all staff and students. Hand sanitizer stations will be available at building entrances and key common areas such as cafeterias.



6 STAY HOME IF ILL OR EXPOSED

Families should screen children and keep them home if they are ill. Students must be picked up if they are exhibiting symptoms. Siblings of students in quarantine should also stay home.



7 ENHANCED CLEANING

Safe, effective cleaning products will be used throughout the day for high-touch areas in schools and on buses. Restrooms will be cleaned and resupplied frequently. Intense cleaning will occur nightly.



8 AWARENESS & TRAINING

All staff will receive training on symptoms and precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Students and families will receive information about prevention and symptoms. Signage will remind everyone of good hygiene habits.



CHANGES TO THE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

CLASSROOMS

- ▶ Student desks and seats will face the same direction in the classroom. Classes will have assigned seating.
- ▶ As possible, students will not share equipment or supplies. Shared items will be sanitized frequently.
- ▶ Desks/tables will be disinfected after each class transition to another room K-6 and between each class period 7-12.
- ▶ Dividers will be provided to create physical barriers in classrooms in which tables are used for seating.
- ▶ Schedules will be reconfigured if possible to limit student movement. Teachers will move to students when possible.

PLAYGROUNDS

- ▶ Outdoor recess will be staggered and will comply with social distancing requirements.
- ▶ Equipment will be cleaned on a more frequent basis.
- ▶ Students will be encouraged to participate in touch-free activities such as jumping rope, hopscotch, kicking a ball, and running.

CAFETERIAS

- ▶ Self-serve food items will be eliminated, and students will be prohibited from sharing food.
- ▶ As possible, seating will be adjusted to facilitate physical distancing; additional spaces such as gyms may be used. Additional lunch periods may be added.
- ▶ Face coverings/masks will be required until students are seated.
- ▶ No food may be brought in for student parties, etc. No visitors for lunch.

SCHOOL BUSES

- ▶ Students must wear masks while on school buses.
- ▶ All students will be assigned seats on the bus.
- ▶ Buses will be cleaned and sanitized before and after student use.
- ▶ Students will be dismissed from the bus to entry points for the beginning of the school day to eliminate crowding at entry doors.

OTHER PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

- ▶ Plexiglass barriers will be installed in reception areas at all buildings.
- ▶ Each school will designate entry points for staff and students. Students will be dismissed in small groups to bus, car, or walk at the end of the school day.
- ▶ Schools may stagger transition times to aid in physical distancing. Congregating in hallways between classes will not be allowed.
- ▶ All students will be provided with opportunities to complete missed assignments due to illness.
- ▶ MCAS will request symptom information when absences are reported along with COVID-19 diagnoses and/or potential COVID-19 exposure. Absences will be excused and recorded as ill or quarantine.
- ▶ Perfect attendance incentives will be discontinued for the 2020-2021 school year.
- ▶ No field trips or large assemblies until further notice.
- ▶ Volunteer activities will be limited.
- ▶ Facility use by outside groups will be limited.
- ▶ Visitors who must enter the school (for example, to pick up a student) will be limited to the main office and must wear a mask.
- ▶ Student events held in-person will require masks or physical distancing with limited family participation in a highly structured environment.

Please note that this information is subject to change.
Visit our website for updates and Frequently Asked Questions.
We look forward to a positive and healthy school year!

