

SCHOOL REOPENING PARENT FAQ – JULY 30, 2020

The QSD Reopening Team, which consists of administrators, certificated staff, and classified staff, has been meeting over the last several weeks to plan for the 20-21 school year. The Reopening Team consists of four planning committees: Teaching and Learning, Health and Safety, Social Emotional Learning, and Communication. The committees have been planning ways to bring students and staff back into schools safely, following physical distancing and other health requirements. Additionally, the reopening team is developing an enhanced at home/remote learning experience for all students. This FAQ is not exhaustive and there are many questions that remain to be answered. Please don't hesitate to contact the QSD Office at 509-787-4571 or email qsdreopening@qsd.wednet.edu.

Will the district be starting with in-person learning or remote (at home) learning on September 2nd?

The decision about starting school in-person or with remote learning will be made closer to the start of the school year. Recommendations from both the WA state Department of Health and our local Grant County Health District tie the reopening of schools to the reproductive factor of how the virus is spreading in each local area. Governor Jay Inslee, QSD Superintendent John Boyd, and Grant County Health Officer Dr. Alex Brzezny have the authority to close schools. During the 2020-2021 school year it is highly expected that we may be moving back and forth between fully remote learning and some version of in-person learning depending on the activity of the virus in our community.

Health and Safety Considerations

How are health and safety guidelines determined?

- Quincy School District has a designated health and safety committee that has been coordinating with Grant County Health District. Guidance from the Centers for Disease Control, WA State Department of Health, WA State Department of Labor and Industries, and WA Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction are used in making our recommendations.
- The health agencies listed above agree on the following universal precautions necessary for minimizing risk when reopening schools.
 - **Students stay in the same cohort group of learners throughout the day**
 - **Students and staff maintain a consistent 6 feet of physical distancing**
 - **Students and staff will be screened daily for COVID indicator symptoms**
 - **Students and staff will wear face masks**
 - **Students and staff will have increased access to hand hygiene with multiple opportunities for hand washing and hand sanitizer available**

What are the expectations for masks?

- **Parents/guardians must send their child to school with a face covering.** Students without a face covering will be provided a disposable paper mask but due to a limited supply, are highly

encouraged to bring their own reusable cloth face covering. Some reusable cloth masks will also be available as needed.

- Disposable face masks will be provided for busses, building screening checkpoints, and school offices to disperse as needed. A few spare masks should also be available in every classroom.
- **Face masks will be worn at all times by staff and students** when not alone, this includes time at bus stops, riding busses, all school activities, and while on school grounds.
- Reusable cloth face masks should be washed at home daily.
- Younger students will be supervised when wearing a cloth face covering or face shield and staff will help putting them on, taking them off, and getting used to wearing them.
- Even when cloth face coverings are worn, staff and students will continue practicing proper physical distancing.

Who should NOT wear cloth or disposable face coverings?

- Those with a disability that prevents them from wearing or removing a face covering.
- Those with certain respiratory conditions or trouble breathing.
- Those who are deaf or hard of hearing and use facial and mouth movements as part of communication.
- Those advised by a medical, legal, or behavioral health professional that wearing a face covering may pose a risk to that person.
- **Exceptions to the face covering mandate will need to include documentation from a health care provider or special education case manager and coordination with the building principal.**

Are face shields an acceptable alternative to wearing a face mask?

Face shields are not recommended as a substitute for a face mask unless it is not possible for a student to wear a mask due to one of the exceptions listed above. Grant County Health District recommends that students wearing face shields add some type of cloth that connects from the face shield down to the chest.

What will the procedure be for daily student screening before entry to schools?

- **Parents will be responsible for checking their children daily and signing a paper health attestation form that confirms the child has not had potential COVID-19 symptoms, including a temperature check.** If parents do not have a thermometer, they should just answer the other symptom questions and the temperature will be checked at school.
- Upon arrival to school, each school will have multiple entry points for screening students. There will be a minimum of one screening entry point per 75-100 students. Students that have their signed attestation will pass that to the screening personnel, the personnel will do a quick temp check, and if below 100 degrees that student will enter the school and report directly to their first classroom. Breakfast will be available in their classroom.
- Students that do not have a signed attestation will go to a holding area while office personnel contact their parents to confirm screening questions and determine whether they can proceed to class.
- Students that do not pass COVID-19 screening will need to go to the isolation room while waiting for parents to be contacted to come pick them up.

- Students riding busses need to show their printed attestation to the bus driver before getting on the bus. Bus drivers will not be responsible for checking temperatures. Students will be temp checked upon entry at school.
- **It is extremely important that schools have updated parent contact information and at least two back up emergency contacts in case the parent is unreachable by phone. School personnel must be able to reach a responsible adult that is authorized to pick up your child at all times during school hours.**

How will we handle students that become ill during the school day?

- The teacher supervising the student will call the office. The office will send down the health aide para to assess the student's symptoms and confer with nurses. The health aid para will then escort the student either to the regular health room or the isolation room according to nurse instructions.
- In coordination with nurse recommendations, students who show two or more COVID-19 indicator symptoms will be taken to the isolation area and supervised while parents are contacted to come pick them up. They will not be able to return to school until they have been seen by a health care provider and bring a note indicating they are safe to return to school. If they do not see a provider, they will need to remain home for 10 days from the onset of symptoms and a minimum of 72 hours fever free without using fever reducing medications. These same timelines will apply to staff with COVID-19 indicator symptoms as well.
- This isolation room will be:
 - An enclosed space separate from the health room designated by each building principal
 - Monitored by trained staff
 - Cleaned by trained staff after each student

What types of cleaning and disinfection will be taking place?

Day and Night custodians are informed of the importance of making sure all areas are cleaned, disinfected and sanitized daily.

- **Classrooms** – In addition to daily custodial cleaning, teachers will be supplied with a disinfectant spray bottle and paper wipes to be used during class time and during class break times so they can wipe touch points when possible.
- **Touch points** – Custodial staff will emphasize cleaning and disinfection of touch points.

Touch points include:

- Door Hardware
- Doors
- Window areas that are commonly touched
- Handrails
- Paper towel and toilet paper dispensers
- Desk tops (student and teacher)
- Sink faucets
- Sinks
- Urinals, toilets and their hardware (Flush valves and handles)
- Counter tops
- Bathroom floors
- Bathroom and shower room stalls

- **Common areas** include lunchroom and break out spaces. Lunch tables are wiped down with a disinfectant in between the breakfast/lunch periods. At the end of the breakfast/lunch period they are once again wiped down with a disinfectant spray and then sprayed with a sanitizer that will air dry on the table.
- **Break out areas** include learning pods spaces. Tables are wiped down with a disinfectant and then sprayed down with a sanitizer that will air dry. Soft seating and chairs are sprayed with a sanitizer and allowed to air dry.
- **School Bus Transportation** All buses will be deep cleaned and disinfected prior to the start of the school year. Buses will be disinfected after morning and afternoon routes.
- **HVAC** – Each classroom is equipped with its own air handling unit. Air filters will be replaced for the start of the school year and on a recommended replacement schedule. We will also be maximizing outside air flow to these air handling units in accordance with CDC guidelines.

How will staff be trained on COVID-19 related health and safety measures?

All employees will complete two online Safe School COVID awareness and procedures training modules before school begins. Office staff, screeners, and some other selected staff members will receive additional in person training time with our nurses.

Will staff be screened for COVID-19 symptoms daily?

Yes, all employees will be screened for symptoms and temperatures daily.

How will staff ensure that students understand COVID safety protocols?

Teachers and staff will give developmentally appropriate lessons to ensure understanding of COVID safety protocols.

Will there be emotional support for my child when they return to school?

- Teachers and staff will give developmentally appropriate lessons to ensure understanding of, relationship building, managing difficult emotions and school expectations.
- Assistance will be provided for students needing additional support.
- If you have concerns about your student's return to school, contact your student's school counselor after August 15th.

Scheduling Considerations for In-Person or Hybrid Learning Models

How is the school district gathering stakeholder feedback in determining scheduling needs?

The school district surveyed teachers to see what schedules they would prefer for students. A survey was sent to parents in June to get feedback. We will also be sending parents another survey since we have narrowed down our scheduling options. Please consider completing the survey as your feedback is critical in determining as schedule that works best for the needs of our community. [Click here to complete the survey](#) after you have read through the FAQ and QSD Learning Models summary.

How will student daily schedules be changed to keep cohort groups together and minimize the number of people each student or staff member interacts with?

Students will remain with the same homeroom class/cohort of students for the majority of the school day. Students will have breaks and meals with their homeroom class and will not be able to gather with other classes during those times.

Grades 6-12:

All QMS and QHS students will be on an A/B Schedule. Students would attend full days either Tuesday/Thursday OR Wednesday/Friday. Additionally, students will focus one-half of their schedule per quarter (See QSD Learning Model Document for an example). (Priority would be for students to be placed in classes that meet their graduation requirements and elective choices. The following are other considerations being used to schedule students in cohort groups:

- A/B schedule reduces the number of students congregating in the building.
- Reduced course load makes learning more manageable for students.
- Cohort groups limit the number of interactions among students and staff within the building.
- Secondary scheduling teams will be meeting to continue to design models that ensure the safety of students, staff, and families, maximize learning, and allow for flexibility in transition between remote, hybrid, and in-person learning as dictated by the conditions of the pandemic and guidelines set forth by the health department, OSPI, and the State.
- QIA will follow a normal schedule for the building.

Grades K-5:

The scheduling team has worked on identifying in-person learning schedules that could work with social distancing guidelines and for our community. When students are not in the building learning, they will be engaging in remote learning from home. Students will take part in remote learning on Mondays. QSD will be offering one of the schedules below. Please let us know your preference to which schedule would be best for your family.

A/B Schedule – Students would attend full days either Tuesday/Thursday OR Wednesday/Friday. Priority would be for elementary students to have the same schedule as secondary siblings.

AM/PM Schedule - Students would attend either a morning or afternoon class with their homeroom teacher. All students who ride the bus would be on the morning schedule. Elementary students would not have the same schedule as secondary siblings.

If I am not comfortable sending my child to school, will there be a remote learning (at home) option even if some students are receiving in-person learning?

Yes, the district will offer a full-time remote learning option for families even if some students are receiving in-person instruction.

How we will ensure physical distancing in classrooms?

Classroom furniture will be organized to ensure 6 feet of physical distancing between students. Currently this is typically an average of a maximum 18 desks in most classrooms. Principals will schedule accordingly to keep class sizes below 18 in most areas.

How will students move through hallways during passing periods?

- K-5 will move in class groups, and may need to form two or three rows and shorten up distancing to ensure teacher can supervise kids adequately (avoiding lengthy 20 kid lines 6 feet apart)
- K-5 will not be moving down halls as a group very often, they will mostly remain in their homeroom classes
- 6-12 students will move through the halls directly to their next class during passing periods. They will be discouraged from stopping to visit with others. To keep physical distancing, students will not be using lockers and will need to carry their items with them from class to class.

How will we ensure physical distancing or limited number of occupants in restrooms?

- Elementary students will be escorted to the restroom by a para educator who will ensure there are not too many students in the restroom at one time.
- Secondary students will need to go to the restroom during class time with teacher permission. They will not use the restrooms during passing periods to prevent crowding.
- Signage has been ordered for each building to mark 6 feet distancing in restrooms and additionally buildings should determine and post a maximum number of people permitted in the restrooms at one time that matches the size of the restroom and distancing requirements.

Remote Learning and Technology Considerations

How will remote learning expectation be different this fall than they were in the spring?

State expectations for student attendance and engagement have increased. For the 2020-21 school year, students are required to engage in learning activities daily, for the equivalent of 1027 hours and 180 days during the school year. District expectations for **daily student attendance and participation** during remote/hybrid learning are being developed, including tracking and interventions.

Teams will be working in August on identifying priority standards, assessments, and grading practices to maximize learning in a remote/hybrid learning model.

How is the district planning for an improved, at-home, Remote Learning experience for students?

A team of teachers, administrators, support staff, students, and parents have been working since May to design an improved experience for learning from home. Our primary source of information came from student, family, and staff feedback about the strengths and weaknesses of teaching and learning from home this spring. That information has been used to design an at home, remote learning plan for 2020-21 which will improve:

- access and connectivity for all learners
- translations
- independence for early learners
- collaboration, communication, and relationship building between students, families, and staff
- support for students and families to monitor academic progress remotely

- technical support for families and students

Will the district continue to provide Chromebooks and login information to students?

From now on, we plan to provide every student with a Chromebook, carrying case, and ear buds. These will be distributed closer to the start of school. Clever Badges and/or login ID and password information will be available at each building.

Will the district continue to provide hotspots for students?

The district will continue to provide internet access through hotspots. Many of our students currently have these devices, however the service has been paused for the summer and will be reactivated prior to the start of school. Additionally, the district will distribute additional hotspots as needed. Discounted internet is also available to qualifying households through the [Washington Lifeline Discount Program](#).

The QSD Technology Department will work with principals, individual students, and families, to determine solutions for students who have continued connectivity issues.

What systems will the district provide to support students and families with at-home, remote learning?

The district is currently developing support materials and opportunities for students and families to understand and use digital education tools in the upcoming school year. Technical support via the QSD Technology Department will still be available to students and their families by calling 509-787-4571 or emailing helpdesk@qsd.wednet.edu.

What digital education tools will students use for at-home, remote learning?

Chromebooks are being standardized to provide easier access to video, translation and accessibility tools, and simplified access to essential websites.

Quincy School District has adopted four, common digital tools to engage and support students during remote, hybrid, and in-person learning. These tools are Google Classroom, Google Drive, Google Meet, and the Loom Video Recorder. These tools will be used in all grades K-12, to increase consistency and provide more training and support to students and families. These common tools will be used in all learning models to support smooth transitions between them throughout the year.

Will Zoom still be used for at-home, remote learning?

No. This year, teachers will use Google Meet instead of Zoom. Google Meet is much more reliable on Chromebooks, so students will be able to see and hear their classmates and teachers consistently and will not get dropped off the call nearly as often. Google Meet is also located within Google Classroom, so it will not require special links or passwords to access.

How will the district address the unique needs of primary learners during at-home, Remote Learning?

Kindergarten through second grade teachers will have access SeeSaw, a website where they can create activities and provide feedback that will be easier for our youngest learners to access independently. Students and teachers can draw right over the top of activities in SeeSaw, as well as record audio and

video messages. These SeeSaw activities will be available through Google Classroom and will not require a separate log in for students.

When will new teaching take place during at-home, remote learning?

Plans for learning and teaching during at-home, remote learning are being developed and will be shared out prior to the start of school. The district is exploring options for providing live and pre-recorded instructional opportunities.

Will my student's email change to Gmail?

At this time, no. Students will still access email through Outlook, which is now directly linked from the Clever page for easy access.

Nutrition Services Considerations

How will meals be served?

- All students will be charged for breakfast and lunch based on their Free, Reduced, Paid status for the current school year.
- Students will wash their hands prior to breakfast and lunch.
- Students are expected to wear a face covering while in the serving line. Face coverings may be removed once students are seated and ready to eat.
- Floor decals have been installed to help students maintain social distancing while in the serving line.
- Food choices will be streamlined and safely packaged. Choices will still include hot and cold options.
- All food and beverage items, including condiments and utensils will be served by cafeteria staff to reduce high-touch points.
- All meals will be served on disposable trays.
- Breakfast will be served by cafeteria staff.
 - K – 5 students will have breakfast delivered to their homeroom classrooms to allow for social distancing.
 - 6 – 12 students will eat breakfast in their first classroom of the day. They will stay with this group of students throughout the day.
- Lunch will be served by cafeteria staff.
 - K – 5 students will have lunch delivered to their homeroom classrooms to allow for social distancing.
 - 6 – 12 students will go to the cafeteria with their homeroom cohort group to pick up their lunch and then return to their classrooms to eat.
- Barcode scanners and rosters will replace touch keypads at all grade levels.
- Cafeteria staff will always be required to wear a face covering.
- All desks, tables, and serving lines will be cleaned between lunch periods.

Transportation Considerations

How will student transportation work?

- Bus drivers and bus aides will wear masks at all time.
- Students are expected to wear face coverings on the bus.
- If a student does not have a face covering while riding the bus, a mask will be provided by the driver.
- If a student repeatedly does not have a face covering, notification to the family will be made.
- Drivers will monitor students (as safely as possible) to ensure all students are wearing a face covering while riding the bus.
- Windows and vents in bus will remain open until cold weather arrives.

Seating on the bus

- Seating Assignments will be based on the student's morning bus stop. Families will be seated together when possible.
- First row of seats in the bus will remain empty.
- Students will be required to go directly to their seat.

Bus drop off

- To limit further contact exposure, building administrators may use multiple entry points into the building from the bus parking area.

Bus Sanitation

- All buses will be deep cleaned and disinfected prior to the start of the school year.
- Buses will be disinfected after morning and afternoon routes.
- High-touch areas in the bus will be cleaned throughout the day.

Car drop-off/pick-up

- Traffic patterns around each school building will be monitored for issues associated with an increase of student car riders.
- Multiple entry points into the building may be assigned to encourage social distancing.
- Students are required to wear a face covering when entering and exiting the Building.

Athletics and Activities

What about large group activities such as field trips, music programs, or family nights?

We are not planning on any large group activities such as field trips, family nights, or music programs until further notice. We will work in coordination with Grant County Health district to determine when it is safe to resume these types of gatherings.

How will athletics work this year?

The WIAA has approved a modified COVID athletic schedule for high school sports. For the 2020-2021 school year, the athletic calendar will be divided into four seasons. The purpose of this modified schedule is to allow time for infection statistics to improve, while maintaining athletic seasons. This schedule is tentative. To access the modified tentative 2020-2021 WIAA Athletic calendar, [click here](#).

- **Season 1 September/October:** Low risk fall sports—For QHS that includes Cross Country, and possibly Girls Swim and Dive. Girls swim and Dive is yet to be determined.
- **Season 2 January/February:** Traditional Winter Sports—Basketball, Boys Swim and Dive, Cheerleading, and Wrestling.
- **Season 3 March/April:** Traditional higher risk fall sports—Volleyball, Girls Soccer, and Football
- **Season 4 May/June:** Traditional spring sports—Tennis, Fastpitch, Track & Field, Baseball, Boys Soccer, Dance & Drill, and Golf

Middle School sports schedules will be determined by the middle school league.