

Staff Reopening Hybrid Model Frequently Asked Questions

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Frequently Asked Questions

Phased Reopening Plan, Schedules & Cohorting

Will students be able to stay with their original teacher?

The District is working to keep as many students as possible with their homeroom teacher. In some cases, students will be moved to ensure hybrid or remote placement preference.

When do I need to make a remote or hybrid decision for my child?

Families need to decide by the placement deadline established by their child's school. If parents are undecided or if families cannot be reached the student will automatically be placed into a remote classroom.

Will students be able to change to a different learning model (remote to hybrid or hybrid to remote)?

We will consider requested changes to the learning model when there is space available in the requested model.

Which days each week would the students go to school?

Students will attend school in person either AM or PM, Tuesday-Friday. The AM/PM model will allow our students to have contact with their teachers and access to high quality internet and instruction every day, a shortened time to wear their masks, and smoother transitions between hybrid and remote learning throughout the year. Monday will continue to be an at-home learning day for all students.

When will Hybrid learning start?

Starting on or around November 10th, we hope that COVID-19 transmission rates are low enough to provide a half day of in-person learning for some students in grades K-3rd. On or around December 1st, we hope to be able to start half day in-person learning for 4th and 5th grade. Families will have the option to continue with 100% fully remote, at-home learning for their student(s).

How will cohorts or groups be established at elementary schools?

Principals will need to determine this based on building schedules and parent input. The size of the group will depend on how many students select remote or hybrid. Students that require bussing will need to be in the afternoon cohort.

How many students are allowed per classroom cohort?

The number of students per cohort will be determined by the number of students that can be placed socially distanced at six feet apart. In most cases, approximately 15-18 students per class would allow for six feet of distance between desks and the teacher workstation.

How was it decided which students would return in each phase? (For example, why K-2 instead of K-1 in Phase two?)

K-3 students are the youngest learners in our system, and many continue to struggle in independently navigating remote learning as well as have the greatest English language support needs.

As each phase goes to hybrid, will there still be a fully remote option for that grade level or group of students?

Yes, remote learning will be offered most likely until a vaccine is made available and widely distributed.

Where do specialized arts and CTE classes fall in the phases for Hybrid Learning?

Specialized arts and CTE program considerations will be determined as a part of planning the secondary reopening, with the [EMPLOYER HEALTH & SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOOL SCENARIOS](#) in mind.

What is the District doing to prioritize the specific academic and social-emotional needs for the Class of 2021?

Seniors currently have access to their advisory teachers and counselors to assist with specific academic and social-emotional needs. Senior student leaders are working with QHS administration to address needs specific to the Class of 2021.

Will families' schedules align so older students can care for their younger siblings who are learning from home?

K-5 schedules will be aligned to keep elementary families together, however when secondary students return to hybrid in-person learning they may have a different schedule than their elementary siblings.

How does Hybrid Learning impact QIA's programs? - Could we add QIA in person weekly meetings for on-line Big Picture and Connect parent partnership in Phase 2 and Big Picture Program in Phase 4?

How will schedules for Hybrid Learning be communicated to families?

We will use both in-building and District communication channels (social media, print materials, website, Remind) to notify our families as additional details become available.

If we move back and forth between remote and hybrid learning as the year goes on, how will that impact the student's daily schedule?

When and if the District needs to move back to a full remote schedule, buildings will move to a remote schedule. Buildings will communicate out specific remote schedule to families. Schedules are being developed to easily adapt to remote and hybrid schedules as needed.

What parts of the day will busses be available?

For elementary schools, busses will only be available to students in the afternoon, in-person learning group.

Will bus routes be similar to pre-COVID? Will the busses that go around town to daycares still be available?

Bus routes will have to be redesigned based on need. QSD recognizes the need to accommodate children who attend daycare and will work to have students dropped off and picked up at those locations.

What is the plan for snow days? Will they be Remote Learning days?

We have not made that determination but most likely it will be a full remote day.

Ongoing, Optional Remote Learning

What will the schedule be for students who continue in only at-home, remote learning?

The schedule will remain very similar to the current schedule. Specific details will be communicated as schedules are finalized.

If the student stays in at-home, remote learning, can they keep the hotspot?

Yes, students can keep the hotspots until further notice.

What supports will the district have in place for students who choose to stay fully remote?

Students will be assigned to a certificated classroom teacher and will receive live meetings and independent work time, similar to the current remote learning model. However, students may not have the same classroom teacher.

Health & Safety

Will sinks in classrooms be used for washing hands?

Classroom sinks will be used for hand washing but the classroom drinking fountains will be turned off.

Will drinking fountains be available? If not, will we supply water bottles or have them bring them?

Drinking fountains will not be available. Bottle fillers will be operable. Students will need to bring bottles from home. While drinking out of their water bottle in the classroom students must leave on their mask. Water bottles with sippers are encouraged so students can still leave on their mask.

Can teachers take students out for their own recess breaks? If so, can students take masks off when they are outside for “masks breaks”?

Yes, teachers can take their students outside for short activity break; however, a structured recess will not be built into the daily schedule. If the teacher can ensure that students maintain six feet of social distance, students may take off their masks during the outdoor activity break. If a teacher chooses to allow students to have a snack, it will need to be consumed during the outdoor activity break time.

How many students will be in the classroom at the same time?

This will be determined by the size of the classroom, allowing for 6 feet of space between each individual. For most elementary classrooms that will be around 15-18 students. Some areas may accommodate more students.

How many students will be allowed in the restroom at the same time?

Principals in collaboration with their building custodians should identify the capacity of a restroom for number of students that can use it and maintain six feet of distance. This number should be marked outside the restroom.

Will all staff and students be wearing masks?

Students and staff will be required to wear a mask that fully covers their nose, mouth, and chin the entire time that they are at school and on the bus. If your child is not able to consistently wear a mask for 3-4 hours, you should continue with remote learning at this time. Now is a good time to have your child practice wearing their mask for extended periods of time.

Will temperatures be taken in the classroom?

No, temperatures will be taken prior to students entering the building at a designated screening station.

Where can I find the daily attestation form?

Parents will be required to fill out a daily wellness screening attestation form stating that their child does not have any COVID-19 like illness symptoms and has not been exposed to someone with COVID-19. Here is the [Link to Attestation Form](#). They will also be available at each school.

What are the safety protocols on the bus?

Students will be required to wear a mask while riding the bus and sit no more than two to a seat when from the same household. Drivers will be wearing KN95 mask while driving the bus. It will be incredibly important for parents to screen their children using the QSD provided attestation form to ensure that their student is healthy enough to come to school.

Will the masks be cloth or disposable?

We have both cloth and disposable masks for students and staff.

Will there be chemicals used while students are in the building?

All chemical cleaning products used in school settings are required to have a material safety data sheet on file. Questions about specific products can be directed to building principals or maintenance staff.

How will the school be cleaned between the A/B student groups?

Custodians will be cleaning restrooms multiple times during the day. Students will be remaining in one classroom, so the only cleaning needed between groups is a spray of disinfectant on each student's work area. Cleaning will most likely need to be done by para educators or teachers between groups. In most cases, it is not our expectation that teachers would need to do any other cleaning between A/B student groups.

Can teachers set up their rooms for Hybrid Learning to fit their unique class's needs?

Yes, teachers will be able to move their classroom furniture around within the requirements of maintaining 6 feet of distance between workstations. Classroom arrangements will need to be approved by the principal and a member of the health and safety team.

If a social distance can be maintained, why will masks be required?

CDC/DOH/GCHD is requiring masks as a protective measure. Masks are one of the best defenses we have against COVID19 transmission. Neither social distancing nor masks are 100% effective ways to prevent transmission, but when used together they significantly improve the difficulty of transmitting the virus from one person to another. The use of both is a mandate from the Dept. of Health at this time.

If only some will be in the class (not the whole class) can we remove some of the desks to allow them to have more space to move around?

Desks need to remain in the classroom we do not have enough storage for the surplus desks. However, teachers can move them around within the room to make the space work for the number of students they will have in person.

What is the plan for sick students once they arrive? What will the protocol be for a child who throws up in class and the rest of the class. Can the rest of the class still return the next day?

When students become ill at school, the teacher would call the office and designated health aide who will come down to the classroom to determine next steps. The health aide will come with higher levels of PPE (KN95 mask and face shield) per [Employer Guidelines for School Settings L & I guidance](#). They will confer with the nurses on whether a student needs to just be escorted to the regular health room or if they need to be taken to the COVID isolation room. From there the parents will be contacted and we follow the [Grant County Health District's flow chart for Suspected, Presumptive, or Confirmed cases of COVID 19](#).

What happens with students who do not comply with safety protocols? Will they return to distance learning until a plan for reentry is established with admin?

Yes, students that are not able to comply with safety protocols will not be able to continue with in person learning and will need to be served with remote learning. However, when an in-person student has difficulty with mask compliance, a progressive approach will be used. First, the teacher will give reminders about correct mask use. Parents will be notified immediately of the concern. If needed, the child will be removed from the classroom for reteaching in the office with the counselor or principal. Within a very short period of days, if the child still is not able to comply with mask requirements, they will need to return to remote learning.

If a staff member contracts COVID-19 what is the protocol? What if we have several staff in our building test positive?

We will collaborate with GCHD to determine next steps. Typically, if there were more than two cases in a cohort group, that cohort group would be isolated for 10-14 days and need to move to remote learning during that time. If more than two cohorts in a school are impacted, it is possible that an entire school would need to return to distance learning. However, the scenarios are complex and dependent on the movements and contacts of the infected person or people and the cohorting model. So, each situation would need to be determined by GCHD individually. QSD will follow the [Grant County Health District's flow chart for Suspected, Presumptive, or Confirmed cases of COVID 19](#).

If a student's family member contracts COVID, but the student does not, what is the protocol?

Per the [GCHD Handling Suspected, Presumptive, and Confirmed](#) Cases flow chart, the student would not be able to return to school if they are a close contact of someone infected. They would need to remain home for 14 days after the contact with the infected person.

At what point will a cohort be asked to quarantine, if a student has a parent test positive then does our entire classroom have to quarantine?

No, that student would have to remain home for 14 days, but if that student did not test positive themselves, there would not be impact on the classroom cohort that they came from. If the student did test positive, then that student would quarantine, and we would follow GCHD direction. Typically, if all mitigation factors have been in place (masking, 6 ft of distancing, hand hygiene) the rest of the class would not have to quarantine if one student tested positive. If more than two students in one cohort test positive, then it is likely the whole cohort would quarantine. Again, each situation would need to be determined by GCHD individually.

What is proper PPE for staff?

Each supervisor will be reviewing this with their staff. We will follow the guidelines in the [Employer Guidelines for School Settings Department of Labor and Industries guidance](#).

What is allowed/not as far as materials used by students? Coming and going from home, library books, paper packets, PBIS reward tickets, incubation periods, manipulatives, etc.?

- Best practice is to have students each use their own individual materials and supplies.
- If there are materials that need to be used by multiple students, they should be disinfected between students. (For example: Sets of markers, calculators, glue bottles, or math manipulatives)
- There are no special recommendations regarding passing paper assignments in, use of PBIS tickets, or checking in/out library or classroom books. Use your best judgment and try to avoid multiple students passing items back and forth as much as possible. It is okay to use these items at your discretion.

Who will be cleaning between groups?

In most cases at the elementary level para-educators will disinfect student desk and touch points with the provided disinfectant between student cohort groups. During the day custodians will be doing rounds every hour to clean bathrooms and touchpoints they will also be cleaning the bathrooms between groups. Night shift custodians will be disinfecting classrooms, hallways, and bathrooms. Countertops, student desktops, teacher work areas, bathroom fixtures, floors, and touchpoints will be emphasized. Secondary is still discussing their disinfecting routines.

Where will the students be eating lunch?

Students will go home to eat at K-5. Secondary is still discussing their plans.

Will specialists be coming into our classroom to be with our students? If so, where will certificated teachers go during this time to prep?

Specialists will continue to develop asynchronous video for students and will not be providing prep time for teachers. K-5 prep time will be forty-five minutes between AM and PM groups.

Can paras still work with students in the hall for one on one? Will paras move between classrooms at all?

Paras may work one-on-one with students or move between classes. If possible, para educators should work with a limited amount of student cohorts. Unless the para is assigned to a one-on-one position, individual student contact should be limited and brief.

How does reopening fit with the state DOH guideline of “Fewer. Shorter. Smaller. Safer”?

Our phased reopening will consist of small groups of students that would be in the building for three hours at a time. Each phase will be monitored for safety protocol implementation and effectiveness before moving on to the next phase.
NB

Staffing

Will staff be allowed to still bring their children to work?

Staff who are needing to bring their children to work will be considered on a case by case basis taking into consideration

[QSD Staff Children in the Work Place Expectations.](#)

Will teachers be given time to prepare for Hybrid Learning? (classrooms, lesson planning, planning to teach new routines, etc)

Teacher's will continue to have prep time daily as well as time on Mondays to prepare and plan for hybrid learning.

Will teachers be teaching remote and in-person students at the same time? If so, will additional planning time for this be built into the schedule?

For elementary, some teachers will be teaching both in-person and remote students at the same time. In that case, time in the day will be designated for teaching and supporting either remote or in-person cohorts. For secondary, hybrid schedules are in development and will be communicated closer to the Phase 4 start date.

What will the subbing policy or work from home policy during Hybrid learning look like?

The majority of teachers will be teaching students in-person for at least part of the day. Substitute teachers will be required for the in-person section of the day. Specialists will be continued to be used as substitutes. For the remote learning portion of the day, partner teachers will continue to be asked to cover remote classes, as appropriate. Based on assigned hybrid schedules, substitute teaching partners may need to be reassigned.

What if more teachers need to stay remote than the students they represent? How will that load be shared between remote and in-person staff?

These situations will be handled on a case-by-case basis. In certain cases, leave may be required if staff need to stay remote but more in-person staff are required.

Teaching & Learning

Do students need to bring Chromebooks to school with them every day?

All students will need to take their Chromebook home daily in the event of a building needing to shift to full remote or a remote inclement weather day. Whether elementary students need to bring their Chromebooks to school for their in person learning time every day will be an individual teacher and grade level decision. NB & CF

What will hybrid students be doing while they are learning from home? Will they still need to use the internet?

They will be doing specialist, intervention and independent work time. They will still be using the internet to access Google classroom.

How will intervention work?

Plans for intervention are being developed.

What will K-5 specialist look like? Will that stay remote...?

Yes, specialists will continue to develop asynchronous video for our students.

How will small group reading work? Can our paras be utilized for at home small group reading time? If they have extra time in their day, can they provide feedback to students on activities such as Seesaw?

How will teacher provide small group instruction?

Class sizes will be much smaller during in-person, hybrid learning. Buildings are designing para schedules to meet the individual needs of the building, but paras may continue to provide socially distanced support to students as determined by the building. Paras will not be gathering small groups of students around a table for instruction as they have in the past.

What routines will be in place during hybrid learning to make the transition smooth back to Remote learning if needed? (schedule, use of Core 4 expectations, communication protocols, etc)

Staff should continue using the Core Four Digital Ed Tools and any other curriculum-specific technology tools during in-person and remote hybrid learning. When and if the District needs to move back to a full remote schedule, buildings would move back to the already established fall remote schedule.

Will videos still need to be recorded and available every day? If so, will extra time be given for that or when do we fit that all in?

The guidelines for the use of recorded videos are still being developed and may depend on the instructional model the teacher is placed in (Hybrid Only, Remote Only, or Split).

Student Supports

What accommodations will be given for students that are hard of hearing?

The accommodations outlined in the student's IEP or 504 will be followed. If changes to the student's accommodations are required, an MDT or 504 meeting will be required.

For more specific QSD Reopening information please reference the [QSD Reopening Plan](#). Additional questions can be emailed to qsdreopening@qsd.wednet.edu.