

**Iron Mountain COVID-19 FAQ
(updated 08-12-2020)**

Will North teachers be encouraged to wear face shields instead of masks for children to read facial expression?

We will be providing face masks with clear windows built in so students can see facial expressions and be able to see the teacher's mouths. Per the CDC and local health officials face shields do not replace face masks.

Can parents bring Kindergarten students to their classroom on the first day?

Teachers and admin are working on something this week for the first day of school. We will make it special with plenty of photo ops with friends and teachers. We will all be excited to have students back. Communications should be going out soon.

Will it be acceptable for children to wear clear face shields at school or do they have to wear masks?

Per Local Health Officials and CDC, face shields do not replace masks. We will have masks with clear plastic window inserts as an option. However, face shields do not offer the same level of protection.

Will North students be required to wear face coverings in their classroom?

North students will be required to wear face coverings when they are traveling through the building and when with other cohorts of students. If a cohort of students stay within their cohort for an extended period of time, (not with other students), masks will not be required for the entire time unless there is a medical exception.

What happens if my student ends up sick for an extended period of time or needs to quarantine because of being exposed to someone that has COVID-19? Will you offer online learning option so they don't fall behind?

A student who is out sick for any amount of time will be placed into our distance learning plan. This student will be able to stay connected with their classroom teacher via remote instruction. Plans will be determined in consultation with parents, admin, and the classroom teachers. Students may be given specific times they will be asked to use Google Meet to dial into the teacher's classroom so they can be a part of the classroom environment. Teaching materials and resources needed by the student will be made available online. Please keep in mind this mode of instruction is primarily for students who are sick, but plan on returning to the classroom. If this option is something parents want for a long-term solution for their child, they will be asked to contact the building principal for a meeting. This option however is limited to K-8.

What if as a parent I only want my child to go into the school 3 days a week to limit exposure? Is that something that can be done where they go to class Mon - Wed but then do the online learning Thur & Fri each week? Or is that not what the online learning is set up for? Is the online learning ONLY for if a student is actually sick?

The option of sending students to school certain days and keeping them home certain days is not available at this time. If parents want students K-8 to stay home but still be connected to their classroom teacher, this option is available; however, a **consultation with the building principal is required**. Currently, parents need to choose between full time in-person or full time virtual, there is not a part time both in and out option.

How will North drop off and pickup be ran?

A drop off and pickup plan is being created this week with administrators and teachers. We will be sending this information out as soon as the plan is developed.

Will North students play on the playground equipment during phase 4 and 5?

Yes!

Do the different classes enter through different doors? Or does anyone enter through any of the doors? If students enter through any doors, maybe separate door entry would be helpful to stop the spread of contamination between

classes should someone (God forbid) have COVID19. Also, there is the age differences. Where does the new 5th graders enter?

The buildings will use multiple entrances to bring down the number of students entering any one point of entry. We will also have classroom aides at the entrances at all grade levels to help with the distancing of students.

Principals will be sending out information on the first day of school, pick up and drop off information, changes to routines due to COVID-19, and a host of other topics in the near future. There will be virtual open houses provided as well as Q & A sessions for parents. Please check the district website or contact the building principals for dates and times for these events.

Are local health professionals helping make these decisions? I would hope that education professionals who have no medical training are not making contradictory rules and decisions that will affect my child.

All of the district's plans, protocols, and procedures have been guided by Local, State, and Federal Health Care Professionals. IMPS has left health and safety guidelines to those who are experts in the Health and Safety profession.

As a 5th grader at the HS, is there hot lunch at the high school? If so, where and will it continue during COVID and/or what precautions are being taken with food handling and eating? Where do the kids eat and take recess? Some of these questions are directed at being new to the high school mixed with COVID questions. Do the 5th graders get a class schedule? Do they change classes? I don't like the idea of the kids cleaning their own desks. Other kids touch them walking by or cough/sneezing by others. Just seem like that is something that should be done by a janitor or someone that can do a good job at it. Also prefer not the teacher either.

There will be hot lunch served in the lunchroom located in the Central Middle School new addition building. Students will be walked to lunch by lunchroom aides/teachers.

We will be following all of the health and safety guidelines for cafeterias given to us from local and state agencies. These guidelines include: serving, spacing, cleaning, and PPE. There are too many guidelines to list in this response, however you can find many of them on our COVID-19 page on the district website under handbook and Safe Return to School Plan.

5th graders typically change classes, but while we are under COVID protocol, the students will be staying in their classrooms and teachers will be changing classes.

There will be time built into the schedule for cleaning. Some cleaning protocol (deep cleaning disinfecting) will be the responsibility of the custodial staff and some cleaning protocol will be the responsibility of students. Student responsibilities fall more in line with taking care of personal work space.

How will physical distancing be accomplished within the classroom setting and during passing time (middle/high school)?

We will social distance the best we can whenever we can. We understand there are times this may be more difficult than other times. Our classrooms have been arranged to meet this accommodation whenever possible. Due to the difficulty in meeting the social distancing requirements, we have put into place increased efforts towards cleaning, PPE, and providing equipment and supplies to students.

How does the school plan on regulating students coming to school sick? Will any type of cold/flu symptom be causation for a student being sent home/kept home? COVID-19 has similar symptoms to many other viruses - it seems like it would be difficult to differentiate between them.

Please visit our COVID-19 page on the district website. There you will find a handbook for your reference. Within the handbook are protocols we will follow and are asking parents to follow. Although we always ask parents to screen their students before sending them to school, and to not send students to school showing symptoms, we know students will arrive with symptoms or develop symptoms while at school. In such cases, we will be removing the student from the

classroom and making arrangements for the student to get home. There is a 72-hour symptom free protocol that is in place and referenced in our materials.

What will the school do if a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19? What about if a student or staff member has a family member that has tested positive?

We have provided a handbook on our district website that will inform parents as to the protocols that have been set forth by Dickinson County Health. In short, parents/staff members/or in some cases the school, will notify the Dickinson County Health Office and advise them of the positive test or exposure to someone with a positive test. The health department will conduct contact tracing and notify all necessary people/families with whom the positive tested person had close contact. IMPS and local health will be certain to follow all FERPA confidentiality protocols.

How do you plan to hold any locker room type sports? Football, volleyball, etc. Doesn't seem possible?

Whether or not we have fall sports will depend on guidance from the Michigan High School Athletic Association. In the event we have fall sports we will follow all the guidelines for locker rooms, cleaning, equipment, PPE, disinfecting, etc., sent forth to us by Local and State Public Health officials and the MHSAA who works in conjunction with these agencies.

Will North students have art, gym, music?

Yes

I DO NOT want my child using cleaning materials/chemicals between classes. Hand sanitizer is fine but I do not want them using Clorox wipes all day everyday. How can I be assured by child will not have to touch or be exposed to these toxic chemicals? This is ridiculous that I have to worry about trading Corona for Cancer.

Students will be asked to clean up and take care of their personal workspace on occasion. This may at times include wiping down personal equipment/supplies and/or a workstation. We have estimated that in a given day a student may have contact with a Lysol wipe for about 60 seconds in a school day; however, we will also offer warm soap and water. If a student needs to wear a glove for this purpose we will have those available as well. We would also direct parents to the Material Safety Data Sheets for specific warnings on products. Hand sanitizer has more concerning language than cleaning products. However, all of our products are EPA approved.

My 5th grader is very anxious about having to wear a mask all day. I am willing to sign a waiver to omit my child from wearing a mask. Is this an option?

There will be mask breaks built into the day when students are with their cohort for extended periods of time of not mixing with other students. Other exceptions to masks are when eating, exercising, PE class, recess, medical reasons, or if a person is not able to physically remove their mask on their own. With the natural breaks built into the day through the scheduling process, and with added times masks can be removed for those that want to, masks will not be on all day. We understand some may never remove their mask and some will want to remove their masks whenever they have a chance. We are trying to balance both requests.

What will the procedure be when a student or teacher tests positive? The entire class (or classes in middle/high school) be asked to quarantine, correct? What about siblings?

The COVID-19 page on the district website gives more detail than can be explained here. In short, when a staff/student tests positive, the Dickinson Health Dept. will be notified. The health dept. will identify all those individuals with whom the student/staff member that tested positive came into close contact with and those individuals would also quarantine. Close contact is defined by health officials as "Closer than 6 feet for 15 minutes or longer."

It is not true that if a teacher/student tests positive the entire class would have to quarantine. According to Public Health, only those who had close contact (within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes) would have to quarantine. Many classrooms will be able to accommodate the 6 feet protocol.

What if at some point during the first semester I feel it's too dangerous for my student to attend school in person because of an increased number of COVID cases. Will you have a virtual option that will allow them to attend their regular classes (not virtual classes) from home? Distance Learning Option?

Yes. We will be monitoring the situation on a daily basis. If we begin to see student attendance drop the district will decide to close school and enter a virtual learning format. Also, we will be working closely with Public Health. If there is an increase in the number of cases in Dickinson County, the health department has a plan for advising the school to close. This is also being monitored at the state level.