



North Union Local School District
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Prepare • Challenge • Empower

Together with our community
Preparing students for a changing world
Challenging students to grow
Empowering students to achieve with purpose

August 13, 2021

Dear North Union Community:

A letter was sent on June 29, 2021 detailing our plan for continuity of school for the 2021- 2022 school year. You may review this letter by going to the COVID-19 link on the North Union Local Schools website, <https://www.n-union.k12.oh.us/covid.aspx?srlybrk=f40586c8>.

The plan for return has not changed since that date; however, some guidelines have been updated since then, and that is the purpose of this communication.

Facial Coverings:

1. Facial Coverings will remain optional at school and during school activities for the start of the 2021- 2022 school year.
2. However, federal regulations require proper use of face coverings on school transportation.
 - a. This document is also posted on the NU COVID-19 link on the website.
 - b. Legal guidance confirmed this requirement.
 - c. Signs are posted on school transportation indicating this requirement.
 - d. If students do not have a facial covering, one may be provided.
 - e. Bus drivers must focus on the safe operation of the bus. Enforcement of the facial covering policy will be secondary. We ask that families help with this encouragement.
3. Facial Coverings are proven to be an effective mitigation factor in preventing the spread of COVID-19.
4. Proper use of a face covering will prevent a quarantine if a student is considered a close contact at school.

Quarantine Procedures: A flowchart created by the Ohio Department of Health for exposure at school is also available on the NU COVID-19 link.

1. If a student has any of the following symptoms, please keep him/her at home.

Fever or chills	Cough	Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
Fatigue	Muscle or body aches	Congestion or runny nose
Sore throat	Nausea or vomiting	New loss of taste or smell
Diarrhea	Headache	Repeated shaking with chills
2. Please report all positive cases to Lindsay Cox, School Healthcare Provider, at 740-943-1701.
3. It is no longer required that we notify the entire district of each case; however, if a close contact is a possibility, families will be notified of the case along with instructions for next steps, if any, from the Union County Health Department.
4. The Union County Health Department will issue all quarantine guidance. The school will not.
5. The school will cooperate with the health department and families in the contact tracing process.
6. There may be a delay for a few days until the actual investigation. The school district asks families to follow the quarantine procedures once the health department issues them.
7. Students will prevent the possibility of quarantine if vaccinated when eligible and/or by wearing a facial covering.

In addition to mitigation strategies, the district's continuity plan also includes an academic plan, a non-academic plan, and a periodic review that includes public input. We will assist with access to a COVID-19 vaccination for anyone willing, eligible, and able to receive a vaccination.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Baird, Superintendent