



## REOPENING OF SCHOOLS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**August 5, 2020**

### **1. What are the exact protocols that are followed with the City and County Health Department when there is a positive case with a staff member or student at school?**

The Eau Claire City-County Health Department and the ECASD have a long history of partnerships for preventing and following up on communicable disease. We're educational professionals, and our partners are public health professionals. Each of us will be doing what it is that we do best.

Here could be an example of a situation:

- Health Department becomes aware of a positive case.
- HD interviews the person to ask about who they may have been in contact with, including family, coworkers, or others.
- If there are additional contacts (within 6 ft, 15 min) at the school, HD staff would work with the school to get names, seating charts, and contact information for those people.
- HD staff will then notify those close contacts and give guidelines for quarantine.

Student and staff safety is our highest priority. We have many safety measures in place, such as physical distance, masks, and cleaning. These are known to reduce the risk of disease transmission. We are doing this to help reduce the potential of close contacts that would need to quarantine.

Our public notification protocol depends on the situation and we'll notify as the Health Department directs us to. Transparency is important to us, and we are still in the process of determining the best way to keep our families notified of a changing situation. We will be making the most of the next four weeks to get our plan solidified and communicated with our families. We know the unknowns are difficult our families. Please be assured that we are working to get the best process in place that keeps people healthy, notified, and feeling like school is a safe place for their student, or for themselves. We are so grateful for the close relationship we have with the Health Department.

### **2. What will lunch periods look like at each level?**

They could look different at each level. We must determine our staffing, scheduling, and space. When that is complete, we will have answers on how lunches will be organized.

### **3. What steps is ECASD taking with high school students to keep the cohorts tight? Since so many students have varied schedules, are they going to be together or will they mix a good deal?**

Our modified schedule will limit the number of transitions, classrooms to visit, and can keep cohorts together as much as possible. Controlled transitions and the flow of traffic are important to maintain physical distance, as well. Limiting the courses that are face to face reduces the number of transitions, too.





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**4. Will there be more or less direct instruction this year with limited time in the classroom and limited student-to-student in-person (group work) contact?**

Teachers will plan for five days of learning and will design activities based on when they have students in face-to-face and remote settings, and they will determine the best strategies for learning in each setting.

**5. Are there modifications that will be made for hearing impaired students or those who rely on lip reading and masks?**

We have ordered masks with clear face shields to accommodate staff and students in a speech/language program. Furthermore, the Governor's Order and ECASD rule are consistent in addressing this situation – students and staff in such programs can remove their face coverings for instructional purposes.

**6. Do the instructional days for Cohorts A and B equalize with holidays/days off?**

The 2020-21 ECASD Academic Calendar will be adjusted based on the instructional model that was approved on July 20. This will be discussed at a future Board meeting, and we will be aligning those cohort days as closely as possible.

**7. For our 100% virtual students, when would the learning be synchronous (all students at the same time) and asynchronous (students learning at a time that works for them)?**

When a teacher is working remotely, he or she will create both types of opportunities for students. When teachers have virtual check-ins with students, those will be scheduled in real time. In this model, the staff will create virtual check in times for the student – for individual, small group, or large group.

### AUGUST 3, 2020

**8. Who do families call with questions?**

Families can reach out to the child's principal with questions.

**9. Why wouldn't we think about doing virtual for 1 month, then starting hybrid in October?**

Although other districts have chosen this route, our ECASD community had strongly supported either a hybrid or full-attendance five-day a week model in our survey from earlier this month. With over 4000 responses, there were almost 90% of those surveyed who had preferred those two. Consequently, during our close communication with Eau Claire City/County Health Director Lieske Giese and her staff, they are in support of our hybrid/blended model.





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### **10. If we choose the blended model but then change our mind, will we be able to move to 100% virtual at any time?**

Families that choose this option will only be able to change to virtual instruction during the 2020-21 school year if space permits.

### **11. What protocols will exist if my child does not feel safe at school in the hybrid model and want to switch to full online?**

As soon as there is space available in those courses, students will be able to move to the 100% virtual model.

### **12. If we chose full virtual will all classes be available including foreign language, art, music, drama, AP, and other specialized electives?**

Yes - we plan on offering all our ECASD courses that students registered for from the past year. We are scheduling students into electives as we have in the past; they may not have had their first choice in the past, but we are following the same model.

### **13. If we chose full virtual will my kids be able to participate in school sports or other extra curriculums?**

While we still are unsure about the WIAA and sports for the fall season, we have not heard anything from the WIAA to render virtual students ineligible. However, we have discussed virtual students' ability to participate in co-curricular and other extra-curricular activities. We do believe all students benefit from that time with their peers and a trusted coach or advisor.

### **14. What if we are struggling to decide by Wed, Aug 5th?**

If families cannot determine what is best for them, the default for their students is the hybrid-blended model. However, we must get firm commitments from families in order to finalize our staffing in four weeks. Families can view the school board meeting on August 3 for more information (or go to Board Docs to view the video), view the ECASD webpage for our virtual model, and visit our FAQ page, as we will update quickly after the August 3 Board meeting. We must update items on our instructional model and other protocols after the Board meeting to ensure parents get as much information as possible before the evening of August 5.

### **15. How quickly will classrooms/schools shift to virtual only in the event of a closure?**

If the Eau Claire City County Health Department or State of Wisconsin closes our schools, we will transition to a 100% virtual option as quickly as possible. Prior to having 1:1 devices for all students, we anticipate it could take up to one week. However, if all students had their devices, the transition could be as quickly as one day.

### **16. What cleaning protocols will take place each day? What will happen between groups of students, such as Wednesday or on the weekend?**

Enhanced cleaning protocols have been developed for all facilities in the District. Those protocols can be viewed here: [Daily Cleaning Protocol](#) and [Wednesday/Weekend Cleaning Protocol](#).





## REOPENING OF SCHOOLS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### 17. What happens if a student or staff member is diagnosed with COVID-19?

If an individual is diagnosed with COVID-19, the Eau Claire City-County Health Department will be immediately notified by that person's healthcare provider. The Health Department will then contact the District and provide guidance on actions that should be taken.

### 18. What is the plan for when teachers or students must quarantine? Who will teach and how will instruction be delivered/received?

We will take direction from the Eau Claire City/County Health Department if students or teachers are quarantined, and after contact tracing is completed, the ECCH Department will direct us to determine how many students/classrooms must be informed and how many will be impacted. Our ECASD teachers will teach the content virtually if they are able; if not, we will have our ECASD substitutes teach the coursework in their absence.

## JULY 23, 2020

### 1. If 1st and 2nd graders are at school all four days, will they have 20-25 kids in their classroom at the same time?

No, the order requires ECASD to comply with the 6-foot social distance requirement. They will have the same ratio of staff to students as other grade levels. The District has repurposed additional spaces and is prepared to secure additional staff to allow for all 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders to attend in person.

### 2. If students only attend M/T or Th/Fr, will my kids attend school on the same days?

Yes. The District is committed to assigning students within a family the same day within the A/B rotation. If a student is connected to more than one family/household, that student will be scheduled with at least one of the families within the rotation.

### 3. New devices for students will arrive after the start of the school year. How will you ensure all students will have a device at the start of the school year?

A survey was sent to all families on July 23 asking if they need a District-provided device until the new devices arrive. Based on the survey responses the District will then communicate to families needing a device regarding when and how to pick up the device.

### 4. What will the 100% virtual option look like?

Families who are interested in the 100% virtual option can find more information at [www.ecasd.us/covid-19](http://www.ecasd.us/covid-19).

### 5. How can I let the District know I would like to choose the 100% virtual option?



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Families were sent a survey on July 23 and asked to complete it prior to August 1, 2020. The survey asks families to indicate choice in the 100% virtual option.

### **6. If we choose the 100% virtual option but then change our mind, will we be able to return to our neighborhood school at any time?**

Families that choose this option will only be able to return to in-person instruction during the 2020-21 school year if space permits.

### **JULY 17, 2020**

#### **1. How do I find out what Step we are on in the Eau Claire City County Health Plan?**

The Eau Claire City County Health Department updates the status every two weeks. Our current step can be found on the [Eau Claire City County Health COVID-19 Information Hub](#), as well as in the current situation report linked from that hub.

#### **2. Does my child have to wear the mask provided by the state or can they bring their own?**

Students may wear masks provided by the state or District, or they may wear a mask provided from home.

#### **3. How will you handle an outbreak if a student or staff-person gets COVID?**

If an individual is diagnosed with COVID-19, the Eau Claire City-County Health Department will be immediately notified by that person's healthcare provider. The Health Department will then contact the District and provide guidance on actions that should be taken.

#### **4. Will the District return to traditional grading systems or will continue with the pass/fail model?**

Yes, the District will use traditional grading systems, including standards-based for students in grades PreK-5 and A-F for students in grades 6-12.

#### **5. Will families that opt to enroll in home schooling (registered home school student with the DPI) be allowed to return to specialty programming such as Montessori or Dual Immersion in the future?**

These students will relinquish their seat in those schools and programs. Students on the waiting lists for those schools and programs will then have an opportunity to be a member there. If families who relinquish their seat are interested in returning, they will be placed on the bottom of the waiting list.





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### 6. What is the plan for sports and extra-curriculars?

The District will follow Eau Claire City-County Health Department guidelines when it comes to extracurricular activities. We are awaiting additional guidance from the WIAA regarding athletic programs.

