



2021 Norwalk City School District Opening Guide

The Norwalk City School District is excited to welcome students and staff members back to school. As community health conditions change throughout Norwalk and Huron County, the manner in which students receive instruction and attend school may change quickly. The Norwalk City School District will prepare students and staff to use a variety of delivery methods and strongly encourages parents and families to plan for all possible scenarios. The priority for the Norwalk City School District will be to maintain in-person learning five days a week.

The Norwalk City School District will rely on guidance from the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Ohio Department of Health, The Ohio Department of Education and Huron County Public Health when establishing and adjusting operating practices for the district, school buildings or classrooms. Based on guidance from these agencies, the Norwalk City School District will implement the following practices to start the 2021-2022 school year:

Caregiver Expectations

- Ensure all contact information is up to date
- Ensure there are multiple prearranged and available methods for picking up a student from school should they become ill, need to be quarantined or exhibit symptoms of COVID-19
- Perform daily wellness checks at home before sending students to school
- Students with temperatures of 100°F or greater should not be sent to school. Students may return when fever free, without medication, for a period of 72 hours
- Do not send students to school if they have the following symptoms:
 - Fever or chills
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea
- Inform school staff at the beginning of the school year if students have chronic conditions that may mimic the symptoms of COVID-19 (above)

- Provide a water bottle for student use at school
- Families that have come in close contact with a person that has tested positive for COVID-19 should contact Huron County Public Health and follow their recommendations prior to returning to school

Transportation

- Masks are required for all students and staff
- No students in the seat behind the driver provided space is available
- Seating charts and assigned seats are required
- Space will be maintained between seats if possible
- Buses will be sanitized between morning and afternoon routes

Face Coverings

- Masks are optional for all students, staff and visitors in school buildings
- Masks are required on all transportation

Social Distancing in Classrooms

- Attempts will be made to establish a minimum distance of 3' between students in the classroom
- Classrooms should utilize the maximum amount of space available for student seating; non-essential furniture and materials may be removed in order to distance students and staff
- Teachers may switch classrooms instead of having students travel between classes

Social Distancing in Cafeterias

- Students should maintain social distancing guidelines in the cafeteria. If appropriate spacing is not possible, lunch schedules may be changed or additional areas may be used for lunch (including classrooms)
- Seating charts will be required

Social distancing in hallways

- Class changes may be staggered in order to encourage social distancing in hallways
- Floors may be marked in the elementary buildings to encourage distancing while waiting in hallways
- Traffic patterns in hallways may be adjusted and marked to encourage one-way flow as much as possible, stairwells may be designated as one-direction only

Daily cleaning of classrooms and common areas

- Custodians will prioritize sanitization of classrooms and common spaces over other cleaning responsibilities to the greatest extent practical
- The district will utilize newly purchased sanitation equipment to provide daily sanitation of surfaces

Access to hand sanitizer and washing of hands

- The district will teach, remind and encourage frequent hand washing
- Hand sanitizer will be widely available throughout buildings

Students with COVID-19 Procedures

- Protocols for students testing positive for COVID -19 will be developed in conjunction with Huron County Public Health
- Buildings will establish a dedicated room for symptomatic students until they can be picked up by parent or guardian

Quarantine Guidelines

- The Norwalk City School District will follow guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Ohio Department of Health and Huron County Public Health when determining quarantine practices

The Norwalk City School District reserves the right to add, remove or modify protocols as necessary.