

COMMON QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CONCERNING THE RETURN TO SCHOOL

Will a mask be provided to my child?

Yes. One mask will be provided by the district for your child. However, children should have at least one other mask to wear. Our Preparedness and Response Plan does require masks to be washed or changed daily, so some families will find it easier to have multiple masks per child.

What if my child comes to school without a mask?

Unfortunately, a phone call will be made to you and your child will not be permitted in class until a mask is provided. The school will have limited masks available, but the intention is for those to be used sparingly, not to distribute to those students who do not bring one to school.

What kind of mask should my child wear?

Facial masks may be homemade or disposable level-one (basic) grade surgical masks. Gaiter style face coverings and bandanas may also be worn, as long as the nose and mouth are covered. These guidelines are covered in the Preparedness and Response Plan.

Will there be “mask breaks” during the school day?

Yes. Every school will have mask breaks. These breaks will include the classroom going outside for a period of time. While outside, students and staff can take their masks off.

How will lunch period be different this year?

Lunch periods will be adjusted in schedule, location, and the number of students eating at one time. At Lakeview, Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten students will eat in their classroom. Grades 1-4 will each have the lunchroom to themselves (by grade) and then will be on the playground with students in the same grade. The middle school will work similarly to Lakeview, with each grade taking turns eating and having time outside separately. At the high school, students will eat in either the Commons or gymnasium and will continue to be divided between the two different lunch periods.

How will my child be able to keep a safe distance from other students on the school bus?

Some school buses may have more students than others, which is why we are requiring all students to wear a face covering on the bus. Family members will be asked to sit together on the bus as well. *Please be sure to answer the return to school questionnaire about your transportation plans so that our bus schedules will be accurate.

What if my child needs to be picked up during the day for an appointment, or if I need to drop off an item at the office? Am I allowed in the building?

The procedure for visitors coming inside the buildings during the school day will be adjusted. When you arrive at the school (to pick up your child, drop an item off, etc.), you will buzz at the door to notify the office like you normally have in the past. Once your identity is established, we will escort your child to you at the door/retrieve the item you are dropping off/etc. by coming to you at the door you are waiting at. The same procedure will apply to dropping items off, or bringing a child to school late. Please send a note with your child to let the teacher/office staff know the time they will be leaving and who will be picking them up.

What will band and chorus class be like? What about gym class?

These courses will be adjusted to make sure all students are safe. Weather permitting, these classes will be moved outdoors. Masks will be worn by students and staff at all times except for when instruments are played during band.

What if someone in the school tests positive for COVID-19? What will happen if my child presents with COVID-19 symptoms while they are at school? What if someone in our household tests positive for COVID-19?

The Marquette County Health Department has prepared a set of documents that outline different COVID-19 situations that may arise once the school year starts. These documents are included in this packet for your information and will answer the questions presented above. Please contact the Marquette County Health Department at 475-9977 if you have further questions about exposure to COVID-19.

Will my child's temperature be taken at the start of the school day?

Temperatures will only be taken if your child is feeling ill. Routine temperature checks will not be done at school. We encourage parents/guardians to monitor for COVID-19 symptoms prior to sending their child to school, this includes taking your child's temperature prior to leaving home in the morning.

What can I do at home to help prepare my child for the 2020-2021 school year?

To help prepare your child at home, please reinforce that all safety precautions in school are in place for a smooth start to the school year. It will also be important, especially for our younger students, to practice wearing their masks. Increase the amount of time each day until they are comfortable wearing it for an extended period of time.

I'm interested in Irontown Virtual for my child but want to know more about it. Where can I find more information?

Please email NPS Superintendent, Dan Skewis at dan.skewis@negauneeschools.org to request more information about our new online school.

What if we end up going to remote distance learning again like we did in the spring?

It will be very similar to what was done in March. The expectations will be a bit higher and all students will be required to turn assignments in. Letter grades will be given at the end of the marking periods and semester, instead of Credit/No Credit.

Where can I read the entire Preparedness and Response plan that Negaunee Public Schools will be following?

The Negaunee Public School Preparedness and Response Plan will be posted on our webpage at www.negauneeschools.org.

How do I take the Return to School Questionnaire?

You can find the questionnaire at <https://negaunee.k12.mi.us/form-redirect>. The link can also be found by visiting the NPS website at www.negauneeschools.org, or you may call 475-4156 ext.0 to provide your answers by phone. All families must submit their answers by 8:00 a.m on August 17.