

Frequently Asked Questions about Returning to School on August, 17,2020

The following Frequently Asked Questions document includes questions we have already received. While we have attempted to be exhaustive in producing the list, there still may be some less likely scenarios or questions that are not covered. You may submit your questions to returntoschool@lakes.k12.in.us. Answers to your questions will appear in this document.

1. How will the school calendar be different this year?

Lake Station Schools plan to keep the normal school calendar for the 2020-2021 school year and to meet the state requirement of 180 school days. However, we need to be flexible as possible as we know how quickly things can change.

2. What will be the biggest difference for our students and staff this year? Updated 7.24.20

The biggest change will be the need for students, staff, vendors, volunteers, and visitors to wear masks in school. Masks will need to be worn by **all students K – 12**, drivers, aides, coaches, and others while riding a school bus. Masks will need to be worn by all students and staff during passing periods, in the restroom, walking in the hallways, entering and leaving the school, and during instruction. Students at teacher discretion may remove their mask in classrooms if students are working individually and facing the same direction. Masks may be removed at recess, in P.E. athletic practices and games, or while eating/drinking. Teachers may remove their mask when they can maintain six (6) feet of social distancing from the students. Students and staff are free to wear a mask as much as they want. We ask that everyone have a mask with them at all times.

3. Why is the wearing of masks necessary? Updated 7.24.20

On July 20, 2020 the Lake County Health Department issued a public health order 20-01 about wearing a face mask and on July 24, 2020, Governor Holcomb issued an Executive Order 20-37 requiring masks to be worn. Health Experts at the national, state, and local level have stated that wearing a mask will significantly reduce the chance for people to spread or contract COVID-19. Our goal is to be able to maintain in person instruction for the entire school year. This will only be possible if the amount of COVID-19 spreading in our entire school community remains manageable. Alternative face coverings such as a bandana or a face shield are acceptable.

4. What else will be different this year?

Bus drivers will need to assign seats to students. Children from the same household will be required to sit together and students will not be permitted to ride a friend's bus. Students may only ride on their assigned bus and must sit in their assigned seat. Teachers and administrators will assign seats in classrooms and in the cafeteria at Edison. We will be washing our hands and/or using hand sanitizer more this year. Disinfecting/sanitizing of high traffic areas will be done frequently throughout the day. Visitors to school will be limited. Parents are asked to call the school first instead of just coming to school. Visitors may have their temperature taken and asked if they have any COVID-19 symptoms.

5. How will breakfast and lunch be different in the cafeteria?

Edison students will pick up their "grab and go" breakfast when they enter school and report to their first period class. Band and PE students will report directly to band and PE class and receive their breakfast there. For lunch students will be assigned to tables with separated seating when possible. Seating areas may be divided between the cafeteria, the junior high

gym, and the surge area. A bagged lunch will be served to students who do not bring their lunch. While at lunch, students may raise their hand if they need a restroom break. No cash will be handled so please pay for lunch accounts through Mealtime.

Elementary students will eat their meals in their classroom.

6. Will there be a standardized screening protocol for students and staff members before entering school?

Yes. All families and staff members are asked to self-screen their child or themselves before coming to school each day. If your child or our staff member is sick, they should stay home. Please call the school to report you are sick. Remember that our ability to limit the spread of COVID-19 in our school and community is essential for us to maintain face to face instruction. The following are COVID-19 related symptoms that should prompt students and staff to stay home until they subside:

- A fever of 100.4 or greater
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Repeated shaking and chills
- Muscle pain not due to exercise or participating in athletics
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell

7. What should parents do if their child or a member of the household tests positive (symptomatic or asymptomatic) for COVID-19?

If someone in your home test positive, then everyone in the household should also stay home for a minimum of 14 days.

8. How will the school be notified of positive cases?

Parents are asked to call the school immediately within 24 hours upon learning of a positive COVID-19 test. The school will then contact the local health department who will be responsible for contacting individuals who have been in close contact with the individual who has tested positive.

9. Will the school require a healthcare provider's note to return to school if a student is sent home with COVID-19 symptoms?

If a student has symptoms of COVID-19, they should be presumed to be positive and quarantine for 14 days and be free of fever for 72 hours without the use of fever reducing medicine before returning to school. If the child's healthcare provider determines the symptoms were caused by something other than COVID-19, and the student is free of fever without the use of fever reducing medicine, the child may return to school with a note from the healthcare provider.

10. If the health department or other contact tracing personnel contact the school, what information will the school share?

The school will share with authorities the names of other students with whom they individual with the positive test had close contact. This could include who they sit next to on the bus, at lunch, or in the classroom.

11. What will the school do after being notified that a student or staff member or a member of their household has tested positive for COVID-19?

If the school is notified by the student, parent/guardian, or a staff member, we will contact the Lake County Department of Health.

12. If my child becomes ill at school for any reason, will I be able to come inside to pick them up?

Visitors to school are going to be restricted. If a child becomes sick at school, we will ask the parent/guardian to call the office when they arrive and a nurse, health assistant, principal, or other staff member will escort the child to the main office door at the elementary schools, and to the North Shore Health Clinic door at Edison to meet you.

13. What is the school corporation doing to ensure cleaner buildings?

Since March the school maintenance and custodial staff have been doing extra cleaning and sanitizing of our schools. Our maintenance and custodial staff return to work on July 20, 2020. They will get additional training on using the new cleaning and disinfectant products and equipment. Frequent and daily cleaning/disinfecting of desks, doorknobs, cabinet handles and other commonly touched surfaces will be done. Additionally, as in the past all offices, nursing stations and restrooms will be cleaned throughout the day.

14. Will the elementary students still have recess?

Yes, Students will go outside for recess weather permitting. We will be limiting the number of classes (2-3 only) out on the playground at a time. Students will clean their hands after recess.

15. Will students who report to the nurse's office with COVID-19 symptoms be isolated?

Yes. The student or staff member will report to the nurse's office. If they have COVID-19 symptoms there will be a separate area for them to be seated and wait until they are picked up. Students going to the nurse's office for other reasons (daily medications for example) will be separated from those with COVID-19 like symptoms.

16. How will the school district accommodate students and families who choose not to return to school in person?

We respect the views and decisions of our families and understand that concerns may arise as to how families want to have their child educated during this time. Please know we have the opportunity to offer various educational options to best meet the needs of your child. If you are interested in hearing about these eLearning options please contact your child's principal for details.

17. What is the amount of infection that would cause us to temporarily suspend in class instruction and place the entire district into remote online learning?

This question has been discussed at length with the Lake County Health Department and the Indiana State Department of Health, but we have not yet come up with exact number of students or staff absences that would warrant such a decision. We are being told it would be dependent upon the amount of pressure being placed on our health care systems, which varies by community. If hospitals are nearing capacity and infections rates are rising, we believe the health departments will make the decision to close school and return to online remote learning. We will not make any decision without consulting with both the county and state departments

of health. Our ability to limit the spread locally is the only way we can ensure that we will be able to offer in school instruction.

New Question/Answers Added July 23,2020

18. How will online eLearning instruction work?

The principal will give you details. The Edison Jr. Sr. High principals will return Monday, July 27, 2020 and the elementary principals will return August 3, 2020.

19. Can an Edison High School student attend eLearning and go to the ACC?

Yes. Bussing will be provided from Edison High School. Students may also drive themselves if a school waiver form is on file in the high school main office.

20. Will students and teachers have temperature checks every morning before going to class?

Lake Station Schools is providing to all of our students a Wellness Kit. The kit will have a mask, hand sanitizer, and a thermometer. Parents need to check their students each morning for symptoms and a fever. If your child has a temperature or symptoms, they need to stay home. Please call the school to report your child's absence.

Teachers and other school staff will also be doing self-screenings at home for symptoms and a fever before reporting to school each day.

21. Will there be a 6th grade orientation program this year and how will it work?

Yes. Parents will get information by email starting Wednesday, July 29, 2020. We understand starting at a new school is overwhelming especially now during such an unprecedented time. We will have the orientation at school over several days so the groups are smaller and our time together can be more personal.

22. Will there be Back to School Nights at the schools?

Bailey and Hamilton Elementary Schools will have a virtual Back to School Night. Information will be sent out to parents after school starts.

23. What should we do if we want to continue with eLearning?

You will need to register for school online. When you get to the question that asks your preference that is where you choose online or in school. The school will contact you with information.

24. Do band students have to carry their instruments and music stand with them all day?

No. Band students will be able to report to the band room in the morning as they report to school to put their instrument and music stand away.

25. If my child only has a fever; do they wait 72 hours before returning to school? Updated 8.1.20

If your child only has a fever, you need to do the following 2 things.

1. They have to wait 24 hours fever free (without the use of medicines to reduce the fever) and
2. A health care provider releases your child to return to school.

26. How often will student desks be disinfected?

At Edison desks will be disinfected between each class period. At the elementary schools, they will be disinfected periodically throughout the day and as needed.

27. Do I still need to register online if my child is doing eLearning?

Yes. When you get to the question that asks your preference that is where you choose online or in school.

28. Will Edison Jr. Sr. High offer online learning as an alternate?

Yes. When you get to the question that asks your preference that is where you choose online or in school.

29. Will eLearning be available all year?

Yes. eLearning will be available all year.

30. Will the eLearning option be through computers or packets?

eLearning will be using computers.

31. Will each student participating in eLearning receive a device from the school?

Lake Station Schools will provide at least one (1) device per household. Call the school where your child would attend if going to school for information on how to get a device.

New Questions/Answers Added July 24, 2020

32. How will students be able to participate in P.E. and other contact sports without coming in contact with other students?

Students will participate in P.E. outside weather permitting. Social distancing as much as possible will occur. Students will clean their hands after P.E. and any equipment used will be disinfected between classes. Contact games will be replaced with other physical education activities in P. E. class.

33. Is there a deadline to select eLearning?

Wednesday, August 12, 2020. This will give the school time to plan and prepare for your child in the eLearning experience.

34. Can Edison students use regular size backpacks since lockers cannot be used?

No, drawstring bags are only allowed. For safety reasons, we want to limit the number of items that students bring to school each day. Teachers have adjusted their classroom procedures to accommodate that students do not have lockers. The supplies students will need throughout the day can easily be contained in a drawstring bag e.g. lunch, pencil case with writing utensils, a calculator, a multi-subject notebook, two-pocket folder(s), hand sanitizer. We will also have supplies available at school in the event a student is in need.

35. What if my student is an athlete, what do they do with their practice items during the day?

Athletes will be assigned athletic lockers for practice and game items.

36. Have you thought about students staying in their classrooms and the teachers moving class to class?

Yes. Students at Edison have a wide range of courses varying in subject and level. Due to this, it isn't possible to keep students in one classroom all day while rotating the teachers.

New Questions/Answers Added July 28, 2020

37. In order to play sports are students required to do in person learning?

No. Students can participate in sports if they do in person learning or eLearning.