

*Grand*

**RE-OPENING!**

 **MILFORD**

*Welcome Back Eagles!*

**FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL: August 18, 2021**

**We are excited to welcome **ALL** of our  
Eagles safely back to our buildings!**

*(This document was last updated November 18, 2021  
to reflect updated mask guidance - page 4)*

## REFLECTIONS FROM THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

Milford Exempted Village School District is committed to providing quality learning opportunities in a safe environment while consistently re-evaluating and adjusting as needed.

The District released a "[Return to Learning Plan](#)" document prior to the start of the 2020-2021 school year. That plan, like this plan, was created with the intention of providing the safest, most feasible option for our 6,600 students and 700 staff members.

Families were given two learning options for their children for the 2020-2021 school year: to attend in-person or to attend the district's new Eagle Online learning platform. 80.14 percent of our Milford students attended in-person during the 2020-2021 school year, and 19.86 percent attended Eagle Online.

During the 2020-2021 school year, students who chose online learning through our Eagle Online platform did not attend in-person. Eagle Online was a completely remote learning model. Milford teachers provided direct instruction to students remotely.

During the 2020-2021 school year, in-person students learned inside our school buildings daily with safety protocols in place. The goal of our safety protocols was to keep our school buildings open as long as possible. Milford School District was one of a limited number of school districts in our region to offer parents a choice between two learning options, and we were one of a limited number of school districts able to keep our in-person learning option consistently open, with a few exceptions: our high school students switched to remote learning twice during the school year - first due to the high number of students and staff on quarantine and second due to the large number of students attending school while feeling ill and then later testing positive for COVID-19, potentially exposing their peers and staff. At the elementary school buildings, there were a few instances during the school year where a grade level or a few classrooms were switched to remote learning due to positive cases.

Our goal in developing last year's plan and this year's plan is to make the return to school as safe as possible for everyone. The pandemic is not over. In order for

any plan to be successful, we must be able to collaborate with and count on our students and families, and count on their flexibility, understanding, patience, and consideration. For this Grand Re-Opening Plan to be successful, we know the school district, families, students, and community must each do its part, working together to provide quality learning opportunities in the safest environment for all students.

The [Centers for Disease Control](#) has placed great emphasis on the importance of all students returning to school buildings to learn in person. We agree, which is why **for the 2021-2022 school year, online learning is no longer an option. Eagle Online will not be offered during the 2021-2022 school year.**

Although the District will utilize hygiene, cleaning, and safety procedures in each building in an attempt to decrease the likelihood of infection, a certain level of inherent risk of being in a public place cannot be eliminated.

Just like last school year, decisions this school year will be made based on data and we will follow recommendations and mandates from state and local officials.

## **STATE GUIDANCE, RECOMMENDATIONS, MANDATES, AND LAW**

During the entirety of the 2020-2021 school year, students and staff were mandated to wear a face mask, following orders from Ohio Gov. DeWine. As students head back to school this fall, Ohio's mask mandate has expired. Instead, the Ohio Department of Health, in conjunction with the Centers for Disease Control, has strongly recommended the use of masks. In the [COVID-19 Health Prevention and Guidance for Ohio K-12 Schools](#) publication, ODH states: "Masks have been proven to be extremely effective in slowing the spread of the virus. Ohio researchers conducted an evaluation last year that showed that masking helped control the spread of the virus in Ohio schools. ODH strongly recommends that those who are unvaccinated wear masks while in school."

**There are no current health safety mandates that Ohio school districts must follow.**

Ohio Gov. DeWine signed legislation ([House Bill 244](#)) prohibiting public schools

and universities from requiring students or staff to receive the emergency authorized COVID-19 vaccination to attend classes. The legislation also requires public schools and universities to treat COVID-19 vaccinated and unvaccinated students and employees equally.

The legislation will not go into effect until mid-October. Regardless of the effective date, Milford School District has affirmed that it will follow the guidance of the newly signed legislation immediately.

Further, if any mandates are issued, Milford School District will follow them.

## **ENHANCED HEALTH SAFETY PROTOCOLS FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR:**

### **CLEANING PROTOCOLS**

- Custodians will continue to ensure staff are provided with supplies needed daily, including disinfectant and paper towels.
- Custodians will use Virex when cleaning classrooms daily after school.
- Custodians will disinfect common areas regularly, including, but not limited to: door handles, handrails, toilets, stalls, and sinks.
- An electrostatic disinfectant sprayer will be utilized every 60 days.
- The district will continue to use MERV-13 air filters.

### **MASK WEARING**

- **UPDATED NOV. 18, 2021 - At their November 11, 2021 meeting, the Board of Education voted to end the mask mandate for our elementary schools on Nov. 30. When students come back to school after Thanksgiving break on Tuesday, November 30, masks will be strongly recommended. Masks remain strongly recommended at our junior and senior high school buildings. Masks are still required on buses for all grades - this is a federal requirement that expires on January 18, 2022.**
- **Preschool students and staff are not required to wear a face mask or face covering. However, all pre-school students are welcome to wear a mask if they choose.**
- **Outside organizations not affiliated with Milford Schools, who utilize our buildings, are highly encouraged to wear masks.**

### **DAILY SELF-MONITORING**

- Students and staff are encouraged to practice personal health hygiene, including covering their cough and sneezes, washing their hands, and

staying home when sick.

- Staff and families should perform a health assessment, just like last year, before coming to school each day. By staying home when you are not feeling well, you will not only help protect others from COVID-19, but will also help stop the spread of illnesses such as the flu.

### **STUDENT AND STAFF ILLNESS**

- Students and staff with a fever over 100F should stay home.
- Any staff or student who has the following symptoms of COVID-19 should stay home from school:
  - Two of the following symptoms: fever, chills, rigors, myalgia, headache, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion, or runny nose; OR
  - Any of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new olfactory disorder, new taste disorder.
- If a student is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, a parent/guardian must report their child's symptoms to the district by either calling the hotline: (513) 576-4150, or by filling out the [secure form](#).
- If a student receives a positive COVID-19 test result, a parent/guardian must report the results to the district by either calling the hotline: (513) 576-4150 or by filling out the [secure form](#).

### **RETURNING TO SCHOOL AFTER ILLNESS**

- If a student or staff member is diagnosed with COVID-19, they must meet the following criteria to return to school:
  - 24 hours with no fever - without the use of fever reducing medication, AND
  - Other symptoms improved, AND
  - It has been 10 days since last symptoms first appeared

- Students and staff who only have a fever and no other symptoms and have not had any contact with an individual who has COVID-19 may return to school after they are fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications.
- Any other illnesses should be handled in the routine manner according to district policies.

### **STUDENT ABSENCES**

Families should communicate with their principal, teachers and/or intervention specialist to create a plan for absences. Teachers will post assignments, materials, and potentially recorded lessons on Schoology. Teachers will be available to conference with students/families via an appointment process. If there are extended absences, the district may explore educational options with the family that may include home instruction.

### **COMMUNICATIONS TO FAMILIES WHEN A STUDENT/STAFF MEMBER HAS BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH COVID-19**

An [order from the Ohio Governor's Office](#) continues the mandate of requiring school districts to report students testing positive for COVID-19. If your child is ill and they are exhibiting the symptoms of COVID-19, parents must report their child's symptoms to us either by calling our hotline (513) 576-4150 or [filling out a secure form](#). If your child receives a positive COVID-19 test, you must report the results to the school district.

The district is required to report the information to our local health department, and also report the positive COVID-19 case to other parents/guardians. When we know of a confirmed positive COVID-19 case, we will send an email to all parents who have a student in that building. Additional communication will go to parents who have a student in the same classroom or ride the same bus.

Parents of students who may have been exposed to the confirmed positive COVID-19 case will receive a telephone call from the District and/or the Clermont County Health Department with instructions for quarantining. Even if a quarantine is not necessary, due to vaccination status or mask wearing, parents will still receive a phone call from the

District letting them know their student was a close contact and to monitor for symptoms.

If you hear of a case and you were not contacted by phone then you can safely assume the case was not in your child's school, classroom, or on your child's bus and your child does not need to be quarantined.

Each time there is a positive COVID-19 case we will not send an email district wide. Only parents/guardians who have children in the buildings where the positive COVID-19 case was reported will receive communication from us. We may or may not issue a press release or post on social media. However, updated information will be available on [this website page](#).

### **COVID-19 DASHBOARD**

Our [online COVID-19 Reporting Dashboard](#) includes current numbers of positive cases present in our buildings as well as a running total of all cases since August 2020.

- The COVID-19 Reporting Dashboard was created to give parents, staff, and the Milford community a transparent report on the current cases and quarantines within our district.
- The intent of the Dashboard is to provide easily-accessible, factual data and to eliminate confusion of the number of current actual cases versus the number of students or staff who may be absent due to other illnesses, self-quarantining, or any other numerous reasons.
- Information on the Dashboard is compiled by the District Nurse based on a count of lab-confirmed, positive cases.
- The District will not share personally identifiable information about individuals who have tested positive.
- The Dashboard includes the number of students and staff who have tested positive and who are in quarantine.

- The Dashboard does not include students or staff who choose to self quarantine.
- The Dashboard will be updated at least once weekly.

### **QUARANTINE GUIDANCE**

Download the latest quarantine guidance from the Ohio Department of Health [from this page on our website](#). Quarantines will occur at the direction of the Clermont County Department of Health, in conjunction with rules established by the Ohio Department of Health.

### **WHAT HAPPENS WHEN SOMEONE IS DIAGNOSED WITH COVID-19?**

- The person who has tested positive will need to isolate themselves from others for 10 days from symptom onset or if asymptomatic, they must isolate themselves for 10 days from the positive test result.
- Clermont County Public Health (CCPH) will be contacted when the district is made aware of a student or staff member who has tested positive for COVID-19.
- A positive case will prompt an investigation. The school district will work with CCPH in contact tracing to identify close contacts of the case and possible exposure to COVID-19.

### **NEW MASK TO STAY - TEST TO PLAY QUARANTINE GUIDANCE**

The Ohio Department of Health has announced (October 25, 2021) updated alternative guidelines for quarantines in schools. The **“Mask to Stay – Test to Play”** guidelines are designed to help keep students in school and reduce long term quarantines out of school. These guidelines *are optional*, and parents may choose to follow standard quarantine rules\*. These guidelines only apply to students *who were exposed within the school setting*. Those who were exposed

*outside* of school, such as through a family member, should still follow standard quarantine practices.

### **MASK TO STAY**

Those *unmasked* or *unvaccinated* and *asymptomatic* - who were exposed to Covid from **INSIDE the school setting** - are no longer required to follow standard quarantine rules\* and may remain in school if the following criteria are met:

- Wear a mask to school for 14 days from the exposure.
- Parent(s) monitor child's symptoms at home.
- Exposed person isolates if symptomatic.
- Masking may discontinue on day 8 if no symptoms are present and they receive a negative Covid test result after day 5 of exposure. This test must be a PCR or rapid antigen test. The test cannot be an over-the-counter test that is entirely self-administered.

Note: students who are vaccinated do not have to quarantine. It is recommended that they wear a mask for 14 days from the exposure.

### **TEST TO PLAY**

Those who have been exposed to Covid and participating in school-sponsored extracurricular activities who are *asymptomatic* can continue to participate in school activities if they:

- Test as soon as they are notified following exposure; students may not participate until the first test result is received and is negative.
- Wear a mask when reasonable such as riding on team bus, in locker room, while sitting or standing on sidelines, etc. for 14 days from exposure.
- If tested again on day 5 or later, and the test is negative, they will test out of quarantine and can return immediately without a mask. This test must

be a PCR or Rapid antigen test. The test cannot be an over-the-counter test that is entirely self-administered.

*\* Standard quarantine rules: a student must quarantine at home for 10 days following last date of exposure*

## **WHAT ABOUT SCHOOL WORK WHILE A CLOSE CONTACT IS QUARANTINED?**

If a student must quarantine, assignments, materials and potentially recorded lessons will be available on Schoology.

## **SOCIAL DISTANCING**

Per the CDC, the priority is getting all kids back into the school building, so in some circumstances we may not be able to maintain social distance.

## **SEATING CHARTS**

Each school building will keep strict seating charts for buses, classes, and lunchrooms, in order to contact trace. This information will be used to inform students, parents, and staff of any exposure, as well as any potential quarantines, based on exposure. Quarantining will be based upon the latest guidelines from the Ohio Department of Health and Clermont County Public Health.

## **BARRIERS**

The desk shields/barriers utilized by students last school year will not be used during the 2021-2022 school year.

## **BUILDING OFFICES/VESTIBULES & VISITORS AT LUNCH**

School building offices/vestibules will be open. Visitors are not permitted during lunch.

## **PICK-UP AND DROP-OFF PROTOCOLS**

- Elementary Buildings: Specific procedures will be developed by building and communicated to parents.

- Junior High and High School: Students will not be permitted on campus prior to 7:15 A.M. (half an hour before the school day begins at 7:45 a.m.). Unlike last school year, parents will be allowed to enter the building to pick up their child. Specific procedures will be developed by building and communicated to parents and students as part of their first day activities.

### **HEALTH SERVICES PROTOCOLS**

- Parents/guardians are required to ensure their contact information is up to date in the event the nurse needs to contact them.
- Parents/guardians are required to ensure there are multiple, pre-arranged methods of picking up a student from school should they become ill or exhibit symptoms.

### **VOLUNTEERS**

Volunteers are permitted with prior approval from the principal.

### **VIRTUAL OR IN-PERSON MEETINGS**

School meetings, including parent-teacher conferences, will be offered in person or virtually.

### **WATER FOUNTAINS**

Water fountains will again be turned off and will not be used this school year. However, water bottle filling stations are located in each building.

### **ASSEMBLIES**

Assemblies, school events, and PTO/PTA sponsored activities may take place. Assemblies will utilize smaller groups, distancing with ventilation, and be held outdoors when possible.

### **FIELD TRIPS**

Field trips will resume but parents may opt out.

### **CHOIR AND BAND**

Students may participate in choir and band as normal. Performances and concerts will resume.

## **EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND ATHLETIC EVENTS**

Families and community members will once again be able to attend small and large events, including performances and athletic games. No guidance has been given to date from the Ohio High School Athletic Association. There are no current restrictions in place. There will be no limits on spectators attending events.

## **SCHOOL MEALS**

All Milford students are eligible for free breakfast and lunch. Extra meals and ala-carte items are priced accordingly. [Read more online.](#)