

Fremont City Schools' reopening plan unveiled: at-home and at-school options available

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There will be at-school and at-home learning options for students at Fremont Ross High School and Fremont City Schools when they return to class for the 2020-2021 school year. The FCS district released its reopening plan Monday. *(Photo: File)*

FREMONT - Fremont City Schools' reopening plan includes at-school and at-home learning options for students during the 2020-2021 school year.

The plan, which is based on the county's risk level, covers multiple different safety scenarios and recommendations for its at-school option, aligned with Ohio's four COVID-19 risk levels for counties.

Superintendent Jon Detwiler said the school district anticipates Gov. Mike DeWine may issue additional health orders in the near future, including the possibility that everyone would be required to wear masks at school.

"Which actually will tweak our plan," Detwiler said.

[DeWine already announced new safety guidelines \(/story/news/local/2020/07/07/local-school-districts-hope-unveil-reopening-plans-fall-soon/3286236001/\)](#) earlier this month for K-12 school districts in Ohio as they prepare for the 2020-2021 school year.

Guidelines included vigilantly assessing symptoms, washing and sanitizing hands, thoroughly cleaning and sanitizing school environments, practicing social distancing and developing a face-covering policy.

Detwiler said Monday families who want to use the online-learning only option at FCS must register to do so by July 31.

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He said the district is asking parents that choose the at-home learning option to commit to one full semester at a time during the school year.

Students may return from online learning to school at the semester break.

The school district will be asking educators to teach in the virtual classrooms based on the response from parents during at-home learning registration.

How many students opt for the at-home learning option could depend on how high the number of Sandusky County COVID-19 cases go, Detwiler said.

"I can see the percentage of students that take the at-home option to get higher," Detwiler said.

According to the district's reopening plan, the at-home learning requirements will be different and more rigorous than they were this spring.

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All students will work with a Fremont City School teacher and follow Ohio Learning Standards.

Students in grades K-5 will follow Fremont City Schools' curriculum. Students in grades 6-12 will be enrolled in a comprehensive learning program.

Sandusky County is currently at a Risk Level 2 on Ohio's Public Health Advisory System color-coded risk level chart.

If Sandusky County is at Level 1, staff in school buildings for at-school learning are required to wear face coverings and students are strongly encouraged

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Inside school buildings under Level 1, classrooms and cafeterias would operate at full capacity using the maximum space available, with social distancing encouraged for all students.

At Level 2, students' daily temperatures may be taken by school personnel and face coverings will be required at school for students, teachers and staff.

There will be attempts made during the day to provide a break from the face coverings, according to the reopening plan.

The Level 2 face-covering mandate will be extended to Fremont buses for students and staff.

At Level 2, there may one-way hallways in buildings and cafeteria space may be extended into other areas to encourage social distancing.

If Sandusky County reaches Level 3, FCS will implement hybrid instruction between at-school and at-home learning. Students will be divided into two learning groups by last name.

Students with last name beginning with A-K will come to school on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Students with last name beginning with L-Z will come to school on Thursdays and Fridays.

Wednesday will be used to allow FCS buildings to be cleaned thoroughly and teachers to plan and virtually meet with students as needed.

Students will be expected to complete assignments from teachers when not physically in the school building.

Detwiler said the district is still trying to flesh out details for how to socially distance extracurricular activities such as band, choir and theater.

He noted the Ohio High School Athletic Association currently is planning to start fall sports practice Aug. 1.

All county public school systems are planning to use the state's risk level system as the basis for their school reopening plans, Detwiler said, with some variations on rules and recommendations from district to district.

The full FCS reopening plan can be found on the school district's web site at docs.google.com/document/d/1FoN_AleyMwSXpdVdT8qK5DdMjb0yydPDcPecWcQxfno/edit (https://docs.google.com/document/d/1FoN_AleyMwSXpdVdT8qK5DdMjb0yydPDcPecWcQxfno/edit).

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