



# 2020-2021 Return to Learn Plan

## Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

The purpose of this document is to share some frequently asked questions and responses. Answers are meant to be a guide to support families as we prepare for the 2020 – 2021 school year.

### 1. What has the MISD done to prepare for the upcoming school year?

The Macomb Intermediate School District is working on plans for the upcoming school year. Many factors will affect the final outcome of plans including the Governor's announcements, county data, the MI Safe Start Phases of our region and CDC guidelines.

[Macomb County Health Department Guidelines Responding to Cases of COVID-19](#)

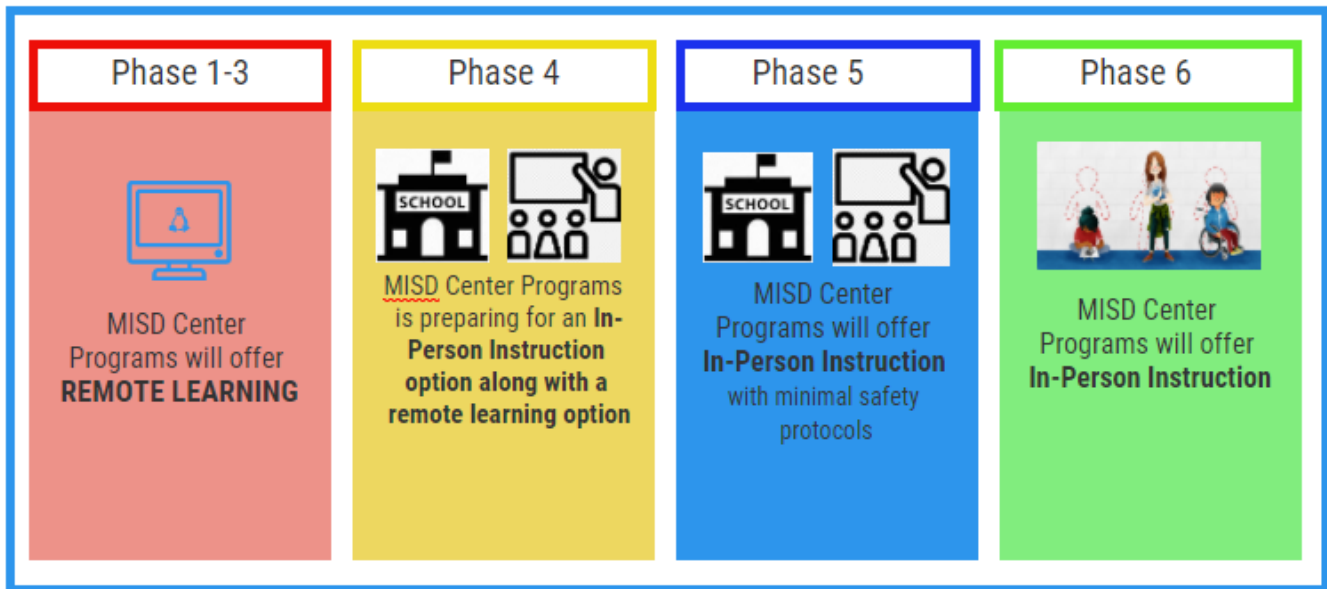
### 2. What does each phase of the MI Safe Start Plan mean for school in the fall?

- Phase 1-3 requires schools to close and offer remote learning.
- Phase 4 allows school districts to choose between a hybrid option, where students attend in-person instruction on a reduced or limited schedule, and a traditional five day a week schedule. This phase has many required health and safety actions that schools must implement.
- Phase 5-6 allows schools to return to in-person instruction five days a week with some health and safety required actions.

### 3. What is the MISD's plan for the return to school in the fall?

If phase 4 is in place, the Macomb ISD Center Programs is preparing for an in-person instruction option along with a remote learning option. Additional information will be in your return to school packet.

Our district will follow the health and safety recommendations from the State of Michigan, the Macomb County Health Department, and CDC for in-person instruction. Plans for **in-person instruction** are outlined in the [Macomb Intermediate School District COVID-19 Preparedness and Response plan](#).



**4. Will teachers receive training for the upcoming school year?**

Teachers will be provided professional learning opportunities prior to the beginning of the school year.

**5. What social distancing practices will be implemented in the buildings?**

We will implement social distancing practices to the greatest extent possible, however, due to the nature of our student populations, social distancing guidelines will be difficult to implement in all settings.

- As feasible, student work spaces and students will be spaced six feet apart.
- Signage and floor markings will be utilized in the buildings.
- Limited crowding at entry and exit points. Designated staff will transport students to and from the classroom.
- Limited classrooms in the hallways at any given time.

**6. Will students be required to wear a facial covering?**

Students with disabilities in grade 6 thru post-secondary will be encouraged to wear facial coverings as tolerated. Any student that is unable to medically tolerate a facial covering must not wear one. Any student that is incapacitated or unable to remove the facial covering without assistance, must not wear one. Facial coverings for children ages 3 and 4 will be at the discretion of the parent/guardian. Staff will provide lessons on the use of face coverings in the school environment.

**7. Will staff be required to wear a facial covering?**

Face coverings will be worn by all district staff who can medically tolerate a facial covering. KN95 masks will be available for staff performing medical procedures such as nebulizer treatments.

Specialized face coverings for staff will be provided for individual therapies and unique student needs.

**8. Will the district provide face coverings, or can students bring their own?**

Face coverings will be provided for students who can wear facial coverings as tolerated. Students may wear face coverings provided by parents/families. Clean face coverings must be worn daily.

**9. What steps will the school district take to promote good hygiene and healthy practices?**

- Hand washing/sanitizing will be available for all students and staff upon moving throughout the building, before and after eating and activities, etc.
- Staff and Students will be advised to use hand sanitizer or hand washing as they enter a new space in the building.
- Staff members will distribute and monitor the use of hand sanitizer, especially for young children.
- Classroom activities where supplies would normally be shared will be limited.
- Staff will teach and reinforce hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and/or the safe use of hand sanitizer.
- Ongoing cleaning of frequently touched surfaces and classroom items.
- Bathrooms will be frequently cleaned throughout the day.

**10. How will staff help students adjust to any changes in classroom routine/environment?**

- Staff will provide lessons and reinforce new routines with the use of signage and visuals throughout the building.
- Lessons in the use of universal precautions and PPE will be taught to students as a new classroom routine.
- Changes to scheduling, lunchtimes, physical education, and therapy sessions will be modeled and practiced.
- Outdoor activities will be utilized as much as possible,

**11. How will staff meet the needs of students who require physical prompts including hand over hand support to complete school tasks and progress toward their educational goals?**

We understand this will be necessary in some learning situations to ensure students receive the support they need for educational benefit, progress and health and safety. The use of PPE by staff allows for the necessary physical supports and/or prompts. In addition, this will require frequent hand washing and the use of sanitizer.

**12. How will the district handle students who attempt to elope the classroom or building?**

Student safety remains a top priority. Staff will continue to practice the safety measures currently in place with the addition of personal protection equipment.

**13. Will the schools have outdoor activities?**

Outdoor activities will be scheduled as much as possible, weather permitting.

**14. Will the pools in the buildings be open for student use?**

At this time, pools will be closed. Other activities will be in place.

**15. Will the district be offering transportation?**

Yes, the MISD will continue to transport students with safeguards in place.

**16. What safeguards will be in place with transportation?**

Students transported by bus will receive a thermo-check prior to boarding the bus with parent/guardian present. Students will use district provided hand sanitizer at the time of boarding. Students with disabilities in grade 6 thru post-secondary will be encouraged to wear facial coverings as tolerated. Busses will be sanitized daily.

**17. What precautions will be in place for lunch?**

Classrooms will be utilized for eating in place (breakfast and lunch). Additional sanitation with food safe cleansers will take place before and after meal times.

**18. How often will the schools be cleaned?**

- Buildings will be thoroughly cleaned each day.
- Classrooms will be have hand sanitizer and disinfectant spray to clean tables and frequently touched surfaces.
- Bathrooms will be frequently cleaned throughout the day.

**19. What procedures will be in place when a student or staff enters the school building?**

- Identified entrances and exits have been determined for school entry.
- Limit crowding at entrance and exit points.
- Points of entry have been minimized, and these protocols will continue to be followed and monitored.
- Students transported to and from school by parent/guardian will be met outside the building by designated staff. A thermo-check will be completed prior to entry with designated transporter present.
- Students transported by bus will receive a thermo-check prior to boarding the bus with parent/guardian present. Students will use district provided hand sanitizer at the time of boarding.
- All MISD staff will be required to complete wellness check, and a thermo-check prior to entering the building at the start of their day.

**20. Will parents/guardians be allowed in the building?**

- School entry will be limited to essential workers only.
- If a parent/guardian enters the building, a mask must be worn, a health check form completed, thermo-check administered, and disinfect their hands with hand sanitizer.

**21. What are the symptoms of COVID-19 that I need to look for with my child?**

According to the Macomb County Health Department Guidance Document, symptoms of possible COVID-19 in students include the following. These symptoms should be new or different/worse than baseline for any existing chronic illness. A student with any of these symptoms should also be questioned about a history of close contact/potential exposure to the COVID-19 virus.

**Symptoms**

- Temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher when taken by mouth
- Sore throat
- New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (for students with chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline).
- Diarrhea, vomiting or abdominal pain
- New onset of severe headache, especially with fever

**22. What is the process in place for a suspected case of COVID-19 in the school?**

- District protocols/guidance will follow the Macomb County Health Department guidelines.
- HIPAA and FERPA laws will be followed at all times.
- All schools will have a designated quarantine area for students who become ill with COVID-19 symptoms during the school day as outlined by the Macomb County Health Department.

- Administration and/or school nurse will contact the parent/guardian directly for student pick up.
- Parents and guardians are encouraged to monitor their student's temperature and symptoms of COVID-19 identified by the Macomb County Health Department. They are requested to contact the school and follow-up with their primary health care provider if their student is exhibiting identified COVID -19 symptoms.

**23. What is the process in place for a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the school?**

- The district administration will follow the guidance of the Macomb County Health Department regarding notification maintaining the confidentiality of the case as required by state and federal laws.

**24. How will my child's IEP be implemented in the event of school closures or a switch to remote learning in light of the public health situation?**

- The IEP is the district's current offer of a FAPE. If there is a need to close schools due to COVID-19 or a student is unable to attend physically due to the public health situation, a Contingency Learning Plan will need to be in place. A Contingency Learning Plan is triggered when a change in the district's overall instructional delivery model prevents full implementation of the current IEP as written. The IEP Team (including parent/guardian participation) will develop the Contingency Learning Plan.

**25. What is a Contingency Learning Plan?**

- A student-level plan for delivering special education support when the IEP cannot be implemented as written due to changes in the public health situation.

Revised August 17, 2020