



School Reopening Plan - August 2020 Questions and Answers



Updated: July 15, 2020

1. Breakfast and lunch will be served in a "grab and go" format. Will classrooms be required eating areas?

Answer: No. Students will be spread out in the cafeteria for breakfast and throughout the rest of the school for lunch. Hallways, commons areas, cafeterias, outdoors (weather permitting), etc. will all be used during meal time.

2. How will students fill up their personal water bottles?

Answer: There will be water refill stations throughout the school. Touchless refill stations will be used when available. An assigned adult will turn on the faucet or push the button when a touchless option is not available in order to follow health and safety guidelines.

3. Can a student wear any type of mask or face covering to school?

Answer: All masks and face coverings should follow dress code guidelines. There should not be inappropriate pictures or words on a mask or face covering.

4. Will students be required to wear masks the entire time they are at school?

Answer: No. There will be times when it is appropriate for a student to remove their face mask or covering (PE/recess, band, choir, etc.). Students will be directed by a teachers or a member of the school staff when it is appropriate to remove masks.

5. What will happen when a student is showing symptoms at school?

Answer: As per the state guideline, every school will have a designated "quarantine area" for students that are sick and show symptoms. Students will remain in the area, supervised by an employee, until a parent can pick them up.

6. How does a parent "declare" if their student is coming back to school face-to-face on August 18th, or if their student will be learning through an online or blended option?

Answer: Parents will receive an email on July 20th from the school principal asking for that information. The survey should be filled out by July 27th at 9 AM.

7. What precautions will be taken to keep students safe in the classroom?

Answer: Besides wearing masks, students will be asked at the beginning of every class if they are showing any symptoms. Desks will be spread out as much as possible in classrooms. All desks will face the front of the room. When tables are used, all chairs/students will face the front of the room. Extra furniture will be removed from the room in order to maximize the space in the classroom. Hand sanitizer will be provided and available in every classroom. Touch point cleaning and sanitizing will also be done frequently.

8. Will there be designated entrance and exit points, as well as signage for hallway flow at the schools?

Answer: Yes. School administrators will work with their custodial staff and leadership teams to develop the plan at their individual school.

9. Will attendance be taken?

Answer: Yes. Attendance is an important part of learning. In order to accommodate individual circumstances and to ensure we do not encourage attendance when it is not advisable, no student will be penalized for absences. There will be no NC's at the secondary level.

10. Are out of state trips still happening for activities and athletics?

Answer: No. There is no out of state travel for students until further notice.

11. Will we still have back to school night and parent teacher conferences this year?

Answer: Yes, but the format will look different. Individual principals will communicate the plan for their school.

12. Will schools have after-school clubs and activities?

Answer: Being involved in a club or activity is a great way for a student to feel connected at school. Principals will communicate with their students and parents about what opportunities will be available. All activities will follow appropriate safety guidelines.

13. If a student or employee at a school is exposed to COVID-19, will the school be closed?

Answer: We work in partnership with the Utah County Health Department. They will make decisions on a case by case basis. If an individual school, a cluster, or the entire district is forced to close, teachers and students will shift to 100% online instruction.

14. What if a student shows up at school without a mask?

Answer: Schools will have disposable masks available if a student forgets to bring one so they won't miss out on important classroom instruction.

15. What if a student is scared to come to school because of the pandemic?

Answer: We have an amazing Social, Emotional and Well-being (SEW) team in ASD that is working hard to help students and employees feel safe in coming back to school. Parents will receive a letter from the team the second week of August letting them know how they can partner with us to help and support their student. Additionally, each school has a service provider team that will provide support to teachers, staff, and students.

16. What if a student wants to be educated online instead of face-to-face?

Answer: There are two options for students to learn online. First, students may register at their neighborhood school and receive online support from classroom teachers. Second, students may register with ASD online services--East Shore Online for 9-12 students, or Alpine Online for K-8 students (this option applies to parents who intend to provide homeschooling with support from ASD teachers).

17. Is ASD participating in Fall Sports and Activities sanctioned by the UHSAA?

Answer: Yes. We know that students are anxious to participate. We will follow directions given to us by the UCHD so that we can keep students and employees safe. Specific information will be shared in the coming weeks.

18. What does "modified schedule" mean?

Answer: While teachers instruct students in person every day, there will be times when students will need to transition to online learning for periods of time for various reasons. Additionally, some students will opt to learn online with support of ASD teachers. A modified school schedule provides teachers with the time needed to support various student learning needs.

At the elementary level, students will be released one hour early.

At the secondary level, most students that are online full time will be working through East Shore Online. Some students will work online through their classroom teacher. Secondary schools will be on a modified schedule. The exact schedule will be released once we have results from the parent declarations (after July 27). The demand for online learning through classroom teachers will be matched with the appropriate amount of teacher preparation time.

19. Are teachers being expected to do two different jobs - online instruction and face to face instruction?

Answer: No. Options are being developed that will accommodate family needs, while giving teachers ample time and support to meet the needs of in-person and online learners. More information will be shared as options are developed. This information will be shared on the Return to Learn page of ASD's website, as well as through communications that principals send to families.

20. Is there a possibility that we will have to go to 100% online instruction?

Answer: Yes. Based on direction from the state and the Utah County Health Department, there is a possibility that we may be moved to either an every other day model, or 100% online. Officials will be reassessing circumstances often. Employees, parents and students need to remember that our Return to Learn plan is fluid and will change as needed.