



Mayfield City Schools

EVERY STUDENT. EVERY DAY.

September 11, 2020

Dear Mayfield City Schools Families, Teachers, Students and Staff:

I hope this communication finds you well and safe. I have a good deal of information to share with you.

It has certainly been a challenging time. We as a board and an administration have much gratitude for the many who have worked hard and adjusted their lives to make teaching and learning the best it can be, given the circumstances. Your flexibility and patience is greatly appreciated as we adapt and adjust to the conditions caused by the pandemic. I especially want to thank the students and parents because you have had to endure the loss or postponement of the many things about school that are near and dear to you. Students, we miss you and we are proud of you.

As you know, I review national, state, county and local COVID-19 trend data every day. The data I examine includes census information regarding cases, hospitalizations, intensive care, medical/surgical, recoveries and deaths. I speak often with medical experts, healthcare professionals and board of health officials about the trend data and what it means.

In previous communications, I have stated I am encouraged by our state, county and local COVID-19 trend data. I have also stated, that while I remain concerned, we would enact a plan to return to school with a remote option, if conditions improved.

Return to In-Person Learning with a Remote Option

I believe the current improved conditions warrant a three week, phase-in, return to in-person learning with a remote option for those families not comfortable returning to in-person learning.

I want to be clear on this point. I will revert to a full remote model if the county and local trends significantly reverse, causing higher risks of infection.

There is no hard and fast threshold for a decision to revert to full remote learning. Should this need to be done, my decision will be dependent on COVID-19 trend data, our ability to manage and maintain in-person learning and the guidance/mandates we receive from the Ohio Department of Health, Cuyahoga County Board of Health, COVID-19 infection research and orders from the Governor.

My rationale for a return to an In-Person Learning Option:

- County COVID-19 trend data is headed downward or leveling off
- County designation of “Orange” for “several weeks”
- Local trend COVID-19 data suggests manageable numbers
- At the time of this writing, there have been no new reported student or staff cases in our district
- Our PPE (Personal Protective Equipment), health and safety plans are well developed
- The mental health and well-being of our students and families
- While our staff has been remarkable, a return to a higher quality of instruction for many

- A return to the extracurricular and co-curricular activities so many students enjoy

The Three-Week, In-Person, Phase-In Plan

Those families choosing to return to in-person instruction will return to their school buildings by grade levels and particular groups of students on the following dates. **More details will follow in a letter from your Principal next week.**

Teachers will phase-in to their buildings on their designated grade level dates indicated below. This will help us to manage our internet capacity. Affected teachers will receive more details from their principals.

September 21:

- All students in grades PK, Kindergarten, 1, 2, 6 and 9
- Cosmetology students
- CEVEC

September 29:

- All students in Grades 3, 4, 5 and 7

October 5:

- All students in Grades 8, 10, 11 and 12
- Excel TECC programs housed at Mayfield

My rationale for a phase-in approach before the end of the 9-week period:

- Allows us time to determine the impact that Labor Day may or may not have on local and county COVID-19 trends
- Brings younger students and students with significant special needs back sooner (these students tend to struggle more with a full remote learning environment)
- Allows for the major transition grades of PK, K, 6 and 9 to get acclimated to new school buildings, routines and protocols
- Allows for staff to help students to adjust and adapt to the many new health and safety protocols associated with bell schedules, instruction, transportation, lunch, playground and student movement
- Allows staff to teach and reinforce safety and health protocols in an orderly, segmented fashion
- Allows staff to get acclimated to an in-person and live remote model of learning
- Allows us to adapt our cleaning procedures and protocols
- Overall, it allows us time to adjust and adapt to returning to a new model of school

We will adhere to all health and safety mandates and recommendations set forth by the Governor, Ohio Department of Education, Ohio Department of Health and the Cuyahoga County Board of Health.

Remote Learning Option

- The remote learning option remains a choice for families who are not comfortable with in-person learning

- In July, we sent a survey with a link to choose a remote-from-home model of learning
- If your choice remains the same, there is no need for you to choose again and we will assume your initial decision stands
- If you want to choose in-person after initially choosing remote, you will be able to do so
- If you want to choose remote after initially choosing in-person, you will be able to do so

Return to Learn Document

The *revised* Return to Learn document will be available September by 12 on our website. Please take the time to read through it. The document outlines the health and safety protocols that will be followed by staff and students in order to keep us as safe as possible.

COVID-19 Reporting

Per the Director's Order from the Ohio Department of Health, we have created a dashboard to report COVID-19 cases within our school district, as well as a hotline/email notification system, at: 440-995-6886 or email at: covidreporting@mayfieldschools.org.

Requirements of the Order Requiring Reporting and Notification Regarding COVID-19 Cases in Grades K-12 include:

- To facilitate timely contact tracing to prevent further transmission of COVID-19, any schools that provide any Kindergarten through Gr. 12 instruction shall maintain a reporting system for parents to report positive tests and/or cases of COVID-19
- Parents or guardians of students and school staff who have been diagnosed with COVID-19, whether by laboratory test or through clinical examination, are encouraged to notify their school no later than 24 hours after receiving a confirmed diagnosis
- Within 24 hours of becoming aware of a student, teachers, staff member or coach who has tested positive or been diagnosed with COVID-19, a school shall notify parents or guardians of students of the existence of the case in writing and share as much information as possible **without disclosing protected health information**
- School districts are encouraged to use website dashboards to inform the school community of the number of COVID-19 cases and number of students and staff isolated or quarantined, if known

To read the Order in its entirety, click the link [ODH Reporting Notification COVID-19 K GR12](#)

To see our number of COVID reported cases and number of staff and student quarantines, click this link <http://www.mayfieldschools.org/CoronaVirusInformation.aspx>

School Closures and Quarantines due to COVID-19

Each reported case of COVID-19 has unique patterns of exposure and levels of illness. Many have asked what the protocols and procedures are if a student and/or a staff member test positive or have direct exposure. Our experience tells us that there is no one-size-fits-all set of actions. We act on each case based on the unique set of circumstances and fact patterns presented. With each case, however, we do the following:

- Once notified, we immediately isolate any student or staff member in a designated room and make safe arrangements for she or he to go home, or in some cases to the hospital
- Once notified, we make sure that the employee, student or family member has contacted their physician and the Cuyahoga County Board of Health

- We also contact the CCBH, present what we know and receive guidance and recommendations as to next steps
- We work with the CCBH, employees and families in obtaining contact and exposure information
- The CCBH conducts contact tracing and keeps us informed
- We contact all staff members and students who may have been exposed in accordance with CCBH guidelines
- The CCBH will contact individuals who are not our students and employees
- We will contact school officials in other districts if our employees and students may have exposed students, families or employees from other schools
- We make quarantine and closure decisions based on the recommendations and guidance from the CCBH
- Quarantining can include isolating an individual, small and large groups of students, a classroom and grade levels, depending on the exposure patterns
- Closures can include a school, several schools, a program or the school district
- We observe all privacy rights

I cannot stress enough, the importance of adhering to all safety and health protocols. It will help prevent spread and keep students and staff in school and participating in the activities they love. We remain "Mayfield Together" so we may continue to advance the learning while keeping our students, staff and community safe.

Stay well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith Kelly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "K" and "y".

Keith Kelly
Superintendent