



**Emery County School District
Return to School Plan: 2020-21 School Year
Frequently Asked Questions**

Are all students returning to school in the fall?

Parents and students will have the option of returning to school In-Person or via teacher-delivered Distance Education. This choice needs to be made by August 10th for each student. Parents or guardians make this choice by submitting the “Instruction Request Form” to schools by August 10th at noon.

We are also prepared to switch to a modified schedule or a full dismissal if needed after consultation with the local health department. These plans based on statewide guidance from the Utah State Board of Education.

Will this be a return to “regular” school?

Students will be isolated by classroom groups, face coverings will be required, interaction will be lessened, and social distancing and regular cleaning will be the norm. Large gatherings will be limited, and the flow of movement will be more controlled. Learning, however, will take place as it always has, with modifications to keep everyone safe. Schools are developing site plans, which will be available to view by August 10th.

Are students and staff required to wear face coverings?

Yes. By State Health Order, students, staff and visitors are currently required to wear face coverings while on a school campus. A face covering should cover both the nose and mouth and could be a cloth face mask or a plastic face shield. We encourage parents & guardians to help their students become accustomed to wearing a face covering prior to the beginning of the school year.

The Health Order also outlines certain circumstances when face coverings are not required, or where an individual may be exempt from wearing face coverings. More information is available on the ECSD Face Covering Information form. Anyone requesting an exemption from wearing face coverings due to a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability will need to submit a signed Face Covering Information form to their school along with a medical directive verifying the need for the exemption.

What will distance learning be like?

Distance learning will be similar to this past 4th term, but of a higher quality based on feedback and our experiences. Secondary schools will use Canvas as the learning platform. Elementary schools will use Canvas or Google Classroom, depending on the grade level or teacher preference. Parents and students choosing distance learning will be expected to keep pace with in-person instruction. The district is providing trainings for teachers to assist them in providing distance learning. Chromebooks will continue to be available for check out at each school.

If parents choose distance learning for their child, can they return to in-person instruction later in the year, or vice versa?

We encourage families to commit to In-Person or Distance Learning for a one-term time period, however, families will have the flexibility to move to or from distance learning following a consultation with the school principal or her/his designee.

Will students practice social distancing at all times at school?

We will ask students and staff to practice social distancing whenever possible. However, social distancing will not be possible in many scenarios, which is why face coverings are important.

Will there be sanitizer and temperature checks at school?

Sanitizer will be available and students will follow a regular handwashing schedule (to be determined at the school level) throughout the day. Temperature checks will be implemented for certain scenarios and in conjunction with school needs and the health department. We also ask parents to teach and practice regular handwashing with their children at home.

How will teachers be protected?

In addition to daily practices (cleaning, controlled movement, social distancing, etc.), the district will provide appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for all employees. Teachers have autonomy to arrange teaching spaces to allow for as much distancing as possible. Some teachers may teach in alternate spaces allowing for more distancing. Parents also play an important role in keeping teachers and staff safe by not sending kids to school if they are sick.

What if my student has special needs or medical concerns?

Each Individualized Education Plan (IEP), 504 plan, or unique circumstance will be reviewed in advance of the school year to meet the needs of students and ensure students and employees are protected. Students and employees who are high-risk as defined by the State Health department can fill out an identification form that will allow for a consideration of reasonable accommodations for their situation.

Will students be able to share supplies?

No. Student will need to keep school supplies to themselves. Items that are regularly touched by multiple students will be cleaned regularly.

How do I know if I should keep my child home from school due to sickness?

It is essential that parents and guardians keep students home from school when sick. A list of COVID-19 symptoms provided by the Utah School Nurse Association is included with these F.A.Q.'s.

What happens if there is a positive test at the school?

In the event that a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, schools will consult with the local health department and will follow health department protocols. Health officials may conduct contact tracing and notify appropriate individuals regarding quarantine or other measures. This will be done on a case by case basis. Depending on the circumstances, individuals may be directed to be tested. District plans are to follow health department policies, and we would assist with communication procedures.

Reinforce health hygiene practices with your children which includes:

- **Proper handwashing** for at least 20 seconds with warm water and soap (before eating, after using the bathroom, after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing, if hands are visibly dirty, and when returning home)
- **Use hand sanitizer** with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water aren't available
- **Do not touch your face** with unwashed hands
- **Sneeze into your sleeve**

Keep your child home if:

- Fever 100.4F or higher
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Sore throat
- Muscle aches and pain
- Cough (not related to asthma)
- New loss of taste or smell

Return to school after:

Students and staff should follow these guidelines (if positive for COVID OR showing any COVID symptoms) per CDC before returning to school or being around others:

- they have had no fever for at least 72 hours (that is three full days of no fever **without** the use of medicine that reduces fevers), **AND**
- other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved), **AND**
- at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

IF YOU FEEL SICK; STAY HOME!