

FAQs from Swallow Parent Reopening Update Forums

July 23 and 24, 2020

(Please note this document may be updated as information changes due to the fluidity of the pandemic.)

What is the fever threshold to keep students home from school?

The information regarding health services overall [can be found here](#). As stated on the website, “Students with a fever of 100.3 degrees Fahrenheit or greater should not attend school. They should be fever free for a minimum of 24 hours, without the aid of medications, before they return.” There will be additional “sick policy” guidelines closer to the start of school that will be in line with Waukesha Public Health Department Guidelines related to COVID-19.

Are kids going to be required to wear masks at school? If the CDC guidance is for us to wear masks, why is mandatory mask usage TBD?

At this time the Reopening Task Force has not made a final recommendation to the School Board on whether masks will be required for students at all times. As mentioned in parent meetings - at a minimum they will be strongly encouraged, whether there is a mandate in place or not.

What does the classroom layout look like?

As part of the referendum project, there is new mobile furniture and storage. This will allow us to change the layout of the classrooms as needed within different classrooms and common spaces. We will also be using larger spaces such as the music rooms, MPR, gymnasium, outdoor areas, and collaboration spaces to maximize our space in the school for instructional purposes.

What will passing periods look like for middle school?

This planning process is ongoing. We are looking at scheduling and cohorting to eliminate contact points during these times. Students will be asked to have their locker be a point of entry and exit, while planning to greatly reduce trips to the locker throughout the day. Students should plan to have a durable computer case that can store extra items like a notebook, chapter book, writing utensils and a calculator to bring with them throughout the day.

For those working in healthcare, working directly with COVID-19 clients, obviously we run the risk of carrying it home. Do you feel we pose a threat to the school?

Whether you are directly with COVID-19 clients as a healthcare worker or you frequent a restaurant or local establishment, there are inherent risks of transmitting the disease. We ask that all families take proper

measures to ensure that we are mitigating the spread of any diseases - from COVID-19 to Influenza, to make it the healthiest learning environment that we can.

Has consideration been given to middle school teachers possibly moving from classroom to classroom with a cart of materials?

This concept, as well as a more traditional look to student movement, are still being vetted. Regardless, there will likely be some movement as conducting science labs in the social studies room would be a challenge at best. We will be working through transition periods and disinfecting protocols between classes combined with intentional contact tracing and assigned seats so that we can identify possible contacts as needed in the event that is needed.

Will the HVAC system for every room where children are present support MERV 13 filters?

At this time we have purchased the MERV 13 filters for all rooms. Based on our construction that is ongoing we have not had a chance to install them. Our plan is to have them installed in all areas of the building before the start of the school year.

What is the criteria for a sick or quarantined kid to return to school, for example would a negative COVID swab allow a kid with a cold to return to school?

A COVID-19 test is a test that is done at a point in time. The Waukesha County Health Department will still require a 14-day quarantine for that contacted individual as symptoms can show up any time during that 14-day period. For either COVID or non-COVID illnesses, we will be following communicable disease return to school guidelines from the Waukesha County Health Department.

How will you ensure that kids have a good level of interaction in a virtual setting?

Virtual learning, in the sense of responding to "Option B", will look different for interactions dependent on the number of kids, their age, and their availability. In the event that students are able to be 'live' and have interactions during the day, those would happen. If each student has a different schedule and their parents are not able to help accommodate interactions in a live setting, it may look a little different. This will be something that will be more apparent as we determine the number of students that are attending face-to-face and those that are attending virtually.

Is 4K still being planned for, and if so, will it be any different than the other grades?

Yes, 4K is still being planned for with either an in-person or virtual option for those students. Students in 4K will be following the same expectations as the rest of Swallow School.

Has there been any reconsideration of sharing a lot of items for the younger students, as written on their school supply list? Also wondering if a shared table is still a consideration of the younger kids.

We are working through the organization of classroom supplies and what this will look like. Students in 4th grade and down have new desks that contain supply trays for each individual student and will be used as such. An update as to what supplies to bring to school and which ones to keep at home until they are needed at school will be provided before the start of the year. Sharing tables and physical distancing at all grade levels is currently under review.

Will different considerations be given for children who have IEPs (especially in reference to if masks were ever requested for children --especially for those students who would take a mask off an instructor) or when they may not understand social distancing?

Even given a state or federal decree, persons with disability would have rights that may exempt them from being required to wear a face covering based on their disability.

When will more information about Option B come out in particular to which teachers will be teaching? Timeline for picking options and can you opt into Option B if A doesn't work out in the middle of semester?

As mentioned in some of the forum meetings, this will be largely dependent on the number of students we have that opt into Option B and at what grade levels. The timeline will be brought forth in the coming weeks so that you have the clear timeline and information needed to make your decision(s) at the appropriate times this year.

Some families are being careful with "physical distancing" while others have been very careless (eg: large parties with no distancing or masks). Is there a way to separate kids from those 2 groups?

While we hope everyone is following CDC guidelines so that we can Stay Safe to Stay Open, the school would have no way to track, monitor, or manage this information.

If Swallow teachers are not providing instruction for the virtual option, how will grading be performed and reported?

This will be largely dependent on the school and grade of the student. The majority of surrounding Arrowhead School District feeder schools follow similar grading practices as Swallow.

If students/teachers travel during breaks, are they expected to quarantine for 14 days before resuming school at Swallow?

Waukesha County Public Health department follows the CDC recommendation of quarantining for 14 days if you come from an identified travel hotspot.

With encouraging more drop-offs to avoid bussing, will there be any changes or extensions to times to stagger drop offs? Some parents use the bus for the sole reason to avoid the crazy parking lot experience before and after school.

At this time we do not plan on extending drop off times. From 7:45 a.m. to 8:05 a.m. we have the Cone Zone in the north lot open. The peak times are from 7:50 a.m. - 8:00 a.m., and we encourage families to come as close to 7:45 a.m. as possible since we will need to bring kids into the school differently this year than in the past due to COVID-19 protocols for physical distancing and hand hygiene.

Adam and Melissa, if your children were going to Swallow, which option would you choose?

We both responded to this question saying that without a doubt we are comfortable with the measures in place and would send our children in person to Swallow School, wearing masks.

How does Wisconsin Youth Afterschool fit in? Will they defer to Swallow's way, go through our training, or have their own protocols?

Any organization, Wisconsin Youth or otherwise, will be expected to follow district protocols and recommendations while on our property.

If you have data for kids 10 & older, then why not make masks mandatory for older kids? I agree with others that it will help make an option decision easier. The policy could always change during the school year.

Again, and as mentioned above, the mask conversation is ongoing and we will have an update for the families in the coming weeks and agree that how we begin the school year may not be how we have to end the school year as the pandemic continues to change.

What is the protocol after you have a confirmed case, will you have to shutdown the entire school at that point? If so, will you then onboard all those in-person learning to virtual learning?

In the event of one confirmed case, the Waukesha County Health Department has indicated that we will likely not shut down the entire school. That family would be asked to isolate and any student that was within 6' of that student for a cumulative 15 minutes in the two days prior to the student becoming symptomatic, would also be required by the Waukesha County Health Department, to quarantine for 14 days.

Will the school calendar have the same/familiar schedule or might there be changes?

We do not anticipate changing any of the calendars or start times at this time.

Are you planning on taking kids' temperatures as they are entering school? It might be a good practice for keeping everyone safe.

The CDC does not currently recommend universal symptom screenings (screening all students grades K-12) be conducted by schools. We do not plan on temperature screening at the door at Swallow School. We ask

that every family participates in self-checks at home before leaving for school and will provide information on doing-so before the start of the school year.

Will class size remain the same for face-to-face learning? Assuming 100% of the students choose face-to-face.

If you were to assume that every student attended face-to-face, yes - class sizes will remain the same. We are not splitting sections further from what we have at this point. We are a two-section school throughout aside from one three section grade in middle school at this time.

Yesterday (July 23) the CDC updated their isolation/quarantine guidelines from 14 days to 10 days. Will Swallow be adopting this same guideline?

The change from 14 days to 10 days is only for a positive individual that is waiting to come out of isolation. It is not a change in the quarantine time for a person who was a close contact with a positive individual. We will always follow local Health Department Guidelines. As those guidelines change and update, we will update our practices as well.

Will there be AMSAC (sports) and extracurriculars?

This is a fluid situation in following both the WIAA recommendations and meeting with the other AMSAC schools to decide what is best. We will communicate these decisions as they are made.

Will Nurse Beth be at Swallow full-time and if not, who will take her role when she's not there?

Nurse Beth has designated nursing hours Monday-Friday as she always has. In the event that she is not in, we have coverage for any health-related needs through the office and administrative staff who are trained to handle health-related issues of

One of the concerns of virtual learning is the consistency of learning experience with that in the classroom, particularly if being taught by a teacher from another school. How will Swallow work to ensure that all students are meeting the same learning objectives?

All teachers, Swallow or not, will follow the same broad state standards for the grade level at hand. There may be different learning experiences if a student in an online setting has a teacher from a different school, but the overarching learning objectives will be similar.

Where can we find recordings of this and previous meetings?

The presentation and FAQs from this meeting will be emailed out to all families before Monday. All Task Force and [School Board meeting minutes are available on the District's website HERE.](#)

Are there any new roles that you see for parent volunteers, like helping in cleaning crews?

A form to indicate your interest in supporting staffing needs in three specific areas will be included in the parent follow up email this weekend. Please note the timely nature in particular of substitute teacher/support staff licensure. We appreciate your interest and support!

Option A and B are different teachers, what is the plan if Option A no longer becomes a viable option due to school closure?

In the event that school shuts down completely, we will transition to a fully virtual learning environment for all students that were within Option A at the time. We will not transition those already in a virtual setting to a new virtual setting.

For option A, you stated that physical spacing will be implemented in the classrooms. Do the classrooms have sufficient size to adequately space all children to meet CDC's 6' guidelines? If not, what is the plan?

Our plan is to physically distance when we are able and it is appropriate. When we cannot, we plan to use mitigation measures in place to lessen the exposure to any form of illness.

How will transportation on buses look in the fall?

Busing will be largely dependent on the number of students signed up to ride the bus. We will still be offering busing for students, but encourage you to drop off and pick up your child in the Cone Zone if at all possible for your family. To the best of our ability we will spread students out, alternate seats, and limit the number of individuals in seats that are not from the same household. Furthermore, there will be required hand sanitation both before and after being on the bus and masks are likely to be mandatory.

Will there be partitions between children in the classroom when 6' spacing is not possible?

We have purchased partitions and they, along with other measures we can provide with flexible furnishings, will be used to mitigate as much risk of exposure to any illness as possible.

Will the decision on masks be made prior to the deadline to make a decision on which platform is best for our family?

Yes. Our goal is to have as many "concretes" available as possible for you to make the most informed decision you can for your family.

If large groups of students/staff end up in quarantine, how will that be handled as far as learning/educating in what becomes a hybrid environment? When can we expect a definitive action plan on the above question?

If a student or staff member is able to participate in learning, even when quarantined, they will be asked to do so. We know that sometimes quarantining is for a positive test with symptoms that allow this and other times the symptoms do not allow for it. With mitigation measures in place and contact tracing our hope is to be able to only close a class or grade level at a time, rather than the entire school. Similar to cold days, snow days, and gas and water leaks - there have always been times that school is simply “closed” without instruction happening for a short period of time. Given that we are a two-section school throughout, we hope to be able to leverage having multiple grade level teachers and provide a Swallow teacher for the grade level at any given point with live instruction.

Isn't there a concern about kids being able to be social with the partitions in place? I mean talking -- I understand physical distancing as much as possible, but want to balance the kids mental health.

Partitions are in hand at school and we are determining what the proper balance is for these measures. The kids' mental health is absolutely taken into consideration, as is the physical health for students, staff, and those that they may be carrying anything home to.

Wearing masks/shields, using partitions, implementing spacing--it's not to circumvent quarantine. It is to lessen the risk. How is the Task Force analyzing these types of issues? Shouldn't the overarching goal be to lessen risk?

Yes, the overall goal is to lessen the risk. All of these measures are in place and will be a part of the face-to-face learning model at Swallow School.

Would virtual learning look the same as when school was shut down?

No, it will not. We have a streamlined platform - Canvas - that will be used both in-person and in the event that we move to an online format for all students in grades 4K-8th Grade. Furthermore, classes will be live taught either via webcam or previously recorded lessons for all subjects.

Have you considered flipped classrooms? So that kids watch an instructional video at home and then do their homework with the teachers in school?

Yes. We have looked at this for a number of years and when it is appropriate we have done it. We continue to look at the most appropriate delivery of instruction and engagement for students and learn as we go as adults.

Can you start a volunteer sign up for lunches now?

We are not ready for this at this point. We are finalizing the master schedule and overall schedules for ensuring that staff members are fully utilized per their FTE per their contract and hourly agreements for support staff. If we have any needs outside of our allocated time as staff we will discuss and vet options for additional coverage.