



## **Cory-Rawson Local Schools**

July 19, 2020

Heath Huffman, Superintendent

---

### **Healthy Restart 2020-2021**

Greetings:

The Healthy Restart Committee for Cory-Rawson Local Schools met on Thursday, July 16, 2020 and additional meetings are scheduled this week. Committee members came together to have open discussion regarding the 2020-2021 school year and the impact of COVID-19.

As we move towards the end of July the rise in anxiety amongst many associated with K-12 education in the state of Ohio (and nationally) is palpable. This is true for students, staff, parents, administrators, and board of education members. COVID-19 has created a time of uncertainty like no other. COVID-19 indicators change often and lead to adjustments in guidance, recommendations, and public health orders from a variety of health and education agencies. Local superintendents meet with officials from Hancock Public Health twice a week (Mondays & Thursdays), for

example, and changes continually occur between our gathering times. As I read through the questions submitted by parents, district residents, and staff members related to the 2020-2021 school year, I wish definitive answers could be provided. At this point, however, doing so only creates a false sense of expectancy. Below is an attempt to provide as much information as possible while also understanding what is written may change (as a result of changes in guidance/recommendations/orders from Hancock Public Health and/or other agencies, CRLS Healthy Restart Committee recommendations, and the Cory-Rawson Board of Education).

- **I know the goal of CRLS is to educate students in a healthy, safe environment for all of the district's stakeholders. Does that mean students will be returning to our physical buildings for face-to-face instruction?**

- All parties have indicated a desire to do so, if a healthy environment can be created and maintained.
- The Cory-Rawson Board of Education will make the final decision based on:
  - Guidance/Recommendations/Orders from local and state agencies.
  - Input from local stakeholders (including parents, district residents, staff, and the CRLS Healthy Restart Committee) related to a variety of topics.
  - Data from the Ohio Public Health Advisory System.  
Reference materials below.
    - Looking ahead, Hancock County's identification per this system may serve as a trigger related to whether students attend school traditionally, via a hybrid model, or are educated through remote learning.
- Key components of a return to our district campus will include several prevention strategies.
  - Prevention Strategies:

- Vigilantly Assessing for Symptoms
  - Wash & Sanitize Hands to Prevent Spread
  - Thoroughly Clean & Sanitize School Environment to Limit Spread on Shared Services
  - Practice Social Distancing
  - Implement Face Coverings Policy
- Implementation of these strategies will likely be based on the most recent status of Hancock County per the Ohio Public Health Advisory System.
  - For instance, certain cleaning and sanitizing practices may occur if Hancock County is identified as a Level 1 county; however, additional cleaning and sanitizing practices may be added to protocols if Hancock County is a county identified as Level 2.
  - The same progressive model may be used with other appropriate prevention strategies.
- **Will the families of our students have the option to choose remote learning if they are uncomfortable sending their child/children back to school?**
  - Yes. The opportunity to do so will be offered prior to the start of the year and at the end of a quarter/semester. Other mitigating factors will be considered if a change in educational environment needs to occur at another time.
  - Various options are under review. All under consideration would allow a student to remain a Cory-Rawson student.
- **Several Hancock County Schools have released “plans.” How have they been able to do so if we cannot?**
  - First and foremost, I would contend the letters and diagrams sent by other districts are NOT a plan but only an outline.
  - Secondly, many Hancock County Schools who have released “plans” have already been faced with the strong possibility of revising plans based on current information and guidance.

- **So when will our plan be released?**
  - Our district's goal is to have a plan by no later than August 1, 2020.

### **Other Frequently Asked Questions**

- **What will happen if a student or staff member from Cory-Rawson Local Schools is identified as a “presumptive” positive or tested-positive COVID-19 individual?**
  - All of the school districts in Hancock County (including Findlay City Schools) are awaiting final guidance from Hancock Public Health related to this scenario. A draft was presented at a meeting last Thursday, but revisions are already in process.
  - When Hancock Public Health provides this information in final draft form, it will be shared.
  - Other questions related to contact tracing will be answered as guidance is provided to local school districts from local/state/national agencies.
- **Depending on the source, some medical professionals recommend at least three feet of social distancing while others recommend six feet. Which is it? Does the distance change if either (or ALL) interacting individuals are wearing a mask?**
  - School districts in Hancock County are still awaiting final clarification from Hancock Public Health and/or the Ohio Department of Health. Stay tuned.
- **How will my child's/children's classroom(s) be cleaned and disinfected? What type of disinfectant will be used?**
  - Wayne Young, Maintenance/Custodial Supervisor, continually researches effective, safe cleaning and sanitation practices. Several product demonstrations have taken place.
  - Mr. Young is working tirelessly to install indoor air quality devices within the district's HVAC systems that combine the highest intensity germicidal UV light with photo-catalytic

oxidation odor control in an effort to “clean the air” and reduce the spread of illness.

- This type of technology is used in hospital settings.
- Mr. Young and his staff have also continually worked to “stockpile” needed cleaning and sanitation supplies.
- **What about busing?**
  - Ben Smith, Transportation Supervisor, continues to work on Transportation Protocols to foster good health amongst students and drivers. This includes route reviews, as well as coordination with Wayne Young regarding disinfection protocols. Stay tuned.
- **Where will students eat breakfast/lunch?**
  - There is a possibility of students eating breakfast in classrooms. Lunch will hopefully be served in the cafeteria (or other large capacity areas) to foster appropriate health guidelines.

I understand uncertainty can create anxiety and distrust. Please know the regular communication offered via this newsletter is an attempt to be transparent and honest about the plans for the 2020-2021 school year. This is not an easy time for anyone involved. As always if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me ([huffman@cory-rawson.org](mailto:huffman@cory-rawson.org) or 419.963.3415) or any member of the Cory-Rawson Board of Education:

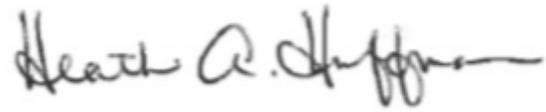
Mr. Jerry Wieman, President: [boewieman@cory-rawson.org](mailto:boewieman@cory-rawson.org)

Mr. Ben Wittenmyer, Vice President: [boewittenmyer@cory-rawson.org](mailto:boewittenmyer@cory-rawson.org)

Mr. Jason Oman: [boeoman@cory-rawson.org](mailto:boeoman@cory-rawson.org)

Mr. Mike Walters: [boewalters@cory-rawson.org](mailto:boewalters@cory-rawson.org)

Mr. Bob Warren: [boewarren@cory-rawson.org](mailto:boewarren@cory-rawson.org)



---

[Email Mr. Heath Huffman, Superintendent](#)

[Ohio Public Advisory System Summary](#)

[Ohio Risk Level Guidelines for the Public](#)

---



*Copyright © Cory-Rawson Local Schools, 2020, All rights reserved.*

**Our mailing address is:**

Cory-Rawson Local Schools  
3930 County Road 26  
Rawson, Ohio 45881

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).