



FAQ Document- Reset and Restart MCCTC & Valley STEM

This is a fluid document, and it will be updated as we get more answers throughout upcoming weeks. The questions come from multiple sources of data including: multiple parent/family surveys, student surveys, teacher surveys, focus group discussions, and conversations with all stakeholder groups.

Q: What type of delivery model will MCCTC & Valley STEM be implementing?

A: This decision will be made in early August and families will be informed at that time.

For more information, view the mailing sent home July 8, 2020 located at

<https://mahoningctc.com/highschool/> .

Q: How will the school handle students or staff if someone in their immediate family is confirmed COVID positive?

A: *Per the health department*, the person would be identified through contact tracing and made to quarantine for 14 days. The student would receive education remotely while quarantined. Specific procedures and protocols will be communicated to staff and families in upcoming weeks.

Q: If a teacher or child is sick with COVID, should school administration be informed?

A: Yes, then the school will work with the health department for next steps.

Confidentiality will be honored. Specific procedures and protocols will be communicated to staff and families in upcoming weeks.

Q: How does the health department recommend we handle travel and vacations upon student return?

A: *Per the health department*, we would follow ODH guidelines and at this point (July, 2020) there is no mandatory quarantine period for out of state travel, so this would have to be a school policy. At this point the school has not adopted a policy for this but will examine in the future based on circumstances.

Q: If there is a confirmed case and contact tracing shows several individuals meet the definition of contact (*6' or less and 15 min or more - currently with or without a mask*), what are your recommendations for the individuals who came in contact with the affected person?

A: *Per the health department*, through the contact tracing, the health department would identify close contacts of the confirmed case. They would work with the schools to see who would have met this criteria in the school setting. Then whoever was identified would be asked to quarantine for 14 days. No further action would need to be taken at school-except for a plan for educating the child while out. Specific procedures and protocols will be communicated to staff and families in upcoming weeks.

Q: Will the health department notify the superintendent if an employee or student is positive for coronavirus?

A. *Per the health department*, there will be a point of contact person in each school building. This information will be made available in upcoming weeks.

Q. Once a case is confirmed, is the district responsible for contact tracing?

A. *Per the health department*, the health department will work with the school to perform contact tracing in the school. This will be a case by case basis because depending on the grade of the child and/or teacher it will determine the number of contacts. We are working with the health department and local school districts in case there is a student infected from a specific district.

Q: Will the health department conduct a training for county nurses, principals, and superintendents?

A: *Per the health department*, Yes. There will be future training and MCCTC will take advantage of trainings offered. Staff will be trained in all procedures and protocols established to open school.

Q. If the county goes to **red or purple**, will the health department make a decision to close all county schools?

A. *Per the health department*, The health department was told by ODH that the only thing that changes with the colors in the state of Ohio is mandatory masking. Color coding has nothing to do with closing venues or events, although the school will monitor environmental conditions on a continual basis.

Q: What types of sanitization stations will be installed in the school?

A: Every classroom will be equipped with hand sanitizing stations. All hallways and common places will be stocked with stations, as well as disinfecting processes and procedures. This is a school priority and funds have been allocated accordingly. Cleaning protocols for students and staff during the day will be communicated in multiple formats in upcoming weeks.

Q: Will masks be required at school even if not yet mandated by the governor?

A: YES, at all times. In labs, students may wear industry-determined PPE in addition to masks. All teachers are provided both masks and face shields. Students are required to provide their own masks, but the school will have some for purchase should a student forget. Masks are required to enter the building and cannot be taken off until departure. We follow home district guidelines pertaining to bus rules established. Shields are recommended over masks, or in conjunction with masks.

Q: Is the school considering hiring additional cleaning staff?

A: We are not hiring additional staff, but job duties and responsibilities of all staff will be changed and modified to allow for continuous clearing and sanitizing practices.

Q: How are we moving students/staff in building and balancing safety?

A: Movement of students and staff, including hallways and building entrances/exits are being carefully planned and will be communicated in upcoming weeks.

Q: Will students & staff be in pods and separated, including lunch?

A: To the fullest extent possible based on the delivery model. Students will remain within programs/academies. Lunches will be carefully planned, and in most cases students will eat in labs. Any student assigned to the cafeteria will have social distancing (6 feet) strictly enforced. Seating will be clearly labeled accordingly.

Q: Will we have clubs/extracurricular activities?

A: We will determine this in upcoming weeks on a case-by-case basis based on guidance from state-affiliated organizations.

Q: Will students' and staff temperature be taken daily?

A: Yes, upon entering the first period class students will have their temperature taken, although we encourage families to test students at home prior to them leaving for school. Staff must take their temperature daily as well. Specific, detailed information will be provided in upcoming weeks pertaining to protocol and procedures.

Q: How will we deal with students who cannot wear a mask for medical reasons?

A: Documentation must be provided and we have a face-shield in these cases. This will be evaluated case-by-case.

Q: How are we handling mask anxiety?

A: Masks are a non-negotiable and we encourage families to prepare students on how to wear masks.

Q: What if a parent requests online?

A: We are not providing an online option at Valley STEM & MCCTC due to the nature of the education, and the commitment to workforce development.

Q: How is bussing affected if home districts go fully online?

A: Buses are required by law to transport to STEM and MCCTC even if they are fully online.

Q: Have we considered block scheduling or other ways to reduce class changes?

A: Scheduling has been modified to reduce traffic and congestion. This will be explained further in upcoming weeks, as it is affected by instructional delivery.

Q:How do we keep students separated in labs/classes?

A: We will have specific procedures in place, and they will be clearly communicated to staff and students in upcoming weeks based on the delivery model.

Q: What about students with health conditions?

A: This will be evaluated case-by-case, as it is our duty to protect all of our students.

Q: If we are blended, how will we establish clear and consistent expectations for students and staff?

A: Administration is working diligently to develop parameters through high expectations for staff and students.

Q: What about the latest threat about cutting federal funding?

A: We do not make decisions based on threats. We focus on the safety of our students. Our decision making protocol will not lead to reduced funding based on the facts we have now (July 2020).

Q: What about equipment purchases for labs?

A: In some cases we are waiting to purchase based on the delivery model. These may be delayed but the quality of education will not be compromised.

Q: Are there going to be protocols for online learning and courses (academics)?

A: Yes, clear and consistent expectations are being developed and communicated. There will be an online addendum to both the student and staff handbooks.

Q: Are we still having orientation for new incoming students?

A: Yes, the delivery method will be communicated in upcoming weeks.

Q: What about live broadcasts?

A: We are exploring various methods to reach students remotely if this is necessary.

Q: Is parent information required on Emergency Medical Forms prior to submission?

A: Yes, this will be more detailed this year and all items MUST be filled out.

Q: I am enclosed behind Plexiglas and no one shares my space since the SRO has moved. Wearing a mask while talking on the phone is muffling, and when trying to communicate through the Plexiglas I almost have to yell when I have a mask on. Obviously, if I leave my space for any reason, I would wear a mask. So my question is: As long as I am in my space, and no one is around me, do I have to wear a mask?

A: Masks must be worn by everyone at all times, no exceptions.

Q: Will the special education teachers and their students be able to meet during all day labs?

A: Yes they will have that opportunity, but it will be structured so that teachers are not competing with each other to see students.

Q: Substitutes: How can we get subs?

A: This will be dependent upon the delivery model, but we are exploring options to keep students and staff safe from “visitors”.

Q: What about the nurse? Do we need more?

A: We are exploring options for this, especially if someone becomes sick after arriving at school.

Q: Have we looked into body scanners?

A: We purchased one body scanner for the main entrance. Temperature will be taken daily of all students and staff using purchased thermometers. Protocols to come in upcoming weeks.

Q: Will the daycare be open? What are the procedures/protocol?

A: The daycare is currently open. More information to come directly from the daycare.

Q: What if an academic teacher is sick? Can they work from home? What would “sub plans” look like?

A: Case by case- but if someone is sick they must stay home. Administration will be clear about expectations for sub plans, and it will be up to the employee if they feel up to working from home or if they need a sick day.

Q: IT Equipment: webCams- should we purchase these?

A: The new chromebooks have better cameras, but administration will work with staff on options for video-recording. Additionally, administration is working on assembling resources for staff and students to assist with remote learning if necessary.

Q: What about the beginning of the day, and end of day? Could we do staggered dismissal, for example?

A: We will not be staggering start times; however, entrance and entrance procedures will look different and will be released in upcoming weeks.

Q: Are you providing plexiglass around the teacher's desks ? How do you see them staying six feet away?

A: In some cases, possibly. But, we will have classroom protocols to keep students from approaching the teacher's desk within the designated safe area. Classroom procedures will look different to include sanitizing and social distancing best practices.

Q: Student lunches - How will they be done to best follow recommended guidelines?

A: We will have completely new lunch procedures that allow us to implement best practices, and will be released in upcoming weeks.

Q: Much of the equipment we use is shared like stethoscopes, blood pressure cuffs, thermometers, etc. Will each student need their own or will we be able to just clean them between students?

A: Administration is currently working with lab teachers to plan what is needed to safely use industry-related equipment and order where feasible. Where purchasing is not feasible new sanitizing procedures will be implemented per industry recommendations.

Q: How will we handle the parents/family members that come in to get their blood drawn or get an EKG done? Will this even be able to happen? In general, will we even be able

to bring students from other programs that are willing to get their blood drawn or other testing done?

A: At this point there are no visitors allowed, but we will continue to evaluate. In the coming weeks we will evaluate safety protocols regarding students in other programs who volunteer to have an EKG or blood drawn.

Q: In regard to books we use, will we want students to use books and return them as they have done or will it be necessary for each student to have their own book(s) and keep them?

A: We will discuss in upcoming weeks. This is a case-by-case issue and will be discussed in upcoming weeks.

Q: Will we have another system in place for hall passes? (Signing passports is probably one of the riskiest things we do multiple times a day).

A: Yes- this will look different this year. Stay tuned for procedures.

Q: I read that busing transportation is each school's responsibility - at what point will students be assessed for fever? Upon boarding the bus, or after they've arrived at school? If done at arrival at school, where will sick students be held while they wait for someone to pick them up to take home?

A: This is up to the home district and we will support their rules. We encourage all parents to take temperatures daily, and will take temperatures of all staff and students upon entering first period. We encourage all students to wear masks on the bus every day.

Q: What if a parent refuses to send their child to school but wants to be educated through MCCTC/Valley STEM?

A: If that is the case the student will need to evaluate returning to their home district. Since we are workforce development the choice is not an option.

Q: Will all new students get a chromebook?

A: Yes. Distribution will be dependent upon educational delivery, and will be released in upcoming weeks.

Q: Are we capping the number of students per room?

A: The amount of space will be based upon the delivery model, but in all cases we are planning to ensure we are doing our best to meet recommended best social distancing practices.

Q: How are we handling different districts making different decisions about re-opening?

A: We have been in constant communication with home districts, and we will plan what is best for our students in the STEM/CTC environment while clearly communicating with our home district partners.

Q: What discipline actions will be taken regarding students not following the new guidelines and policies?

A: We are making an addendum to the student handbook. Following best practices and safety guidelines will be taken seriously with strict and consistent enforcement.

Q: Are there any new special expectations with any outside industry professionals, equipment maintenance, suppliers/sales people, guest speakers, delivery drivers, college representatives, alumni, or advisory board members that need to come into the building for teaching purposes?

A: At this time we are not permitting visitors but this may change in the future.

Q: If we are keeping students/classes separated or trying to prevent mixing as much as possible, how are we handling students who need to visit other labs during the day? (Examples: Cups, plates, plastic spoons from culinary, Culinary needs a tool from

another lab in the middle of the day, Culinary and Creative Arts collaborate on a project and students need to visit between labs throughout the day.)

A: We need to plan ahead; mixing of student populations must be minimal.