



Fargo Public Schools Smart Restart Plan Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What preventative measures have been added to lower the risk of spreading COVID-19 in schools?

A. All buildings have a rotation of enhanced cleanings and are equipped with disinfectant sprayers. Custodial staff will sanitize/disinfect all buildings weekly. Classroom teachers will be provided with additional supplies, such as Quat disinfectant and rags to disinfect classrooms, gyms, cafeterias, weight rooms, and locker rooms daily. All buildings' HVAC systems have also now been set to increase fresh air input. Additionally, all buildings now have foam-in, foam-out stations at identified entrance doors (main entries, recess doors, gym doors, lunchrooms, and large group spaces). Hand sanitizers will also be provided in each classroom. All buildings water fountain bubblers will be shut-off; however, the bottle filling stations will remain. Bottle filling stations are being added to buildings that are without.

Q. Will teachers have to use their own personal/sick days if they are infected with COVID-19 or need to quarantine due to exposure to COVID-19?

A. The Families First Coronavirus Response Act provides eligible employees with up to ten days of paid sick leave for COVID-19 related absences. The Board of Education authorized administration to continue to pay staff their regularly scheduled days or hours during the 2020-2021 school year due to COVID-19 related absences where that employee does not have Emergency Paid Sick Leave, a provision of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, available and is unable to telework due to the functions of their job. Therefore, Fargo Public Schools would not require employees to use their own leave balances for leaves specific to COVID-19 related absences.

Q. How are substitutes being utilized?

A. Substitutes being available for long-term assignments and subbing in only one or two buildings is recommended to reduce exposure in multiple buildings. This will be determined on the availability of substitutes throughout the school year. Fargo Public Schools will also engage in conversations with local colleges and universities on the possibility of obtaining substitutes where their current students are able and willing to obtain a substitute license.

Q. Will lunch be provided for students doing the Virtual Academy and for the days students are home during distance learning?

A. Students will have the opportunity to pick up 'grab and go' meals for distance learning days. Students doing the virtual academy and secondary students in the Level 3 phase will receive meals for five days at a single pickup. Elementary students during the Level 3 phase will receive meals for three days at a single pickup.

Q. Will students enrolled in the Virtual Academy be eligible to participate in activities?

A. Yes, students enrolled in the FPS Virtual Academy may participate in student activities.



Q. How are technology issues going to be handled with laptops, iPads and ChromeBooks?

A. Fargo Public Schools has had home technology in the high schools for the past five years, and in the middle schools for the past two years. We will be following a similar support model. Repairs will be handled as they have before, and any repair costs will be applied as fines in the Destiny library system. Parents and students can call 446-1450 for tech support during normal daytime school hours in the upcoming school year.

Q. Will all students be ensured internet access?

A. Midco has been working this summer on contacting families that applied for their free internet last spring to make sure they are aware of two lower cost options for providing their homes with internet service. The first is the LifeLine service, which costs \$5.70 per month if the family qualifies (any family on SNAP or with children on free or reduced lunch will qualify). The second is a \$14.95 option that does not require the family to meet any income requirement or complete any additional paperwork. For any family who says they cannot afford either of the above options, they should talk with school administration to explore other options. There are ways of ensuring that every household has internet access this year.

Q. Will students be checking out library books? If so, will they be bringing them home, or leaving them in school?

A. Our elementary librarians are keen to make sure kids have print reading materials and students will be able to bring them home. Materials returned to the library will be stored for 72 hours prior to re-shelving and being made available again to make sure that they have self-sanitized. We now know that the chance of getting COVID-19 from surfaces is slim, but this waiting period will help assure student and staff safety. Studies have been done explicitly on the presence of COVID-19 virus on common library materials and after 72 hours the virus is undetectable. If our secondary students are distance learning only, we will work to offer curbside library service of print materials. All students also have access to eBooks and digital audio books from FPS and Fargo Public Library via our Sora platform.

Q. When will families have to make their decisions so staffing/planning can be done?

A. Parents may enroll their child into FPS Virtual Academy for the fall [2020 semester by logging into PowerSchool](#). The FPS enrollment option is available beginning on Saturday, August 1 through Saturday, August 8, 2020. Students who elect to begin the school year enrolled in FPS Virtual Academy may elect to return to in-person instruction at the end of the first semester. FPS Virtual Academy enrolled students are not allowed to return to in-person instruction prior to the close of first semester.

It is recommended that FPS Virtual Academy enrolled students have a dedicated technology device with audio and camera capabilities. Broadband internet access is required as well. Please indicate on the FPS Virtual Academy commitment form via PowerSchool if your child is in need of internet access. *Note: Parents who plan for their children to return to campus for in-person instruction do not have to submit a commitment form.*

