



Greene County Public Health

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Press Release

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Preparing To Go Back To School *Tips for Parents, Guardians & Caregivers*

GREENE COUNTY, OHIO - For many families, back to school planning is looking much different this year than it has in previous years. Your school will have new policies in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19. You may also be starting the school year with virtual learning components. Whatever the situation, these tips are intended to help parents, guardians, and caregivers, plan and prepare for the upcoming school year.

Planning for In-Person Classes

First and most importantly, keep your interactions before school starts limited. Traveling, large gatherings or parties, and sleep-overs with friends can all lead to unintended exposure to the virus, which then leads to a 14-day quarantine and extensive contact tracing. This could impact your child's start of school. Other actions to consider:

- ✓ Visit your school district's website for details on their reopening plan. Each district's plan may differ depending on their individual needs.
- ✓ Check your child each morning for signs of illness.
- ✓ Know who to call at the school in the event your child gets sick.
- ✓ Be familiar with locations that do testing for COVID-19 in the event you or your child is exposed or begins exhibiting symptoms.
- ✓ Be sure your child is up to date on all recommended vaccinations, including flu. All school-aged children should get an influenza vaccine every season, especially this year.
- ✓ Review and practice proper handwashing at home, especially before and after eating, sneezing, coughing and adjusting a face cover. Make it fun, explaining why it's important.
- ✓ Develop daily routines before and after school, like things to pack such as hand sanitizer and a back up facial covering, as well as washing hands and facial coverings when returning home.
- ✓ For more tips, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/parent-checklist.html>

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Planning for Virtual or At-Home Learning

- ✓ Be involved with school activities and meetings, even if virtual. It provides a way to express any concerns or a platform to ask questions and learn important information about how classes and assignments will be conducted.
- ✓ Create a schedule with your child and make the commitment to stick to it. Structure and routine can help your child from falling behind in assignments.
- ✓ Find a space that is free of distractions, noise and clutter for learning and completing homework.
- ✓ Identify opportunities for your child to connect with peers and be social – virtually or in person while maintaining social distancing.
- ✓ For more tips, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/parent-checklist.html>

For more information, visit our COVID-19 page at <https://healthalert.gcph.info/COVID19> which has a listing of all Greene County school district plans, as well as the school guidance from our agency, or call us at 937-374-5600. You can also visit the CDC's site at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html>, or the Ohio Department of Education at <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Student-Supports/Coronavirus>.

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