

HALE AREA SCHOOLS RETURNING TO SCHOOL

We are in the process of finalizing plans for the upcoming school year. Our plan for returning to school will be driven by our Governor's Return to School Roadmap. The focus will be on returning to school as we are accustomed to while being as safe as we can be. The Governor's Roadmap is based on six different Phases of recovery from COVID 19. Hale Area Schools is currently in Phase 4, which allows for in-person instruction with precautionary measures.

A mandated component of the Governor's Return to School Roadmap is a Preparedness and Response Plan for returning to school. Hale's plan can be found on our website [haleschools.net](https://www.haleschools.net). This plan will help answer most of your questions about returning to school.

Our plan of operation will include everything we can do to prevent infections here at school.

- All students must wear masks to ride a bus and/or enter the building.
- All staff and students will be screened daily for temperature and exposure checks upon entering the building.
- No persons unrelated to work and instruction will enter the building, including parents.
- Social distancing will be practiced throughout the day, especially during lunch and recess.
- Parents are being asked to monitor children at home and do not send children to school if they have any COVID related symptoms.
- Any person that becomes ill or shows symptoms at school will be quarantined and removed from the building as soon as possible.
- Any student or staff member having to remain home due to suspected COVID infection will be referred for testing prior to returning to school.

There are responses built into our Preparedness and Response Plan that could cause us to close schools for periods of time due to identified infections. Our staff is prepared to carry on instruction during any closure period. It is likely that we will experience one or more of these closures during the school year. Don't be alarmed when a closure occurs, take comfort that we are being proactive to protect our students and families.

Parents should be prepared for some level of at-home instruction using the student Chrome Books and Google Classroom.

Our focus is planning for regular, face-to-face, instruction at school with mandated social distancing and recommended health precautions. If our status should regress to Phase 3 we are also preparing alternative variations for returning to school, which would include a hybrid system of in-person and remote learning and finally (worst case scenario) a continuation of remote learning only. COVID continues to be a health risk in our State. Michigan appears to be in recovery mode, but nobody can say for sure what may happen over this summer. Again, we are preparing for the best and planning for the worst.

As things stand now, our first school day for students will be Monday, August 24.