

Certified Employee COVID FAQs

November 30-December 11 & January 4-15

Q: Why are we going all virtual the weeks of November 30 - December 11 and January 4 - 15?

With the rise in COVID cases, and the anticipation of holiday family and social gatherings, all Henry County Schools have been directed by the Health Department to go to virtual education.

Q: The Health Department did not indicate we are closed December 14 - 18. Will we be in school or virtual that week?

Currently, we plan to be brick and mortar for the students who have chosen to be brick and mortar. However, the COVID19 Health Advisory Committee will meet during the week of December 7 - 11 and we will review COVID cases with the Health Department. We will make a decision about the week of December 14th based upon their input. An update will come out no later than December 11th with more information about the status of December 14th.

Q: January 18th is the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday and we are scheduled to be out of school that day. Will we return on the 18th or 19th of January?

Our planned days of instruction will not change, only our format of instruction will be modified. Martin Luther King Jr. Day is a holiday for teachers and students and teachers will not be in school that day.

Q: Will Virtual Education extend beyond the expected return date of January 19th?

As previously mentioned, we will consult with the Health Department to determine the level of cases in the community as well as within our student and staff population. It is possible that virtual will be extended beyond the expected brick and mortar return of January 19th.

Q: Will we have athletics during the virtual days?

As with all of our decisions, we will continue to be consistent with what is deemed permissible by the State Department of Health and the Henry County Health Department. As of this moment athletics are still scheduled to take place with spectators limited to 25% of the capacity of the venue. This status is subject to change. We will continue to communicate with the HC Health Department to evaluate the status of all extracurricular activities.

Q: Will we have choral and band performances during virtual days?

As with all of our decisions, we will continue to be consistent with what is deemed permissible by the State Department of Health and the Henry County Health Department. As of this moment choral and band performances are still scheduled to take place with spectators limited to 25% of the capacity of the venue. This status is subject to change. We will continue to communicate with the HC Health Department to evaluate the status of all extracurricular activities.

Q: Who reports to work as normal?

All certified employees (administrators, teachers, counselors, special education staff, etc.) will report to work as usual. If you are unable to work due to childcare, are eligible for FFCRA, and have not exhausted all 10 days, please complete and sign the attached FFCRA application and submit to Jena Schmidt at jschmidt@ncweb.me

Q: What constitutes a teacher work day?

From November 30-December 11 and January 4-11, teacher arrival time is 7:45 AM and teacher dismissal time is 2:35 PM. All certified staff (and non-certified staff) will be required to work at school buildings/on site daily.

Q: Will the two-hour virtual stipends still be available for teacher planning time?

As of Monday, November 23, the two-hour virtual stipends will only be available to those teachers who have both brick and mortar and virtual students. This will be reevaluated before second semester begins.

Q: What happens if I am sick and unable to report to work?

Teachers will utilize normal sick-day protocol. Each teacher should have at least three days of lesson plans and activities available for students. Teachers will set up their Google Meet and principals will utilize aides to monitor the Google Meet for the initial check-in at the beginning of each class.

Q: Will teachers be able to work from home virtually if it is deemed an inclement weather day?

Yes, if we have inclement weather days, teachers will work virtually. Those teachers who would like to report to their classrooms may do so on these days (as long as a state of emergency has not been declared), but it is not required.

Q: Are teachers permitted to bring their own children to school (any age)?

Teachers are permitted to bring their personal children (any age) to work with them. However, these children must remain in their parent's classroom at all times. Children who have COVID symptoms, are being quarantined, or are awaiting test results are **NOT** allowed to be present.

Q: Can principals provide a link for student announcements so students can join daily for information?

Yes. This practice will be used corporation-wide.

Q: Are teachers required to go LIVE with their classrooms?

Grades 7-12 students will follow their daily schedule and attend LIVE sessions at the start of each class. At that time, teachers will take attendance, present the whole group instruction LIVE,

or introduce the learning goals for the day and the pre-recorded video of instruction for the students to watch. Elementary teachers in grades 2-6 will continue with the Virtual Academy framework and a reading and math block lesson LIVE or recorded daily. Kindergarten through 1st grade will have packets and some supplemental instruction used in the classroom.

Q: Are students expected to show up for LIVE daily meets?

Yes, for students in grades 7-12 who follow their daily schedule. Student engagement is key.

Q: Will study hall teachers (at the secondary level) conduct LIVE virtual study hall classes and take attendance?

Yes, study hall teachers will conduct a daily LIVE check-in using Google Meet for the first 5-10 minutes of class. Teachers will be able to take attendance, communicate reminders to students, and provide additional engagement and support to students. This will also provide an additional point of contact for students. Student hall teachers will then be able to communicate these needs to other appropriate staff members. As with all other classes, study hall teachers do not need to remain LIVE the entire period.

Q: When will students be required to turn in their work?

Each teacher will determine the date(s) students submit work.

Q: How will we track attendance while we are virtual?

High School and Middle School teachers will track attendance through PowerSchool use daily. Elementary teachers will use a daily Google Form to track attendance.

Q: What constitutes a student being counted present?

A student is counted present if he/she is in the class during virtual instruction. At the HS, students may get credit for attendance if they complete the work.

Q: Should we track tardies to each class?

Many unforeseen circumstances can contribute to a student being a few minutes late to checking in a class. Our primary focus during these difficult times is student engagement. A teacher should not mark a student tardy.

Q: How will work for the K-1st grade students be handled?

Both packets and Google Classroom will be fine to use. Technology is encouraged to supplement the packets. Please refer to the [New Castle Virtual Academy 2020-2021](#) document.

Q: I have homebound students who are not allowed to use the computer. Will these students be able to report to the school for individualized instruction?

No. Teachers of homebound students who are unable to use the computer will need to develop learning packets to give to students to complete. We are not permitting students into the buildings during virtual days.

Q: I am a coach or sponsor for extracurricular activities. What's the earliest I can start my practices/meetings at the end of the day?

Practice and ECA meetings will be able to start no earlier than 3 pm daily.

Q: What if I have a student who does not have internet access? We have expanded our access points around each of our school buildings and we also have purchased several mifi devices we can provide to families. To request a MiFi device, families should contact the technology department at (765) 593-6691.