



June 22, 2020

Dear MSD of Lawrence Township Parents/Guardians,

On June 5th, the Indiana Department of Education shared guidance with the public on re-opening schools for the 2020-2021 academic year. We welcome this guidance knowing both the state's commitment to the safe re-opening of public schools as well as the complexity and changing nature of the pandemic.

While we have every intention of opening school on August 3, the MSD of Lawrence Township will work in tandem with the Marion County Public Health Department and the other Marion County public school districts to support a safety-first and consistent re-entry approach. It will be important to recognize that even within our own district, buildings will face unique needs and challenges with regard to re-entry.

Conversation is underway with the Board of Education, district leadership, and building principals that addresses the feasibility of the guidelines laid out by the Indiana Department of Education. Multiple scenarios are under consideration, and no final decisions or plans will be shared publicly without approval from the Marion County Public Health Department. Please keep in mind that, once a plan is in place, procedures may continue to change given the fluidity of the situation and possibility of resurgence. Under any re-entry strategy, there may be some families in which, given unique and individual circumstances, students are unable to physically attend school. Principals will work with families on a case-by-case basis as we remain committed to providing a quality education to all of our students.

We need to hear from parents as we finalize our re-entry plan, and ask that you complete a re-entry survey, available [here](#), by end of day on Friday, June 26. We are grateful for your patience as we work through the details of our re-entry plan and are confident that, with your support, we will be ready to welcome back students and staff for the 2020-2021 school year. Please stay connected to your school building(s) as we continue to provide updates on this important topic. You can expect to see communication on these dates:

- Wednesday, June 24, 2020 – County-wide Letter from the Marion County Health Department announcing the return to school.
- Wednesday, July 1, 2020 – The Guidance document will be shared throughout the County.
- Monday, July 6, 2020 – The MSD of Lawrence Township detailed Re-opening Plan will be shared with the public.

Sincerely,

Shawn A. Smith, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools