

4 new elementary schools expected to be ready by Aug. 17

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Work is almost completed on the new Croghan Elementary School site in Fremont. Superintendent Jon Detwiler said all four of the Fremont City Schools' new elementary school sites should be ready by the middle of August. (Photo: Daniel Carson/The News-Messenger)

FREMONT - Fremont City Schools' four new elementary schools should be ready for occupancy by Aug. 17, the district's superintendent said Monday.

Superintendent Jon Detwiler said there may be certain things at some of the new sites that will not be finished, such as landscaping and playground equipment.

He specifically pointed to the parking lot at Atkinson Elementary School as an example of one area still being worked on.

"But there will be buildings for students," Detwiler said.

The district is opening new Atkinson, Croghan, Lutz and Otis elementary school buildings this year.

The school district's first day of school for students in grades 1-6 and 9-12 is Sept. 1.

Students in grades 7-8 start Sept. 2, with kindergarten and preschool students beginning Sept. 3.



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Detwiler said he expects to start moving in furniture and equipment into the new buildings the week of Aug. 17.

Fremont City Schools' [reopening plan includes at-school and at-home learning options](#) for students during the 2020-2021 school year.

The plan, which is based on the county's risk level, covers multiple different safety scenarios and recommendations for its at-school option, aligned with Ohio's four COVID-19 risk levels for counties.

[For Fremont City Schools, the costs to keep the district safe](#) and clean has exceeded \$30,000 as the district purchases cleaning supplies, masks, shields and dividers to keep the schools safer as they move into the 2020-2021 school year.

As of Tuesday, Sandusky County was orange, or a Level 2, on the state's public health advisory alert system.

At Level 2, students' daily temperatures may be taken by school personnel and face coverings will be required at school for students, teachers and staff.

There will be attempts made during the day to provide a break from the face coverings, according to the reopening plan.

The Level 2 face-covering mandate will be extended to Fremont buses for students and staff.

At Level 2, there may one-way hallways in buildings and cafeteria space may be extended into other areas to encourage social distancing.

Detwiler said he would not be surprised if the state issues additional health orders that impact school districts across Ohio.

The superintendent said work on the new Ross High School building is now ahead of schedule.

He said masons that had been working on the elementary school sites had been able to shift over to the Ross building.

Fremont voters in 2017 approved a \$58.6 million levy to construct four new elementary buildings and a new Ross High School as part of a facilities plan to upgrade building quality and technologies.

The Fremont City Schools board approved a guaranteed maximum project cost of more than \$49.7 million for its four new elementary schools in February 2019. Last October, the board approved a \$49.5 million guaranteed maximum price amendment for construction of the high school.

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